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A regular meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at 4 p.m., on Tuesday, July 9, 1946, with Mayor Baxter presiding, and Councilmen Childs, Hinson, Johnston, McIntyre, Newson, Puette and White present.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by the Reverend J. H. Buzhardt, Pastor, Statesville Avenue A. R. P. Church.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE REGARDING PRIVILEGE TAX ORDINANCE ADOPTED.

Councilman Newson presented the following report of the Special Committee appointed by the Mayor to study and recommend relative to requested changes in the Privilege Tax Ordinance:

" As long as the State Legislature entirely eliminates, or places a maximum, on this type tax for several select groups, and allows a free hand for municipalities to tax others, there can be no real equalization of taxation. This condition is hard to remedy and the tendency will be for groups not favored by state exemption to lobby for exemption or ceilings on privilege taxes imposed by municipality.

There is a great deal of work that should be done to bring about a partial equalization of privilege taxes but as time does not permit the extensive investigation required for such correction, this Committee can only recommend that such study and correction should be done before next year's privilege tax rate is set.

For the present, to allow collection of current privilege taxes, the Committee recommends the following basis of taxes:

1. All flat or fixed privilege taxes shall be increased by 50% over last year's tax.
2. All classifications involving minimum or flat rate taxes plus an additional sliding scale basis of taxation based on volume of business done, shall be increased by adding 50% to the minimum or fixed rates of last year and an addition of .10¢ per \$1,000.00 volume be added to the graduated or sliding rate charged last year. This would increase sliding scale rate from .50¢ per thousand to .60¢ per thousand and in cases where the rate is other than .50¢ per thousand on a graduated basis, the increase shall be 20% of the previous rate charged.

Previous charges adopted by the Council and recommended by the Committee is the elimination of Section B as now included in the new ordinance pertaining to wholesale merchants, the reclassifying of florists under the classification of merchants, and the elimination of the classification of cap pistols."

Mr. Frank Kennedy, representing wholesale dealers, requested that a more equitable license fee be charged said dealers, and that a ceiling be placed on the wholesale dealers license the same as for manufacturers. Mr. C. A. Williams, Wholesale Dealer, also spoke in behalf of said dealers.

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Councilman Newson moved the adoption of the report, and recommendations contained therein. Motion seconded by Councilman Childs, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Baxter then requested Councilmen Newson and McIntyre to serve as a Committee to continue the study of the schedule of license fees now levied.

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVENUE ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1946-47.

An ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED 'REVENUE ORDINANCE LEVYING, ASSESSING, IMPOSING AND DEFINING THE LICENSE AND PRIVILEGE TAXES OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1946, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1947' ADOPTED MAY 21, 1946, AS AMENDED" was presented and read. Motion was made by Councilman Childs that the ordinance be adopted. Motion seconded by Councilman Johnston, and unanimously carried. Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 9, beginning at Page 381.

PUBLICATION AND PRINTING OF AMENDED REVENUE ORDINANCE AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Newson moved that the City Clerk be authorized and directed to have published the Amended Revenue Ordinance in The Charlotte News, secure 2,500 extra prints of same for distribution by the Tax Department, and have same printing in Ordinance Book 9, at an estimated cost of \$400.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Childs, and unanimously carried.

REMOVAL OF DEBRIS FROM HEATH PROPERTY ON ORR STREET REFERRED TO APPRAISAL COMMITTEE.

The City Manager reported that it was estimated that the cost for removing the debris from the Lee Heath property on Orr Street, as requested by Mr. H. B. Campbell, attorney for Mr. Heath, would be \$1,200.00. Councilman Newson recommended that the matter be referred to a Committee for investigation.

Mayor Baxter referred the matter to the Appraisal Committee.

ASSEMBLY ROOM IN CITY HALL ASSIGNED TO SANITATION DIVISION OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Johnston moved that the recommendation of the City Manager be approved to assign the assembly room opposite the Council Chamber in the City Hall for use by the Sanitation Division of the Health Department. Motion seconded by Councilman White, and unanimously carried.

REAL ESTATE AUTHORIZED ADVERTISED AND SOLD FOR NON PAYMENT OF 1945 TAXES.

Motion was made by Councilman Johnston that all real estate on which the 1945 taxes have not been paid be advertised not later than August 12th and sold, as recommended by the City Manager and Collector of Revenue. Motion seconded by Councilman Childs, and unanimously carried.

CONTRACTS AND PURCHASES AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Hinson moved that the following contracts and purchases be authorized, and funds be appropriated if necessary. Motion seconded by Councilman Childs, and unanimously carried:

- a. From the American Cyanamid & Chemical Corporation, five cylinders of anhydrous ammonia, in the sum of \$135.00.
- b. From E. F. Craven Company, four truck wheels for Allis-Chalmers Tractor, in the sum of \$173.20.

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- c. Contract with Standard Oil Company for 23,507.7 gallons of gasoline used during month of June, in sum of \$3,492.32.
- d. From Pine Hall Brick & Pipe Company, 399 feet of 8" pipe for Engineering Department, in the sum of \$123.69.
- e. Contract with North Carolina Equipment Company, for four main broom core assemblies, 8 fibre guards and 4 cables, for Elgin Sweeper, in the sum of \$519.60.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT GIVEN PRESENTATION OF ITEMS NOT ON DOCKET.

Upon motion of Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Hinson, the City Manager was unanimously authorized to present the following two items not included in today's Council Docket.

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PLUMBING CODE, WITH REGARD TO TEMPORARY HOUSING AT MORRIS FIELD.

An ordinance entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PLUMBING CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE" was presented and read. Motion was made by Councilman Childs, seconded by Councilman Hinson, and unanimously carried, that the ordinance be adopted as read. Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 9, at Page 380.

PAYMENT TO CONNOR H. SMITH FOR WORK ON CONTACT LIGHTS AT MORRIS FIELD.

Motion was made by Councilman Hinson, seconded by Councilman Johnston, and unanimously carried, authorizing the payment of an invoice to Connor H. Smith in the amount of \$128.00 for work on contact lights at Morris Field.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSTON APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE WATER CONNECTION RATES OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS.

Mayor Baxter appointed Councilman Johnston, as a Committee of one, to study and report on the water connection rates outside the city limits.

SALE OF CEMETERY LOTS.

Councilman Johnston moved that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute deeds for the sale of the following cemetery lots and perpetual care. Motion seconded by Councilman Hinson, and unanimously carried:

J. C. Camp and wife, Nello N. Camp, Lot 102, Section L-Annex, Elmwood Cemetery, at \$90.00, and Perpetual Care thereon, at \$50.00.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilman Hinson moved that the meeting be adjourned until 3 o'clock p.m., on Tuesday, July 16th, to consider the recommended Zoning Ordinance and Map.

Lillian R. Hoffman
City Clerk