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Regular weekly meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at 4 o'clock P. M., Wednesday, February 24, 1943, with Mayor Currie presiding and the following Council members present: Messrs. Albea, Baker, Beasley, Daughtry, Painter, Slye, Ross and Ward.

Absent: Councilmen Hovis, Little and Price.

* * * * *

MINUTES APPROVED.

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Albea, the minutes of the meeting of February 17th. were approved as read.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS NOT IN USE TO BE BLACKED OUT.

Councilman Beasley, Chairman of the Police and Fire Committee, reported that several accidents have been reported to him as a result of certain traffic signals, which have been discontinued, not being covered or blacked out in some manner. He stated that in some cities this is being done by covering the signals with heavy cloth bags rather than removing the signals entirely, and he asked that some method be worked out to take care of this condition in Charlotte. After discussion, the matter was referred to the City Manager for handling.

INVITATION EXTENDED TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO MEET AMBASSADOR GREW MARCH 5TH.

Councilman Ross extended, on behalf of Civilian Defense Chairman Martin L. Cannon, an invitation to the Mayor and City Council to attend, in a body, the lecture to be given at the Second Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 5th., by Ambassador Grew; special section in the Church to be reserved for them, and the Mayor urged as many attend as possibly can.

BOY SCOUTS TO STAGE PARADE ON MAY 20TH.

On motion made by Councilman Slye, seconded by Councilman Albea, permission was granted to the Boys Scouts to stage a parade on May 20th.

MATERNITY CLINIC TO BE TRANSFERRED TO CHARLOTTE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

City Manager Flack reported on the matter of the withdrawal of student internes from Duke Hospital in the Maternity Clinic, which withdrawal will take place on March 24th. He stated that the Committee had met with a committee from the County and that they had turned to Mr. Flath, of the Charlotte Memorial Hospital for assistance. He also advised that the County has agreed to go 50-50 on the program and that the Memorial Hospital will handle all maternity cases for \$15,000 per year. Mr. Flath was present and answered a number of questions regarding the proposed set-up, stating that the operation, as contemplated, will cost the hospital around \$30,000 per year, but that small charges will be made for prenatal visits, based on the patient's ability to pay. Also, that the negro babies will be handled through Good Samaritan Hospital under an arrangement with Memorial Hospital.

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Mr. Flack recommended the transferring of the Clinic to the Memorial Hospital, and after hearing both Mr. Flack and Mr. Flath on the subject, Councilman Baker moved that the Council direct the City Manager to transfer the Maternity Clinic to Memorial Hospital and that a memorandum agreement be made between the Hospital and the City relative to the matter. This motion was seconded by Councilman Ross and unanimously carried.

WATER TAP ON WILKINSON BOULEVARD TO BE MADE.

On motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Baker, authority was given for a water connection to be made on the 8-inch line in Wilkinson Boulevard to the home of Mrs. Bessie L. Boggess, at 3103 Wilkinson Boulevard, under the same conditions as set up by the Council by resolution on October 22, 1941, namely: that said tap be made with the understanding that the obligation of the City to furnish water may be revoked with or without cause, and that the City be saved harmless in every way in the event it should discontinue water service.

APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF INVOICES ADDITIONAL STENOGRAPHIC SERVICES.

On motion of Councilman Ross, seconded by Councilman Baker and carried, approval was given for the payment of invoice of Miss Edith C. Thomason, for stenographic work in connection with the case of Crane and Gunn vs. City of Charlotte, in the amount of \$4.50, and also invoice of Miss Mabel C. Moysey, for copying records in foreclosure suit for City, amounting to \$7.50.

PURCHASE OF SEWER MAINTENANCE TRUCK.

The City Manager advised that the Sewer Maintenance Department is badly in need of a pick-up truck but that the War Department has turned down approval for the purchase of a new truck and that quotation has been received on a second-hand 3/4 Ton 1941 GMC truck with pick-up body, from General Truck Company, Inc., at a net delivered price of \$725.00, after making allowance of \$125.00 for the old truck. He stated that the truck has been inspected by the Foreman at the City Garage, also by the Engineering Department and Mr. Barbee, Supt. of Motor Transport Division, and that it is their recommendation that the truck be purchased.

Whereupon, Councilman Baker moved that contract covering this truck be entered into with the General Truck Co. Inc., at the net delivered price of \$725.00, and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign same. Motion seconded by Councilman Ross and carried.

CAR ALLOWANCES TO BE PAID IN ADVANCE.

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Ross and carried, all automobile allowances to City employees are to be paid in advance, to meet the requirement of service stations for cash payment of gasoline, etc.

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PURCHASE OF BRICK, ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

Quotations having been received on 14,000 common brick to be used in connection with the building of the Briarcreek Outfall, as follows:

Doggett Lumber Company, Charlotte	\$199.50
Isenhour Brick & Coal Co. "	203.00
H. & S. Lumber Co. "	217.00

On motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Albea and carried, authority was given for the purchase of this brick from the lowest bidder, Doggett Lumber Company, at the net delivered price of \$199.50.

TECHNICAL MAN TO BE EMPLOYED FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Ward moved that Mr. C. L. Bowlin be employed as a technical man (electrician and lineman) for the Fire Department; Mr. Bowlin having stood the recent Civil Service examination, but residing outside the City limits. Motion seconded by Councilman Slye and carried.

CITY TO REPAIR SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF CHURCH OF GOD, PEGRAM & 18TH STREET.

The City Manager reported a bad sidewalk condition in front of the Church of God, at the corner of Pegram and 18th Streets, and stated that the City Engineer has recommended that the City fix the curb and gutter at this point with second-hand material now on hand, as it has done in the past in front of other churches, in order that the work which the Church will do on the sidewalk will not wash and become undermined.

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baker, authority was given for the City to do this work.

STOP SIGNS TO BE REPLACED WITH CAUTION SIGNS.

Recommendation was received from Mr. B. A. Skinner, Chief Safety Inspector, that all stop signs be removed from City streets and replaced with warning signs reading "CAUTION, THROUGH STREET". In this connection, quotations were obtained for these signs, which are as follows:

Northfield Iron Co., Northfield, Minn.	
200 Signs, net delivered price	\$304.00
Dominion Signal Co., Richmond, Va.	
200 Signs, net delivered price	313.60
Western Cataphoto Corp., Toledo, O.	
200 Signs, net delivered price	320.00

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baker, the above recommendation was approved, and the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to enter into contract with the Northfield Iron Company, for the new signs, at the price of \$304.00 delivered; the purchase to be made from the Inspection Maintenance Account 518-B-57.

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MAYOR REQUESTED TO SEND TELEGRAM TO MECKLENBURG DELEGATION REGARDING HOUSE BILL NO. 622, PROHIBITING THE CHARGING OR COLLECTING OF AUTOMOBILE LICENSE TAX.

The City Manager reported receipt of a telegram from the North Carolina League of Municipalities, advising that House Bill No. 622, had been introduced by Mr. E. T. Tonnisson, which would prohibit the City of Charlotte from charging or collecting any license tax on motor vehicles; the bill having been sent to the Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns.

Mr. Flack pointed out that if this bill passes it will mean the taking off of this tax from the motorists and placing it in the ad valorem tax, thereby putting the burden on the small home owner instead of the automobile owner. Councilman Ross also stated that this would mean an addition to the tax rate of approximately 1-2/3%.

After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Ross moved that the Council request the Mayor to send a telegram to the Mecklenburg County delegation in Raleigh to the effect that the City Council unanimously opposes the passage of this bill. Motion seconded by Councilman Daughtry and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO APPOINTING SPECIAL PEACE OFFICERS.

Due to one of the Negro Peace Officers going into the Army, the Chief of Police desired to employ John Albert Lyles to replace him, and in order to take care of this appointment, as well as the appointment of the last two negroes appointed as Special Peace Officers, the following Resolution was introduced, and on motion of Councilman Baker, seconded by Councilman Beasley, was adopted on a 6 to 2 vote; Councilmen Albea and Ward voting against the adoption of the resolution:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL
PEACE OFFICERS.

WHEREAS, the necessity for having special peace officers who are Negroes, in certain areas of the city, as set out in a Resolution adopted on the 9th day of July, 1941, and recorded in Minute Book 9, beginning at page 28, continues: and

WHEREAS, James Taylor and G. T. Nash have been serving as two of such special peace officers since August 15, 1942 and

WHEREAS James Taylor has now entered the military service, and Walter F. Anderson, Chief of Police, has recommended that John Alber Lyles be appointed in place of the said James Taylor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1.

That the services of G. T. Nash and James T. Taylor as special peace officers under section 66 of the Charter of the City of Charlotte -- being Chapter 366 of the Public Local Laws of 1939, since August 15, 1942 be and the same hereby are ratified and approved and the payment of their compensation be and the same hereby is ratified and approved.

2.

That G. T. Nash and John Albert Lyles be and they hereby are appointed special peace officers under section 66 of the Charter of the City of Charlotte-- being Chapter 366 of the Public Local Laws of 1939.

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3.

That they shall hold said positions during the pleasure and at the discretion of the Council, but not longer than one year from August 15, 1942.

4.

Their compensation, to be paid by the City, shall be and it is hereby fixed at \$110.00 per month each, payable semi-monthly.

5.

They shall, subject to the general supervision and direction of the Chief of Police of the City, police and guard the public and private premises within the areas and boundaries set forth and described in the aforesaid Resolution of July 9th. 1941, to which Resolution reference is hereby made and the descriptions therein contained are incorporated herein by reference.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Tillett & Campbell
City Attorneys.

DISCUSSION AS TO VACANCIES IN FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

Councilman Ward called attention to the fact that a number of vacancies have occurred in the Fire and Police Departments, due to the men going into the armed service, and that it was his opinion that the Chiefs of these two Departments should fill such vacancies from the present eligibility lists as soon as possible. No action was taken on this suggestion.

REQUEST TO HAVE HOG IN CITY LIMITS DENIED.

A. Chisholm, colored, a resident of the Biddleville Section of the City, requested permission to raise a hog within the city limits, stating that if permitted to do so, it would be at least a thousand feet from the nearest residence. However, it was not necessary to take any action on this request, due to the fact that the State Public Health laws as well as the City's law, prohibits such practice.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion of Councilman Ward, the meeting adjourned.

Clara B. McConnell
City Clerk