

December 15, 1975
Minute Book 62 - Page 434
Organizational Meeting

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, December 15, 1975, in the Council Chamber, City Hall at 2:00 o'clock p.m., with Mayor John M. Belk presiding, and Councilmembers Harvey B. Gantt, Pat Locke, Milton Short, James B. Whittington, Neil C. Williams and Joe D. Withrow present.

ABSENT: Councilman Kenneth R. Harris.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Reverend Charles L. Kirby, Minister of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilwoman Locke, seconded by Councilman Withrow, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the last meeting, on Monday, November 24, 1975, were approved as submitted.

ORDINANCE NO. 981-Z AMENDING CHAPTER 23, SECTION 23-8 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP BY CHANGING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF WEST BOULEVARD FROM B-2 TO I-1 AS PETITIONED BY CAROLINA FOODS, INC.

Motion was made by Councilman Gantt, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, adopting subject ordinance changing the zoning of property fronting 50 feet on the south side of West Boulevard and 100 feet west of the intersection of West Boulevard and Charles Street, as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 22, at Page 477.

ORDINANCE NO. 982 AMENDING THE TEXT OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THREE ALTERNATE MEMBERS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT.

Councilman Whittington moved adoption of subject ordinance as recommended by the Planning Commission, which motion was seconded by Councilman Withrow, and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 22, at Page 478.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF STEP II AND STEP III GRANT REQUESTS FOR WASTEWATER FACILITIES IN THE NORTH MECKLENBURG "201" AREA.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Williams, and unanimously carried, subject resolution was adopted authorizing the submission of Step II and Step III Grant Requests for Wastewater Facilities in the North Mecklenburg "201" Area.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 11, at Page 193.

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REPORT OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

The City Clerk presented the following report of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections:

"The results of the Municipal Election, City of Charlotte, as canvassed and judicially determined by said Board of Elections appear in triplicate abstracts made by the County Board of Elections, one of which is filed with the City Clerk of Charlotte, one with the State Board of Elections and one in the Elections Office, and the votes for Mayor and City Council are as follows:

FOR MAYOR

John M. Belk	(D)	20,047	Elected
H. B. (Hank) Wilmer	(R)	16,909	
Mark Englander	(L)	916	

FOR COUNCIL

Ann Burns	(D)	11,172	
Betty Chafin	(D)	19,377	Elected
Harvey B. Gantt	(D)	20,559	Elected
Myles Haynes	(D)	10,949	
Bob Walton	(D)	13,197	
James B. (Jim) Whittington	(D)	21,002	Elected
Joe D. Withrow	(D)	17,763	Elected
Ron Brown	(R)	9,596	
Louis M. Davis	(R)	15,396	Elected
Peter H. Gerns	(R)	14,691	
Pat Locke	(R)	19,845	Elected
Michael P. Mullins	(R)	12,971	
Nilo A. Niccolai	(R)	10,690	
Neil Williams	(R)	18,398	Elected
Lee Sigmon	(L)	857	

By order of: MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

William L. Griffin, Chairman
 Ashley L. Hogewood, Jr., Secretary
 Louis D. Stubbs, Member"

COMMENTS BY RETIRING COUNCILMEMBERS.

Mayor Belk stated retiring Councilman Ken Harris is not able to be with us today as he is out of the city.

Retiring Councilman Milton Short stated in reminiscencing over the last ten years one of the most notable developments is that public officials, as well as members of the public, are much more realistic in their realizations now about what government can accomplish and about the methods of solving problems through government. When he was first elected, Lyndon Johnson had just been elected President by one of the largest majorities in history and he was busy putting the Kennedy program through Congress. It looked like he and America could accomplish absolutely anything. A great many problems seem to be on the way to solution, and those we did not have a solution for, we had at least identified, and the solution was just a matter of someone getting up some program that would eliminate the problem.

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He believes a great many Americans believed at that time that a few thousand more troops over in Vietnam would settle that situation and then we would all be back over here building the great society with vigor. He stated he thought he had joined the real sophisticated scene in 1965; but in retrospect, actually it was more naive euphoria than it was sophistication, not only in the matter of Vietnam but in a number of other ways. For example, most of us was just convinced in 1965 that we could eliminate poverty by means of having federal government import some experts who would carry on programs like conflict orientations. Washington saw to it that we did not get the money unless we did what we were suppose to do as interpreted by the bureaucrats. Back in those days there were grandiose federal brick and mortar programs. Cities that could get in line first to get these programs were the envy of all the cities. This money was paid out from Washington in installments; and if you did not do just the way Washington wanted you to do, you did not get the installments. These grants were all in categories, strict categories. The categories were determined by Washington and the money was jealously doled out by Washington as if they believed that only federal officials were able to be fiscally responsible. He does not believe that hardly any Senator or Congressman would have voted for some approach like Community Development or Revenue Sharing which puts control and spending of the money essentially in local hands. Not only the politicians and bureaucrats, but the public in general seemed almost incredibly naive in hindsight. Rivers were full of sewage, the air was polluted, strip mining was going on, the land was being polluted; but nobody seemed to notice it. The word environment was never mentioned in the 1965 elections. He was looking for any issue he could possibly make, but never dreamed of such an issue as that. There was no LEAA; flood control was looked upon as something that each family had to handle themselves. As far as regulation of election financing, this was absolutely undreamed of. The only regulation was the councilman's, public officials' or candidates' own conscience. To actually reveal the names of your contributors, not only was not required, but it was looked upon as very bad manners to do this.

He stated he thinks the incredible failure to see things as they now seem obviously to be is the thing that impresses him the most as he thinks back over ten years. But he is impressed with the fact that it was the American political process that changed the naive ideas, and mistaken politics of that early date. In a free society with freedom of speech and freedom of media, politics is probably more self correcting than any other element of our society. He is real proud to leave this City Council and this City Government in the hands of some people - these eight that are going to be here - that he is going to designate as real good politicians. That is about the highest compliment that he can pay them.

Councilman Short stated transportation is so very, very important, and he thinks we cannot ignore the street system. We have too many areas of the city where half a dozen cars are waiting on a red light while just one is moving through. Such a street becomes only one sixth sufficient as a transportation system. Of course, the wastage of gasoline and the pollution of the air is six times as great per mile traveled under such a situation. Further refinements of the red light system are not the ones who avail anything. Mr. Corbett and Mr. Hoose have done everything anyone can do on this subject. Streets are just burdened beyond any reasonable capacity in parts of the city. Continuation of the street improvement program and the expressway program is badly needed, both for buses as well as for cars. In his opinion, this Council should address themselves to that.

He stated some new idea and some new break through is needed in low income housing. This is a big, expensive, big ticket capital improvement, and in that respect it is unlike providing somebody with food stamps or bus fare. It is just very hard to work this out even for well to do people, much less disadvantaged people. But it seems we have nashed our teeth and beat our breast on this subject of housing for low income citizens for decades. It is time we put this into high gear.

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He regrets very much that the Court saw fit to issue the injunction of the First Ward redevelopment project last week. For years this project, every since he has been down here almost, has been looked upon as "the" answer for the low income housing difficulties in Charlotte on the east side, and there are many other reasons why this was an ideal location. Relocations have been occurring as the law required, and he felt, and continues to feel this project is basically fair, and is being administered in a fair way. The practical effect of this injunction which just stopped the project is to say to this Council - don't make any moves to solve the housing problems until you have solved the housing problems." He thinks it is an impractical approach, and he is sorry the Courts have gone this way. It is going to make it more difficult for this Council, but they cannot back off as the good of the City requires they vigorously address themselves to this problem.

He stated to Ms. Chafin and Mr. Davis if they could have picked any parade in America to jump out in front of, they could not have found a better one than this one here with this wonderful staff, 3600 people, that the City of Charlotte has. That he is impressed with the fact that over the last decade most of those who work for the City of Charlotte have a dedication and an ability that is not generally found. They have made this Council look good over the years, and he is glad to have this opportunity to publicly thank the employees for what they have done for him, and for the City of Charlotte.

RETIRING COUNCILMAN SHORT MADE A KNIGHT OF THE QUEEN CITY.

Mayor Belk stated he has the honor and pleasure of making Mr. Short, retiring Councilman, a Knight of the Queen City of Charlotte. He presented Mr. Short with the scroll proclaiming him a Knight of the Queen City of Charlotte, stating the City is much better because of his services.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR JOHN BELK.

The City Clerk administered the oath of Office to Mayor-elect John M. Belk, at 2:15 p.m.

OATHS OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO COUNCILMEMBERS.

Mayor Belk administered the oath of office to the Council-elect at 2:20 o'clock p.m., as follows:

Councilwoman Betty Chafin
 Councilman Louis M. Davis
 Councilman Harvey B. Gantt
 Councilwoman Pat Locke
 Councilman James B. Whittington
 Councilman Neil C. Williams
 Councilman Joe D. Withrow

JAMES B. WHITTINGTON APPOINTED AS MAYOR PRO TEMPORE.

Councilman Withrow moved the appointment of James B. Whittington as Mayor pro tempore. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Locke, and carried unanimously.

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PRESENT SCHEDULE FOR TIME AND PLACE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS ACCEPTED TEMPORARILY UNTIL CITY MANAGER BRINGS A REPORT TO COUNCIL ON CHANGING THE TIME TO SEVEN O'CLOCK ON MONDAY NIGHTS.

Councilman Gantt stated in view of the fact that a number of the people on Council during the past campaign expressed an interest and willingness to seek to find ways for this Council to be closer to citizens of Charlotte, he moved that Council temporarily accept the time of 2:00 o'clock as citizens hearings and 3:00 o'clock for formal council meetings until such time as the City Manager has examined the legalistical, financial and other problems to be faced if we were to switch the time of Council Meetings to 7:00 o'clock on Monday nights here in the Council Chambers with the exception of the third Monday night which would be a televised Council session. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Chafin.

Councilman Williams asked if he would set a definite time, such as 90 days to give everyone a chance to think about it, and the staff time to get the report together? Councilman Gantt asked if he is talking about 90 days to get the report back or 90 days to accept this? Councilman Williams replied 90 days to accept this and to get the report back. Councilman Whittington stated you do not want to say you are going to do this until you get the recommendations from Staff. Councilman Gantt stated he is asking that Council temporarily accept the rule of procedure that we start the Council meetings at the time we are now starting them with the understanding that Mr. Burkhalter will be examining the alternatives for the seven o'clock Monday night Council meetings rather than the three o'clock time. He is saying temporarily because we want to wait until we receive the report from Mr. Burkhalter. At such time as Council receives the report then it can adopt a permanent procedure for Council meetings whether it is three or seven o'clock.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

REMARKS BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL AND RECOGNITION OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

Mayor Belk stated this Council has been elected for the Bicentennial Year and after one more called meeting it will be 1976. That he thinks we are in order to thank those people who have brought Charlotte up to this particular spot. If you start back with Tom Polk, the man who made this City, it has been people putting it together, like the people in the past have done.

He stated he would like to thank all the people who made this possible. Anything he has done for Charlotte since he has been Mayor has been accomplished by working with the people. He is a better person for having the opportunity that the people have allowed him to have by being Mayor of Charlotte. He would like to thank each of them for this opportunity. He stated he loves Charlotte very much, and hopes in the future we will continue to make strides with people dedicated as this Council is with cooperation and sincerity and the work they will do for the next two years, the people will be proud of this Council.

It seems this is the time that people are always cussing out government, and they are always bringing up the bad things. He would like to say during his services to the City of Charlotte there have been a lot of people who are very dedicated, and he knows this will continue in the future. With this third century starting in this free country of ours we will have to have people that are dedicated to the future as they have been in the past.

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He stated he would like to thank the two new members. He knows that Councilwoman Chafin turned down a scholarship to the University of Kentucky to be here in North Carolina. That he is looking forward to working with her. That we will count on her for her leadership from the background she has had in the Charlotte Area Fund, and her Master Degree in Education, and also working with the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

He stated that Councilman Davis is welcomed from Iredell County, and we are looking forward to working with him. To Mayor pro tem Whittington he stated we appreciate him, and he is to be congratulated on being the leader of the Council; he thanked him for his leadership in the past. To Councilwoman Locke he stated her fine services have been appreciated. To Councilman Withrow he stated he appreciates his loyalty and commended him for running for office again. To Councilman Williams he stated we always need an attorney and he knows with his background he will improve the City Council these next two years. To Councilman Gantt he thanked him for running; that he was appointed before, and the last election showed that the people wanted him to serve, and he looks forward to working with him.

Mayor Belk stated this is a fine Council; he thanked Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager. With the people working for him, and all working together, Charlotte will be better than what it has been in the past.

Mayor Belk introduced his wife, Claudia Belk and a friend Jim McNair from Raleigh.

Mayor pro tem Whittington stated to Mayor Belk that he wants to be a part of his team; and that team is a part of this great city. He stated it has been his privilege to serve this city for 16 years, and he starts on the 17th year today. The one thing that he pledges to all is that he will listen to ideas, suggestions, and to the criticisms. Second he pledges to do everything he can, both mentally and physically to work toward and keep the confidence that has been shown in him these many years. Third, to the Councilmembers he stated as they campaigned for election the issues are very clear in this city what people want, and many of the things they want we cannot do for them. But when we talk about transportation, the airport, or neighborhood preservation, and perhaps more than anything else the economy of this city and country, many of these things are very dear to these people who live out there, and we have to do all we can to regain the confidence some say we have lost, and at the same time strengthen the confidence of the people who voted for them on November 4. This is what he intends to try to do, and will do with the help of the other members of Council, and the help of people like this audience.

Mayor pro tem Whittington introduced his wife, Janet; his friends Evelyn Hankins and her son Hank; Ralph Cox, Frank Leonard; the late Harold B. Carter's daughter June and her son; and Linda Hunter. He thanked Billy Joe Robinson, Bobby Joe, Ann Hopson, Nita and Bob Tobias, Larry Owen, Tom Finley, Bill Williams, Charlie Henderson and all the other people in the audience who will help him represent this Council for the next two years.

Councilwoman Locke stated as the holiday season approaches she has many things to be thankful for; many loyal friends like those in the audience, and many loyal friends who helped her obtain the victory on November 4. She stated her husband is out of town and could not be present today; one son is at school, and the other is sick with the flu, but her youngest son is present, and she introduced Jim. She introduced her father and his wife, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Shaver from Winston Salem. She introduced her friends Dot Presser Furr, George Selden, Zack Smith, Beverly Rogers, Nancy Kline, Kim Jolly, and one of her best friends Col. Norman Pease.

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She stated she has enjoyed working with and appreciates the talents and judgement of Milton Short and Ken Harris, and they will be missed. She stated we are not saying goodby to our friends, they will be in the community, and we can call on them for help at any time. She gives a special welcome to Betty Chafin and Lou Davis and look forward to agreeing with them on some occasions and not agreeing with them on others. She is sure they will all work well together. She pledged to continue to take care of responsibilities of this office; giving her considerations to the concerns of the whole of the City of Charlotte. She appreciates the opportunity to serve the people of this great City.

Councilman Withrow stated his wife could not be here today. Looking over the audience he sees a lot of people who helped him in the election, and he appreciates the support of the people. That he looks forward to serving with the Mayor for another two years. That he is thankful he was elected back to Council to be a part of the decision making process of this City. That he enjoys helping make the decisions. That he wants to be a part of this process. He looks forward also to working with each of these Councilmembers. He hopes these next two years on this City Council will come forward with the ideas that will push this city forward more so than a lot of cities in the United States. Some of the cities have not gone forward. New York is one and some of the other cities this year will probably fall by the wayside. That he hopes the good leadership of the city in the past and the good leadership we will have on this Council will push this city forward, and we will not have to look back to some of the things that other cities such as finances and other things.

Councilman Williams stated he is grateful to be back, and he is grateful to all the people who helped him get back. A special word of thanks to his family - his wife Muriel, and his two sons Neil and John. He stated someone has already mentioned that it is a little different having run as an incumbent while people are shooting at you, where the first time you are safe and can take a few potshots yourself, and not have to answer for any decisions you might have made. Now that he has been shot at a few times, he would like to offer an observation or two from where he sits at this point.

First, in the last 25 months since just before the municipal election of 1973 the composition of this council has changed drastically. You look around and there are only two people here now who were here in October 1973 - they are Jim Whittington and Joe Withrow. He thinks that reflects a changing composition of the city too. The City is growing and prospering and becoming more diverse. It may be a little bit younger, and it has changed nearly as much as the Council itself has changed. He thinks the Council is reflecting the community. The Council has also gotten somewhat younger. Two years ago the average age would probably have been close to 50. Now, only two members of the Council are 50 or over. Two are in their 40s, and three in their 30s. This indicates to him something about a changing attitude of the City.

When he finished his active duty in the navy in 1969 and was looking around for a city to settle down and practice law, he chose to come to Charlotte because at that time he thought Charlotte offered many opportunities, and had much potential. He has not been disappointed. That is attributable to many reasons. The Mayor alluded to the people who have made things happen here. Charlotte has some natural advantages - good climate, and our geography is conducive to some growth. Other than that people have had to develop and move Charlotte in the position it enjoys now. That will probably be true in the future too. There will be some natural growth. Much of the growth and improvement will come from our citizens who he considers to be the greatest resource and asset. It is a place where he thinks in the next several years everyone will have an opportunity to prosper and improve.

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He stated this job is about as close a political job to the people as there is. Someone running for the City Council and fortunate enough to be elected is as near to his neighbors as the telephone, and someone passing down the block and talking to each other about some problem and offering some constructive criticism; or occasionally offering compliments. It is not like someone who runs for the legislature and is elected; or who is elected to the Congress where they are a far distance from their constituency, and not as easy to communicate. For that reason it is almost like making decisions in a family. We are not going to please everybody when we make these decisions that affect people so directly on a local level. He hopes the people will understand that; and be tolerant to Council as they try to make decisions which they feel are in the best interest of the total community. So many times people say that Council never listens, and they will do what they want to do anyway. Often that is because the Council on that particular issue is not able to please that individual and there is a larger constituency than one or two people. This Council at the present time represents the 300,000 people. Each Councilmember represents over 300,000 people.

He stated he is glad for the opportunity to be here, and he looks forward to working with all his colleagues in the next two years.

Councilwoman Chafin stated at the risk of overlooking someone and with the knowledge by attempting to introduce everyone here who is a friend, supporter or associate she is afraid she would outdo Jim Whittington. She introduced Mrs. Liz Hair, who because her own family is not here, has been like a second mother to her in Charlotte. She stated she is grateful for the confidence the voters of Charlotte have shown in her. She is somewhat awed by the responsibilities that she has accepted today; she does not look at them lightly. She looks forward to working with this group of people, not as men and women, not as Democrats and Republicans, but as a team, a very effective team. She thinks they will be participating in decisions in the next two years which will shape the Charlotte of the future, and she welcomes this challenge.

Councilman Davis stated it has been his privilege and pleasure to get to know these people here this past year. He has been very much impressed with the time, energy and dedication they each bring to their job. He is looking forward to becoming a part of this family and team in the next two years. During the campaign a citizen out of a deep sense of frustration said City Council must be the lowest form of government. That he came very close to saying something profound because City Council is the lowest level of government. That means no one stands between the City Council and the people. This is right significant. That he can illustrate that by referring to an article in a national periodical a few weeks ago about a leading department store chain. This chain had done exceptionally well during an economic year. They had been so successful they were able to sell rocks to the people at \$8.00 a piece. In addition they sold books on how to take care of the rocks, and complete sets of clothing for them. This chain had to have something going for them. During the middle of the article the report said the Chief Executive Officer tried to find out what was different about this particular merchandising chain. As it turned out there was nothing particularly unusual about it. But there was an organizational chart on the wall and there was one thing unique about this one because it showed all the people within the organization. The Chief Executive was at the bottom, next were the chief staff members, and at the top of the chart were the people. Councilman Davis stated he believes the reason for this chain's success was the attitude by the top management. They knew they were at the bottom, and the people, which are the real source of power, were located at the top. He stated that is something this Council should never forget. Certainly he intends not to do that.

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Councilman Davis stated there are a lot of good people in the audience, and some in the hallway that could not get in, that are responsible for his being here today. He appreciates the fact this is the source for the position he holds today. He introduced his wife, Jane, her daughter, Ann and his son Jim. He stated he would like to recognize by name his campaign managers, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shugart, Mr. and Mrs. William Whisenant. In addition he added Don McClure and Ben Huntley for the second campaign. To the other people in the audience he would like to thank them for their support and he hopes they will continue to support him during the next two years because that is what enables the Councilmembers to do a good job.

Councilman Gantt stated when you look at your life in perspective there are certain milestone years in everyone's life. That he has to say that 1975 was quite significant for him. That he is a businessman, and it might not have been the greatest year for architects, but in every other respect it has been a good year. First, having the honor of being appointed to fill Fred Alexander's seat on this Council was quite an honor that Council itself bestowed upon him. Having the privilege of serving Charlotte for a year has been an experience which he would not trade for anything else anywhere. Running in a political campaign for the first time was quite an event. The thing that keeps running through his mind now is the tremendous mandate that it gave him. He is thankful for it, and now he says to himself how does one go about the task of trying to fulfill all the promises and the expectations of the past - not only for Harvey Gantt but this entire Council. We have two years to begin to resolve some of those problems. Running that campaign and having the opportunity to meet Charlotteans from all sections of this community has been an experience that he would not trade for anything.

Some personal things happened also. For the first time a son was borne to him, and that happened after the election. That is one reason his wife is not here today. That he got appointed, ran in a political campaign and won, has a new baby, and now has the opportunity to serve with seven wonderful concerned citizens. That he looks forward to doing great things with Charlotteans.

Councilman Gantt stated some of the names Jim Whittington mentioned as supporting him are some of the ones who supported him also, and it would be a little ridiculous to call out all those names again. He stated he wants to thank all those good supporters; there were some 20,500 people who supported him. That is significant to him. There are some special people who he will say hello to, thank you for coming, and that he appreciates their support. They are Senator Fred D. Alexander; his campaign manager, Melvin Watts; his treasurer, Bobby Martin, and a lady Terri Gaston who was something fantastic.

Finally, there are challenges facing this Council. That he campaigned on the issues of responsiveness, equity and the overall Charlotte future growth. We have a number of opportunities to make Charlotte a greater city in the years to come, or as we enter this third century. That he does not suggest we are going to be able to solve or take advantage of all those opportunities in the next two years; but he feels excited about beginning. He means beginning in the area of changing the form of representation. That he is interested about this very Council because in the next two years we may even have a different form of government, or we may have a Council made up somewhat different than it is today. It may take some guts for many of us to ordinance ourselves out of office in the sense that we may be passing or developing new forms of representation. He thinks it is needed, and the citizens of this community have made it very clear to us that they want a different form of representation.

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One of the issues that concerns him is how we are going to grow. The question of transportation, flood control, airports, and how we plan to grow to the edge of our city are questions that face us continually. He believes it is about time that this Council enter into a creative debate on how to go about effectively developing and implementing the 1995 Comprehensive Plan.

So it is government representation, equity, talking about how we are going to grow that excite him because they represent an opportunity for his problem solvings of the future.

RECOGNITION AND COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS.

Mayor Belk recognized the Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, Liz Hair. She stated she brings congratulations to the Mayor and Council from the County Commissioners and best wishes for the coming two years. She stated they are looking forward to working with Council in the most cooperative way.

Mr. Stan R. Brookshire, former Mayor, congratulated the Mayor and each of the members of this Council, and expressed to them, and to the professional staff at City Hall an appreciation for the job that all have done that are already connected with local government; and to those who are new at City Hall, we expect nothing less than the same sort of dedicated, hard work that we have had from other members of City Council and from staff.

He stated regardless of what kind of representation or what kind of election we may have in the City of Charlotte in the future, he would like to say from his own opinion that the quality of those elected is much more important than the manner in which they are elected. He is real pleased with the quality of this Council, and wished each a very pleasant experience, and much success in accomplishing those things which they see in the best interest of the total city. He does not expect all actions of this Council to be perfect; rather he expects them to make some mistakes; other Councils have made mistakes. This is to say if you do not make some mistakes, it indicates you are not doing anything. That we do want them to be an active Council. This is a challenging job, and we have a great city; it is progressive; it is vivable; has a great citizenship that backs Council up if those things it does are in the interest of the total city.

Mr. Brookshire stated he would like to see a great deal more unity. That he thinks the Mayor and members of Council are in a position to give the kind of leadership that will deserve and get citywide, and communitywide support.


Senator Fred Alexander congratulated the Mayor and each member of Council who have been willing to accept the responsibility the citizens have placed upon them to lead Charlotte forward in another two years. It will not be an easy task. The attitude of citizens over the political well-being may not give the encouragement they think they need for such a time as this. But he thinks each of them have the capacity to stand what will come, and he is sure Charlotte will continue to grow under their leadership. He wished them well.

Mayor Belk stated that he would like to recognize Colonel Norman Pease. That he has been one of Charlotte's outstanding citizens, and everyone appreciate the leadership he has given for years. That he would also like to recognize his campaign chairman, Don Browder.

Mayor Belk thanked each one for coming today. To Mr. Burkhalter he stated they appreciate the fine department heads under his leadership, and look forward to working with them.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Gantt, seconded by Councilman Withrow, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.


 Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk