

January 2, 1968
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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 Tuesday, January 2, 1968, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., with Mayor Stan Brookshire presiding, and Councilmen Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, Gibson L. Smith, James B. Stegall, Jerry Tuttle and James B. Whittington present.

ABSENT: Councilman Fred D. Alexander was absent for the first part of the meeting and appeared during the session where noted in the minutes.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Mayor Brookshire.

PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Mayor Brookshire stated this is a Special Call Meeting of Council to consider recommendation for the change of the format structure of the Model Cities Program.

RESOLUTION CREATING A MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION AND CERTAIN ADVISORY BODIES.

Mayor Brookshire presented the following resolution for Council's consideration:

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of the Model Neighborhood Agency representing the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County and the Board of Education have for three weeks been involved with the review and revision of the Model Cities Program; and

WHEREAS, it is the conclusion of the Executive Board that there be created an effective urban coalition to guide and direct the planning and execution of the Charlotte Model Cities Program with representation from local government, the business community, and the Model Neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board has by resolution dated December 29, 1967, recommended to the City Council that a new organizational format be created; that this format include a Model Neighborhood Commission composed of six representatives of the Model Neighborhood, three representatives from the business community, and six representatives, to wit: the Mayor and a member of the Charlotte City Council, the Chairman and a member of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, and the Chairman and a member of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners; that the six elected representatives shall serve during their tenure of office; that the members-at-large from the neighborhood and business community shall serve one-year terms by appointment on the basis of their selection respectively by the citizens of the neighborhood and the City Council; except that the currently selected six representatives of the neighborhood may be replaced within thirty days, or reaffirmed for the year ending December 31, 1968, by the residents of the Model Neighborhood, and

WHEREAS, it is deemed advisable that the Model Neighborhood Commission be assisted by two advisory bodies; the Model Neighborhood Council consisting of selected representatives from all present and future organizations within the Model Neighborhood who request to participate, and the Associated Agencies Advisory Board as listed in the April, 1967, "Model Neighborhood Proposal", and a Model Neighborhood professional staff appointed by and under the direction of an Executive Director, who in turn is appointed by and is responsible to the Model Neighborhood Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte City Council, pursuant to Section 5.01 of the City Charter, is vested with the authority to create these bodies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Charlotte:

- (1) That there is hereby created a Model Neighborhood Commission of the City of Charlotte to function within the territorial limits of the City of Charlotte;
- (2) That there is also hereby created a Model Neighborhood Council and an Associated Agencies Advisory Board, as set forth in the "Model Neighborhood Proposal" of April, 1967, to assist the Model Neighborhood Commission.

This, the 2nd day of January, 1968.

Councilman Whittington moved the adoption of the resolution which was seconded by Councilman Jordan.

Councilman Short asked if this resolution, in effect, validates the present neighborhood residents with the promise that if the Council receives sufficient word from the neighborhood residents within 30 days which would indicate it was the majority feeling of the neighborhood, that Council could change those six? Mayor Brookshire replied it would be best to leave it to the residents prerogative to send back on a one year form of basis the representatives chosen by them or to replace them at their will.

The vote was taken on the motion to adopt the resolution and carried unanimously.

INVITATION ISSUED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY AT OBSERVER BUILDING.

Mayor Brookshire read an invitation from Mr. Brodie Griffith to the City Manager and the City Council to attend the ground breaking ceremonies tomorrow, January 3, 1968 at 3:00 o'clock p.m. near the Observer Building.

STATEMENT FROM CHIEF JOHN E. INGERSOLL TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

Chief Ingersoll stated the City of Boston has offered him the police commissioners job in Boston. That he felt the situation in Boston amounted to a very rare and unusual opportunity to do something very significant in one of America's great cities and he would be less than candid if he did not admit that he considered the possibility of moving very seriously; that the main reason for this consideration was Mayor Kevin White whom he knew by reputation before this incident arose, and whom he has had the pleasure of meeting and talking with at great length since.

That Mayor White is a very energetic, vigorous, new city official that he feels we will be hearing a lot from in the years to come; he projects many of the same philosophies that the Mayor and City Council of Charlotte do and the opportunity to work with him would have been a very great honor. That at 1:00 o'clock this morning when a formal, very attractive offer, not only in terms of salary but also in terms of authority and freedom of movement was made, he rejected it and he did so for a number of reasons which he would like to share with Council.

First, he has a great deal of unfinished business to perform in Charlotte and he takes this responsibility and the obligation he has to the City of Charlotte very seriously; that he does not think the Department is in the condition that it will be in a few years from now with the support of Council and the entire city, and he does not think it would be a very professional action on his part if he were to leave the job half done.

Second, it was couched in a tone and tenor of sensationalism which he does not like and does not want to be associated with. Unfortunately the fact this consideration was being made was somehow publicized very prominently, not only here, but in Boston as well. As a matter of fact, Boston still has a Police Commissioner and he does not want to be identified as part of an effort to oust an incumbent in office. That he feels this is a very unethical situation to be placed in and he wanted no part of it so he informed them of his decision this morning.

Chief Ingersoll stated it is almost inevitable that he will leave Charlotte someday; he is sure that other cities will continue to offer him opportunities. That this is not the first one or even the second offer since he has been in Charlotte. He stated he is extremely sorry that this was publicized because when he makes a decision to leave Charlotte, he will inform the City Manager and the Mayor and the Council and they will not have to learn it first by reading it in the newspapers.

He expressed his sincere hope that the support that Council has given to the present administration of the Police Department will continue; he is very sorry if he has caused anyone distress and he will do everything in his power to avoid a repetition of it.

Mayor Brookshire thanked Chief Ingersoll for his statement and expressed satisfaction and pleasure in the decision which he reached and congratulated him on the decision. He stated he personally is very happy that he has arrived at this particular decision; he assured him that all the citizens of Charlotte will give him as much support as possible in the very fine job he is doing in Charlotte. He stated everyone is pleased with the work he is doing and it is a pleasure to be associated with him.

COUNCILMAN ALEXANDER APPEARS AT THIS TIME AND IS PRESENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SESSION.

Councilman Alexander appeared at this time and was present for the remainder of the session.

APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS--AT-LARGE TO SERVE ON MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION.

Councilman Whittington moved the appointment of Mr. Ray Killian as a member-at-large to the Model Neighborhood Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Jordan moved the appointment of Mr. J. Carlton Fleming as a member-at-large to the Model Neighborhood Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stegall, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Smith stated these men are fine and he cannot vote against them, but this has come on rather suddenly without much discussion. Mayor Brookshire stated Mr. Whittington has talked with members of Council about the importance of early action in the matter as this will enable the new Model Neighborhood Commission on Friday of this week to proceed to organize and name the staff. Councilman Smith stated he will go along with this but the procedure is rather poor; that he thinks a Negro should be one of the three.

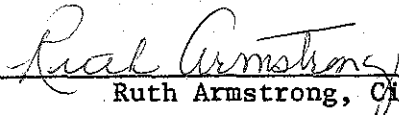
Councilman Tuttle moved the appointment of Mr. E. L. Vinson as a member-at-large to the Model Neighborhood Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried unanimously.

Mayor Brookshire stated these are all very fine representatives of the total community and are men of such qualification that they will make a very fine contribution to the Commission.

Councilman Tuttle stated these men were selected very carefully. One is of the legal profession; one has worked actively in the manpower program of the Chamber of Commerce and this is one of the goals in the Model Cities project to update the neighborhood from the standpoint of manpower; the other man is a real estate man and real estate will play an important part in the program. These appointments were well thought out and they will make excellent representatives.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Stegall, and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned.


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk