

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Wednesday, July 18, 1951, at 4 o'clock p.m., with Mayor Shaw presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Coddington, Dellinger, Jordan and Van Every present.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Van Every, the minutes of the last meeting on July 11th were approved as submitted.

CERTIFICATE OF NECESSITY FOR OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL TAXICAB GRANTED HERBERT LEE JOHNSON.

Mr. Herbert Lee Johnson requested that a Certificate of Necessity for the operation of an additional taxicab, under Victory Cab Company system, be granted him, and that he be permitted to purchase the cab of Mr. B. P. Sherrill which is now operated as a Red Top Cab. The City Manager advised that the transaction meets with the approval of the Taxicab Inspector. Upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Albea, and un-animously carried, the requests were granted.

C. S. TAYLOR GRANTED PERMISSION TO TAP ONTO AIRPORT WATER MAIN.

Mr. C. S. Taylor requested permission to tap onto the Airport water line to serve his residence which has just been completed. He advised that he was told by other property owners of the area that the City would permit the tap. In the discussion, the City Manager stated if the practice of permitting taps onto the small water line to the airport is continued, it will soon become necessary for the City to construct a larger line in order to serve the airport property. Councilman Van Every moved that the request be denied. The motion did not receive a second, and was lost. Councilman Jordan then moved that Mr. Taylor be permitted to tap onto the line to serve only his residence, in view of the fact that the house is ready for occupancy, and that the City Manager and Airport Manager advise property owners near the airport reservation that no additional taps will be permitted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boyd, and un-animously carried.

NEGRO PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL REQUESTS STREET AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRE STATION, STOP LIGHTS AND INCREASED POLICE PATROL IN NEGRO AREAS.

Dr. E. L. Rann, President of the Pan-Hellenic Council of Charlotte who stated the organization was composed of 300 members representing the leadership in various phases of negro life in Charlotte, presented requests for the following improvements in the negro areas of the city:

1. That the curve in Oaklawn Avenue be straightened to eliminate a dangerous hazard between Beatty's Ford Road and Statesville Avenue. He advised that due to the bad curve Duke Power Company will not operate busses over the street. Also, that sidewalks be constructed along Oaklawn Avenue to reduce the walking distance of children to and from school.

2. That a fire station be established in the northern section of the city, to be manned by negro residents. He advised that the Biddleville, Washington Heights, Greenville, Fairview, Double Oaks and Druid Hills areas are not provided with proper fire protection.

3. That stop lights be placed at busy intersections in the negro areas. He advised that lights are particularly needed at Alexander Street and Independence Boulevard, Alexander Street and First Street, Independence Boulevard and Third Street, and Oaklawn Avenue and Statesville Road.

4. That sidewalks be constructed on South Caldwell Street, especially between Third Street and Independence Boulevard.

5. That police patrol be increased on Newland Road, Statesville Road and Beatty's Ford Road, which streets are used as speedways.

At the suggestion of Mayor Shaw, the requests were referred to the City Manager for investigation and report to the Council on August 15th. The Mayor advised Dr. Rann that the matter of constructing additional fire stations has not been considered.

ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE APPROPRIATION BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1951-1952.

An ordinance entitled, "Ordinance Relative to the Adoption of the Appropriation Budget for the Fiscal Year 1951-1952" was introduced and read. Councilman Baxter moved the adoption of the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Van Every, and carried, with the votes cast as follows:

AYE: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Coddington, Dellinger, Jordan and Van Every.

NAY: Councilman Boyd.

Councilman Boyd stated for the record that he was voting against the adoption of the ordinance because he believes it could be scaled down so that the tax rate would be reduced two, three or four cents.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 11, beginning at Page 214.

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM OF JOHN E. WILFORD FOR DAMAGES TO CAR.

Motion was made by Councilman Van Every, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, authorizing the payment of claim, in the amount of \$24.50, to Mr. John E. Wilford, for damages to his car by City Fire Truck on May 31st, 1951.

GRIFFITH STREET AND CAMDEN ROAD EXTENSION TAKEN OVER FOR MAINTENANCE.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried, the following streets were taken over for maintenance:

(a) Griffith Street, from S. Tryon St. to Southern Railway.

(b) Camden Road Extension, from Griffith St. to Fairwood Ave.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SANITARY SEWERS IN WAYT, CORNELIUS, LEOTA AND CONDON STS.

The construction of new sanitary sewers in the following streets was authorized upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Van Every, and unanimously carried:

(a) 280 ft. of sewer main in Wayt St. at an estimated cost of \$400.00, to serve two family units and six vacant lots. All costs to be borne by the City.

(b) 440 ft. of sewer main in Cornelius St. and Leota Drive, at an estimated cost of \$2,170.00, to serve eleven housing units, with all costs to be borne by the City.

SALE OF BUILDINGS AT MORRIS FIELD TO WITHROW BROS.

Councilman Dellinger moved that the thirteen buildings at Morris Field be sold to the high bidder, Withrow Bros., at a total price of \$6,185.00. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried.

CONTRACTS AWARDED THE CHARLOTTE NEWS, COLUMBIA PIPE COMPANY AND CRANE COMPANY.

Upon motion of Councilman Van Every, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, contracts were awarded as follows:

- (a) Contract with The Charlotte News, for the publication of the Delinquent Tax List for 1950, on a unit price basis, representing a total price of \$1,488.00.
- (b) Contract with Columbia Pipe Company, for 25,000 lineal feet of Vitrified Clay Pipe, on a unit price basis, representing a total of \$10,500.00, subject to cash discount of \$210.00.
- (c) Contract with Crane Company, for 700, 3/4" Mueller T-Head Curb Stops, representing a total of \$1,756.16, subject to 2% cash discount.

CONSTRUCTION OF DRIVEWAY ENTRANCES AUTHORIZED.

Motion was made by Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, authorizing the construction of driveway entrances at the following locations:

- (a) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2511 Ashley Road.
- (b) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2519 Ashley Road.
- (c) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2525 Ashley Road.
- (d) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2531 Ashley Road.
- (e) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2537 Ashley Road.
- (f) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2543 Ashley Road.
- (g) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2601 Ashley Road.
- (h) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2609 Ashley Road.
- (i) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2615 Ashley Road.
- (j) One 8 1/2 foot entrance at 2621 Ashley Road.

SPECIAL OFFICER PERMITS RENEWED.

The renewal of Special Officer Permits to the following persons was authorized upon motion of Councilman Van Every, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried:

- (a) Permit renewed to T. S. Lefler, for use on the premises of South Atlantic Waste Company.
- (b) Permit renewed to A. C. McGill and R. A. Smith, for use on the premises of Highland Park Manufacturing Company.

APPLICATIONS OF HUTTIG SASH & DOOR COMPANY AND PIEDMONT STEEL BUILDING, INC., FOR LOCATION OF BUILDINGS IN INDUSTRIAL ZONES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, applications for the location of buildings in Industrial Zones were approved as follows:

- (a) Application of Huttig Sash & Door Co. for location of a warehouse and manufacturing plant at 1018 Jay St.
- (b) Application of Piedmont Steel Building, Inc., for location of a steel fabricating shop at 3258 Leota Drive.

TERMS OF OFFICE FIXED FOR NEW PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS.

Councilman Van Every moved that the terms of office of Messrs. J. H. Saxon and W. W. Hanks appointed as members of the Charlotte Planning Board on July 11th, be for three years, and the term of Mr. A. G. Odell, Jr., on the said Board be for the unexpired term of Mr. Paul Guthery, resigned. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried.

UNFIT HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT.

Mr. Yancey, City Manager, gave the following progress report of the Unfit Housing Division; for the month of June, 1951:

Inspections made	252
Number of housing units brought up to standard	236
Number of Property owners cited for hearings	6
Number of housing units condemned	14
Number of bathing facilities installed	220

LEASE OF AIRPORT BUILDING NO. 287 TO W & C HOSEY MILLS, INC.

The City Manager reported that the lease of Building No. 287 at Douglas Municipal Airport has been concluded with W. & C. Hosier Mills, Inc., at a monthly rental of \$22.58, for a period of one year from June 1, 1951.

SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Clerk were authorized to execute deeds covering the sale of the following cemetery lots:

- (a) Deed with W. C. Timmons, Jr. and wife, for Lot 224, in Section 3, Evergreen Cemetery, at \$208.00.
- (b) Deed with Dr. W. S. Rankin, for Lot 67, Section 3, Evergreen Cemetery, at \$156.00.

APPOINTMENT OF PAUL R. ERVIN TO THE HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Councilman Jordan moved that Mr. Paul R. Ervin be appointed to the Health Advisory Committee for a period of five years, as recommended by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilman Van Every, and unanimously carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILMEN ALBEA AND DELLINGER TO THE INDUSTRIAL HOME BOARD.

Upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Van Every, and unanimously carried, Councilmen Albea and Dellinger were appointed as members of the Industrial Home Board for a period of two years.

DUKE POWER COMPANY ADVISES THAT SHUTTLE BUS ON CENTRAL AVENUE WILL BE DISCONTINUED.

The City Manager presented a letter from Mr. J. A. Forney, Manager, Duke Power Company, advising that Bus Route #14A, Pecan Avenue to Eastway Drive - being the shuttle bus on Central Avenue - will be discontinued at an early date, because the revenue being produced therefrom does not justify the expense involved. Mr. Forney advised that from February 9, 1951 through July 3, 1951 the daily gross revenue was \$5.48 with an operating expense of bus operator's wage alone amounting to \$11.03 per day. Mr. Yancey stated that the resolution adopted by the Council contained the provision that the shuttle bus would be operated on a trial basis for 60 days, whereas Duke Power Company has operated it for 120 days.

Councilman Boyd stated that when the trolley lines were discontinued and the bus service established, a contract was made between the City and Duke Power Company, which is set forth in the City Code, providing that the Power Company will operate their busses over given routes established by the City Council. He stated that one of these routes was the Midwood Bus over Hawthorne Lane. He requested the City Attorney to read the contract and report on the matter to the City Council.

REPORT OF SALARY SCALES AND TAX RATES IN CITIES COMPARABLE TO CHARLOTTE.

Councilman Baxter stated that in deciding upon budget appropriations for the next fiscal year it was not possible to please everyone, and the Council did what was best and fair in their judgment. That the newspapers have been critical of the salary scales, and he had, therefore, compiled a report of salaries and tax rates of cities of comparable size to Charlotte. He advised further that the salaries approved for City of Charlotte clerks, bookkeepers, laborers, police, firemen, accountants and others are in line with the salaries paid by the City of Sacramento, Calif., and Austin, Texas which are cities of almost identical size.

He quoted figures compiled by the Detroit Bureau of Governmental Research which showed that the proposed tax rate of \$2.15 for the next fiscal year, on a comparative basis, is lower than that of Richmond, Va., Knoxville, Tenn., Chattanooga, Tenn., Atlanta, Ga., Greensboro and Durham, North Carolina. He advised that Dayton, Ohio is one of the few cities having a lower tax rate than Charlotte.

STEPS LEADING TO CONDEMNATION OF LAND ADJOINING SUGAW CREEK DISPOSAL PLANT PROPERTY AUTHORIZED TAKEN, FOR ENLARGEMENT OF PLANT FACILITIES.

Mr. Yancey, City Manager, advised that Mr. Leroy Dulin, who was employed to contact the owners of property adjoining the Sugaw Creek Disposal Plant property with the view toward the City acquiring the property for the enlargement of the said plant, reports the property owners are asking \$2,250.00 per acre. That in his opinion the property is worth no more than \$200.00 per acre. Mr. Yancey recommended that condemnation proceedings be instituted for the acquisition of the property. Councilman Albea moved that steps be taken leading to the condemnation of the said property. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

CLAIM OF THE WELSBACK CORP. FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT AUTHORIZED SETTLED.

Mr. John D. Shaw, City Attorney, explained the details of the claim of the Welsback Corporation for infringement of patent rights on cable for the high intensity lighting system installed at Douglas Municipal Airport. He stated the claim is for 26 cents per lineal foot, making a total claim of approximately \$1,350.00. Mr. Shaw stated that a similar claim was made against the City of Winston-Salem and was paid. He advised that the validity of the patent rights of Welsback Corp., has been established, and recommended settlement of the claim. Councilman Van Every moved that the City Attorney proceed with negotiations to settle the claim. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried, with the votes cast as follows:

AYE: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Dellinger, Jordan and Van Every.
NAY: Councilman Coddington.

REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC LIGHT AT CHERRY STREET & INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD DEFERRED.

The City Manager reported that the Traffic Engineer has made a traffic survey of Independence Boulevard and Cherry Street, which indicates that a traffic signal is not warranted at this intersection, same having been requested on June 27th by a committee of residents of the area with the Rev. F. D. Brown as spokesman for the group. Councilmen Boyd stated he realizes that traffic signals cannot be placed at every intersection but it appears to him they are never placed where requested by citizens. Both he and Councilman Albea expressed the desire that the light be installed. However, upon the suggestion of Councilman Jordan that the Council personally look over the intersection, action was deferred for one week.

ACTION ON VIOLATION OF SMOKE ABATEMENT ORDINANCE BY NEW-WAY LAUNDRY DEFERRED UNTIL AUGUST 29, 1951.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, action with regard to the violation of the Smoke Abatement Ordinance by New-Way Laundry was deferred until August 29th.

REQUEST FOR GRANT BY THE NORTH CAROLINA SYMPHONY ASSOCIATION REFUSED.

A request from the North Carolina Symphony Association for a grant of \$500.00 for a children's concert in Charlotte was presented, and the City Attorney advised that the City is without authority to grant the request.

REQUEST RENEWED FOR TRAFFIC LIGHT AT SYLVANIA AVENUE AND NORTH TRYON STREET.

Letters from Mr. S. C. Vaughn were read again requesting the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Sylvania Avenue and North Tryon Street, and, also, commending the Council for granting employees salary increases.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Lillian R. Hoffman
City Clerk