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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Wednesday, January 13, 1954, at 4 o'clock p.m., with Mayor Van Every presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Brown, Dellinger, Smith and Wilkinson present.

Absent; None.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the last meeting on January 6th were approved as submitted.

HOUSING AUTHORITY 13TH ANNUAL REPORT FILED WITH COUNCIL.

Mr. Harold Dillehay, Executive Director of the Charlotte Housing Authority submitted the 13th Annual Report of the Authority, which was accepted by Mayor Van Every, who invited Mr. Dillehay to attend an executive session of the City Council and discuss the activities of the Authority.

OPENING IN THE PLAZA CENTER ISLAND STRIP 180 FEET NORTH OF THE PLAZA AND CENTRAL AVENUE INTERSECTION AUTHORIZED.

A petition signed by Mrs. Rube Hatcher and Mrs. Robert A. Hovis, owners of property at 1300 The Plaza, was presented by Mr. David M. McConnell, Attorney, requesting permission to cut a 30-foot opening in the 12-foot center island strip of The Plaza at a point approximately 180-feet north of the intersection of The Plaza and Central Avenue. Mr. McConnell stated that the existence of the island strip impedes the flow of traffic in that persons approaching from the north desiring to enter the parking lot of the Super Market located on the petitioners lot must go to the congested intersection of The Plaza and Central Avenue and make a U-turn or double left-hand-turn, whereas the cut-through would relieve this situation and would also tend to improve safety conditions for pedestrians and children going to and from school. He stated further that the broad expanse of The Plaza is out of sight over the hill from the proposed opening so that the scenic beauty of the street would not be affected, and that similar cut-throughs exist in the 1600 block of The Plaza and at the northern end of The Plaza near Mecklenburg Avenue. He called attention to the fact that in 1950, prior to the erection of the Super-Market by the petitioners, the City and County taxes on the property amounted to only \$201.00 annually, while in 1953 the taxes amounted to \$1,840.00 and if the cut-through is permitted and further development of the property is made, the revenue realized by the City and County from taxes will amount to around \$3,000.00. He advised that the petitioners will bear the cost of the cut-through under the City's specifications and supervision. Mr. McConnell stated, also, that the 1300 block is presently zoned for business and is occupied on the north side entirely by the Super-Market and Green Memorial Baptist Church. He submitted a letter from the Board of Deacons of the Church requesting that the cut-through be permitted as an accommodation to the church members approaching from the north in order that they may reach the off-street parking facilities of the Super-Market, which they are permitted to use, without having to encounter the traffic congestion at The Plaza and Central Avenue. Mr. McConnell stated that the City Manager and Traffic Engineer have investigated the matter and viewed the location, and both approve the construction of the opening.

Councilman Boyd stated that a request for this opening has been presented and turned down several times by former Councils.

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Mr. McConnell advised that the delegation opposing the opening was led by Mr. Nat White, whom he understands now has no objection to its construction. He stated further that all of the residents of the block in question have stated they have no objection to the opening, with the exception of three residents whom they have not contacted.

Councilman Smith moved that the cut-through be allowed as requested. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown.

Councilman Boyd stated that it is well known there is objections to the cut by the residents of The Plaza, and it is only common courtesy that they be given an opportunity to be heard before action is taken by the Council.

Councilman Dellinger stated he would like the people to have an opportunity to be heard if they so desire, and he offered a substitute motion that action on the request be deferred one week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boyd.

The vote on the substitute motion was taken, and lost, with the votes cast as follows:

AYE: Councilmen Boyd and Dellinger.

NAY: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Brown, Smith and Wilkinson.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the main motion that the cut-through be permitted, and the motion carried with the votes cast as follows:

AYE: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Brown, Smith and Wilkinson.

NAY: Councilmen Boyd and Dellinger.

ACTION ON REQUEST OF MRS. R. B. OSWALT THAT NEW ROAD FROM WEST MOREHEAD STREET TO THRIFT ROAD BE NAMED THRIFT ROAD, DEFERRED ONE WEEK.

Mrs. R. B. Oswalt appeared before Council with reference to the petitions and letters that have been filed with the Engineering Department with regard to the proposed change in name of Thrift Road. Mrs. Oswalt stated that the residents who have lived for some 25 years on Thrift Road wish to retain the street name. She stated that a delegation of residents intended to be present today in protest of the proposed street name change but were confused in the meeting date, and asked that action be deferred one week. Councilman Wilkinson advised that the business houses on Thrift Road are 100 percent for keeping the name of Thrift Road. Councilman Albea moved that the matter be deferred for one week, which was seconded by Councilman Boyd, and unanimously carried.

COST ESTIMATE OF WIDENING HUTCHINSON AVENUE FROM 2500 BLOCK TO ATANDO AVENUE REQUESTED.

Councilman Dellinger requested the City Manager to obtain an estimate of the cost of widening Hutchinson Avenue from the 2500 block to Atando Avenue, as the street is too narrow for trucks to safely pass each other.

IRWIN CREEK DISPOSAL PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS APPROVED AND CITY MANAGER AUTHORIZED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF HEALTH AND FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FROM STATE STREAM POLLUTION COMMITTEE.

Upon motion of Councilman Baxter, seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried, the Plans and Specifications for Improvements to Irwin Creek Disposal Plant improvements were approved, and the City Manager was authorized to make applications to the State Board of Health for approval of said plans, and to the State Stream Pollution Committee for a Voluntary Certificate of Approval.

MAYOR PRO TEM PRESIDES FOR REMAINDER OF MEETING.

Mayor Van Every left the meeting at this time to fill an engagement, and Mayor pro tem Smith presided for the remainder of the meeting.

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PURCHASE OF TRACT OF LAND FROM R. S. FORT AND WIFE FOR WIDENING OF GOLD STREET AND ARGONNE DRIVE.

Councilman Albea moved that a strip of land off the front of Lots Nos. 300-02 and 304-06 Argonne Drive be purchased from Mr. R. S. Fort and wife, at a price of \$1,800.00, for right-of-way for the widening of Gold Street and Argonne Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter and unanimously carried.

CONSTRUCTION OF SANITARY SEWERS APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Baxter, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, the construction of new sanitary sewers at the following locations was authorized:

- (a) 115 feet of 10 inch sewer main in South Tryon Street, at an estimated cost of \$1,640.00, to serve the new Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Building, with all costs to be borne by the City.
- (b) 3,055 feet of 8 inch sewer main in Aniline Avenue, Tyson Street, Trent Street and Belton Street, at an estimated cost of \$6,745.00, to serve 58 vacant lots, at request of John Crosland Company. All cost to be borne by the City, and applicant's deposit of the full amount to be refunded as per terms of the contract.

CONSTRUCTION OF DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE AT 211 HAWTHORNE LANE AUTHORIZED.

Motion was made by Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, authorizing the construction of a 13-foot driveway entrance at 211 Hawthorne Lane.

CONTRACT AWARDED CONCRETE PRODUCTS COMPANY FOR METER BOXES.

Councilman Baxter moved that a contract be awarded Concrete Products Company for 1,000 concrete meter boxes with covers, City of Charlotte standard pattern as specified, on a unit price basis of \$4.40 each, representing a total price of \$4,400.00, subject to 1% cash discount. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

ANNUAL REPORT FILED BY J. H. McLAIN, ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF REVENUE.

The City Manager announced that the Annual Report for the year 1953 was filed with the City Clerk by Mr. J. H. McLain on January 6th. Upon motion of Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, the Report was accepted and ordered filed.

CONTRACT AUTHORIZED WITH M. B. BLANKENSHIP FOR WATER MAINS CONSTRUCTION IN JULIA AVENUE.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Baxter and unanimously carried, a contract was authorized with Mr. M. B. Blankenship for the construction of 2,300 feet of water mains in Julia Avenue at an estimated cost of \$3,450.00, with all cost to be borne by the applicant, who will dedicate the mains to the City upon completion.

UNFIT HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1953.

The City Manager submitted the following Progress Report for the Unfit Housing Program for the quarter ending December 31, 1953:

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|--|-----|
| Number of Housing Units brought up to standard | 109 |
| Number of property Owners cited for Hearings | 17 |
| Number of Housing Units Condemned | 21 |
| Number of Bathing facilities installed | 127 |
| Number of Houses Demolished | 82 |

Progress since the beginning of the Program in August 1948:

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|---|-------|
| Number of Houses Brought up to Standard to Date | 9,897 |
| Number of Houses Demolished to Date | 1,156 |

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Installation of bathing facilities is moving along in a satisfactory manner, and a large number of structural repairs, such as the installation of siding, painting, et cetera, are being made in many instances.

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY LOT.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Clerk were authorized to execute a deed with Mrs. Grace F. Williams, for the transfer of Lot 280, in Section 2, Evergreen Cemetery, at a price of \$104.00.

REQUEST FOR HEARING ON OPENING IN CENTER ISLAND OF THE 1300 BLOCK OF THE PLAZA, DENIED.

In connection with the action of the Council earlier in the meeting relative to the cut-through in the center island in the 1300 block of The Plaza, Councilman Boyd requested that the following statement be recorded:

"In behalf of those several hundred citizens of The Plaza and immediate vicinity who have heretofore been given the privilege and opportunity of appearing before the Council in opposition to the cut in The Plaza strip in the first block off of Central Avenue, my understanding being that representatives of those citizens having been told that before this was ever done they would be given an opportunity to be heard, I resent for them the action of the majority of this Council in passing the approval of this cut in The Plaza strip without giving them an opportunity to be heard in opposition to it."

Councilman Albea stated he did not understand that the residents had been promised to be heard if the matter came up again, and if that is true he is sorry and he would certainly want them to be given the opportunity; that if the Minutes show that another hearing was promised, he would recommend that it be held, as he would definitely not go back on a promise made to anyone.

Councilman Boyd stated that in view of the statement he has just made, he moved that the Council give the citizens an opportunity to be heard on the matter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and lost, with the votes cast as follows:

AYE: Councilmen Boyd and Dellinger.

NAY: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Brown, and Wilkinson.

RENEWAL OF SPECIAL OFFICER PERMIT TO A.A. ALLEN.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, the Special Officer Permit held by Mr. A. A. Allen, for use on the premises of Highland Park Manufacturing Company was renewed for one year.

PURCHASE OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR EXTENSION OF INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD AND WALNUT AVENUE AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Wilkinson moved approval of the purchase of certain tracts of land on either side of Walnut Avenue and beyond its intersection with Bryant Street to Irwin Creek from E. C. Griffith Company, at a price of \$24,150.00 and the rear corner of a lot fronting on Palmer Street from Mrs. Isabel P. Morrison at a price of \$150.00, for use as rights-of-way for the extension of Independence Boulevard and Walnut Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

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PLACEMENT OF WISHING-WELL AND ROCKING-BED ON SIDEWALK ON NORTHWEST CORNER OF INDEPENDENCE SQUARE BY MARCH OF DIMES ORGANIZATION.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried, the Charlotte Chapter National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis was authorized to place a Wishing-Well and Rocking-Bed on the sidewalk at the northwest corner of Independence Square to receive contributions.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Baxter, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Lillian R. Hoffman
City Clerk