

Also see first part
 of joint meeting
 6/22 - page 444

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber, in the City Hall, on Monday, June 29, 1959, at 3 o'clock p.m., jointly with the Board of Commissioners for Mecklenburg County, with Mayor Smith presiding and the following members being present:

Councilmen Albea, Babcock, Dellinger, Hitch, Myers, Smith and Whittington.

ABSENT: None

Mecklenburg County Commissioners McAden, Chairman, Garrison, and McEwen.

ABSENT: Commissioner Brown and Lawing.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Mayor Smith stated that the purpose of the meeting is to complete the adoption of the budgets for the City and County jointly financed accounts for the fiscal year 1959-60.

TAX LISTING DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED BUDGET OF \$189,732.50 ADOPTED SUBJECT TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A SIX MAN COMMITTEE FROM CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CHARLOTTE BOARD OF REALTORS TO WORK OUT MECHANICS OF HOW REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY SHALL BE CARRIED OUT.

Mayor Smith stated the question of the Tax Listing Department Budget and of the proposed revaluation of property to establish a perpetual reassessment system, continued from the joint meeting on June 22nd, was before the house for settlement.

Mr. McAden, Chairman of the County Commissioners presented the following recommendation of the Board of Mecklenburg County Commissioners:

"Commissioners Brown and McEwen, Tax Listing Department Advisory Committee, advised the Board that they feel that Mecklenburg County has as fine and as efficient tax department as can be found in North Carolina, and is thoroughly capable of handling the work of revaluation of property in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County (which must be done before 1963). The concensus of the entire Board was in agreement with Commissioner Brown and McEwen.

Commissioner Brown offered the following motion:

That the Board of Commissioners appoint twelve (12) men from the Charlotte Board of Realtors to serve, two (2) at a time one day a week, rotating until each of the twelve men have served, at the price of \$25.00 for each day served. These men to serve with Tax Supervisor R. A. Grier and his assistants, in an advisory capacity, for setting up the machinery for the revaluation program and the work to be done - the final decision in cases in question, to be by the Board of Commissioners. (These men to work with the Tax Supervisor, not over him).

June 29, 1959
 Joint Meeting
 Minute Book 38 - Page 457

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garrison and carried unanimously on the following roll call vote:

YEAS: Commissioners Brown, Garrison, Lawing, McEwen and McAden."

Councilman Dellinger stated he agrees that there is a good man heading the Tax Listing Department but the question is can he train men as appraisers and adequately carry on his regular work. He then asked if Mr. Grier is not close to retirement age? Mr. McAden replied that he is about 65 or 66 years of age.

Mayor Smith then presented the following statement from the Charlotte Board of Realtors:

"At a special called meeting this morning, the Directors of the Charlotte Board of Realtors, Incorporated, voted to offer the following recommendations, which were requested by some of your members:

1. That the Commissioners, with the concurrence of the Council, establish a permanent Department of Tax Evaluation and Equalization.
2. That the Charlotte Board of Realtors stands ready to assist in the establishment of standards and methods and to cooperate in any way possible.
3. That the Charlotte Board of Realtors, if requested by the Commissioners, furnish a list of qualified Board members as candidates from among whom the Commissioners might select a Board of Review."

We wish to assure you of our fullest cooperation in this matter now and in the future."

Mr. Van Mingle, Executive Vice-President, Charlotte Board of Realtors stated they feel the responsibility of the revaluation rests with the Tax Listing Department. That they do not feel they can do the appraisal but they have the most qualified persons in the State to do so, and their suggestion is that they furnish a list of qualified members from which a Board of Review could be selected by the County. That it will be a big job and will go on indefinitely. That they feel the appraisal committee should be from the Tax Department.

Councilman Hitch asked if these lay members of the Review Board serve with or without remuneration? Mr. Mingle stated it would probably depend on the time it would consume as to whether they would want remuneration. Councilman Albea stated he does not think this big job should be done gratis.

Councilman Dellinger asked the County Commissioners whether they would be willing to employ an outside man, in the city or elsewhere, to head the Revaluation Board as a permanent job, who would head the Board and hire and/or train the men to do the work?

Mr. McAden stated he would not be willing to employ someone outside the Tax Department to head up the Revaluation Board.

Councilman Smith stated he thinks there should be a Board of Review or Appeal Board to whom the appeals are made and not have them made to the Tax Department or County Commissioners.

Councilman Myers stated he thinks the Board of Realtors has the right idea as the final authority goes back to the County Commissioners and ultimate responsibility lies with them.

June 29, 1959
 Joint Meeting
 Minute Book 38 - Page 458

Councilman Hitch asked if two members of the County Commissioners, two City Councilmen and two members of the Board of Realtors/^{could not} serve as a Committee to work out the details of how the revaluation should be carried out?

Mayor Smith asked that the Tax Listing Department budget recommended by the County be discussed.

Councilman Hitch moved the adoption of the Budget of \$189,732.50 as recommended by the County subject to the appointment of a six man Committee to work out the mechanics of the revaluation question. The motion was seconded by Councilman Myers.

Councilman Myers stated it is apparent that regardless of how the revaluation is carried out, it will cost money, and the question is how much the City will contribute. Mr. Walker Busby, County Auditor, stated the amount the City will contribute in the 1959-60 budget will be approximately \$45,000.00 for this work.

The vote was then taken on the motion which carried unanimously.

COUNTY TO REIMBURSE CITY FOR USE OF LAND-FILL GARBAGE DISPOSAL FOR ONE YEAR.

Councilman Whittington stated that in asking for the deferment until today of the County's use of the City's Land-Fill Garbage Disposal, he wished to advise the Council that in 1955 the County asked the City's Superintendent of the Sanitary Department to give them the cost of setting up a Land-Fill operation of their own, which he did and it was agreed that the County could continue to use the City's Site until the County adopted their new budget. However, no action has been taken by the County and they have continued to use the City's operation at \$12,000.00 per year. That it was also understood that the County's operation site would be at the opposite end of town, so each government could use both operations. He stated further that he understands the \$12,000.00 reimbursed the City does not cover the cost; that the County has 17 operators and 25 trucks into our landfill. He recommended that if and when the County buys a site for their operation, that it be at the opposite end of town and the City have the use of it.

Mr. McAden, Chairman, stated the County has no plans for setting up such an operation.

Councilman Hitch stated that Mr. Fogus advises it is apparent that within 12 months a new landfill operation will be necessary.

Mr. Busby, County Auditor, asked if the City realizes the \$12,000.00 reimbursement will be generous because so many of the perimeter people will be taken into the city in 1960.

Councilman Albea moved that the City accept the reimbursement of \$12,000.00 per year from the County for their use of our operation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried.

CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE INITIAL RESPONSE TO STRUCTURAL FIRE ALARMS IN PERIMETER AREA TO BE ANNEXED AND COUNTY TO REIMBURSE CITY FOR FIRE PROTECTION OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS ON BASIS OF \$200.00 STANDBY CHARGE AND \$50.00 PER TRIP FOR ONE YEAR.

Mr. Donald Denton, Manager of the Insurance Department of the American-Commercial Bank, advised that after discussion with the Fire Rating Bureau in Raleigh in regard to what can be done to prevent an advance in insurance rates on property outside the city limits, in the perimeter area from 24¢ to 48¢ per \$100 because of limited service by the Charlotte Fire Department, an arrangement was worked out with the Bureau, and he has a proposed resolution to present for adoption by the joint bodies:

June 29, 1959
 Joint Meeting
 Minute Book 38 - Page 459

"Be It Resolved, that in accordance with an agreement between the City of Charlotte and County of Mecklenburg, the City of Charlotte Fire Department will answer first call alarms sent in from areas in Mecklenburg County beyond the present Charlotte city limits within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant, and the Charlotte Fire Department will dispatch fire-fighting equipment immediately, to the designated area, when it is understood that the fire involves property, and is not limited to a grass or brush type fire.

Further, that such alarm calls normally will be reported to the Mecklenburg County Police, who in turn, will immediately notify the Charlotte Fire Department. In the event persons, other than the Mecklenburg County Police, in error place a direct call to the Charlotte Fire Department, the Fire Department will respond and also advise the County Police of such alarm.

Further, the Charlotte Fire Department and other interested parties will thoroughly disseminate information to the public in the area affected, advising them of the proper procedures to be followed in reporting fire emergency calls."

Chief Charles was invited to give his opinion, and he stated the City's service should be limited to structural fires. That in view of the fact that the perimeter area residents will become citizens of Charlotte on January 1st, he feels the City should go along with them at this time in order to keep their insurance rates at a minimum. That the City should immediately give serious thought to protecting the area when it becomes a part of the city,

Councilman Smith moved the adoption of the resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Hitch, and unanimously carried.

Mr. McAden, Chairman, moved that the action taken at the joint meeting on June 22nd be rescinded whereby the County would reimburse the City for fire protection outside the city limits until January 1, 1960, and the contract be extended for one year, on the same basis of \$200.00 monthly standby charge and \$50.00 per trip. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Smith asked that Chief Charles be allowed to reply to the statement made at the joint meeting on June 22nd by Mr. Busby, County Auditor, regarding an agreement between the Chief and Mecklenburg County Volunteer Fire Departments whereby they would assist in servicing the perimeter area after January 1, 1960 in lieu of the County paying the standby charge and cost per trip by the City Fire Department.

Mr. Busby asked permission to speak first, and stated he personally would like to apologize to Chief Charles for the way he brought up the matter at the meeting last week. That he now understands that Chief in speaking to the Volunteer Fire Department Committee stated their aid would be appreciated as a matter of protection until the City can fully equip the area.

Chief Charles stated he had discussed the question of protection to the perimeter area with the Volunteer Group that it may be we will have to call on them until we get adequate water supply, but there was no discussion of the Council's contract with the County.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Lillian R. Hoffman
 Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk