

December 2, 1936

The regular weekly meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Wednesday, December 2, 1936, at 4:00 o'clock P. M., Mayor Ben E. Douglas presiding and Councilmen: Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Durham, Hovis, Hudson, Huntley, Nance, Sides, Tipton and Wilkinson present.

Absent: None.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25TH MEETING APPROVED.

On motion of Councilman Huntley, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of November 25th. were approved as read.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GIVE PERMISSION TO STAGE CARNIVAL.

Mr. L. H. Phelan, on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, requested free license to sponsor a carnival which they wish to have in Charlotte in April, the exact date to be decided on later.

On motion of Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson and carried, this was granted.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REPORT ON WATER WORKS SITUATION ASKS FOR FURTHER TIME.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to investigate and report back to the Council with regard to the selection of an engineer to make preliminary survey of the Water Works situation asked for a week's extension of time to consider the engineering applicants, and on motion of Councilman Nance, seconded by Councilman Tipton and unanimously carried, this extension of time was granted.

HEALTH COMMITTEE NOT READY WITH REPORT

The Chairman of the Health Committee advised that that Committee had not been able to meet with regard to the displaying of fruit situation and would have report ready by the next meeting.

REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE REPORTS ON C. S. BOSTICK PROPERTY.

Councilman Durham, Chairman of the Real Estate Committee recently appointed, reported with reference to the request of Mr. C. S. Bostick that the City of Charlotte release one lot on the property of Mr. Bostick on which the City holds a mortgage, upon the payment of \$100.00 to apply on the interest, that it was the recommendation of the City Treasurer and the Committee that this lot be released upon this payment of \$100.00.

Councilman Albea made a motion that the Committee's report be accepted and complied with. Motion seconded by Councilman Tipton and unanimously carried.

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SALARY INCREASE FOR MR. E. L. MASON, TAX COLLECTION DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Sides reported that Mr. E. L. Mason, of the Tax Collection Department, has been receiving a salary from the City of Charlotte of \$162.50 per month and that the County had been paying Mr. Mason a salary of \$50.00 also, but that the County had recently passed a motion to no longer pay Mr. Mason anything for his services and likewise Mr. Mason was not turning over to the County any information regarding taxes. Mr. Sides pointed out that Mr. Mason was finding many thousands of dollars of unlisted property on which the City was collecting back taxes and that Mr. Mason was doing good work, for which he was not receiving ample salary.

He stated that after a conference with Mr. Marshall and Mr. Armstrong he felt that Mr. Mason should be paid more money but that in order to do so it will have to be passed on by the Council and appropriated from the Contingent Fund as it was not taken care of in the budget for that Department.

Councilman Sides then made a motion that the City pay Mr. Mason an increase in salary from \$162.50 to \$200.00 per month, making this retroactive beginning this fiscal year. Motion seconded by Councilman Baxter and unanimously carried; Councilman Nance stating he was in favor of paying this money as Mr. Mason was doing splendid work.

REQUEST OF COUNCILMAN BAXTER FOR ADDITIONAL REPAIRS AT CHARLOTTE LIBRARY.

Councilman Baxter advised the Council that some time ago he had brought up the matter of purchasing shades and making other minor improvements at the Charlotte Public Library in order to finish up the repairs made last year, but that nothing has been done and that these shades and some furniture, such as rugs and chairs, are badly needed.

After discussion, Councilman Hudson, Chairman of the Public Buildings Committee stated that his committee would look into this matter and have report ready for the next meeting.

RESOLUTION UPON THE DEATH OF POLICE OFFICER S. M. WILLIS.

The following Resolution was read and on motion of Councilman Boyd, seconded by Councilman Durham, was unanimously adopted:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, in the divine wisdom of the Almighty God, He has seen fit to remove from our midst Sumner M. Willis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Willis loyally served the City of Charlotte in the Police Department for a number of years and passed away while in service, it is with deep appreciation and respect that we honor his memory.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: First, that we, as members of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, bow in humble submission to His will, knowing that He is too kind to willingly afflict without cause.

Second: That we extend to his family our sympathy and pray God's blessings to rest upon them.

Third: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the City Council, a copy be sent to the wife of the deceased, Mrs. Georgia Willis, and copies be furnished to the newspapers in the City of Charlotte.

REPAIRS FOR ELGIN SWEEPER PURCHASED FROM ELGIN SWEEPER COMPANY.

On motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Huntley and carried, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign a contract with the Elgin Sweeper Company, of Elgin, Ill., for One Bearing Housing and One Elevator Belt Assembly for the City's Elgin Sweepers, at a price of \$206.87.

REQUEST FOR MAINTENANCE OF A PORTION OF COLVILLE ROAD DENIED.

On motion of Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Durham, the request of residents on Biltmore Avenue and vicinity for the City to take over for maintenance that portion of Colville Road from Biltmore Drive into Eastover, was denied. The City Engineer's estimate of the cost of topsoiling this road is \$1,132.00 and it has been the practice of the City to take over streets in private developments only after the development company has put the street in shape.

PENALTY FOR LATE LISTING

Councilman Sides, seconded by Councilman Hovis, moved that the penalty of \$5.24 for late listing of 1924 taxes on the property of M. L. Bailey, colored, was cancelled, this property having been sold and the request for cancelling of penalty is made by the new owner.

RESOLUTION REGARDING PAYMENT OF \$2304.00 TO MRS. MARGARET O. WESTNEDGE.

The following Resolution was read and on motion of Councilman Tipton, seconded by Councilman Boyd, was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Charlotte in regular session, December 2, 1936:

Whereas, the City of Charlotte is due Mrs. Margaret O. Westnedge a sum of money in excess of \$2304.00 by virtue of her husband, J. S. Westnedge having been killed in an accident while an employee of the City of Charlotte, and

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Whereas, Mrs. Margaret O. Westnedge has built a home within the City of Charlotte and is obligated for the payment of the same in the sum of \$2193.62 and also Taxes to the City of Charlotte in the sum of \$29.42 and Taxes to the County of Mecklenburg in the sum of \$12.48, and

Whereas, the City of Charlotte has not budgeted an amount in its Compensation Fund sufficient to pay this money in a lump sum but there is an amount in excess of said sum in the Perpetual Care and Permanent Beautification and Betterment Fund, which is a portion of the Cemetery Sinking Fund, and

Whereas, the Industrial Commission of the State of North Carolina has approved the request of Mrs. Westnedge in the City of Charlotte to advance Mrs. Westnedge the sum of \$2304.00, less interest on the same in the sum of \$69.12, making a net amount to go to Mrs. Westnedge in the sum of \$2234.88, which is according to the computation of the Industrial Commission the net present worth of the sum of \$2304.00, which would be received by Mrs. Westnedge over a period of 128 weeks.

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, that the City Treasurer, L. L. Ledbetter, be and he is hereby authorized to pay unto Mrs. Margaret O. Westnedge, the net sum of \$2234.88; and that Mrs. Alice B. McConnell, Compensation Adjuster for the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, be and she is hereby authorized and directed to pay the sum of \$18.00 per week to the said Treasurer, L. L. Ledbetter for a period of 128 weeks, which money shall be returned to the Cemetery Sinking Fund as above set forth; provided, that before said money is paid to Mrs. Westnedge, that Mrs. Westnedge execute an Assignment of said fund of \$18.00 per week for a period of 128 weeks, in duplicate; one copy for the City of Charlotte and one to be sent to the Industrial Commission of the State of North Carolina. At the expiration of the term of 128 payments of \$18.00 per week, which Mrs. Alice B. McConnell, Compensation Adjuster for the City of Charlotte having paid to the Treasurer L. L. Ledbetter, of \$18.00 per week for said term, shall then continue the payments to Mrs. Westnedge until the obligation of the City of Charlotte is satisfied in full.

THIS THE DAY AND YEAR FIRST ABOVE WRITTEN.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTOR'S SALARY.

The City Manager presented a statement from the City Accountant with regard to the joint account of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County for Weights and Measures Inspector, stating that the County had increased the salary of this Inspector and billed the City with its share of this increase without the City having been notified of same, and had also billed the City for telephone, lights, etc., over and above what had been budgeted for, which was not in accordance with the resolution passed by the Joint Boards.

Councilman Wilkinson made a motion that owing to the fact that these additional expenses were not put into this year's budget and the fact that the City had not been notified of the increase that this amount be disallowed. Motion seconded by Councilman Sides and unanimously carried.

SWIMMING POOLS.

A letter from the Works Progress Administration in regard to the project for Swimming Pools was read by the City Manager, this letter asking that the City agree to finish the swimming pool in Cordelia Park in case it is not completed by March 1, 1937.

A ruling from the City Attorneys was also read, in which it was stated that the City could not enter into such an agreement because it is limited by law to a two-cent levy for parks and that additional

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appropriations would have to be voted upon by the people.

Councilman Durham made a motion that the City not sign such agreement, which was seconded by Councilman Hovis and carried.

In this connection, Councilman Wilkinson suggested that the City Manager advise the Works Progress Administration that the City of Charlotte wants the swimming pools and is willing to cooperate with the Administration in order to do so, and that the City keep after the proper authorities in Washington in trying to secure these pools for Charlotte in case an additional appropriation is made.

CITY EMPLOYEES TO BE PAID ENTIRE MONTH'S SALARY ON DECEMBER 15TH.

The City Manager reported that it has been customary in the past to pay the City Employees on December 15th. instead of 19th., the usual pay day, making the checks for a month's period instead of the regular half month, and recommended that this be done this year.

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Tipton, the City Manager's recommendation was unanimously adopted.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD SET.

On motion of Councilman Sides, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson the Christmas Holiday period for City Employees will start at noon, Thursday, December 24th., and end Monday morning, December 28th.

WATER MAIN EXTENSION BONDS TO BE ISSUED.

The City Manager stated that he is receiving a great many applications for water main extensions but that the City has spent all the money set up in that fund for water main extensions and also the \$3,000 set up in the Contingent Fund for that purpose; that the list of applications now on hand will require about \$18,000.00, and that while he had hoped to wait until the Water Works Bonds had been authorized, he was receiving so many requests for industries desiring to locate in Charlotte as soon as water could be secured, that he did not see how the City could delay this matter, and suggested that we might consider issuing \$25,000.00 Water Bonds and staying within that limitation in making these extensions.

Councilman Sides suggested that the City Attorneys be requested to prepare proper resolution for passage on this next week.

Councilman Hovis then moved that the City proceed along the lines suggested by the City Manager, which motion was seconded by Councilman Albea and unanimously carried.

PETITION RECEIVED FOR REPAIR WORK ON CORNER OF BILTMORE DRIVE AND SCOTLAND AVENUE.

The City Manager presented a petition from residents on Biltmore Drive, which he had just received, asking that the City repair the street where Biltmore Drive runs into Scotland Avenue, but the City Manager pointed out that that portion of Biltmore Drive was not owned by the City and the City could not make such repairs.

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CEMETERY DEEDS.

On motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Hudson, the following cemetery deeds were authorized to be issued:

Mrs. W. R. Helms, South East 1/4 Lot No. 15-A, "D Annex, Elmwood,	\$35.00
Mrs. Nell Brown, South West 1/4 " " 32-A. "D Annex, " "	35.00

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Huntley to adjourn, unanimously carried.

Alice B. McConnell
City Clerk