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An adjourned meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held jointly with the Board of Mecklenburg County Commissioners, in the Commissioners Room, Mecklenburg County Court House, on Monday, December 10, 1956, at 10:30 o'clock a.m., with Chairman S. Y. McAden presiding, and the following members being present:

CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Van Every, and Council members Baxter, Brown, Dellinger, Evans, Smith and Wilkinson.

ABSENT: Councilman Albea.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Commissioners Brown, Garrison, McEwen and McNinch.

ABSENT: None.

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PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Chairman McAden stated the main purpose of the meeting was to hear a report of the Proposed Juvenile Detention Home Planning Committee.

MARSH & HAWKINS, ARCHITECTS FOR JUVENILE DETENTION HOME AUTHORIZED TO COMPLETE DRAWINGS, WRITE SPECIFICATIONS, RECEIVE BIDS AND REPORT COST FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING TO CITY COUNCIL AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. Wallace Kuralt, Chairman of the Juvenile Detention Home Planning Committee was spokesman for the Committee, composed of himself, Mayor Van Every, Councilmen Brown and Wilkinson and County Commissioners Garrison and McEwen, and reviewed the Committee's work to date. He advised that visits have been made to Asheville, N. C., Greenville, S. C., Women's Prison in Raleigh and to Butner Hospital in Durham to look over their facilities. That the Committee then decided to undertake the construction of a home with two wings, with an activity section in the center, to take care of twenty juveniles, both boys and girls, in need of psychiatric and medical care.

Mr. Kuralt stated that the architects, Marsh & Hawkins, who were employed by the City and County, were then instructed to plan for the building that would be adequate to serve the needs but as economically as possible. He presented Mr. Hawkins, who submitted his drawings and explained them in detail. He advised that the estimated cost of an adequate building would approximate \$120,000.00.

Mayor Van Every then stated that the City Council has agreed to let the architects continue with their work on the plans submitted, to prepare specifications and secure bids, so that it may be determined just what the cost will be, and make a report to the Council and Commissioners.

Upon motion of Commissioner McNinch, seconded by Commissioner Garrison, and unanimously carried, the Architects were authorized to complete their drawings and specifications and put them out for bids and see what the building will cost, and report their findings to the Joint Boards.

REQUEST FOR ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FROM CITY AND COUNTY TO MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT.

Mr. J. Spencer Bell, Chairman of the Social Planning Council of the United Community Services, presented the financial problem of the Mental Health Clinic, which he stated calls for immediate action. He advised that the Clinic has cared for 239 patients this year sent by local tax supported agencies such as the Juvenile Court, Welfare Department and Health Department, without one cent having been contributed by the City of Charlotte or Mecklenburg County. He stated these emotionally disturbed persons can be treated at the Clinic at a cost of \$100.00 to \$150.00 per year, whereas, if they are not cared for their illness becomes chronic and they must be placed in a State Institute at a cost to the tax payer of over \$1,000.00 a year. Mr. Bell advised that the Clinic is fast becoming a regional Clinic at which

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patients outside of Mecklenburg County are cared for, and he is informed by Dr. Fisher that these patients are paid for by the County or Agency, certifying them to the Clinic. He stated further that the patients referred to the Clinic by local tax supported agencies are being paid for by funds received from the United Community Services budget, treatment fees, alcoholic rehabilitation funds, voluntary contributions and State funds.

Mr. Bell advised that the patient load is so heavy that new patients must wait more than a month to secure appointment for treatment, that their urgent need is for additional trained personnel, and therefore, he requests the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to provide funds for an additional team for the Clinic, composed of a psychiatrist, a clinical psychologist and a psychiatric social worker, which team will just about care for the patients referred to the Clinic by local agencies. He stated the cost for the team will be \$20,000.00 per year, and there is a possibility that the Federal and State Governments will pay half of this amount. Mr. Bell urged that a joint appropriation of \$10,000.00 be made by the City and County for the team to complete the current year, and, naturally, the support of the team would follow for the next fiscal year. He asked that this appropriation be made immediately so that the Clinic can set about seeking the trained personnel to comprise the team.

Mr. Bell stated further that the Mental Health Clinic operates on a budget of approximately \$70,000.00 per annum, \$30,000.00 of which is contributed by the United Community Services, which will continue to be donated regardless of the City and County appropriation. He advised there are seven such Clinics in North Carolina, four of which are supported by tax funds, being located in Asheville, Greenville, Fayetteville and Guilford County, and that the Charlotte Clinic is the oldest in the State.

Councilman Baxter moved that the request for a joint appropriation be received as information and that it be given serious consideration and acted on at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNinch, and unanimously carried.

*Lillian R. Hoffman*  
Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk