

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, met in regular session on Monday, March 6, 1978, at 8:00 o'clock p. m., in the Student Union of Johnson C. Smith University (District 2), with Mayor Kenneth R. Harris presiding, and Councilmembers Don Carroll, Tom Cox, Charlie Dannelly, Harvey B. Gantt, Ron Leeper, George K. Selden, Jr., Milton Short and Minette Trosch present.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Betty Chafin, Laura Frech and Pat Locke.
(Ms. Chafin came in during the latter part of the meeting.)

* * * * *

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Reverend George E. Battle, Jr., Minister of Gethsemane A. M. E. Zion Church.

CONTRACT WITH MOTION, INC. PROVIDING FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF HOUSING FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME PERSONS.

Motion was made by Councilmember Selden, seconded by Councilmember Cox, approving a contract with MOTION, Inc. to provide for consultant services in the development and operation of housing for low and moderate income persons, for a total of \$100,000. The motion carried by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmembers Carroll, Cox, Gantt, Leeper, Selden, and Trosch.
NAYS: Councilmembers Dannelly and Short.

ORDINANCE NO. 925-X TRANSFERRING \$275,000 FROM THE FIRST WARD TARGET AREA ACCOUNT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND BALANCE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEVINS CENTER SHELTERED WORKSHOP.

On motion of Councilmember Gantt, seconded by Councilmember Trosch, and unanimously carried, the subject ordinance was adopted to transfer \$275,000 from the First Ward Target Area account and Community Development Fund balance for the construction of Nevins Center Sheltered Workshop.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 25, at Page 252.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A GRANT FROM STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR WIDENING OF TAXIWAY FILLETS AND INSTALLATION OF LIGHTED WIND CONES AT DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

Motion was made by Councilmember Gantt, seconded by Councilmember Leeper, and carried unanimously, adopting a Resolution to accept a grant from the State of North Carolina, for a total of \$19,817, for the widening of taxiway fillets and installation of lighted wind cones at Douglas Municipal Airport.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 13, at Page 193.

LICENSE PERMITTING THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO INSTALL A VISUAL APPROACH SLOPE INDICATOR AT DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

On motion of Councilmember Dannelly, seconded by Councilmember Short, and carried unanimously, approval was given for a license permitting the Federal Aviation Administration to install a Visual Approach Indicator at Douglas Municipal Airport.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 265

ORDINANCE NO. 926 AMENDING CHAPTER 19 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE WITH RESPECT TO TAXICABS.

Consideration was given to a petition by Yellow, Checker and Charlotte Cab Companies for a taxicab rate increase.

Councilmember Selden stated that this particular area has a great deal of involvement with respect to our transit system program. He does not know if the Transportation Committee has dealt with it or not, but previous material that Councilmembers have received indicates that taxi use is a part of the integral program for transit, particularly at night, as well as the customary usage in the daytime.

With this consideration, he moved that a public hearing be held with respect to this rate change. Councilmember Gantt seconded the motion for discussion purposes. He asked if a public hearing is not required as a point of procedure? Mayor Harris stated a public hearing is not required; confirmed by Mr. Underhill, City Attorney, that it is not legally required. Mr. Gantt asked if Mr. Selden would consider allowing the Transportation Committee to review this first before a public hearing. Mr. Selden replied yes, he certainly would. That is the intent of his motion.

Mr. John Eldridge, President of the Mecklenburg Taxi Association, stated he has served the public in the taxi and limousine business since 1945. The two things he has to sell are prompt and courteous service. In order to provide that you need good equipment and satisfied drivers so that they can respond to the public in a cheerful manner. This takes a great deal of money and that is why all forms of transportation today are subsidized except taxicabs. Charlotte has the lowest taxi rate in the State of North Carolina, a fact which he submitted to the Finance Committee.

He stated that initially their costs are the same as the City's, but their cost problems multiply with high prices on gas, insurance, parts, tires, dispatchers, mechanics, etc. It is important to this great City of Charlotte that we have the best taxi service in North Carolina. They can provide that, if they are able to pay for safe equipment and give their drivers a decent return. He does not know where this high cost will end but does know that unless they get their increase - their industry will go under.

The Mecklenburg Taxi Association was formed by local cab companies to bring their cost problems to the attention of the public. Together, they employ or lease cars to at least 400 people. They have a transportation force already in existence; to replace it the cost would be prohibitive to the taxpayer.

Mr. Eldridge stated he is a transportation expert and knows there is room in their industry to help in the growth of Charlotte. They are feeders to mass transportation. Quoting from remarks made by Richard Page, administrator of United Mass Transportation Authority, he stated they recognize that many private operators have been forgotten or ignored in the local planning and programming process. Accordingly - as a condition of U.M.T.A.'s assistance - they will require local assurances that private carriers including taxi operators have been given a voice in development of local plans and programs. They must have the opportunity not only to comment on proposed services - private and public alike - but also to review ongoing planning activities including a transportation improvement program required by U.M.T.A. In addition, taxi and other private carriers should both be willing and able to provide the necessary services economically and should be given the opportunity to compete for the provision of such services. As Mr. Page said, "The taxi industry should have a voice in local planning of transportation."

He stated there is a user side subsidy program that subsidizes the people and not the carrier. This program has been tried in other areas and has been successful and is encouraged by U.M.T.A. It is about time there was a program that fits the senior citizen and the handicapped. They can help in this program by shared riding. U.M.T.A. will recognize them and allow the seniors and handicapped to use script-like food stamps. This can be

March 6, 1978

Minute Book 67 - Page 266

in our future. There is also a program for welfare and medicaid under Title 19 of the Social Security Act. There are funds available for the Department of Social Services to use taxicab services from the home to the doctor, to the hospitals and special treatment centers. This is why it is so important that they work together with the transportation planners so the public can be served in the best possible way.

He offered his services free to the City Council and the transportation planners, stating their future is in Council's hands. They should work together for the good of the public and for Charlotte. Like all other transportation, their expense goes up every year. They should not have to re-negotiate every year. The Finance Committee should check their balance sheets and allow them a small profit for their big investment. After all, they are a profit making business, but he does not know anyone in the taxi industry who has made a profit in the last four years.

Councilmember Gantt asked how long ago the requested rate increase was made to the City? Mr. Eldridge replied four months ago (later it was brought out that he meant to say four weeks). Mr. Gantt stated he was requesting an additional 30¢ increase for the first one-sixth of a mile? He asked if Mr. Eldridge was aware of the recommendation that was being made by the staff? Does he find that unreasonable?

Mr. Eldridge replied no. At this time, considering the fact that they have not had an increase in four years, the fact that they considered them and discussed it, in all fairness to everyone concerned, he thinks it was fair. That their future together as planners is going to work out very well. That they came up with a good proposal and it was fair, in spite of the fact that they did not get what they asked for. He is satisfied with what is being done. They discussed it and in all fairness to the public, they will go along with that very happily.

Mr. Gantt asked Mr. Bobo if there is any reason why it took four months for that to be analyzed? Mr. Bobo stated he thinks he meant four weeks; that the delay was required because the auditors' reports from the cab companies were not turned in, and Mr. Eldridge agreed.

Councilmember Gantt asked if Mr. Selden's motion was to hold a public hearing in committee and then make a recommendation to the full Council, or is he recommending a hearing on this to allow citizens a chance to have input.

Councilmember Selden stated his purpose was to integrate the taxi system into the transportation system; that obviously from what has just been presented, Mr. Eldridge has this very strong intent. Actually, insofar as a public hearing is concerned, if Mr. Gantt will withdraw his second, he will withdraw his motion, and move that the recommended rates be adopted. Mr. Gantt agreed, and then seconded the latter motion.

Councilmember Carroll stated in regard to integrating the system with the other transportation system by any means that are available, is Mr. Eldridge aware of how the system works at Chapel Hill? Mr. Eldridge replied he is not aware about Chapel Hill, but he knows that the system has worked in a lot of other areas. For example, the user side system has been implemented in Montgomery, Alabama, and they feel that it works out very well. They work on a grit system, and on a script system where they will sell \$10.00 worth of script for \$2.50 and each grit is 25¢. Only the seniors and the handicapped and children under 15 years of age (they are considered handicapped for the fact that they cannot drive a vehicle) can use the system. It has also been worked out in Danville, Illinois, where they started it on a one-day-a-week trial basis and now it is seven days a week and the seniors and handicapped find it works very well and U.M.T.A is very happy with it. He stated the Finance Committee has the findings on hand right now.

Mr. Carroll asked if he has had a chance to talk with Mr. Kidd, the Transit Planner? Mr. Eldridge replied that unfortunately he has not. He tried but was unable to get to him - he knows he is very busy and he understands. But he understands that he will be able to discuss this with him in the future.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67, - Page 267

Councilmember Dannelly asked if Mr. Eldridge has had an opportunity to also talk with Mr. Chapin of Social Services? He replied that he went over to the Department of Social Services and presented to them the program that has been implemented in other parts of the country, and Mr. Chapin was very happy to receive him and find out what he had to offer them as far as the procedures on handling taxicabs and other kinds of transportation for the seniors and the handicapped. He has the places to send for the information and he is working on that.

Mayor Harris stated he has heard that cabs are good in the planning of bus routes. He received a call one day that this has been done very successfully in other cities. They turn in the tally sheets of where their routes were during a certain period of time and the city was able to diagram a good transit system from that information. He asked why you cannot "hail" a cab in Charlotte?

Mr. Eldridge replied he is not sure of the complete regulation. Within certain areas of the city you cannot stop and pick up people - where it is busy and where it would cause a delay in traffic. That he is sure that is a good reason. There are some areas he is sure it would be allowed. That once he and the planners talk about various things, he thinks they can get into a lot of programs that will be helpful.

Mr. Bobo stated you are able to hail a cab in Charlotte, but the ordinance does not allow cruising. The Mayor asked why they cannot cruise? That people have asked him why they cannot walk outside of a building uptown and hail a cab that goes by and he tells them no, you have to go call them on the phone.

Mr. Bobo replied there are a number of reasons - this has some history behind it. One of the reasons is that in the past cab companies, when they were not regulated, were cruising around at places like the bus terminal, and the rest of the city was not getting the service they should have. That, and a number of other reasons, is why this was put into the ordinance.

Councilmember Dannelly stated that as a former cab driver, he can see where cab drivers would be concerned that they cannot cruise because if you do not know the places to stop to make money, then you have to cruise in order to find fares. That does help you to make the funds necessary in order to maintain yourself and make a living. He would suggest that they look at this if the taxi companies would want this privilege. The Mayor stated other cities do it all the time. He wonders why we do not do it in Charlotte. Mr. Dannelly stated it is bad for our total transit system not to be able to get a cab unless you go some place and call one, particularly if you are stranded in an area where there is no phone. The Mayor stated he thinks they should look into this.

Mr. Bobo stated it is an old ordinance and it would bear taking another fresh look at it. Mayor Harris asked Mr. Eldridge if the cab companies would have any interest in that, and he replied yes, they have a great deal of interest in that. That they do not want to waste gas and have their drivers just riding around, but when the public is on the streets they should render that service.

Councilmember Selden stated he notices in the correspondence from Mr. Fennell that there was a decline in revenues in 1976 and 1977. He asked if there was a drop in demand and does Mr. Eldridge know the cause for this decline in revenues? Mr. Eldridge replied that everyone in the City of Charlotte can see the reason riding down the street - the equipment is tired, it is old and has to be replaced, but they have to have the funds to replace it with. He is sure that could be one of the very big reasons. That is what they are talking about - replacing and upgrading the equipment. Mr. Selden stated it is basically their image is what he is saying.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 25, at Page 253.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 268

COUNCILMEMBER TROSCH EXCUSED FROM VOTING ON NEXT ITEM.

On motion of Councilmember Carroll, seconded by Councilmember Short, Ms. Trosch was excused from voting on the next item due to a conflict of interest.

CONTRACT WITH DESIGN/JOE SONDERMAN, INC. FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR DISCOVERY PLACE FOR A FEE UP TO \$126,000.

Councilmember Gantt moved approval of a contract with Design/Joe Sonderman, Inc. for design services for Discovery Place for a fee up to \$126,000 as was recommended by the Architectural Selection Committee for Discovery Place. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Selden.

Mr. Gantt stated he understands the conceptual design for this facility is nearing completion and requested that Mr. Hopson, Public Works Director, at the appropriate time, keep Council abreast of this project as it goes along. That is, at some reasonable juncture point, he would like to see a presentation of the design development, or schematics.

Mr. Hopson stated the architect is completing these at the present time and they expect to come before Council with some sort of schematic presentation in April. They are all set to do that.

Councilmember Selden stated that he and several other Councilmembers had the privilege of reviewing Mr. Sonderman's presentation to the Public Works Department and they were most impressed with it. That as to the factor of bids, there were two firms considered as possible, but they were struck because they did not qualify.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

WORK LEADING TO THE CREATION OF THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE DISTRICT FOR DOWNTOWN PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT, AUTHORIZED.

Mr. Maloy Rash, Chairman of the Mayor's Uptown Development Committee, stated he would give a brief background of what has happened and what has brought them to this place.

He stated that in 1976 an ad hoc committee of the CCA prepared a position paper for future development of Central Charlotte. It was adopted by CCA but it was decided that a study committee should be appointed by Mayor Belk to take a look at this position paper. This was done in December of 1976. The committee consisted of the chairman and the following members: Jack Copeland, Dr. James Cox, W. R. Cuthbertson, Robert Kitterman, Joseph Martin, W. B. McIntyre, Dr. David Milder and Henry Underhill; Stephen Griffin and Jack Miller, ex-officio.

As a result of their study, two conclusions were reached. That a local development corporation was a possibility, and that we needed to amend the Municipal Service District Act of North Carolina, Article 23 for greater flexibility to allow for planning and promotion.

In Phase II, they recommended in March to the Central Charlotte Association that they support the amendments to the Municipal Service District Act; this was done and supported by the Chamber. These amendments were adopted by the North Carolina Legislature as outlined in the recommendations. This allowed additionally for planning and promotion.

Next the Committee needed to determine a specific approach it would recommend for Uptown Charlotte development. After studying all the plans and the results of the development there from, they were surprised at how closely the development had followed the planning. It was almost eerie to look at the Odell plan for 1966 and see how the buildings and skyway now in place were almost identical to the plan.

March 6, 1978

Minute Book 67 - Page 269

In October, they concluded the following: If total Charlotte is to progress then Central Charlotte must continue to progress. That no agency is presently charged with Uptown development. That development incentives do not exist. They therefore decided to recommend the following: That a Municipal Service District be established for Uptown Charlotte, and that it be bounded by the inner loop. They concluded a private sector corporation should be formed to contract with the City for services. (Keep in mind this Corporation is entirely different from the LDC to administer SPA funds that has just been put into place.) They concluded that services rendered by the Corporation should be administrative, planning, coordination, promotion and the execution of development activities within the Service District.

Under separate cover they prepared some guidelines for the possible funding requirements of such a Corporation for the first year, suggesting \$100,000, which would require an additional tax of two and half cents within the District. They also prepared some suggestions for formation of the private sector corporation, suggesting its members be appointed by the Mayor, and responsible to the City Council.

Mr. Rash stated in their opinion if the Mayor and Council wish to see a dramatic or further redevelopment similar with what we have had with NCNB and the Radisson, or even residential development within the uptown area, they would recommend that these recommendations be adopted.

Councilmember Carroll stated since Council has met with him and talked about this, at the time Council was at its retreat, they had an occasion to discuss this matter in detail, and he would like to share some of the thoughts they talked about which give rise to some concerns he has.

He has been enthusiastic about the idea since he first heard about it; enthusiastic about the continuing revitalization of the center of Charlotte.

One of the things discussed at the retreat was that one of the cities where it has been utilized, there has been the tendency to say when problems come along, instead of treating them as general overall city problems, to say let the special tax take care of it. And it has ended up being more of a dis-incentive than the incentive which was the intention originally when it was created. Along with talking about the uptown development goes the important perception; and even though we are talking about a very small additional tax that the perception will exist to businesses that are perhaps thinking about locating in Charlotte and may be considering a downtown site, which he would like to see them take to a site out in the county near a shopping center, the fact is the taxes are more downtown because of the Municipal Service District. That they all know they are not very much more, but he is afraid that is a perception which may cause some of the things not to happen that we want to happen by creating this Municipal Service District.

The other part of that is the City is in the process, through the Community Development in Third Ward of trying to revitalize an existing low income neighborhood. The tax there is not very great for people who live there - it is a very small increment, but it is also perhaps one of perception. That you will be taxed more if you live in Third Ward than if you lived in another part of the city.

Councilmember Carroll stated some of the discussion on the retreat has caused him to wonder about whether there is another way to skin this particular cat which might not have some of these possible negative effects. That he is not asking Mr. Rash to respond now; but he would like to talk to him later. That he wanted to share those concerns because Council did talk about them at the meeting in Boone. Mr. Rash stated he appreciates those comments.

Councilmember Gantt asked the difference between the development company we now have, LDC, and functions that would be performed by this Municipal Service District. Are there any overlapping areas? Mr. Rash replied they do not know of any. The one now in existence is primarily a conduit for

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 270

SPA funds - to funnel funds and arrange for government loans for a specific project for some owner that might want to have capital improvements on his building, or hopefully on several buildings within a block. That is the purpose for it; that is what it is formed for; that is in its by laws and that is all it can do. There are 25 members.

Councilmember Gantt stated in terms of the one question Mr. Carroll raised that gives some minor amount of concerns the fact you are talking about the taxing of traditionally low income residential areas an additional amount. That someone did an analysis to show that on a \$20,000 value real estate, they would pay an additional \$5.00 in tax - like a surcharge per year. It is not a lot of money; but it could be a lot of money if we do what Mr. Short suggested at the retreat. That is to continue to tack on levies for this particular district. He asked the City Attorney if you can exempt certain type uses in a Municipal Service District? Is that a possibility at all? Mr. Underhill replied no; once you put it in a district all the real and personal property within the district is subject to tax, except the personal property of utility companies, which is exempted by state law.

Councilmember Gantt stated he would like to respond to Mr. Carroll. At the stage we are, and for the revenue generated, in his own perception of the benefits that might likely come to the entire area, he considers those restraints minor - the possible \$5.00 more in yearly taxes - in terms of the kinds of development they might be able to bring to that area.

He stated they also would have some ability as a governing body to rescind the entire district if they so chose, if in fact they could see no benefit to be gained from the \$100,000 a year allocation. He does think that there are a number of things that need to be done. That they are at a kind of critical crossroads in terms of where they are going to go in the downtown area. This is a kind of amalgamation of public and private effort, in which he would imagine that the bulk of the \$100,000 is going to be raised from commercial rather than residential interests. But, the benefit might be substantial to residential areas.

Councilmember Cox stated he feels the words "critical crossroads" are entirely apt in this particular case. One of the things he has noticed in sitting as a Councilmember for the past three months is that we have a momentum in Charlotte - that it has been called a second phase of urbanization. We have a good thing going downtown, but we need someone to - Mr. Rash used the term "planning agency." We have no agency and no development incentives exist downtown; we need somebody to pick up the ball and run with it downtown. That the method of financing does not obviate that need. The forest picture here is that we have to do something to pick up the ball and run with it. That Mr. Gantt stated the proper perspective on the method of financing better than he can. That he would urge Council to go ahead and get on with the authorization of the work leading to the creation of the Municipal Service District.

Councilmember Cox moved the authorization of work leading to the creation of the Municipal Service District for downtown promotion and development. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gantt.

Councilmember Short stated he wants no one to misunderstand his words at the retreat. He did mention that if this district were created we should avoid hanging onto it other things than the intended program that Mr. Rash has in mind. He wants to make it very plain that it certainly was not his remark - he is sure he did not say - that Council would actually hang other things of this sort onto this taxing district. Rather, it was a cautioning on his part that they should avoid doing this. He expects to vote for this motion.

Councilmember Selden asked Mr. Rash if he envisions that the organization created will not only seek support in the business community but also seek the stimulation of residential development in the downtown area? Mr. Rash replied yes, that is one of the major thrusts - to see to it that if possible residential development will go ahead and proceed. This has been almost an impossibility recently for some reason.

March 6, 1978.

Minute Book 67 - Page 271

Councilmember Leeper asked about the proposed make-up of the body controlling this effort? Mr. Rash replied they have proposed that the organization be chartered as a private non-profit corporation with a board of directors, appointed by the Mayor, consisting of six business representatives from the district, two residents, two non-profit organization representatives and a chairman appointed without regard to category. In addition to that, the ex-officio members of the board of directors would be the City Manager, the Director of the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Planning Commission and the President of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Of course, they only made these recommendations - the Mayor would make the appointments of his choice.

Mr. Leeper stated he wanted to make that clear because he agrees with Mr. Gantt in some degree that some of the things that are proposed to take place in the Municipal Service District could be advantageous to low income people that might live in some of those areas. His only problem is he would like to make sure that some of those residents are a part of that body.

Mr. Rash replied they specifically thought that had to be one of the requirements, or should be.

Councilmember Cox stated he was negligent in not mentioning previously a second thing which he had wanted to say. That the points that Councilmember Carroll mentioned are entirely apt. They fall into a category that he would call "business risks," and that Council should take them into consideration.

Mr. Rash stated the Council would have complete control of this service district. Mayor Harris stated the important thing - that Mr. Leeper's point about the appointments is one thing, but Council, every year, will have total control of the actual expenditure and the authorization of the tax rate and everything - on an annual basis. The Council controls the corporation. Mr. Rash stated it is finished at the end of a year if Council does not reapprove it.

Councilmember Dannelly requested, for the benefit of the citizens in the audience, that the boundaries of this district be identified. Councilmember Selden stated, in that regard, the motion did not cover the boundaries and he would suggest this.

The Mayor stated the important thing is that the motion is really for authorization of work leading to the creation of a Municipal Service District. They have not gotten into trying to define all of the metes and bounds, etc. The only purpose of this item being on the agenda is that the staff wanted to have some kind of direction from the Council for them to proceed with the creative work that needs to be done. There will, of course, be a lot of information between now and July. The information in the agenda talks about the submission of a report to Council in mid-April of the work of the staff; there will be a public notification appear between mid-April and late May; there will be a public hearing in late May or early June; and then adoption of a resolution creating the district not later than July 1st. That the citizens will be having a lot of opportunity between now and July 1st to be informed about it and understand. It would be rather difficult to try and explain it all this evening when it really has not been finalized.

Councilmember Dannelly stated his intent was not to explain all of it, but just to let them know the geographic area. Mayor Harris stated that area they are discussing is between I-77 and Independence Boulevard - around the inner-city, the downtown area. That is the general outline.

Councilmember Short asked Mr. Underhill if the Council could control the tax rate and the existence of this district year by year, notwithstanding anything that bond buyers might do? Would this thing get "set up like concrete" because of the bond situation?

Mr. Underhill replied no. That the statute very clearly says you can abolish the service district at anytime Council feels the need for which it was established no longer exists. Unless they went to some bond financing, like a revenue bond issue; it would not affect general obligation bonds. He cannot see that bond financing would have any effect at all on Council's flexibility about doing away with such a district if they chose to do so.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 272

Councilmember Short stated he would like to offer a suggestion to Mr. Rash and Mr. Miller. That once the program is completed, he thinks they should consider a sunset approach on this. A sunset law is one that brings the program to a halt legally. If that tax is just lying out there and some future Council discovers it . . .

Mr. Rash replied that the suggested plan of organization says "the corporation cannot and need not continue after its role is complete - the sunset concept." They had the same thing in mind.

Councilmember Carroll stated he agrees with what Councilmembers Cox and Gantt said. His only concern is not that we do not need the downtown planning agency, but perhaps it is important enough that they need to let it come from the tax burden generally, something that does not need to specifically be built in this kind of structure. He certainly would like to see them go ahead and continue to take steps forward along these lines, but to think about what other alternatives there might be in terms of funding for doing the sort of thing they are interested in doing. That they have a chance tonight to thank Mr. Rash and others responsible, that the new skyway is going to be built on North Tryon Street. That is just another important step in this crossroads they were talking about of really continued development and revitalization downtown.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

Mayor Harris thanked Mr. Rash for the creative ideas and stated Council will look forward to the staff's work on it.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, AUTHORIZED.

(a) Board of Directors of Motion.

The following nominations were on the floor:

- 1.) R. V. Connerat, nominated by Councilmember Selden.
- 2.) Morris Williams, nominated by Councilmember Selden.
- 3.) Willie L. Johnson, nominated by Councilmember Short.
- 4.) George Godwin, nominated by Councilmember Cox.
- 5.) Raleigh W. Bynum, nominated by Councilmember Gantt.
- 6.) Phyllis Lynch, nominated by Councilmember Carroll.
- 7.) Jim Johnson, nominated by Councilmember Carroll.

Councilmember Carroll stated he would like to withdraw the name of Jim Johnson from consideration.

Councilmember Gantt stated he would like to withdraw the name of Raleigh W. Bynum from consideration.

Motion was made by Councilmember Cox, seconded by Councilmember Trosch, and carried unanimously, appointing the five remaining nominations to the Board of Directors of Motion for three year terms each.

- (1) R. V. Connerat; (2) Morris Williams; (3) Willie L. Johnson; (4) George Godwin; and (5) Phyllis Lynch.

(b) Parade Permit Committee.

The following nominations were on the floor:

- 1.) Charlotte Hampton, nominated by Councilmember Dannelly.
- 2.) Jackie Frost, nominated by Councilmember Chafin.
- 3.) J. C. Goodman, nominated by Councilmember Chafin.
- 4.) R. C. Eidson, nominated by Councilmember Gantt.

Council was advised that Chief J. C. Goodman had requested that he not be considered for reappointment to the Committee, and his name was withdrawn from consideration.

Councilmember Gantt moved the appointment of the three remaining nominations to the Parade Permit Committee for three year terms each.

- (1) Charlotte Hampton; (2) Jackie Frost; and (3) Major R. C. Eidson.

CONTRACTS AWARDED.

(a) Motion was made by Councilmember Short, seconded by Councilmember Selden, and carried unanimously, awarding contract to the low bidder, CFW Construction Company, Inc., for sanitary sewer construction, EDA Trunk Relocation, Phase II, Section I, South College Street, in the amount of \$122,371, on a unit price basis.

The following bids were received:

CFW Construction Company, Inc.	\$122,371.00
Sanders Brothers, Inc.	125,333.80
Blythe Industries, Inc.	131,240.00
Rea Brothers, Inc.	140,186.00

(b) Motion was made by Councilmember Trosch, seconded by Councilmember Short, and carried unanimously, awarding contract to the low bidder, Morrow-Dixon

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 274

Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$37,371, on a unit price basis, for Section II, Herrin Avenue sanitary sewer construction, conditional upon EDA approval.

The following bids were received:

Morrow-Dixon Construction Company, Inc.	\$ 37,371.00
Rea Brothers, Inc.	40,628.90
Sanders Brothers, Inc.	44,740.50
CFW Construction Company, Inc.	44,972.50
Blythe Industries, Inc.	66,004.00

(c) Motion was made by Councilmember Selden, seconded by Councilmember Short, and carried unanimously, awarding contract to the low bidder, Morrow-Dixon Construction Company, Inc., for Section III, Poplar Street sanitary sewer construction, in the amount of \$54,774.10, on a unit price basis, conditional upon EDA approval.

The following bids were received:

Morrow-Dixon Construction Company, Inc.	\$ 54,774.10
CFW Construction Company, Inc.	67,302.00
Rea Brothers, Inc.	67,789.75
Blythe Industries, Inc.	74,391.00
Sanders Brothers, Inc.	84,407.00

Mayor Harris stated it is interesting to note that (b) and (c) are minority contractors. Councilmember Selden stated it is also interesting to see that the renegotiation of those bids saved the city \$6,000.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA.

Councilmember Trosch requested that Agenda Items No. 15 and 16 be removed from the consent agenda as she has some questions.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVED AS AMENDED.

Upon motion of Councilmember Dannelly, seconded by Councilmember Short, and unanimously carried, the consent agenda as amended was approved:

- (1) Loan agreement with Jerry Ruble, Trading as Ruble Concrete Service, in the amount of \$7,500.
- (2) Resolution authorizing refund of certain taxes, in the total amount of \$949.69, which were collected through clerical error and illegal levy against three tax accounts.
- (3) Ordinances ordering removal of trash, junk and abandoned motor vehicles:
 - (a) Ordinance No. 927-X ordering the removal of trash and junk from 1232-A Pegram Street.
 - (b) Ordinance No. 928-X ordering the removal of trash and junk from premises of apartment between Ambassador and Berryhill Road.
 - (c) Ordinance No. 929-X ordering the removal of trash and junk from 6900 block of Old Concord Road.
 - (d) Ordinance No. 930-X ordering the removal of an abandoned motor vehicle located at 816 Parkwood Avenue.
 - (e) Ordinance No. 931-X ordering the removal of an abandoned motor vehicle located at 624 Fortune Street.
 - (f) Ordinance No. 932-X ordering the removal of an abandoned motor vehicle at 4141 Donnybrook Place.
 - (g) Ordinance No. 933-X ordering the removal of an abandoned motor vehicle located at 3506 Ellington Street.

The ordinances are recorded in full in Ordinance Book 25, beginning at Page 254, and ending at Page 260.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 275

(4) Property transactions.

- (a) Acquisition of 2,461.06 square feet of easement, plus a temporary construction easement, from Tynor McPherson and wife, Ruth H. McPherson, 4524 Drifter Drive, at \$200.00, for Sanitary Sewer Trunk to serve Deerhurst Subdivision.
- (b) Acquisition of 650.85 square feet of easement, plus a temporary construction easement, from Howell Andrew McGinnis and wife, Alma D., 4331 Drifter Drive, at \$150.00, for Sanitary Sewer Trunk to serve Deerhurst Subdivision.
- (c) Acquisition of 5,484.40 square feet of easement, plus a temporary construction easement, from Ben Frank Small and Ruth Mattox Small, 535 Knollwood Circle, at \$1,200.00, for Toby Creek Sanitary Sewer Outfall.
- (c) Acquisition of 6,613.80 square feet of easement, plus a temporary construction easement, from Charles T. Barnes and Mildred O. Barnes, 501 Knollwood Circle, at \$1,200.00, for Toby Creek Sanitary Sewer Outfall.
- (d) Acquisition of 8,300.70 square feet of easement from Westminster Company, South of Albemarle Road, off Dwightware Boulevard, at \$1.00, for Sanitary Sewer to serve Eastwoods Section 3.
- (e) Acquisition of 1,585 square feet of right of way from Gene Love and wife, Joan E., 4901 Plum Nearly Lane, at \$1.00, for Plum Nearly Lane Realignment.

CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WATER MAINS AND SANITARY SEWER MAINS AUTHORIZED.

Councilmember Trosch asked if the two contracts listed for water and sanitary sewer mains are north or south of Four Mile Creek? After discussion with Mr. Dukes, Utility Director, Councilmember Trosch advised it is north of Four Mile Creek. She asked on future contracts that it indicate whether it is north or south of the Four Mile Creek.

Motion was made by Councilmember Selden, seconded by Councilmember Dannelly, and carried unanimously approving the following contracts:

- (a) Contract with First Colony Corporation for the construction of 2,440 feet of 8-inch and 6-inch water main and two fire hydrants, to serve Twelve Oaks II, outside the city, at an estimated cost of \$21,900.
- (b) Contract with Walnut Properties, Inc. (John Crosland Company, Agent) for construction of 4,358 feet of 8-inch sanitary sewer main to serve Walnut Creek, Section IV (Foxborough), outside the city, at an estimated cost of \$65,370.00.

REQUEST THAT CONSIDERATION OF OUTER BELT ROUTE BE PLACED ON AGENDA FOR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 20.

Councilmember Carroll asked if there is a consensus of Council as to when the Outer Belt Route will be considered? Councilmember Cox stated he thinks Council should take it up; but he thinks we should address ourselves, and have a presentation from the Planning Commission, or the Public Body concerned with this, to speak to the need for the route. That he is not entirely clear about it.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 276

Mr. Bobo, Assistant City Manager, stated a presentation has been scheduled for Monday, March 20, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., in the Educational Center, prior to the regular meeting of Council.

Councilmember Trosch stated one of the Neighborhood Groups is going to ask Council to go on a tour with them. That she understands that perhaps the other Neighborhood Group will also ask Council to go on a tour.

She stated if a tour is involved, she would like it planned by the appropriate person in the City so that Council can look at it. It is a very heated issue. She would like it conducted so that they would receive a professional viewpoint. Also she would like only one tour.

Councilmember Dannelly stated he has seen a number of letters on research by the Department of Transportation, and studies by the Planning Commission, and have heard from the Neighborhood groups. He would like to see it from a different view and that is a birds eye view from the air. He would like to see how many members would like to take an aerial view of the routes.

Councilmember Trosch stated there are somethings that cannot be seen by air in the areas that are wooded, and in some areas it is more wooded than other areas. This is the complaint she read in the paper when an aerial view was taken earlier in the controversy. That would be her only problem with the aerial view.

Councilmember Dannelly stated at this point before Spring sets in and the leaves come, they could see practically everything. He would like to take a poll and see how many would be interested.

Mayor Harris stated they could use the Police Helicopter. Mr. Bobo stated it is a five person copter. Mayor Harris stated if they are going to do it, he would suggest they use the Helicopter, and each Council Member arrange their schedules so that two or three could make the trip at one time.

He stated he thinks it would be preferable if there is to be a ground tour that the City arrange the tour. Councilmember Trosch stated she agrees.

Councilmember Gantt stated the previous Council having left this issue in the laps of the present Council went on at least two tours by both groups. That he thinks Ms. Trosch's suggestion is a good one because there is a tendency on each tour to say "well those people have a point".

Mayor Harris stated he would have the City arrange the tour if they are going to make it. On the air tour, each one should contact Mr. Bobo if they want to make that tour.

Councilmember Carroll stated if Council is going to receive the presentation on the 20th, he would request that it be placed on the Council Agenda for the 27th. Mayor Harris stated Council will not meet on the 27th as it is Easter Monday. On the following Monday, April 3, Council will meet in District 3. Councilmember Carroll stated then he would request it be placed on the agenda on March 20.

Mayor Harris stated then they will receive the presentation at 7:00 p.m. on the 20th, and have it on the Agenda for the formal session.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Underhill, City Attorney, reminded Council that zoning hearings are scheduled for the 20th - at least six or seven, and they are required by law to hear those first. That Council should keep that in mind when they set this date.

Councilmember Gantt asked that the agenda be kept short.

Mayor Harris asked Mr. Underhill what he is saying? Mr. Underhill replied part of what he is saying is that people should come and be prepared to sit through the zoning case before reaching that item, because it will not be scheduled in front of the zoning cases as they have to be heard at the time advertised.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 277

CLARIFICATION OF TIME AND PLACE FOR AIRPORT ORIENTATION.

Councilmember Dannelly asked for a clarification on the time and place of the Airport Orientation. He has a date of March 9, Noon, Belmont Center, and March 10, 7:00 A.M., Airport.

Mayor Harris replied the time and place has been rescheduled; there is only one meeting scheduled, and that will be on March 10, 7:00 A.M., at the Quality Court Inn, 201 S. McDowell Street.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REQUESTED TO STUDY AND PRESENT TO COUNCIL A NEW PROPOSED POLICY TO IMPLEMENT DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS IN AREAS OF SEVERE FLOODING AND EROSION, AND THAT THE ASSESSMENT POLICY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESIDENTS' ABILITY TO PAY.

Councilmember Dannelly stated many areas of Charlotte suffer from poor drainage in residential areas due to inadequate storm sewer lines, increased paving, and erosion caused by unregulated development. Many of the areas are in the older sections of Charlotte where they are not protected by new ordinances covering drainage improvements. Many of the older neighborhoods have a large number of persons on low or fixed incomes who cannot afford the substantial outlay that the city's petition assessment program for drainage improvement would require.

He stated he believes it is a priority for the City of Charlotte to help preserve and revitalize stable neighborhoods with a large proportion of homeowners, regardless of the income level.

Councilmember Dannelly requested that Council ask the Operations Committee of the Council to study and present to Council a new proposed policy that would implement drainage improvement programs in neighborhoods where flood and erosion problems are severe; and that this policy be broader than the present storm drainage petition-assessment policy in that it will take into account residents' ability to pay. Since improvements in any neighborhood in Charlotte is an improvement for Charlotte, that the costs which the city has to bear in undertaking such a comprehensive stormwater drainage program be financed through general revenues, federal revenue sharing funds, or through a special bond referendum, with the understanding the projects for each year would be determined by means of a priority list prepared by the Engineering Department.

Councilmember Short, Chairman of the Operations Committee, stated the Committee has been addressing itself in a fairly confined way to the storm water run-off ordinance. There is a meeting at 7:30 A.M., Wednesday morning. With some suggestions that have been made and a memo he has given to the members tonight, they may be able to dispose of this matter.

Some of the members of the Committee have lamented a number of times that the petition assessment ordinance has never been utilized one time by any citizen of the City of Charlotte. For this reason, he thinks Mr. Dannelly's comments are appropriate. If the Mayor is so inclined, he is sure the Committee would be delighted to get into this matter.

Mayor Harris requested that the Committee take this under advisement.

(COUNCILMEMBER CHAFIN COMES INTO MEETING AT THIS TIME, AND IS PRESENT FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SESSION.)

NOTIFICATION THAT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE WILL MEET THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT 2:00 P.M.

Councilmember Gantt stated the Transportation Committee will continue the hearings and discussion of the various aspects of the Carroll-Leeper memorandum on Thursday, at 2:00 p.m. In addition, they will have further discussions on changes in the bus routes; a number of complaints have been received in this regard. He stated other members of Council are welcome to attend the meeting.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 278

QUESTION OF SELECTION OF PLANNING DIRECTOR REQUESTED PLACED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING.

Councilmember Gantt stated he was not in the discussion last Monday when Ms. Trosch asked the question regarding the selection process for the Planning Director; but he has been reading the reports in the news media and discussion from other Councilmembers.

He thinks it is important that the City Council given the ruling by Mr. Underhill, City Attorney, that the Managers of both Governing Bodies will have final say on this selection. It gives us some opportunity to have some input into the selection of the Planning Director.

All members of Council received some correspondence this week from interested citizens who are interested in seeing City Council have some involvement in this selection process. He thinks it is quite appropriate; and would want to recommend that Council ask the Mayor to request of the Planning Commission that they temporarily halt all efforts at selection of a planning director until such time as the City Council can name one or more of its members to a Selection Committee, and to invite the County Commission to do the same, such that we have a tribunal body of the Planning Commission, City Council and County Commissioners. Also, in anticipation of a possible no response from the County Commissioners, that the City Council still make its wishes known to the Planning Commission that they have some representative from the City Council to become involved in the selection of a Planning Director. Not only the selection of the Planning Director, but possibly even the description of the type of person we are seeking at this point.

This may seem to be a "johnny come lately" situation. Frankly, he has always felt we would have had some significant input into that process. Not until this issue was raised last week did he understand they had gone substantially a long way down the road to the selection of a director. That City Council as a Body would be remiss if it were not involved in the description and the ultimate selection of the Planning Director.

Mayor Harris stated Mr. Gantt has raised some good points. But we should always caution ourselves to remember that the Code says we have the authority of hiring the city manager, city clerk and city attorney. Every other position, assuming the decision Mr. Underhill gave last week is correct that the city and county does have that authority, the Managers are the hiring officials of this person. He would assume he is talking about the Council members and Commission members being advisory from the standpoint of selection.

Councilmember Gantt stated he is saying since the Manager has the authority, and Council hires the Manager, Council tell the Manager it wants to be involved in that selection process. Council should be made aware of the kind of person that the Commission and the governing bodies want - whether or not we are hiring someone exactly on the job description that the previous Planning Director had, salary ranges and other kinds of things, this Council needs to be informed. It is just too important an issue. Whether or not Council is an advisory body or whether or not Council ultimately hires is a technical question.

Mayor Harris stated he wants to clarify that the Council would not be hiring, unless the Code would be changed. The City Manager and County Manager would be the employing persons. That is important in their type of role.

Councilmember Gantt moved that this item be placed on the agenda for discussion and consideration. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Chafin.

Councilmember Cox stated he is not prepared for this. Mayor Harris asked if this requires the unanimous approval of all present? Mr. Underhill replied it does not require unanimous consent to place it on the agenda; it does to take formal action on it. It can be placed on the agenda for discussion.

Councilmember Gantt stated what he had wanted to do was to make a motion that would require formal action, and it would require him making a motion at that point. He supposes the item is already on the agenda since it has been brought up.

Mr. Underhill stated if Mr. Gantt wants action taken on his motion tonight it requires unanimous consideration of the Council as requiring immediate action by the Council.

Councilmember Gantt stated he will defer to the Councilmember from District 7 by simply not asking that we take formal action since he does not feel he is ready to vote. But he would like some discussion. Councilmember Cox stated he would like some discussion.

Councilmember Carroll stated he thinks it is important to do this at this time because of the fact the process is ongoing; has gone a good bit of the way from what he understood last Council Meeting without any participation. That Council only learned at the last meeting this was a responsibility that he thinks we have to have some input into. He is not saying to Mr. Cox to go ahead if he is not comfortable with it; but he is saying he thinks it is a very important position that has to be filled, and Council should have some responsibility in defining that role, and assuring we get a good person. There is no reason not to delay it if they want to; but at the same time it needs to be taken care of.

Mayor Harris stated he would not have any hesitation at all in communicating exactly what Mr. Gantt has requested to the Planning Commission, because this is already being done. The City Manager and the County Manager are already in the process of reviewing and have reviewed the resumes of the selected ones thus far that the Planning Commission has submitted. That is no problem, and he will be glad to submit the request to the Planning Commission that the Council wants direct input into that decision making. If he wants it more formalized, that is fine; but he will be glad to do that. He would think the Planning and Public Works Committee, which is structured, would be the natural source for the input. All he is trying to do is to clarify the decision that comes up sometime as "we like this person, and let's hire that person" - that type of decision.

Councilmember Gantt stated he is talking about a little more height in the role than that of simply veto process. Maybe we are all two months out of kilter by not having set down earlier and discussed exactly the process we would go through in terms of culling the applicants for a Planning Director.

It seems to him if there are any things going on with regard to ultimately arriving at a new planning director, that Council would like to ask the Mayor to request of the Commission that they hold up until such time as Council becomes more actively involved in the process selection. What that might really mean is that we may have to go back through the initial list they had, and may want to re-define, or at least give our impressions of what the Planning Director should be like in terms of writing a job description. After having done that, and negotiating and talking with the Manager and the Director of the Commission, then move back forward to the point we are now.

Right now we have apparently gone through a list, and are down to six or eight people, and we are close to hiring. It seems if we do not do something very quickly we will find ourselves with a new Director.

Mayor Harris stated he will be glad to communicate that to the Planning Commission. That he is sure the City Manager - that the City Manager and the County Manager are the ones; and they are not going to do anything until they get clearance from the two managers.

Councilmember Selden asked the Mayor in his understanding of the responsibility does he see it as having been clarified that final authority for the selection rests with the City Manager and County Manager? Mayor Harris replied Mr. Underhill is our attorney, and we rely on him. He asked Mr. Underhill if he has changed his mind? Mr. Underhill replied no. That he intended to write Council on this. Since the last meeting he has talked to Mr. Ruff, County Attorney, about this; his opinion is the same; he agrees with him. That he went back and looked at the meetings of several meetings when the Planning

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 280

Commission was established in 1954. At that time there was no mention of hiring a director or other staff. The ordinance adopted in 1954 is the exact ordinance that is on the books now; it has not been amended since that time. It makes no provisions for the employment of staff or personnel. Mayor Harris stated then the City and County Managers have the hiring authority? Mr. Underhill replied yes; he will stick with that until somebody can convince him otherwise.

Councilmember Selden asked if it would be improper for the ordinance to be amended to specifically identify that it would be the City and County Managers' responsibility since there has been no amendment since 1954? Mr. Underhill replied it is something they could do together with the County. It is a jointly adopted ordinance. It would clear up an ambiguity or question. It simply does not provide an answer right now.

Mayor Harris asked if the Council wants to bring that up next week.

Councilmember Gantt moved that Council place two or more Councilmembers on a selection committee, being an advisory selection committee for a Planning Director. Councilmember Trosch seconded the motion.

Councilmember Chafin added to invite the County Commissioners to do the same. Councilmember Gantt agreed to the addition.

Councilmember Short stated this is the substantive type motion that Mr. Underhill was referring to which would require a unanimous vote because of the fact it is added into the agenda. He wonders if anyone on Council has any second thoughts about a situation where Mr. Underhill says the law is clear now that this is something in the hands of the Manager, and we as the City Council and a higher authority, sit here at a public meeting and proceed to even discuss this subject. What if the manager were employing a budget manager, and Council sticks itself into it in mid stream? Does anyone have the sensation that is just not appropriate regardless of whether it is written down in the rules that way.

Councilmember Chafin stated she understands what Mr. Short is saying; but she thinks the situation is a little different since the Planning Commission has in fact created a search or selection committee; that she thinks Mr. Gantt's point is well taken that it would be appropriate for Councilmembers and members of the County Commission to serve in this advisory capacity to be a part of this search process with the clear understanding that the managers will do the actual selection.

Councilmember Short stated Mr. Gantt is saying two Councilmembers only will do this. It seems to him all Councilmembers are entitled to go to Mr. Burkhalter because he is their employee, and say to him whatever they want to say on the subject, one on one. But it is the public meeting feature and the selection of just two, rather than all members that makes him pause on that.

Mayor Harris stated he has heard Mr. Gantt and he will communicate this tomorrow to the Planning Commission Committee. In effect, to not make any decisions based on this until further notice from the City Council. If it is all right with Mr. Gantt then we will place his item on the agenda for next week for discussion concerning the ordinance. Councilmember Gantt stated in view of the fact there may be some objections, he would rather hold it off until next Monday.

REPORTS REQUESTED FROM CITY MANAGER.

Councilmember Leeper stated he requested of the City Manager, and he may have the information, but he wants to bring it up again, to bring back to him a report on the procedure for charging for the rent of people in substandard housing that the city owns, particularly in the West Morehead Street Area.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 281

Also a request has been made of the City for the pavement of street for Ms. Opel Johnson who lives on Lake Berry Drive, off Wilkinson Boulevard. That if a response is sent to Ms. Johnson on that request, he would asked that a copy be sent to him also.

COMMENTS IN RESPONSE TO COUNCILMEMBER DANNELLY'S CONCERNS ON STORM WATER RUN-OFF BY COUNCILMEMBER SELDEN.

Councilmember Selden stated in the storm water run-off ordinance meeting, he has felt we were moving toward a full evaluation of existing persons harmed as well as persons not yet harmed because the structure had not been made. He does not want to see it turned loose in that committee until we have resolved some form of help some way.

INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ON EFFECTS OF \$40.0 M BOND ISSUE ON TRIPLE A RATING.

Councilmember Cox stated this Friday Council will receive a presentation from the airport people. He thinks it is important for Council's deliberations, as well as the subsequent merchandising of the terminal bond issue, that we have an opinion - we seek and get a written opinion - from the Local Government Commission, or other appropriate sources as to how much pressure a \$40.0 million G.O. Bond issue for construction of an airport terminal, along with any expected projected gestimate, other bonded indebtedness we may experience in the immediate planning horizon, will have on our Triple A bond rating.

Mr. Bobo, Assistant City Manager, stated this can be done. That probably Mr. Fennell, Finance Director, would be in a position to give that to Council. Councilmember Cox stated he thinks we need to have considerable substantive documentation that it would, or would not, have the effect - the deleterious effect that some people might think has on our Triple A Bond rating. He thinks we would have a much more saleable product if we did that.

REQUEST THAT CITY DO WHATEVER IT CAN ABOUT THE PROSTITUTES IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

Councilmember Cox stated one speaker at the informal session talked about prostitution today. For 31 years in Charlotte, he has been wanting to say this, and wanting to get elected to an elected body, so that he could say "let's do something about those hookers down there". He would like to see something done about it. Whatever we can do about it, then let's do it. It is not a very good thing for the City of Charlotte.

COUNCIL ADVISED THAT SCHOOL BOARD HAS REQUESTED ZONING PETITION ON SHARON SCHOOL PROPERTY BE POSTPONED FOR INDEPTH STUDY BY PLANNING COMMISSION.

Mayor Harris stated in the matter concerning Sharon School property which Council heard last Monday during the zoning hearings, the School Board has asked for a postponement of that and asked the Planning Commission to assist them in an indepth study to reflect the highest and best use of the property.

COMMENTS ON REALIGNMENT OF DISTRICTS.

Mr. Bobo, Assistant City Manager, asked when Council will be ready to consider the realignment of the districts.

March 6, 1978
Minute Book 67 - Page 282

Councilmember Leeper stated at some point we are talking about another annexation. He was the first one to indicate that we should not put this issue off too long; with the idea of another annexation within the next year he is not sure how this will effect the people.

Mayor Harris stated we are not anticipating another annexation in another year, are we? Mr. Bobo, Assistant City Manager, replied there is a study underway right now. In all probability it will be a year before anything takes place. By the time the study is completed, and all the legal requirements are met, he is sure 12 months or more would have passed. It would be a minimum of 12 months - more likely 18 months.

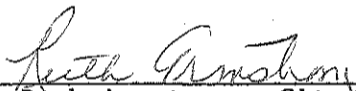
Mayor Harris stated if it is 18 months, it will have to be done prior to the next election. That should be addressed.

Councilmember Leeper requested that Mr. Bobo give Council a report on this with a more specific time stated.

Mayor Harris stated when they receive this report on the possibilities of annexation, then Council will take up the district questions.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilmember Trosch, seconded by Councilmember Cox, and un-animously carried, the meeting adjourned.



Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk