

May 9, 1955  
Minute Book 36 - Page 36

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, convened at 10 o'clock a.m., on Monday, May 9, 1955, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, for the purpose of inducting into office the Mayor, City Council, and four Members of the Board of School Commissioners, who were elected to their respective offices by a vote of the people at an election held on May 3, 1955.

Mayor Van Every presided, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Brown, Dellinger, Smith and Wilkinson were present.

-----

INVOCATION.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. J. D. Farr, First Reader of The First Church of Christ, Scientist.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS ON MAY 4TH AND 5TH.

Upon motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the Council Meetings on May 4th and 5th, were approved as submitted.

REPORT OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AS TO RESULTS OF ELECTION.

The City Clerk presented the following report from the Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections:

"The Mecklenburg County Board of Elections met in the County Recorder's Court Room of the Court House of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on the 5th day of May, 1955, in the presence of such electors as chose to attend, for the purpose of canvassing the votes cast in the City Election, May 3, 1955, for Mayor, Councilmen and Members of the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Each Registrar in the various precincts of the City of Charlotte delivered the respective returns of his or her precinct to the Said Board of Elections, and the said board opened the returns, and immediately, canvassed and judicially determined the results of the voting in such election, stating the number of legal ballots cast in each precinct for each candidate, the name of each person voted for, and the total number of votes given to each person for each different office.

The said County Board of Elections made and signed duplicate abstracts thereof, and the Chairman of the said County Board of Elections signed an affidavit on each of said duplicate abstracts of the returns of the said municipal election that they were true and correct. On May 6, 1955, the County Board of Elections filed one set of the duplicate returns of the Registrars and Judges, and one of the duplicate abstracts of the County Board of Elections with the Clerk of the City of Charlotte. On the 6th day of May, 1955, the said County Board of Elections made and caused to be published in the Charlotte News, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Charlotte, once, the results of said election, and on May 6, 1955, also posted written notice of such results in the Court House of Mecklenburg County, at the place where notices are usually posted, and in the City Hall of Charlotte, North Carolina, at the place where notices are usually posted.

The results of the City Election held in the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 3, 1955, as canvassed and

May 9, 1955  
Minute Book 36 - Page 37

judicially determined by the County Board of Elections appear in duplicate abstracts made by said Board, one of which is filed with the City Clerk of Charlotte and the votes for the various offices in said election are as follows:

FOR MAYOR

Philip L. Van Every	8,154
R. E. Bush	4
Victor Shaw	1
Dewey Drum	1
Fred A. McGraw	1

Note  
Election Board later advised a total of 11,543 votes cast in election on May 5, 1955.

FOR COUNCILMEN

Claude L. Albea	6,192
H. H. Baxter	6,387
Charles V. Bell	2,402
Herman A. Brown	6,921
Steve W. Dellinger	6,834
Mrs. Martha W. Evans	5,870
W. Frank Harris	3,536
E. R. Higdon	1,900
Joe T. Morgan	1,240
T. M. Shelton	1,691
James S. Smith	7,620
Alonzo O. Squires	2,078
W. Everett Wilkinson	5,915
Ralph F. Williams	1,935

FOR MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

G. Douglas Aitken	6,248
Albert L. Bechtold	5,878
Carroll O. Dellinger	3,466
Benj. S. Horack	4,020
W. W. Kiser	1,778
Herbert Spough	7,064
Mrs. J. D. Stratton	3,374
Thomas Wyche	2,267
Key Cahill	1

The following were declared elected:

FOR MAYOR

Philip L. Van Every

FOR COUNCILMEN

Claude L. Albea  
H. H. Baxter  
Herman A. Brown  
Steve W. Dellinger  
Mrs. Martha W. Evans  
James S. Smith  
W. Everett Wilkinson

FOR MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

G. Douglas Aitken  
Albert L. Bechtold  
Benj. S. Horack  
Herbert Spough

May 9, 1955  
Minute Book 36 - Page 38

By Order of:

Mecklenburg County Board of Elections

W. C. Davis  
Chairman

This the 6th day of May, 1955.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
By:

W. C. Davis, Chairman

E. S. DeLaney, Sr. Secretary

W. T. Alexander Member "

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR-ELECT.

The oath of office of Mayor was administered to Mayor-elect Philip L. Van Every, by Mrs. Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO CITY COUNCIL-ELECT.

The oath of office of Councilman was administered to Councilwoman-elect Martha W. Evans, and Councilmen-elect Claude L. Albea, H. H. Baxter, Herman A. Brown, Steve W. Dellinger, James S. Smith and W. E. Wilkinson, by Mayor Van Every.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO THREE MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

The oath of office was then administered to Mr. Albert L. Bechtold, Mr. Benj. S. Horack and Mr. Herbert Spaugh, as members of the Board of School Commissioners, by Mayor Van Every; Mr. G. Douglas Aitken, Commissioner-elect being absent from the city.

ADDRESS BY MAYOR VAN EVERY.

Mayor Van Every delivered the following address:

"In the oath I have just taken, I have solemnly sworn to protect, advance and defend the good order of the City of Charlotte. The citizens of our great city have honored me again in electing me the Chief Executive of our city and I am deeply moved. I will do my best to serve you well, with honor and dignity, so help me God."

The Mayor then introduced his wife and daughters, Misses Puddin and Pokey Van Every, his mother, Mrs. S. A. Van Every and his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Van Every.

SPEECHES BY COUNCIL.

Mayor Van Every introduced the new incumbents in the order of their seating arrangement and asked that they speak briefly and introduce their families:

Councilman Baxter introduced his wife. He expressed his appreciation to the citizens for the opportunity of serving the City for another term and for their votes which moved him up to the fourth position from the sixth on the Council. He stated his aim is to promote those things that are for the betterment of Charlotte, and, although some mistakes will be made, under the guidance of the Mayor, the Council will try again to do a good job.

May 9, 1955  
Minute Book 36 - Page 39

Councilman Dellinger introduced his wife, Dora and stated that today he is beginning his third term on the Council. He expressed his appreciation to the citizens for the fine vote he received, stating he considers it a vote of confidence. To Mr. Basil Boyd, retiring Councilman, he expressed his pleasure at their association on the Council and complimented him on his congeniality and speaking ability, and solicited his continued guidance and support in city affairs.

Councilman Wilkinson expressed his disappointment at his wife, who is ill, not being present. He stated he is most grateful to the citizens for the opportunity of serving Charlotte for a second term on the Council. That he has enjoyed working under the fine leadership of Mayor Van Every. He stated to Mr. Basil Boyd that he would long remember the many things he has done for the citizens in his capacity as Councilman. Mr. Wilkinson pledged his best efforts to the citizens.

Councilman Smith introduced his Mother, Aunt, his wife Helena, and Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Bleeker, his mother and father-in-law from Winston-Salem. He stated he felt very humble at having received such a wonderful vote and expressed his sincere appreciation to the citizens. He stated he has enjoyed working with the Mayor, Mr. Boyd and the other members of the City Council during the past two years. He welcomed Mrs. Evans, newly elected incumbent, to the City Council.

Councilman Albea introduced his wife, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Helms, friends of the family. He expressed his appreciation to the citizens for being elected to the Council for the twelfth term, and stated he is very humble and grateful and intends to be the very best city official it is within his power to be.

Councilwoman Evans stated that the citizens of Charlotte have afforded her a great honor; that with this honor comes the responsibility of carrying on the job. That the audience has heard her accept the oath and she intends to review it frequently and to do everything she has promised to do and to serve the City to the best of her ability with her God-given talents. She then introduced her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Wright of Riverton, N. J., her godchild Edith Steiger and her husband, Mr. Charles H. Evans.

Councilman Brown introduced his wife, Gladys, and their good friend, Mrs. Boyd, the wife of retiring Councilman Basil M. Boyd. He stated he is deeply grateful for the vote of confidence which places him on the City Council for another two years. That he believes the experience gained during the past two years will serve the Council well. He assured the Mayor, the Council and the citizens that he will give his best in the interest of the City.

#### SPEECH BY RETIRING COUNCILMAN BOYD.

Mayor Van Every invited Mr. Basil M. Boyd, retiring Councilman, to speak.

Mr. Boyd expressed his appreciation to the voters for having honored him with three successive terms on the Charlotte Council, stating he would always be grateful for their confidence in him. He referred to Charlotte as being noted as a place where history is made and remarked that within the last week the Mayor made history in that it was the first time a person has been elected Mayor of Charlotte while he was in a foreign land; that this was a distinct honor and compliment to him. Again history was made when a woman was elected a member of the Charlotte City Council. He congratulated Mrs. Evans on her victory, and stated that he had noted from the press a statement made by her, "that she does not intend or propose to become a crusader or reformer". He stated that she would be associated on the Council with the Mayor and six other fine gentlemen who will help and cooperate with her and that she would find them serious, efficient and courteous. Mr. Boyd then presented Mrs. Evans with his City Automobile License No. 5, which he stated he did not feel entitled to use hereafter since the low license numbers are issued to city officials. He remarked further that Charlotte is a great city, with a great background and great

May 9, 1955  
Minute Book 36 - Page 40

future and recommended that the Council keep Charlotte a clean city, keep the government efficient and courteous and responsive to the needs of the people of all areas and keep it a place where law and order prevails and the government is ruled by the principles of the Golden Rule.

**SPEECHES BY NEW SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.**

At the invitation of the Mayor, the newly elected School Commissioners spoke.

Mr. Horack introduced his wife, Francis, whom he called his greatest asset. He expressed his appreciation to the voters for his re-election to the School Board, and stated he believes it to be one of the finest opportunities to serve the people of Charlotte. He pledged himself to do his dead-level best to assist in giving Charlotte the best school system in the country.

Mr. Spaugh complimented Charlotte on its great friendliness, stating that he came here to make his residence in 1924 and the friendliness of the city has been proved to him more and more. He stated further that he came to the City Hall as a member of the School Board in 1937 and has served in that capacity since that time and has realized more and more the friendly spirit and cooperation of that group; that their problems have been solved in a friendly, cooperative manner. He promised to again do his best in the discharge of the duties of the Board.

Mr. Bechtold stated that being elected a member of the School Board is a great challenge and honor, and the big opportunity to serve Charlotte pleases him very much. That he feels very humble in accepting the job, and pledges his sincere cooperation to the Mayor, City Council and School Board. Mr. Bechtold introduced his wife, Martha.

**REMARKS BY AUDIENCE.**

Mr. Marvin Ritch, Attorney, congratulated the Mayor and six Councilmen on their re-election. He complimented Mrs. Evans on her election as the first woman to serve on the City Council, and stated that her presence will most certainly add to the appearance of the Council.

The Reverend J. B. Ryans remarked that he is proud to have voted for each of the elected members. That he is deeply impressed with the induction ceremony and will do everything that he can to assist in carrying out the duties of those elected, that he feels this to be his obligation and it will be a pleasure for him to do so.

Mr. Jim Glenn, Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce stated that he is very impressed with the ceremonies and extended his congratulations to the Mayor, Council and School Commissioners. He stated further that he also congratulates the citizens on having added a lady to the governing body of Charlotte.

Mr. L. L. Caudle stated he has had the pleasure of appearing before the Council at the induction services many times, and he thinks Charlotte is very fortunate in having such a fine group of citizens to serve on the Council this term.

**ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE.**

Councilman Alba moved that Councilman Smith be elected Mayor pro tempore. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

**TIME FOR REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS FIXED.**

Councilman Dellinger moved that the Council meet in executive session at 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon of each week and in formal session at 4 o'clock, beginning with Wednesday, May 11th. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans, and carried, with the votes cast as follows:

*Notes  
striking  
from Minutes  
at meeting  
on May 11, 1955 - see  
Page 46.*

May 9, 1955  
Minute Book 36 - Page 41

YEAS: Councilmen Dellinger, Evans, Baxter, Brown and  
Wilkinson.

NAYS: Councilmen Albea and Smith.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dellinger,  
and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Lillian R. Hoffman  
City Clerk