

February 9, 1938
Page 404.

The regular weekly meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at 4:00 o'clock P. M., Wednesday, February 9, 1938, with Mayor Douglas presiding and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Griswold, Hovis, Hudson, Huntley, Little, Nance and Sides being present.

Absent: Councilmen Durham and Wilkinson.

MINUTES NOT READ.

Councilman Nance moved that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with at this meeting due to the large number of delegates present to be heard. This motion seconded by Councilman Huntley and carried.

DATES FIXED FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS AND CENTRAL LABOR UNION CARNIVALS.

Mr. F. A. Miller, representing the Knights of Columbus, advised the Council that the Central Labor Union and Knights of Columbus had gotten together and decided on the dates for their respective carnivals and that the Knights of Columbus would hold their carnival on the dates from April 8th. thru 16th.

Mr. Moore, representing the Central Labor organization, then asked that they be granted permission to show the week of May 16th., and on motion of Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Griswold and carried, this request was granted.

REFERENDUM REQUESTED ON THE SUNDAY ISSUE.

The Council chamber was packed to overflowing with delegations and citizens interested in the Sunday question, and before hearing from those desiring to speak Mayor Douglas asked that each side limit their arguments to twelve minutes each, which was agreeable to all.

Mr. Thomas Glasgow was the first person heard, representing a group of 34 laymen who protest an open Sunday and favor a referendum of the people. Mr. Glasgow stated that it was not the civil responsibility of the Council but should be put to a vote of the people. He also called attention to the fact that if the Council permitted Sunday baseball, in fairness to all they could not keep the bowling alleys and moving pictures houses closed, and that eventually it would result in a wide open Sunday.

Rev. Willis G. Clark, Chairman of a committee of Ministers named by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Ministerial Alliance, spoke against an open Sunday and stated that Charlotte had been operating the Sunday program about as satisfactorily as could be expected. He also asked that the people be given a chance to express themselves as requested by the laymen, as it is a momentous question vitally important to the whole community.

Mr. Chester Nixon, an advocate of open Sundays, spoke against the referendum, stating that the Council had been elected by the people of Charlotte to use their judgment in acting for the promotion of growth of the City. However, he was willing for a referendum but wanted it to include other things.

February 9, 1938
Page 405.

A Mrs. Robert Bradham spoke briefly in favor of the referendum, after which Mayor Douglas read letters from the Charlotte Bowling Center, protesting discrimination; from the Charlotte Central Labor Union, favoring a liberalized Sunday; from the First A.R.P. Church and others opposing open Sunday.

The Mayor then called on those of the Council who wished to be heard. Councilman Baxter stated that the Council was interested in doing the thing which would be most right for the largest number of people, and that the present Sunday law discriminates against the working man, in that the wealthier class are permitted to play golf on Sunday while certain working men, such as filling station operators, truck drivers, etc. are forced to work. Mr. Baxter then stated that he was in favor of either opening everything on Sunday or else closing everything.

At this point Mayor Douglas stated that this Council was honestly trying to do what they believed to be the right thing; that they had the best interest of the citizens of Charlotte at heart, and asked the support of the people in their endeavors.

Councilmen Huntley and Sides then spoke for the referendum, stating that that would be a fair way in which to settle the question, while Councilman Hudson opposed an unofficial election on the grounds that the ballot boxes could be stuffed.

Councilman Sides, seconded by Councilman Huntley, then moved that a referendum be offered either in the June primary or before or after, when worked out in detail and approved by the Council.

Councilman Hovis, who introduced the amendment on January 26th., stated that if an unofficial referendum is held that would not settle the question but would leave the matter in the same fix as at present, and stated that he was willing to accept the responsibility placed upon him when he was elected to office.

Councilman Griswold, seconded by Councilman Albea, then offered a substitute motion to Councilman Sides' motion, that the matter be tabled until the next meeting, with the following vote recorded:

For the tabling motion: Councilmen Hovis, Baxter, Albea, Nance Little and Griswold.

Against the motion: Councilmen Sides, Hudson and Huntley.

The Mayor declared the motion carried and the question tabled.

ORDINANCE REPEALING PURPORTED AMENDMENT TO THE SUNDAY ORDINANCE.

At this time, Councilman Hovis introduced the following Ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE
TO REPEAL A PURPORTED AMENDMENT TO THE SUNDAY
ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE WHICH WAS
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHAR-
LOTTE ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1938.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Charlotte:

Section 1: That that certain ordinance passed by the City Council on Wednesday, January 26, 1938 purporting to amend that certain ordinance passed by the City Council on July 24, 1935, and recorded in Ordinance Book 7, at page 120-A in the office of the City Clerk, be, and the same hereby is, in all respects, repealed.

February 9, 1938

Page 406.

Section 2: That this ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

On motion of Councilman Hovis, seconded by Councilman Griswold, the above ordinance was unanimously adopted on three readings and declared by the Mayor to be an ordinance of the City of Charlotte.

RECESS OF FIVE MINUTES.

Mayor Douglas declared a recess of five minutes in order to permit the crowd to disperse.

ARMORY-AUDITORIUM GIVEN TO JUNIOR DIVISION OF WOMENS CLUB FOR DOG SHOW APRIL 22ND. AND 23RD. 1938.

On motion of Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Huntley, free use of the Armory-Auditorium was granted to the Junior Division of the Charlotte Womens' Club, April 22nd. and 23rd. 1938, for a dog show. This request having been made by Attorney Erwin and Miss Sara Ross.

REMODELING OF SUGAW CREEK DISPOSAL PLANT COMPRESSOR AND LETTING OF CONTRACTS FOR CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND WORK.

The City Manager reported that the necessity for equipping the third compressor at the Sugaw Creek Disposal Plant with a motor was urgent and that provision had been made in the budget to the amount of \$2500.00 for this installation.

He stated that there are four pumps and motors, together with three old transformers, at the River Station that have been abandoned by reason of the installation of the new station, and that one of these motors could be rewound and used at the Disposal Plant at a cost of \$615.00. He also advised that in remodeling this compressor it will be necessary to purchase a new bed plate and new coupling between the motor and compressor gear, which will have to be purchased from the J.R. Purser Sales Engineer, Inc., who represent the manufacturer of this compressor and that this will cost \$456.00.

The three remaining motors at the River Station and the transformers are of no further use to the City and an offer has been received from a second-hand equipment dealer for this equipment of \$900.00. It was the City Manager's recommendation that this equipment be advertised for sale and disposed of at this time.

Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Huntley, moved that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign contract with the Southern Electric Service Company, in the amount of \$615.00, for rewinding and resetting the motor to be used at the Disposal Plant. Motion carried.

On motion of Councilman Hovis, seconded by Councilman Griswold, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign contract with the J. R. Purser Sales Engineer, Inc. for the new bed plate and coupling for compressor, at a cost of \$456.00.

February 9, 1938
Page 407.

Councilman Hovis moved that the old equipment left over be advertised for sale. Motion seconded by Councilman Griswold and carried.

STREET ASSESSMENT AT 2028 ROZZELL FERRY ROAD REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE.

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baxter and carried, the request for adjustment on street assessment at 2028 Rozzell Ferry Road was referred to the Finance Committee.

NOTICE OF SUIT ANNIE CRANE WILLIAMS VS. CITY OF CHARLOTTE.

Mr. Marshall reported receipt of notice of suit of Annie Crane Williams, Executrix, against the City of Charlotte and others, for the purpose of clearing up an estate upon which certain taxes and street assessments are due. Attorneys for the Estate are Talliferro and Clarkson, and the matter has been referred to the City Attorney.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baxter, the meeting adjourned.

Alice B. McConell

City Clerk