

November 20, 1964
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A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber in the City Hall, on Friday, November 20, 1964, at 4 o'clock p.m., due notice having been given the City Council pursuant to Section 26 of the Charter of the City of Charlotte, with Mayor Brookshire presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Bryant, Dellinger, Jordan, Smith and Thrower present.

ABSENT: Councilman Whittington.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Mayor Brookshire expressed his appreciation to the members of the City Council for their response in convening this afternoon, as this special meeting has been called at his request to enable the Council to give formal consideration to matters affecting our Police Department in light of the indictments returned by the Grand Jury last night against seven Police Officers. He stated that since the meeting was called, Chief Hord has requested an opportunity to appear before the Council, and in light of his request, they will be glad to hear from Chief Hord at this time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH PAY GRANTED CHIEF JOHN HORD AND DETECTIVE CAPTAIN W. A. MCALL, DETECTIVE OFFICER EARL FESPERMAN, DETECTIVE OFFICER F. W. HUCKS, DETECTIVE OFFICER JACK FESPERMAN, SERGEANT FRED A. TEETER AND SERGEANT T. W. WILLIAMS, PENDING THE DETERMINATION OF THE VALIDITY OF ALLEGED CHARGES AGAINST THEM.

Chief John Hord stated he has been asked by the following police officers under his command to request that a leave of absence be granted them pending a determination of the validity of the alleged charges against them; Detective Captain W. A. McCall, Detective Officer Earl Fesperman, Detective Officer F. W. Hucks, Detective Officer Jack Fesperman, Sergeant Fred A. Teeter and Sergeant T. W. Williams. That he, as Chief of the Police of the Charlotte City Police Department, also joins in this request and asks that the same privilege be accorded him. That these police officers and he, because of the confidence reposed in them by the Mayor and Council as the governing authorities of the City of Charlotte do not, in the slightest respect, desire to embarrass the City, the Mayor and Council or themselves by undertaking to enforce and administer the law while these charges of alleged violations of the law are pending against them.

Councilman Dellinger moved that the request be granted and their leaves of absence be with pay pending the determination of the validity of the alleged charges against them. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bryant.

Councilman Smith commented that this is one of the hardest things he has ever had to do, and he knows it is the hardest thing he has had to do on the City Council. That he will vote for this because Chief Hord has asked the Council to do so, but he is reluctant to take this position. That he hopes just one thing, Mr. Mayor, that this Council will emphasize that these trials be expedited as quickly as possible to clear this cloud off the Police Department.

Councilman Albea remarked that the only reason he would vote for this is that Chief Hord and the men have requested it; that he would like to see the trials take place as speedily as possible as he does not want the Police Department torn up or demoralized during this intermission.

Councilman Jordan stated he goes along with the same recommendation; that he feels that this investigation has been going on long enough as it is and the Council should stand by these employees until they are proven guilty and certainly he will go along with the request of Chief and the men.

Councilman Thrower commented that he thinks the Council is all in agreement and he certainly seconds Mr. Smith's recommendation; that this investigation has been going on for five months without knowledge to the Council other than the investigation was going on, and he certainly hopes that these men have a fast trial.

The vote was taken on the motion, and unanimously carried.

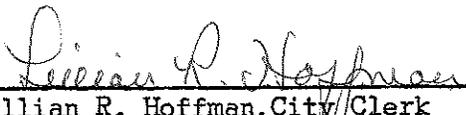
COPIES OF THE INDICTMENTS AGAINST CHIEF AND THE SIX POLICE OFFICERS REQUESTED SECURED FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Councilman Dellinger moved that copies of the indictments returned by the Grand Jury against Chief and the six Officers be secured and furnished the members of the City Council. That the City Council is responsible for the Charlotte Police Department, and while he holds no brief against the Grand Jury, he thinks the Council should have all the information prepared against the Chief and these Officers. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried. Mr. Morrissey, City Attorney, remarked that he would be happy to pursue Mr. Dellinger's request.

Mayor Brookshire remarked that he believes he speaks the consensus of the Council, the members of whom have already spoken on the matter, in expressing the hope that there may be an early and final disposition of these matters in the interest of the Police Department and in the interest of our city.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Bryant, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.



Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk