

An adjourned meeting of the City Council was held on Monday, October 1, 1951, at 10 o'clock a.m., in the Commissioners Room, Mecklenburg County Court House, with the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Shaw and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Coddington, Dellinger and Van Every were present representing the City of Charlotte.

Absent: Councilmen Boyd and Jordan.

Commissioners McAden, Beatty, McDonald, McEwen and Porter were present representing Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner McAden, Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners presided.

PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Mayor Shaw stated the purpose of the meeting was to consider the request of the Board of Trustees of the Good Samaritan Hospital for an additional appropriation of \$26,000.00, representing \$8,000.00 for the Emergency and Outpatient Clinic, and \$18,000.00 deficit incurred prior to July 1, 1951.

SALARY OF JUVENILE INVESTIGATOR INCREASED.

Commissioner McAden asked that the attention of the meeting be first given to the recommendation of Judge Gatling of the Domestic Relations & Juvenile Courts that the salary of the Juvenile Investigator be increased \$50.00 per month because of the great amount of work he is doing for the Courts, both in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, and the extra hours required in connection with his work. He stated that Judge Gatling advises the work of the Juvenile Investigator is producing excellent results, and that Chief Littlejohn concurs in the recommendation that the salary be increased.

Councilman Van Every stated that he is familiar with the excellent record being made by the Juvenile Investigator, and moved that an increase of \$50.00 in salary be authorized jointly by the City and County, and that payments be made by the City including the retirement benefits, and the County be billed for its share of the expense. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Porter, and unanimously carried.

APPROPRIATION MADE FOR EMERGENCY AND OUTPATIENT CLINIC AT GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL, AND FUNDS ADVANCED FROM ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.

Mr. M. E. Pierson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Good Samaritan Hospital and Mr. Marvin Hinson, Hospital Administrator, explained in detail their operating losses and deficits in the Emergency and Outpatient Clinic, and requested an appropriation of \$26,000.00 be made for the continued operation of the clinic. They advised that the 1949-1950 joint appropriation was only \$15,000.00, which resulted in a loss and an additional \$10,000.00 was appropriated to make up the loss. That the joint appropriation for 1950-1951 was \$30,000.00, whereas \$48,000.00 was required, leaving a deficit of \$18,000.00. That on April 13, 1951 they advised the City and County of this deficit and asked that funds be appropriated to make up the deficit, which was not done. That they requested an appropriation of \$48,000.00 for the fiscal year 1951-52 and were given \$40,000.00, which will cause a deficit of \$8,000.00 for the current year. Therefore, a request is now made for an appropriation of \$26,000.00 to cover the \$18,000.00 deficit already realized and the \$8,000.00 deficit anticipated for this year. They also advised that the hospital is at this time \$55,000.00 in the red.

Mr. Hinson stated that they are only allowed \$21.50 per patient in the Maternity Clinic, whereas the actual cost is \$44.50, which brings about a loss to the hospital. That the hospital is not getting sufficient certified maternity cases to absorb the full appropriation by the City and County, and he, therefore requested that they be allowed to draw on the 1951-52 appropriation of \$30,000.00 to overcome the losses in the Emergency and Outpatient Clinic.

Commissioner McDonald stated that in his opinion the \$55,000.00 deficit should be cleared up and if only \$26,000.00 is appropriated at this time the hospital will still be \$29,000.00 short.

After much discussion of the details of the operations of the hospital, Mayor Shaw suggested that it might be well to agree today on an appropriation to keep the Emergency and Outpatient Clinic operating, and a Committee be appointed to make a thorough study of the hospital's financial problems, and make a report, with recommendations, to the City and County.

Councilman Albea moved that the Mayor's suggestion be adopted. However, he withdrew the motion when it was pointed out that there was some question as to the legality of making an appropriation for a deficit already incurred.

Commissioner McDonald moved that the hospital be allowed to use the \$40,000.00 already appropriated for the Emergency and Outpatient Clinic and that an additional appropriation of the requested \$26,000.00 be made, and that a Committee be appointed to study the matter and see if something cannot be worked out to prevent these annual deficits. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter.

Mr. Carol Taliaferro, County Attorney, advised that an appropriation can legally be made only for the anticipated deficit for the current year and not for the prior year deficit.

Councilman Van Every moved that an appropriation of \$48,000.00 be made for the Emergency and Outpatient Clinic as originally requested by the hospital, instead of the \$40,000.00 appropriation formerly approved for the current year, the additional \$8,000.00 to come from unappropriated funds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Porter.

Councilman Coddington offered a substitute motion that the \$8,000.00 be appropriated as recommended by Councilman Van Every, and that the hospital be given leeway in the use of the maternity clinic benefits, and that a committee be appointed to immediately study the matter and assist in working out a solution to the hospital's financial problem. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McDonald, and was lost.

The vote was then taken on the main motion by Councilman Van Every, and carried.

Councilman Albea moved that a Committee be appointed by the Mayor and Chairman of the County Commissioners to study the matter and report back to the joint bodies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beatty, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Pierson then requested that they be allowed to immediately use some of the funds.

Councilman Van Every then moved that the hospital be advanced \$20,000.00 jointly by the City and County from the \$48,000.00 appropriation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

The joint session was then adjourned.

Lillian R. Hoffman
City Clerk