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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber in the City Hall, on Wednesday, April 23, 1958, at 11 o'clock a.m., with Mayor Smith presiding, and Council members Albea, Baxter, Brown, Dellinger, Evans, Foard and Wilkinson being present.

ABSENT: None

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the last meeting on April 16th were approved as submitted.

RECOMMENDATION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE THAT THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY TAX COLLECTING OFFICES BE CONSOLIDATED DEFERRED FOR ONE WEEK.

Mr. W. R. Culbertson, Chairman and the Members of a Special Chamber of Commerce Committee, appointed by Mr. Thomas L. Robinson, Chamber of Commerce President, to study and make recommendations relative to the consolidation of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Tax and Revenue Collecting Departments, appeared before Council and presented a report of their findings, and recommended that the City and County Tax Collecting Offices be consolidated immediately.

Mr. Culbertson called attention that in 1948, the City and County had a survey made by the Institute of Government, at a cost of \$20,000.00, relative to the consolidation of the City and County Governments, which was over nine years ago, and nothing has been done about it except we are still talking about it.

That the Committee feels that it would be best at this time to consolidate the City and County Tax Collecting Offices, in the same manner that all matters pertaining to taxation, such as valuations, assessments, adjustments and making out tax bills are now handled in a cooperative office. He stated they have three reasons for their opinions, namely (1) economy (2) convenience and (3) efficiency.

That from the standpoint of Economy, it would eliminate 56,497 extra tax bills. It would save \$3,190.00 postage and labor in handling and collecting the bills. It now takes 18 employees in City Tax Office and 13 in County Tax Office. In addition thereto, there are 25 to 30 Employees in the joint Tax Supervisor's office that have to make out and handle these extra 56,497 Tax Bills. The consolidated tax office last year had to make out for the county 161,996 individual bills and for the city 56,497 bills. There are presently employed in the three offices dealing with taxes between 56 and 61 persons. They believe that it would be much better to have all of these employees under one general supervisor. There are certain periods during the year that the tax assessor's office needs extra personnel and other times of the year when the tax collecting

office needs extra personnel. Therefore it appears to / <sup>them</sup> that it would be much better to have close cooperation within the organization. Personnel should be used for listing, collecting and any other detailed work in the entire tax department.

As to Convenience, the taxpayers would find it much easier to receive and pay one tax bill at one location. Lawyers would be delighted to be able to check the Tax record at one location instead of two in separate buildings. It would save much time and work for the public as well as Lawyers. All tax matters should be handled through one general office.

From the standpoint of Increased Efficiency, the City collecting office appears to have 30% more employees than the County. City Employees appear to be better paid by 14 to 25%. City Employees appear to do a little better job of collecting by about 2%, but the cost of collecting each City Tax Bill is approximately 63¢ -- about 3 times what it costs the County at 21¢. They think a great part of this difference is due to the cost of handling city licenses and special items. The city also appears to push for early collections which is assisted by advertising and other means.

They believe that a consolidated Tax Collection Office would greatly improve our local situation and give us a better operation for the County, City, Taxpayers, Attorneys and Businessmen.

Mr. Culbertson stated further that the City-County Tax Offices are consolidated in five North Carolina cities; namely, Asheville-Buncombe County, Wilmington-New Hanover County, Winston-Salem-Forsythe County, and Greensboro-Guilford County and High-Point-Guilford County. That the Committee has contacted each of these cities and without exception believe they are all pleased with their cooperative arrangements. He stated that letters from the Tax Collectors and other Officials of these cities are on file at the Chamber of Commerce and may be seen by the Council if they so desire.

Mr. Culbertson stated the Committee thinks it is to the best interest of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County to collect these taxes at one point. He asked that the Council approve their recommendation today, and the many details relating thereto can be worked out later, as they appeared before the County Commissioners at their meeting last Monday with the proposition, and asked them to delay having the new tax bills printed for one week until the Committee could present the recommendation to the Council today and bring back the City's answer on next Monday.

Councilman Baxter stated that he and Councilman Brown, as members of the Committee appointed by the Mayor to study the tax and revaluation question, appeared before the County Commissioners last Monday and asked that they delay any action until the City Attorney can draw up a proposed contract between the City and County covering the joint collection of City and County taxes for 1958-59, which the Committee will present to the Council and County Commissioners for approval. He then moved that the report presented by Mr. Culbertson be accepted as information and the City Attorney be directed to go ahead and draw up the proposed contract.

Councilman Albea asked Mr. Culbertson how the idea of consolidating the City and County Governments as a whole would appeal to the Chamber of Commerce, as he is not in favor of piece-meal consolidation. Mr. Culbertson said he could only speak for himself and he personally thinks we are saps for not doing so, that it is the answer to the whole question.

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Mr. John Shaw, City Attorney, stated that he was requested to draft a contract by the Committee and that he has had a conference with Mr. Dochery, County Attorney, and it appears that what is desired now is a contract between the two governments to provide for a joint bill, to cover property in Charlotte, for the City and County, and work out the details as to how the two departments will continue to work.

Councilman Brown stated the Mayor's Committee has not made a report to the Council and they want to present the contract the City Attorney will draw up at next week's meeting and consider just the matter of one tax bill now, which will be a start toward full consolidation.

The vote on the motion by Councilman Baxter was then taken, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Smith thanked the Chamber of Commerce Committee for their work and for presenting their recommendation to the Council.

OLD SPANISH CANNON AUTHORIZED MOVED FROM A.G. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GROUNDS TO CITY HALL GROUNDS AND FUNDS AUTHORIZED TRANSFERRED FROM EMERGENCY FUND FOR ITS PROPER ERECTION.

Councilman Baxter stated he feels the Council should take action on preserving the Old Spanish Cannon, now located on the grounds at A. G. Junior High School.

The City Manager presented a letter from Mr. Victor C. King, Historian for Mecklenburg County, asking that the fine old trophy be removed from the School grounds to the City Hall lawn and erected on a suitable mound.

Councilman Baxter stated he thinks when the City has something of such historic value, that it should be placed in a prominent and permanent location and he moved that it be removed to the City Hall grounds and that funds for its removal and proper erection be transferred from the Emergency Fund. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Evans, and unanimously carried.

ANDRILL TERRACE AUTHORIZED OPENED FROM OAKLAWN AVENUE TO NORTH SUMMIT AVENUE WITH POWELL FUNDS WHEN AVAILABLE.

Councilman Dellinger stated that the Engineering Department has submitted an estimate of \$22,000.00 for the opening of Andrill Terrace, from Oaklawn Avenue to North Summit Avenue. He advised that it will provide access to a negro Recreation Center. He moved that the street be opened and that Powell Funds be used for the work when available, and that dirt offered by Mr. Gardner from his construction work on the Old Water Works property be accepted for filling in the necessary places. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried.

CITY MANAGER DIRECTED TO CONTACT RAILWAY COMPANIES RELATIVE TO FURNISHING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR NECESSARY RAILROAD BRIDGES IN THE EXTENSION OF ATANDO AVENUE, FROM NORTH TRYON STREET TO NORTH CALDWELL STREET.

Councilman Brown called attention to his request some months ago that the City provide another crossing over the railroad tracks in North Charlotte. He stated that the Engineering Department has submitted an estimate of \$375,000.00 for extending Atando Avenue, from North Tryon Street to North Caldwell Street, which would involve two railroad bridges and a bridge across Sugaw Creek. He stated there is a serious need for

another railroad crossing, and the Fire Department is at times hampered by the lack of it. He requested the City Manager to contact the Railway Companies relative to obtaining financial assistance in the project.

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION TO BE REQUESTED TO IMPROVE NORTH TRYON STREET FROM 16TH TO 36TH STREET, BY EXTENDING PAVEMENT TO CURB AND SUPPLYING GRAVEL SIDEWALKS.

Councilman Foard stated he thinks something should be done to improve the appearance of North Tryon Street from 16th Street to 36th Street; that the pavement needs extending to the curb and sidewalks are badly needed. He called attention that persons coming into Charlotte on US #29 get their first impression of Charlotte from the appearance of this street. The City Manager stated that he would contact the State Highway Commission regarding the needed improvements, otherwise it would have to be assessed against the property owners.

CONSTRUCTION OF SANITARY SEWER MAINS AND TRUNK AUTHORIZED.

Upon motion of Councilman Alba, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and un-animously carried, the construction of sanitary sewer mains and trunk lines were authorized as follows:

- (a) Construction of 3,967 feet of sanitary sewer main and trunk lines in Marvin Road, at request of Mr. Henry G. Newson, to serve 21 family units and 15 vacant lots, at an estimated cost of \$14,985.00. All costs to be borne by the City, with the refund of his required deposit of \$3,360.00, as per terms of the contract.
- (b) Construction of 1,253 feet of sanitary sewer main and trunk lines in Jonquil Street and Marvin Road, at request of Mr. Henry G. Newson, to serve 12 family units and 25 vacant lots, at an estimated cost of \$4,985.00. All costs to be borne by the City, with the refund of his required deposit of \$995.00, as per terms of the contract.

ERVIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY GRANTED PERMISSION TO CONNECT PRIVATELY OWNED SANITARY SEWERS AND TRUNK LINES IN MONTCLAIRE SUBDIVISION TO CITY'S SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

Councilman Brown moved that permission be granted Ervin Construction Company to connect 6,884 feet of privately owned sanitary sewers and trunk lines in Montclaime Subdivision, to the City's Sanitary Sewerage System, upon condition that they comply with all laws, rules and regulations now in effect, or which may hereafter become effective relative to property similarly situated. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

CONSTRUCTION OF DRIVEWAY ENTRANCES AUTHORIZED.

Motion was made by Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried, authorizing the construction of driveway entrances as follows:

- (a) Two 30-ft. driveway entrances in Freedom Drive for 1600 Camp Green Street.
- (b) One 35-ft. and one 32-ft. entrances on East 7th Street, and One 24-ft. entrance on McDowell Street, all for 900 East 7th Street.

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- (c) One 30-ft. entrance on Oaklawn Avenue and One 20-ft. entrance on Beattys Ford Road, all for 1100 Oaklawn Avenue.
- (d) One 29-ft. entrance on East Boulevard and One 26-ft. entrance on Cumberland Avenue, all for 1534 East Boulevard.
- (e) Two 35-ft. entrances on Providence Road, and One 35-ft. and One 32-ft. entrances on Cherokee Road, all for 545 Providence Road.

**SPECIAL OFFICER PERMIT AUTHORIZED ISSUED TO FLOYD W. NODE ON PREMISES OF PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION.**

Councilman Foard moved that Special Officer Permit be issued to Mr. Floyd W. Node, 1921 N. Allen Street, for use on the premises of the Park & Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

**LEASE CONCLUDED WITH DURANE GAS COMPANY FOR AIRPORT LAND.**

The City Manager advised that lease had been concluded with Durane Gas Company for strip of land north and west of Runway 18 at Douglas Municipal Airport, for a period of 5 years, at an annual rental of \$125.00.

**TRANSFER OF CEMETERY LOT.**

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Foard, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Clerk were authorized to execute a deed for the transfer of Evergreen Cemetery Lot 350, in Section 4-A, to Mrs. O. L. Allen, at a price of \$125.00.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE UNDERTAKING OF A GENERAL NEIGHBORHOOD RENEWAL PLAN AND THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ADVANCE OF FUNDS.**

A resolution entitled: "Resolution Approving the Undertaking of a General Neighborhood Renewal Plan and the Filing of an Application for Federal Advance of Funds" was introduced by Councilwoman Evans, who moved its adoption following the reading thereof. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried. The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 3, beginning at Page 200.

**CONTRACT WITH DUKE POWER COMPANY FOR STREET LIGHTING ON EAST MOREHEAD STREET, KINGS DRIVE, BRUNSWICK AVENUE AND ADJACENT STREETS.**

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Clerk were authorized to execute a contract with the Duke Power Company, for street lighting on East Morehead Street, King's Drive, Brunswick Avenue and adjacent streets.

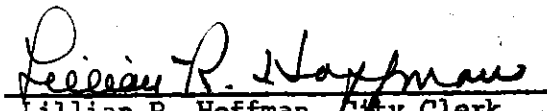
**IRWIN CREEK DISPOSAL PLANT PROPERTY TO BE ADVERTISED FOR SALE, AT REQUEST OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD.**

Mr. Yancey, City Manager, presented a verbal request from Mr. Wilson, Superintendent of Mecklenburg County Schools, to purchase approximately 18 acres of Irwin Creek Disposal Plant property immediately west of Amy James Street, and near the central portion of the city's property. Mr. Yancey suggested that in lieu of selling this piece of property, that the Council offer to sell them a similar segment of this property immediately north thereof, which does not cut into the remaining portion of

the Irwin Creek Disposal Plant property. He advised that Mr. Morgan of the County School Offices represented to him that this similar segment would be their second choice for the purpose for which it is to be used. Councilman Albea moved that the second piece of the property suggested by the City Manager be sold, and that the City Manager obtain the value of the property from the Board of Realtors in order that the property be advertised for sale as provided by law. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m., on Tuesday, April 29th, in the Domestic Relations Court Room in the Mecklenburg County Court House, for the purpose of canvassing the returns of the Bond Election held on April 26, 1958.

  
Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk