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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Wednesday, April 7, 1954, at 11 o'clock a.m., with Mayor Van Every presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Brown, Dellinger, Smith and Wilkinson present.

Absent: None.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the last meeting on March 31st were approved as submitted.

ORDINANCE NO. 203 ADOPTED AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE TO CHANGE ZONING ON LOT ON WEST WORTHINGTON AVENUE 100-FEET FROM INTERSECTION WITH SOUTH TRYON STREET.

The scheduled hearing was held on Ordinance No. 203 Amending the Zoning Ordinance by changing the Zoning Map from R-2 to Industrial on a lot on West Worthington Avenue, approximately 100-feet from its intersection with South Tryon Street. No objections to the proposed change were registered. Councilman Albea moved the adoption of the ordinance, which was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried. The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 11, at Page 343.

ORDINANCE NO. 204 ADOPTED AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE TO CHANGE ZONING ON ALL PROPERTY ON SOUTH SIDE OF 2100 BLOCK OF COMMONWEALTH AVENUE.

The hearing advertised for this hour was held on Ordinance No. 204, Amending the Zoning Ordinance by changing the Zoning Map from R-1 to R-2 on all property on the south side of the 2100 block of Commonwealth Avenue. No opposition was expressed to the proposed change. Councilman Dellinger moved the adoption of the ordinance, which was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried. The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 11, at Page 344.

INSTALLATION OF PIPE IN CENTER PORTION OF HAVERSHAM DRIVE AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Dellinger moved that the Council comply with the request of the property owners on Haversham at last week's Council Meeting that the open ditch in the street be improved, and that the City install the necessary pipe in the center portion of Haversham Drive, from Sunset Drive to Cambridge Road, upon the condition that the interested property owners bear one-half the cost, estimated at \$15,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Yancey, City Manager, pointed out that there are no bond funds available for such projects and funds for this work would have to be included in the 1954-55 budget.

OBJECTIONS TO CHANGE IN ZONING ON WEST BOULEVARD BY ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT REGISTERED BY MR. WALTER ORR.

Mr. Walter Orr expressed objections to a change in zoning on West Boulevard upon request of Mrs. Helms for the operation of a iron manufacturing plant, which was approved by the Zoning Board of Adjustment in meeting on yesterday. He advised that the change was denied by the City Council in 1952, and if it is consummated it will be detrimental to his property at 233 West Boulevard on which an apartment house is located.

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Following the discussion, it was determined that in order to consider the matter properly the Council would wait until the Zoning Board of Adjustment's recommendation is received, and Mayor Van Every requested Mr. Orr to be present for the discussion.

REQUEST THAT ASSISTANCE BE GIVEN JUVENILE DETECTIVES IN HANDLING WAVE OF VANDALISM CASES.

Councilman Brown stated there is quite a wave of vandalism being realized around buildings now under construction, there being fourteen such occurrences last week alone, and he considers it quite out of hand. He stated he would like to see Detectives Neal Forney and Hall given assistance in handling these cases, as they cannot do it alone.

Councilman Baxter moved that it be referred to the City Manager to instruct the Chief of Police to do whatever is necessary in assigning additional officers to assist with this work. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

The City Manager advised that complaints of this nature are not directed to the Juvenile Officers but the the Police Department and not until the culprits are apprehended is it determined whether they are juveniles, and if so then the Juvenile Officers are placed on the case by the Chief of Police.

INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT CALVERT AND WEST MOREHEAD STREETS AUTHORIZED.

Upon motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried, the installation of a Traffic Signal at Calvert and West Morehead Streets was authorized.

SUGAW CREEK PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL REJECTED.

Councilman Baxter stated that included in his 14-Point Improvement Program for Charlotte was the elimination of the unhealthy and unsightly condition of Sugaw Creek which extends for approximately seven miles through Charlotte. That the taxpayers ask why something has not been done about this condition. That the rapid growth of Charlotte started in 1935, and from then until 1940 the City was busy recovering from the depression, and then World War II began in 1941 and lasted through 1946. That from 1946 to 1950, during the post-war period, it was impossible to secure materials for needed improvements. That since 1950, when the tremendous growth of Charlotte really began the City's attention of necessity was given to water and sewer problems. And now the time has come when attention should be given other improvements, and particularly one that involves the health of the citizens, he hoped that the Council would have the courage to do something.

He stated that for example, the area of Sugaw Creek from Tenth Street to Princeton Avenue is approximately 25,000 feet, or a distance of five miles. The cost for permanently improving the Creek bed by installing concrete banks, together with the necessary dredging, etc., is estimated by engineers at \$100.00 per foot, or \$2,500,000.00. That if any of the work is done, it will have to be by a Bond Issue. That if the Council will agree to so improve a small section of the creek between East Fourth and East Seventh Streets, a distance of 2,000 feet, at a cost of approximately \$200,000.00, it would be evidence to the taxpayers as to what could be done with the over all project.

Councilman Baxter then presented a map of Charlotte indicating the location of Sugaw Creek, and a colored drawing of the improvement as he proposes that they be made, showing the concreted banks, an iron fence along the top of the banks, together with a roadway on each side of the creek. He explained that the fence, roadway, etc., were additions to the essential part of the project, and would materially add to its practicability and beautification.

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Councilman Baxter stated that as the governing body of Charlotte, the Council should try something to correct the existing conditions. He then moved that due to the continued unhealthy conditions and obnoxious odors in Sugaw Creek that this Council agree to attempt to correct these conditions by drawing plans and preparing estimates for the entire project, and as an example, provide funds in next year's budget to complete that part of the project between Fourth and Seventh Streets, and later provide funds through bond allocations, if approved by a vote of the people. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger.

Councilman Boyd referred to the late Mr. J. B. Marshall, who, as City Manager and later Consulting Engineer for the Planning Board, realized the necessity of improving these conditions and envisioned the covering of Sugaw Creek and developing it into a highway.

He stated further that the main question is whether improvements should be made now or some of the other needed improvements proposed by Councilman Baxter in his 14-Point Program. Too, if the proposed improvement should not be given study instead of acting on it today. Councilman Baxter then offered to insert in his motion the word "consider" providing funds in next year's budget for the work on the small area between Fourth and Seventh Street.

Councilman Albea asked why the area of the creek from Tenth Street to Princeton Avenue was selected instead of the entire length of the Creek within the city limits, stating he would not be in favor of doing any work on just this portion of the creek. Councilman Baxter replied he was merely designating a given area 5-miles in length in order to explain what a given area would cost in making the proposed improvements.

Councilman Dellinger stated that merely to construct the proposed small area would raise the tax rate approximately nine cents.

Councilman Brown expressed the view that the proposal was merely one of beautification, and it would be necessary to construct the project all the way to Pineville if the odor from the creek is to be cleared up.

Mayor Van Every stated he believes all of the Councilmen realize that Sugaw Creek is a problem; however, there are two main questions involved, namely: Can the City legally get a vote for bonds under the present financial condition? and secondly, even if the City could get the bonds, would such a set-up eliminate the odors from the creek? He stated further that work has been in progress since 1947 on the creek problem by the enlargement and redesign of Sugaw Creek Disposal Plant at an expenditure of \$4,000,000.00 and when the work is completed and manufacturing plants are able to discharge their waste into the sewer, the odor from the creek should be eliminated. He asked the City Manager if this is not correct. Mr. Yancey, City Manager advised that it will certainly greatly benefit the existing condition and he sincerely hopes it will eliminate the odor. That the Disposal Plant should be completed in another eight months time and the plants will be given sufficient notice to be ready.

Councilman Wilkinson stated that since so large an amount is being spent on the disposal plant in an attempt to correct existing conditions, he feels the Council should wait and see if it will not do so.

Councilman Baxter advised he is of the opinion that the two projects should be coordinated and with the benefit realized from the new disposal plant, if the work is done directly on the creek as he proposes the results would be a complete elimination of the creek odors, and the general health condition improved.

Councilman Brown offered a substitute motion that all action be postponed on the Sugaw Creek question until next year's budget can be studied, and the disposal plant is completed and a chance is given to determine its effectiveness to the problem. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea.

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Councilman Boyd stated that some of these days someone is going to take charge of Sugaw Creek and do about what Councilman Baxter is proposing, because it has to be done sometime; however, the question is whether it should be done now.

The vote was then taken on the substitute motion, and carried, with the votes cast as follows:

YEAS: Councilmen Albea, Brown, Smith and Wilkinson.

NAYS: Councilman Baxter.

Councilmen Boyd and Dellinger asked to be recorded as not voting.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING PLANNING BOARD TO CONSIDER THE ADVISABILITY OF EXTENDING THE CITY LIMITS.

A resolution entitled: "Resolution Requesting Planning Board to Consider the Advisability of Extending the City Limits" was introduced and read. Councilman Albea moved the adoption of the resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried. The resolution was recorded in Resolutions Book 2, at Page 185.

ERVIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY GRANTED PERMISSION TO CONNECT PRIVATE SANITARY SEWER LINES IN PROVIDENCE PARK SUBDIVISION TO CITY'S SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

Councilman Wilkinson moved that the request of Ervin Construction Company be granted to connect the private sanitary sewer lines to be constructed in Providence Park Subdivision, to the City's Sanitary Sewerage System, upon the condition that they comply with all laws, rules and regulations now in effect or which may hereafter become effective relative to property similarly situated. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

CONSTRUCTION OF SANITARY SEWER MAIN IN BALTIMORE AVENUE APPROVED.

Motion was made by Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, authorizing the construction of 170-foot of sanitary sewer main in Baltimore Avenue, at an estimated cost of \$400.00 to be paid by the city, to serve one duplex and six vacant lots.

CONSTRUCTION OF DRIVEWAY ENTRANCES AUTHORIZED.

Upon motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, the construction of driveway entrances was authorized at the following locations:

- (a) One 18-ft. driveway at 728 Cherokee Road.
- (b) One 27-ft. driveway at 229-301 West Morehead Street.
- (c) One 12½-ft. driveway each at 1510, 1500, 1502, 1434, 1432, 1408, 1426, 1424, 1418, 1416, 1410, 1402 and 1400 Iris Dr.
- (d) One 15-ft. driveway at 1508 Iris Drive.
- (e) One 12½-ft. driveway each at 1000, 1002, 1008, 1010, 1016, 1018, 1024 and 1026 Ivey Drive.
- (f) One 15-ft. driveway at 1032 Ivey Drive.
- (g) One 15-ft. driveway at 1034 Ivey Drive.

CONTRACT AWARDED JOHN WILEY JONES COMPANY FOR 15 TONS OF LIQUID CHLORINE.

Councilman Brown moved that contract be awarded John Wiley Jones Company for 15 Tons of Liquid Chlorine, as specified, on a firm net delivered price of \$.0587, representing a total net delivered price of \$1,761.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried.

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CONTRACT AWARDED FABRIC FIRE HOSE COMPANY FOR 2,500 FEET OF FIRE HOSE.

Upon motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried, contract was awarded Fabric Fire Hose Company for 2,500-feet of 1½-inch cotton, double-jacket Fire Hose, with Elkhart X-trude couplings and Rocker-lugs, in 50-ft. lengths, all as specified and per Underwriters Specifications, at a unit price of \$0.63 per foot, representing a total price of \$1,575.00.

HOLIDAY GRANTED CITY EMPLOYEES ON EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 19th.

Councilman Dellinger moved that a holiday be granted City Employees on Easter Monday, April 19th. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF UNFIT HOUSING PROGRAM.

The following Quarterly Report of the Unfit Housing Program was given by the City Manager:

Number of Housing Units brought up to standard	126
Number of Property Owners cited for Hearings	19
Number of Housing Units Condemned	27
Number of Bathing facilities Installed	115
Number of Housing Units Demolished	97

Progress since beginning of Program in August 1948:

Total number of houses brought up to standard	10,023
Total number of houses demolished	1,253

REAPPOINTMENT OF T. A. LITTLE TO AUDITORIUM-COLISEUM AUTHORITY.

Upon motion of Councilman Brown, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, Mr. T. A. Little was reappointed to the Auditorium-Coliseum Authority for a 5 year term from the expiration of his present term on April 25th.

CONTRACT AWARDED INTERSTATE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR STEEL PILING FOR FIRE STATION ON EAST BOULEVARD.

Councilman Smith moved that contract be awarded Interstate Construction Company for furnishing and installing steel encased concrete piling for Fire Station No. 9 on East Boulevard, at their base bid in the amount of \$7,054.00 plus additional for piles over 16-feet in length at \$8.40 per foot and refund for piles under 16-feet in length at \$0.90 per foot. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

AGREEMENT WITH STATE HIGHWAY & PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR INSTALLATION OF WATER LINE IN HIGHWAY #29.

Motion was made by Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with the State Highway & Public Works Commission for right-of-way for the installation of water mains in North Tryon Extension from the city limits to the intersection of Highway 29 and 29-A.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Lillian R. Dayman
City Clerk