

Special Meeting
 July 28, 1969
 Minute Book 52, Page 192

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber on Monday, July 28, 1969 at 2:00 o'clock p.m., with Mayor John M. Belk presiding, and Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, John H. Thrower, Jerry Tuttle, James B. Whittington and Joe D. Withrow present.

ABSENT: None.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Milton Short.

STATEMENT ON 1969-70 BUDGET, SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS.

Mayor Belk read the following statement:

"Today Council will be approving changes in salaries, wages and other benefits which will affect all 2,700 City employees. The cost of these changes this year will exceed one and one-fourth million dollars. In spite of the rough fiscal squeeze we are experiencing, we have given a high priority to the needs of our employees. We think it important and are pleased to be able to do so.

A general salary increase of one salary range (approximately five percent) will go into effect on July 30, 1969. Another five percent increase will become effective on March 4, 1970.

A more liberal longevity allowance plan will be approved and funded for the fiscal year. Under this plan, 819 employees will receive longevity allowances, nearly double those receiving such allowances last year.

A more liberal vacation schedule also will be approved. Under the new schedule, an employee gets two weeks vacation per year for the first nine years of employment, three weeks per year for the tenth through the fourteenth years of employment, three and one-half weeks per year (18 working days) for the fifteenth through the nineteenth years of employment, and four weeks per year for the twentieth and successive years of employment.

City employees working in and around City Hall will no longer be required to pay two dollars per month parking fees.

A 52 hour duty schedule to take effect during fiscal year 1969-70 will be authorized for the firefighters. Chief Black believes he can start this schedule about October 1 and has been requested to do so.

Fire Department personnel will receive overtime pay or compensatory time off at a rate of one and one-half times the overtime hours worked when they are required to work overtime under emergency conditions.

Police personnel who are required to make off-duty court appearances will receive four dollars for each appearance, an increase of one dollar over what they have received in the past.

Council today will also honor its pledge to cut property taxes while

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approving a budget which calls for substantial increases in several city services.

The 1969-70 city property tax rate will be \$1.54 per \$100 valuation - a reduction of 11 cents from the \$1.65 rate of the past fiscal year. Members of the council promised that rollback in supporting the local sales tax referendum. The promise has been kept.

Three factors combined to allow the cutback for at least the coming fiscal year:

1. Reservation from 1968-69 expenditures of \$1.15 million of sales tax revenue;
2. Projected 1969-70 sales tax revenue of \$2.7 million;
3. Selective trimming of \$3.1 million from departmental budget requests.

The new budget totals \$36,521,627, an increase of 13.5 percent over last year. Council has made a serious effort to include in this budget a balanced program of urban services designed to meet the City's needs efficiently and economically.

These are some of the expanded programs and services:

In the Police Department - 28 new patrolmen, and another 40 new positions in records, communications, crime lab, and other activities as well as \$110,000 for new mobile communications equipment.

In the Fire Department - fifty new positions, reduction of the current 56-hour work week to 52 hours and a start on a new Fire Communications Center.

In Refuse Collection - three new collection crews and additional equipment to adequately serve the city's expected increase in population.

In Model Cities - reorganization and the addition of 15 new staff members to move from planning into action during the coming year.

In addition to these expansions, five more activities are joining the list of consolidated city and county operations: Purchasing, Community Relations, Intergovernmental Program Coordination, Charter Commission, and a joint police activities in the new Law Enforcement Center. The joint approval of a schedule for phasing out the City's contribution to the Memorial Hospital deficit is another big step in City-County cooperation.

Council, however, was not able to meet all demands. Despite the increased revenue from the penny sales tax, Council was required to limit the current-revenue funded (pay-as-you-go) Capital Improvement Program to less than half the desirable minimum.

The trimming of the Capital Improvement Program indicates the financial constraints with which Council has had to deal despite the addition of the sales tax revenue.

Future years will mean Council must face even more difficult revenue problems.

An increase in the property tax rate will have to be given serious consideration as early as next year.

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Future city tax rates will depend largely on the following seven factors:

1. The property re-evaluation now underway;
2. The local outcome of the November sales tax referendum;
3. Changes in local and national economy;
4. The anticipated increase in the portion of the utility franchise tax revenue returned to local governments by North Carolina;
5. The outcome of the October bond referendum and speed with which bonds, if approved, will be sold;
6. Consideration given to increasing the current eight-cent tax levy for the Park and Recreation Commission; and
7. City growth and the increased services requested by residents.

Council will have to wrestle with these and other factors in making future budget decisions. These decisions, like those of this year, will be difficult."

APPROPRIATION AND TAX LEVY ORDINANCE NO. 255-X FOR FISCAL YEAR 1969-70 AND RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PAY PLAN OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, ADOPTED. (TAX RATE \$1.54).

Councilman Whittington moved the adoption of the budget ordinance for the fiscal year 1969-70, and a resolution amending the pay plan for the City of Charlotte. The motion was seconded by Councilman Withrow, and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 16, beginning at Page 279.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 6, beginning at Page 365.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Ruth Armstrong

 Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk

An informal meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber in City Hall, on Thursday, July 31, 1969, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., with Mayor John M. Belk presiding, and Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, Jerry Tuttle, James B. Whittington and Joe D. Withrow present.

ABSENT: Councilman John H. Thrower.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Jerry Tuttle.

APPRECIATION EXPRESSED TO CITIZENS FOR COOPERATION DURING TRYING TIMES.

Mayor Belk stated he and the council members would like to thank the citizens of the City of Charlotte for their cooperation and guidance in these trying times that we are living today with knowledge increasing as rapidly as it has, and it will continue to increase more so. He stated to have knowledge and understanding judged by wisdom is the goal of all our citizens of Charlotte, and the cooperation of the citizens is needed to accomplish this goal.

Mayor Belk thanked the citizens who are working under the employment of the City to make this a better city in which to live. He stated we want to have a positive approach on any subject coming before the City Council and they would like the employees advice and wisdom to accomplish this goal.

STATEMENT OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL SETTING FORTH CHANGES IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND FIRE DEPARTMENT SALARIES.

Mayor Belk presented the following statement of the Mayor and City Council for Council action:

"The purpose of this statement is to set forth changes in the Fire Department budget and fire department salaries. These changes will be formally approved by Council at its next regular meeting.

1. The reduced work week that has already been approved by Council will be put into effect about October 1. Chief Black has approved doing this without adding the 30 additional firemen provided in the budget for a portion of the fiscal year.
2. \$60,000 originally budgeted for additional positions in the Fire Department will be used to increase salaries of Fire Department personnel up through the rank of captain.
3. The effective date of this salary increase will be Wednesday, August 6.
4. This salary increase will be applied as a percent of present salary and will provide an increase of approximately two percent."

Motion was made by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, unanimously carried approving the statement as presented by Mayor Belk.

Mr. William Martin of the Fire Department stated the Fire Department is to Council; they see that Council, the Mayor and the City Officials have them this faith. At this time they pledge their support to the citizens of Charlotte, and they will continue to give the City the best fire service the department can afford.

Mayor Belk thanked the department for its past services and cooperation and stated Council is willing to serve the City in any way possible.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Short, seconded by Councilman Alexander, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk