

May 19, 1969
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The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on Monday, May 19, 1969, in the Council Chamber, in the City Hall, pursuant to Section 3.21 of the Charter of the City of Charlotte for the purpose of inducting into office the Mayor and members of the City Council, elected at large by the qualified voters of Charlotte in the General Municipal Election on Friday, May 9, 1969. Mayor Stan R. Brookshire presided and Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, Gibson L. Smith, James B. Stegall, Jerry Tuttle and James B. Whittington were present.

ABSENT: None.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Reverend James L. Johnson, President of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Ministerial Association.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the last meeting, on Monday, May 12, were approved as submitted.

DECISIONS ON FIVE ZONING PETITIONS DEFERRED.

Councilman Short moved that decisions on Petitions No. 68-94, 69-12, 69-13, 69-37 and 69-41 be deferred. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and after discussion, the vote was taken and carried unanimously.

REPORT OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1969.

The City Clerk read the following report of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections of the results of the General Municipal Election held on Friday, May 9, 1969:

"The Mecklenburg County Board of Elections met in the County Commissioner's Room in the County Office Building of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, at 10 o'clock a.m., on the 12th day of May, 1969, in the presence of such electors as chose to attend, for the purpose of canvassing the votes cast in the City Election on May 9, 1969, for Mayor and members of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The results of said City Election, as canvassed and judicially determined by the said Mecklenburg County Board of Elections appear in Duplicate Abstracts made by said Board, one of which is filed with the City Clerk of the City of Charlotte, and the votes for various offices in said election as follows:

FOR MAYOR

John M. Belk	19,107
Gibson L. Smith	18,706

FOR COUNCILMEN

Fred D. Alexander	20,426
J. B. Atkins	3,876
Sandy R. Jordan	23,192
W. F. (Bill) Lemmond, Jr.	4,175
Paul R. Leonard, Jr.	11,854
Jim McDuffie	15,156
Ezra J. Moore	4,783
J. Frank Neal	3,158
Milton Short	22,844
James B. (Jim) Stegall	17,149
John H. Thrower	22,096
Jerry Tuttle	21,458
James B. (Jim) Whittington	27,992
Joe D. Withrow	21,003

The following were declared elected:

FOR MAYOR

John M. Belk

FOR COUNCILMEN

Fred D. Alexander
 Sandy R. Jordan
 Milton Short
 John H. Thrower
 Jerry Tuttle
 James B. (Jim) Whittington
 Joe D. Withrow

Write-in Votes are as follows:

FOR MAYOR

John A. Campbell	1
George Leake	50
Vilma Leake	1
Jim McDuffie	2
Pearson	1
Whittington	5

FOR COUNCILMEN

Gus N. Economos	1
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MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

(Elizabeth A. Hair) Chairman

(R. L. Brown) Secretary

(E. J. Presser) Member

Filed with the City Clerk of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, this is the 12th day of May, 1969.

(Catherine C. Carpenter)
 Executive Secretary
 Mecklenburg County Board of Elections

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STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS VISITORS.

Mr. Charles Lowe, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, thanked Mayor Brookshire and the old Council for their kindnesses and understanding; that the County Board has enjoyed working with them. He stated they look forward to working with the new Council; that they are here to work with Council and to solve mutual problems and not to win any arguments; and they look forward to working with Council towards consolidation.

Mayor Brookshire thanked Mr. Lowe for his presence and for his statement and for the demonstration he has already given for his willingness to work cooperatively with City Council; that the relationships between City and County government have never been better than they are at present, and he hopes they will continue on this very high, pleasant and cooperative flame.

Mr. Jim Elvin congratulated the outgoing Mayor on the many fine things he has done, and congratulated the incoming Mayor. He stated the incoming Mayor has a gigantic task, and if there is anything he can do to make the task easier he will be delighted to help him.

Mr. James Vogler, Member of the Mecklenburg Legislative Delegation, stated on his own behalf and for the entire delegation in the General Assembly, he thanked Mayor Brookshire for the privilege of working with him and the Council; that over the past number of sessions the delegation has given Council nearly everything it could get. That the Delegation is at the new Council's service.

Dr. J. Nathaniel Tross stated he is present this morning not to represent any race, to represent any group, to represent any creed, or to represent any clan. That he comes as an urge of the times in which we live, and of the grave responsibilities that confront us all; these have been no ordinary times; they have all been extra-ordinary, and calls for extra-ordinary leadership and extra-ordinary guidance for extra-ordinary men, big men, tall men, who stand above the fog in public duty and in private thinking. He stated he comes to offer thanks to the old Council. That because of the seriousness of the times in which we live, the great demands the erecting of homes, houses, and institutions at 12 o'clock in the day and the destruction of those very homes at 5 o'clock that same day is no ordinary contemplation. Every member of the present Council, every member of the incoming Council will be on the ship that is striving, driving hard, on these perilous seas; if we are not careful the bark on which we sail will be wrecked on the rocks, on the right or on the left. We need close and critical guidance. That he is hoping with the open door enunciated by the incoming Council that those who stand in the corridors crying will find the door open, and we shall all be hearing and knowing what the Mayor does with those cries that went up from the corridor of the administration halls and see how he addresses himself to them; we have faith that it will be done and will be done well. He stated he hopes this new ship sailing through this open door will not be wrecked by rocks on the right or rocks on the left, but will make the journey safely.

STATEMENTS BY RETIRING COUNCILMEN GIBSON L. SMITH AND JAMES B. STEGALL.

Councilman Smith stated he has enjoyed working with all the people at City Hall; he wished the incoming Mayor and Council God Speed, and stated if he can help in any way, to let him know.

Councilman Stegall stated he would like to thank the citizens of Charlotte for allowing him the privilege of serving them for the past two years; it has been a wonderful opportunity for him to learn more about the City of Charlotte, and its business and to participate in it; that it has been a wonderful opportunity for him to meet many people whom he has never had the

privilege of meeting before, and he has made many friendships; he also thanked the employees of the City of Charlotte in every department; that he has found that every department head and every employee, regardless of their state and position, has been most helpful and cooperative. He stated he thinks that we, the citizens of Charlotte, are fortunate to have such a group of people in our employ who are as dedicated as these people are. That even though he is going out of office, he can say that his interests in the political life of the City of Charlotte are not any less than they have been, or any less than it will be. That he is interested in the political life of the City; that he is interested in the well being of this city and not in any special group of citizens, but all the citizens. He wished the new Council Members and the incumbent members all the luck and success in the next two years as possible. He stated he has found the incumbent members to be men of wisdom, loyalty and dedication. For the new Mayor he wished that God grant him the power to lead this city forward in the path that it has been pursuing. May he be granted the wisdom to deal with the situations that arrive in the correct fashion, to make the proper decisions and to continue to make Charlotte the great city that we know it is.

STATEMENT BY RETIRING MAYOR STAN R. BROOKSHIRE.

Mayor Brookshire congratulated the new Mayor and new members of City Council and said the city is going to be in good hands for the next two years, and the word is "Carry On". He charged the new Mayor and new Council with the responsibility of maintaining a peaceful and progressive community climate and of supplying both facilities and services to meet the ever increasing needs of this growing community.

Mayor Brookshire stated his administration leaves much unfinished business - with the admonition to carry on. He stated some of the major projects that are underway and are important to Charlotte's present and future are - completion of the outer circumferential (belt) road, the 30th Street Viaduct, the downtown interloop expressway system, the new law enforcement center; the implementation of the Southern Railway cooperative development plan, including the Civic Center; the completion of the final phase of Brooklyn Renewal and the execution of approved urban renewal projects in Greenville, Dilworth, First Ward and the 12-block downtown commercial area; the Neighborhood Development Plan (known as NIP) in Belmont and Villa Heights; the Model Cities Program; the unification of city-county government.

Mayor Brookshire stated sometime ago he stated he would recommend to the newly elected Council that the Mayor be given an administrative assistant and a private secretary; that he strongly urges Council to authorize the City Manager to supply this personnel to the new Mayor as soon as possible. He stated in view of the size and the importance of the City of Charlotte and in keeping with practices elsewhere among cities the size of Charlotte, he recommends that the new budget include a city car for the Mayor.

Mayor Brookshire extended his sincere thanks to members of the old Council, to Mr. Veeder and his staff, to our City Clerk, and City Attorney and their staffs, and to all department heads and city personnel for the splendid cooperation he has had, and he covets as much for the new Mayor.

He thanked all the citizens of Charlotte for the splendid support they have given in these changing and difficult times, without which support he is sure City Hall could not accomplish anything worthwhile. He thanked the news media for their cooperation in the past eight years; they have tried hard and in most cases have succeeded in reporting and interpreting the news to the citizens.

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OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Mayor Brookshire administered the Oaths of Office to the members-elect of the City Council, i.e., Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, John H. Thrower, Jerry Tuttle, James B. Whittington and Joe D. Withrow.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR-ELECT.

The Oath of Office was administered to Mayor-elect John M. Belk by Mayor Stan R. Brookshire. Mayor Brookshire presented him with a key to the office and stated the responsibilities of the office go along with the gavel which will represent the Mayor's authority to preside over City Council.

MAYOR BELK PRESIDES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SESSION.

After the Oath of Office was administered to Mayor-elect John M. Belk, he was handed the gavel and presided for the remainder of the session.

Mayor Belk thanked Mr. Brookshire, and stated he feels very humble in the midst of these wonderful ladies and gentlemen.

ENGRAVED GAVEL PRESENTED TO RETIRING MAYOR BROOKSHIRE.

Mayor Belk presented retiring Mayor Brookshire with the gavel he has used in his eight years of office, and a certificate of appreciation for his years of service from 1961 to 1969.

ENGRAVED SILVER CHAFING DISH PRESENTED RETIRING MAYOR BROOKSHIRE BY MEMBERS OF OUTGOING CITY COUNCIL.

Mayor pro tem Whittington stated on behalf of the outgoing Council, some who have served with Mayor Brookshire for eight years, and some who have served with him less, wanted him to have a gift from them; that they have enjoyed working with him and wanted him to have a memento as a token of their appreciation for their services with him.

Mr. Brookshire thanked Mayor pro tem Whittington and the outgoing City Council for the gift and the thought that prompted the gift. The gift opened by retiring Mayor Brookshire was an engraved silver chafing dish.

REMARKS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Mayor Belk thanked the retiring Mayor and Council for leading the City in the past and bringing it up to the year when it became an All-America City; that without their leadership, dedicated and conscientious guidance, we would not be the fine city we are today.

He stated it is said that the highest award that God can give us, as far as work, is the ability to do better next, and with this fine City Council the people of Charlotte have elected, he knows they will do a fine job in the future; that they will do everything possible as a team to assure that the vote of the people was in the right direction.

Mayor Belk thanked Mr. Vogler for his fine cooperation; that Council is looking forward to working very closely with him in the future. He thanked Mr. Charles Lowe for his cooperation, and Council is looking forward to working with the County's fine team. Mayor Belk thanked all the citizens who have given him this opportunity to serve; that he loves the City and its people and is looking forward to being closer to them in the governmental field.

Councilman Alexander introduced his wife and daughter and his brother, Zack and his wife. He thanked the many fine citizens of Charlotte who voted to return him to City Hall for another two years, and stated he is grateful for the confidence they have seen fit to bestow upon him; that he shall strive to continue to prove worthy of that confidence by representing all the citizens at all times - be they in the north, south, east or west side of town - even as he has done in the past with the same fairness of judgment, ever continuing to hold an attentive ear for the rich, the poor and even those who may feel forgotten among us if there be any; that he will continue to help move our city forward now; our problems are many; our needs of government become more people oriented, and we will face difficult decisions in the months ahead. He stated he will help make those decisions in such a manner that to some he may be called diplomat, and there are times when one must be tactful in dealing with people even in government. To some he may be the epitome of the lone voice crying in the wilderness of an impossible circumstance; yet when he feels that his call is just, he must speak up. To some he may be called even an "Uncle Tom", but even that rather than be called a "tom fool". That if he evades the philosophy of erroneous separatism, he thinks of the plight of the American Indian who many years ago decided not to move into the main stream of the American way but who wanted to be separate. This winter the American Government had to drop food over the indian reservations to prevent their starvation. Councilman Alexander stated he stands before the people today in this high office through the American way by the vote of the people, not one part of the people but all the people of our fine city, and all the people he will continue to serve. He then read the following letter:

"Honorable Stanford R. Brookshire
Mayor
City Hall
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Stan:

To be elected the first Negro to serve on City Council in our times is in itself somewhat of an accomplishment to be cherished; but more so, due to the fact that this event in my life took place while you sat at the helm of government at City Hall as Mayor. If I have enjoyed a measure of success through this endeavor, I must ever be grateful for your willingness to be helpful, and the wise counsel that you have always given. Not to speak of the pride I bear in sharing with you a successful tenure of office during some of the most difficult years of Charlotte's existence.

You have shown remarkable courage and wisdom in giving Charlotte sound leadership through a period when sister cities were being marked by internal scars that time can never erase. Your determination in taking the leadership and keeping open the doors of communication through periods of stress and strain are all evidences of the quality of leadership that you have given Charlotte to help make it a livable and decent place in difficult times.

We have not always agreed, but we have always had understanding. Charlotte is a better place for having had you as Mayor through such times as these. It has been a joy serving with you.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Alexander"

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Councilman Jordan introduced his wife, Margaret, his sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. McSwain; his secretary, Mrs. Doris Alfred, and his pastor, Reverend Jim Johnson, who gave the invocation.

Councilman Jordan stated he is sorry his son could not be here today; that he was born during his first year on the City Council, and at this election, he had the privilege of having him vote for him for the first time.

He thanked all the citizens for the tremendous turnout during the primary and election to exercise their privilege to vote regardless of their choice of candidates; that this is a right and privilege all should take advantage of; because of the citizens' trust and vote he has again been selected to represent the people for another two years; that he will endeavor to the best of his ability to warrant the confidence he has been given. That he is always at the people's call, regardless of how large or small the request may be; this has been his way of representing the people in the past and shall continue to be in the future; that he owes so much to so many for the opportunity given by their vote to represent such wonderful people, a great city, a greater All-American one in the future.

Councilman Short introduced his two mothers - Mrs. H. M. Short, and Mrs. G. B. Slaughter; his father, Mr. H. M. Short; Mrs. Raymond King, who has been a friend, advisor and helper, and her husband who is close and very well-known to all; and Mr. Glenn Andrews.

Councilman Short stated one of the newspapers commented editorially recently that men serve on the City Council at a financial loss, enabling other men to have a greater success and prosperity because of the better community; his own observation from a few years of experience with the Council is that the Council does make a contribution towards economic progress of our city, and also within the limited powers given to local government, the Council makes its contribution towards safety and convenience and personal improvement and dignity and freedom and fair play for the citizens. His feeling is that the opportunity to participate in such achievements as these is rewarding enough to outweigh the personal disadvantage that might come with being a Councilman.

Councilman Thrower thanked the many, many people who were responsible for returning him to this office; his heart is somewhat overwhelmed and he still finds it hard to believe. He thanked the Council candidates who filed for election for this office; that they ran a magnificent race; they pointed up some of the true issues this Council is to face and must look on head-on.

Councilman Thrower introduced his father, Mr. H. T. Thrower, and his wife, Phyliss. He stated with reference to Mr. Jordan's remarks that he had a child while serving on City Council, that he did before, and he expects to again.

Councilman Tuttle introduced his wife, Margaret, his daughter, Linda, and his son, Jerry, Jr., and stated these are the people who put up with his shortness of hours at home sometime. He stated he feels a little sadness today; we have lost a Mayor and have lost two Councilmen - of course, we have gained Mayor Belk and gained two other Councilmen. There seems to be a feeling of newness in the air and he has every reason to believe that this new Mayor and the new Council is going to move this city in an exciting way; this must come and he believes it will come.

Councilman Tuttle thanked everyone who had a part in re-electing him to this office; that he can only promise that which he has tried to do

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in the past, and that is an honest effort to serve the people of this city. He stated he would also like to thank a couple of his colleagues - Doc Causey and Charlie Braswell; that these are the two men who have done all his work and allowed him to campaign.

Councilman Whittington introduced his wife, Janet; Evelyn and Erwin Hankins, two people he has been associated with since 1941 and who these ten years have carried the load for the business while he was down here; he introduced Mrs. Jo Rhinehart, their friend. He stated two years ago as he looked out over the audience and so many people were being introduced individually by Council, he felt that everyone out there was his friend and theirs, and he would like to do the same thing he did two years ago and ask all those in the audience to stand and be recognized.

Councilman Whittington stated it is always sad to see a man defeated in office who believes that his cause is right; to Gib Smith and Jim Stegall, both who rendered a great service to this community, he personally wants to thank them. He stated it has been his pleasure to sit to the right of Mayor Stan Brookshire for the eight years he has been the Mayor of this City; that he has tried to serve him when he needed help and guidance; that Mayor Brookshire has been a great inspiration to him.

Councilman Whittington thanked the people in the audience for being his friend over the years and for the vote of confidence given him on April 28, and May 9. That as long as he lives this will be the greatest accomplishment he will ever have. That this Council and the new Mayor have a real challenge in front of them, and that is to do all we can to acquaint ourselves with the problems and go out and get the ideas and interest and the best judgment of the people of this community of what we can do together to meet these challenges; we have challenges of a new civic center, the neighborhood development program, urban renewal downtown, the boulevard, and consolidation of local government. All of these will face this new Mayor and new Council this next two years. With God's help we will do a good job.

Councilman Withrow introduced his wife, Florence, his son David, his brother and his wife, Tom and Clara Lee, and his brother, Earl. He stated he would also like to show appreciation to the Citizens for Orderly Development in helping him obtain this office. Councilman Withrow recognized Jim McDuffie, a man who helped him and probably sacrificed this office for him. He introduced his secretary, Mrs. Christie, and stated she worked hard for his election; he thanked the people of Charlotte - not only the west side but the other sides.

Councilman Withrow stated he considers it a privilege and honor to serve Charlotte; that while he is serving the City of Charlotte, there will be disagreement on City Council, but he hopes they can disagree while a Councilman in love and that they will never vote on any issue just for the sake of getting votes from people in the next election; that he hopes he is never caught in the act of voting just to get the people's vote; that he hopes to serve the people of Charlotte honestly and that he can vote on the issues to his conviction. He stated if the people have problems he hopes they will call him and that he can serve them well.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE.

Councilman Jordan moved the election of James B. Whittington as mayor pro tempore for the next two years; and stated he has been holding the office for some many years, doing a beautiful job and it is a privilege to move his election. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

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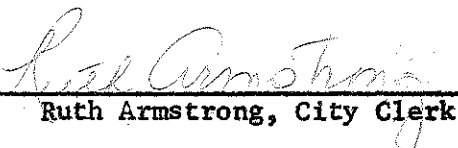
SELECTION OF DAY AND HOUR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Councilman Tuttle moved that the regular Council Meetings be held at the same day and hour as in the past - 3 o'clock p.m. each Monday, with the exception of the zoning hearing days which is 2 o'clock p.m., The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander, and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Belk stated since receiving the key to the Mayor's office he does not feel this is his office but the office of all the citizens of Charlotte, and the door will be open always; that he will be coming to the neighborhood and with the aid of the fine Council members they will do the best job they possibly can.

Upon motion of Councilman Tuttle, seconded by Councilman Thrower, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk