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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Wednesday, June 3, 1953, at 4 o'clock p.m., with Mayor Van Every presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Brown, Dellinger, Smith and Wilkinson present.

Absent: None.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

MINUTE APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting and Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 1953, were approved as submitted.

LEASE OF INDUSTRIAL HOME FOR USE AS ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS REHABILITATION CENTER APPROVED.

Mr. R. C. Brooks, representing Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., appeared before Council and stated that the Board of Commissioners for Mecklenburg County has approved the lease of the Industrial Home property to Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc., for use as a rehabilitation center, subject to the approval of the City Council, as the City is part owner of the property. Mr. Brooks asked that the Council approve the leasing of the Home to the said organization. Councilman Baxter moved that the City cooperate with the County Commissioners in leasing the property to Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

Mr. F. I. Harper, President of the organization, then advised that it will be necessary to make extensive repairs to the property before it could possibly be used by them, and asked to what extent the City will participate in making the repairs. Mayor Van Every suggested that Mr. Harper submit a written estimate of the desired repairs, for Council consideration.

REQUEST THAT PORTION OF PROPERTY AT INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD AND STONEWALL STREET BE DEEDED BACK TO B. L. BRYANT, REFERRED TO CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY FOR RECOMMENDATION.

Mr. Elbert Foster, Attorney representing Mr. B. L. Bryant stated that in 1951 the City acquired property from Mr. Bryant for sidewalk purposes in the Stonewall Street widening program, and 37 feet of the said property located at the southwest corner of Independence Boulevard and Stonewall Street was not used for this purpose, and is being leased by the City to Schloss Advertising Company at a monthly rental of some \$25.00. That Mr. Bryant would like to have this property deeded back to him as it is not being used for the purpose for which it was acquired. Upon motion of Councilman Boyd, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, the request was referred to the City Manager and City Attorney for recommendation.

PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT EAST BOULEVARD AND HILLSIDE DRIVE AUTHORIZED FOR ERECTION OF FIRE STATION.

Councilman Baxter moved that the City Manager be instructed to negotiate with Mr. John Crosland for the purchase of the property at the northeast corner of East Boulevard and Hillside Drive, at a price of \$22,500.00, for the erection of a Fire Station, and if the purchase is consummated that the City Manager work out the details of the transaction with the City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

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CONSTRUCTION OF GRAVEL SIDEWALK ON REVOLUTION PARK SIDE OF BARRINGER DRIVE AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Smith stated there is a strip of land on the Revolution Park Side of Barringer Drive sufficient for a sidewalk, which is badly needed and desired by the residents of the area, and he moved that a gravel sidewalk be constructed at this location. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

COUNCIL REQUESTED TO GIVE THOUGHT TO CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND COUNTY DEPARTMENTS.

Councilman Baxter requested that the Council be thinking about the matter of consolidating various City and County Departments, and whether it should be put to a vote of the citizens.

WIDENING OF THE PLAZA FROM MECKLENBURG AVENUE TO PRESENT CITY LIMITS AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Boyd moved that the City Manager and the City Attorney be instructed to take the necessary engineering and legal steps to widen The Plaza, from Mecklenburg Avenue to the present city limits 45-feet in width by constructing the necessary storm drains, permanent curbs and gutters and permanent paving and resurfacing the roadway, under the provisions of Section 51 of the City Charter, and that the cost thereof be paid out of Street Improvement Bond Funds, less the State's contribution for resurfacing, and that the City Manager be requested to proceed with this project, and to work out a definite agreement with the State Highway Commission as to its bearing as much of the cost as the City Manager can secure from the State. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

HEARING ON REQUEST OF QUEEN CITY CAB COMPANY FOR FRANCHISE TO OPERATE CAB COMPANY CONTINUED UNTIL PROPER APPLICATION FILED AND RULING BY CITY ATTORNEY IF CHARTER NOW IN EFFECT.

The hearing in connection with the request of Mr. Charles V. Bell, Attorney for the Queen City Cab Company, for franchise to operate 25 taxicabs, was opened with Mr. Bell stating that the Queen City Cab Company is renewing their request for a franchise, which was denied in 1952, as the applicants feel that conditions have changed in Charlotte that warrant the operation of a negro cab company. He stated further that Charlotte is the only city of major size in North Carolina without a negro owned taxicab company, and according to the figures supplied him by the Department of Motor Vehicles, Charlotte, with a population of 134,000, has franchises for only 117 cabs, with Baker Cab Company having franchises for 32 cabs, Victory Cab Company for 16 cabs, Red Top Cab Company for 17 cabs and Yellow Cab Company for 52 cabs. He advised that Greensboro with a population of 74,389, has 187 cabs, 59 of which are operated by white companies and 128 by negroes; Asheville with a population of 53,000 has 97 cabs, 7 of which are operated by negro companies; Charleston, S. C. with a population of 70,174 has 185 cabs, with 62 operated by a negro company; that in Charlotte there is not one cab to every 1,000 residents, while most cities have a cab for every 500 persons.

Mr. Arthur Grier spoke in behalf of the request for the franchise, stating that the colored people compose one-third of Charlotte's population, and, in his opinion, deserve the privilege of competing in a lawful enterprise; that the taxicab service to colored people in Charlotte is not adequate nor consistent and there is an actual need for a negro owned and operated company here.

Mr. Brock Barkley, Attorney for Yellow Cab Company stated the reasons set forth by him last July when Mr. Bell made application for a franchise are the same today; that the demand for cab service is less today than it formerly was and grows less each day as more and more private cars are purchased and placed in operation. That it is a mistaken idea that the

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colored population of Charlotte is not given the same service as the white citizens; that about twenty percent of the riders of Yellow Cabs are negroes. He stated further that the Company could buy franchises from presently operating firms if they made the effort, that Baker Cab Company has increased the number of cabs they operate by purchasing cabs from other companies in Charlotte. He stated that even if the Council granted the request, that the Company could not operate as their Charter was suspended in December 1952 because of non-payment of dues and it has not been reinstated.

The City Attorney asked at this point if Mr. Bell has filed the proper application for a franchise, and it was determined that the letter addressed to the City Council by Mr. Bell under date of May 30, 1953 requesting the franchise is not a proper application.

Mr. Henry Strickland, Attorney representing Victory Cab Company asked that the Council defer action on the request until or unless the need for more cabs to operate in Charlotte is determined.

Councilman Boyd stated that he has an ordinance, prepared by the City Attorney, granting certificates to the Queen City Cab Company for the operation of ten cabs, which he intended presenting, but in view of the fact there is some question of the existence of the Cab Company as a corporation, he does not care to introduce the ordinance until the applicants get their house in order and file the proper application and the City Attorney has checked into the matter of whether or not they have a Charter.

Mr. Bell stated in reply to Mr. Barkley's remarks, that the Company has endeavored to purchase cabs from other companies in Charlotte and they will not sell to a negro but will sell to other white companies, that they have a machine set up to keep Negroes out of the cab business here.

Councilman Boyd moved that the hearing be continued until the applicants file the proper application and submit their Charter to the City Attorney, and he gives the Council an opinion if the Charter is in full force and effect. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

ORDINANCE LEVYING, ASSESSING, IMPOSING AND DEFINING THE LICENSE AND PRIVILEGE TAXES OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 1953 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 1954.

An ordinance entitled: "Ordinance Levying, Assessing, Imposing and Defining the License and Privilege Taxes of the City of Charlotte for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 1953 and ending June 30, 1954", was introduced and read.

Councilman Boyd moved the adoption of the ordinance, which motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried. The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 11, beginning at Page 309.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO MAKE STUDY OF PRIVILEGE LICENSE FEES.

Councilman Smith moved that the Mayor name a Committee of three Councilmen to make a study of the privilege license fees during the coming months, in the interest of eliminating any inequities in the fees now charged, and that the Committee make recommendations to the Council prior to the time for the adoption of the Revenue Ordinance for the fiscal year 1954-55. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

CONSIDERATION OF NATURAL GAS CODE DEFERRED UPON REQUEST OF COMMITTEE.

Councilman Dellinger moved that the Council defer its consideration of the proposed Natural Gas Code as requested by the Chairman of the Committee who drafted the Code, in order that they may make a minor change in its regulations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

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MORETZ AVENUE TAKEN OVER FOR MAINTENANCE.

Councilman Boyd moved that Moretz Avenue, from Jefferson Davis Street to a point 275 feet west, be taken over for city maintenance, as recommended by the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

NAME OF RANGE ROAD CHANGED TO MARLOWE AVENUE.

Motion was made by Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Boyd, and unanimously carried, authorizing the change of the name of Range Road to Marlowe Avenue.

SUBDIVISION PLATS APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Boyd, seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried, the following Subdivision Plats were approved, as recommended by the Planning Board:

- (a) Part of Graham Heights Subdivision, located between Hutchinson Avenue, Statesville Road and Moretz Avenue.
- (b) Darby Acres Subdivision, located between Albemarle Road and the Floyd Davis and W. E. Allen properties.
- (c) Portion of Lakeview Park Subdivision, located between Shamrock Drive, Shamrock Subdivision and Maywood Drive.
- (d) Portion of Myers Park, located between the Myers Park Baptist Church property, Queens Road East and Roswell Avenue.
- (e) Spiers-Ervin Subdivision, located off Princeton Avenue along the westerly edge of Sugaw Creek.
- (f) Ervin Construction Company Property Subdivision, located on the northerly side of Arnold Drive.

CONTRACT AWARDED ELECTRIC ICE & FUEL COMPANY FOR YEAR'S SUPPLY OF COAL.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried, contract was awarded Electric Ice & Fuel Company for 100 Tons of Stoker Coal and 900 Tons of Pocahontas Stove or Egg Coal, as specified, on a unit price basis, representing a net delivered price of \$12,070.00, The same being recommended by the City Manager.

CONTRACT AWARDED CHARLOTTE EXTERMINATING & CHEMICAL COMPANY FOR TERMITE CONTROL TREATMENT OF AIRPORT BUILDING NO. 291.

Councilman Brown moved that contract be awarded the low bidder, Charlotte Exterminating & Chemical Company for furnishing all labor and materials necessary for the complete Termite Control Treatment of Building No. 291 at Douglas Municipal Airport, as specified, at a total price of \$1,162.00, subject to guaranty furnished by contractors bond on a yearly basis against recurrence of termites, at \$50.00 per year. Motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

CONSTRUCTION OF DRIVEWAY ENTRANCES AUTHORIZED.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Boyd, and unanimously carried, the construction of driveway entrances at the following locations was authorized:

- (a) One 8-ft. driveway at 3525 Draper Avenue.
- (b) Two 15-ft. driveways at 514 East 11th Street.
- (c) One 23-ft. driveway on North Tryon Street, and Three 30-ft. driveways on W st 12th Street, all for 843 North Tryon Street.

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PORTION OF INCINERATOR PROPERTY AUTHORIZED DEEDED TO PARK AND RECREATION
COMMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PARK FOR NEGRO CITIZENS.

Councilman Brown moved that the City deed a portion of the Incinerator Property to the Park and Recreation Commission, as requested by them, for development as a park for negro citizens. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m., on Monday, June 8, 1953, in the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court Chamber in the Mecklenburg County Court House, for the purpose of canvassing the returns of the Auditorium Bond Election held on Saturday, June 6, 1953.

Leicester R. Hayfman
City Clerk