

MILWAUKIE  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
July 19, 1983  
5 p.m.

THE MILWAUKIE CENTER

WORK SESSION

A work session of the Milwaukie City Council was held on July 19, 1983 at 5 p.m. with the following councilors present:

Mayor Joy Burgess  
Don Graf  
Ron Kinsella  
Roger Hall (arrived at 5:45 p.m.)

Also present:

Hugh Brown, City Manager  
Topaz Faulkner, Community Service Director  
Laurie Perkin, Secretary

Mayor Burgess announced the purpose of the meeting was to hear from representatives of The Milwaukie Center Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, Friends of the Center, Loaves and Fishes, Inc., and Milwaukie Loaves and Fishes Steering Committee about problems that have been expressed regarding the present contract between Loaves and Fishes and the City. She, as Mayor, called this meeting so that everyone would have a chance to express their views. Dick Mastbrook, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes, Inc., addressed the Council. He talked about the Loaves and Fishes concept. He said that the present contract was a compromise reached in an attempt to reduce conflict at the Center. Since there is still concern on the part of some users of the Center, he suggested that a mediator come in to work with the key persons to try to reach some level of cooperation. Walt Hegg, Chairman of the Milwaukie Loaves & Fishes Steering Committee, addressed the Council. He said that after the present contract was signed, he discovered that many people were not happy with the terms of the agreement particularly in the areas of kitchen control and control of activities in the "carpeted area". He said that the Mayor had been willing to give L & F a chance to air their grievances in a public meeting. Loaves & Fishes presented proposed amendments to the present contract to the city 7/15/83. He explained the rationale for the proposed amendments. Janet Witter, Chairman of the Center Advisory Board, provided Council with a statement supported by the Board, recommending that there be at least a year's trial period before decisions are made to amend it. If problems arise, provisions for orderly change are written into Article XI, XII, and XIII which deal with specific steps for grievance procedure. Katherine Stevens, Chairman of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, presented a statement dated 7/19/83 which stated that the present contract having only been in effect for 2½ weeks has not been given a chance to work. She said no complaints had been directed to the Commission. It is the Commission's recommendation that the contract remain in

effect for a year. If conflicts remain, the disagreements can be handled internally within the terms of the contract. She mentioned her long services with Loaves and Fishes.

Helen Kappler, Treasurer of Friends of The Milwaukie Center, read a statement dated 7/19/83 supporting the existing letter of agreement between the City and Loaves and Fishes as it was accepted and signed by both parties less than a month ago.

Others speaking on this issue:

Mel Paulson spoke of his involvement with the establishment of the Center and expressed his concern with the turmoil which has been going on.

Bill Hupp provided Council with a statement dated 7/19/83 stressing the importance that the city maintain control of the Center and recommending that no amendments be made at this time.

Elma Hall, 14212 SE Elderberry Lane, asked if the Center was a Senior center or a Center funded through HUD which is used for people other than seniors. She said that although she is a member she had not been contacted by the Friends regarding this issue. She spoke of problems that would arise if Loaves & Fishes did not have control of the kitchen.

Mayor Burgess said that the Center was designed primarily for seniors and that the grant stipulated that the Center be used primarily for seniors.

Jim Backenstos urged all seniors involved to try to cooperate with one another.

Kathy Helger, 15612 SE Oatfield, spoke in opposition to the amendments and urged people to stop complaining.

Jewel Osburn, 5915 SE Eric, presented a petition with 250 signatures requesting that Delora Hegg be kept as Director of Milwaukie Loaves & Fishes.

Kermit Radshaw said that things were going fine at the Center so there was no reason to change the previous contract. He said that the city should not be in control of the kitchen.

Gail Roach, 3500 SE Concord Road, who said she was on the Center Program Committee, stated she did not think it fair to the Director of the Center not to give her authority over the "carpeted area" and said the agreement should stand as it is.

Mel Paulson stressed the fact that the Center is predominantly for seniors and should be called the Milwaukie Senior Center.

Kinsella expressed dismay that 2% of all those involved in the Center were making things difficult for the other users of the Center. He said that many people who have called him have not even read the contract.

Mayor Burgess made a statement as to why she called this meeting. After hearing about the anxiety and dissatisfaction of many people who called her, she wanted to give everyone involved a chance to be heard. She, as Mayor, has the authority to call a special meeting.

Others speaking on the issue:

Ed Bain, 8525 Orchard Lane, agreed with Kinsella that 2% of the people were causing all the trouble.

Jon Vannice, 162 SE 84th, said the situation had been going on for some time and that it would not be resolved by mediation, that the cause should be eliminated.

Charles Fairbrass objected to the City wanting to know where Loaves and Fishes gets their money.

Kinsella said the city needed to know if Loaves and Fishes could afford the amount of money the city is asking of them.

The work session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.