

December 1, 1973
 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
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The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, met in an organizational meeting on Saturday, December 1, 1973, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, with Mayor John M. Belk presiding, and Councilmembers Fred D. Alexander, Ruth M. Easterling, Sandy R. Jordan, James D. McDuffie, Milton Short, James B. Whittington and Joe D. Withrow present.

ABSENT: None.

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INVOCATION.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS CORRECTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the Council Meetings on November 19 and November 26 were approved as submitted, with the following correction in the minutes of November 26:

"Page 352, 21st line from the top, first line of paragraph (a) change the amount from \$25,000 to \$250,000 under Ordinance No. 12-X."

REPORT OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

The City Clerk read the following report from the County Board of Elections of the results of the City Election held on November 6, 1973:

"The results of the City Election held in the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, on November 6, 1973, as canvassed and judicially determined by the County Board of Elections appear in triplicate abstracts made by said Board, one of which is filed with the City Clerk of Charlotte, and the votes for the various offices in said election are as follows:

	<u>FOR MAYOR</u>	
John M. Belk	26,363	Elected
Jim McDuffie	17,830	
	<u>FOR COUNCIL</u>	
Fred D. Alexander	26,397	Elected
Bob Baker	11,224	
J. C. Cousar	7,156	
Charles Garrison	8,086	
Ken Harris	25,508	Elected
Al Hilton	7,879	
Pat Locke	21,187	Elected
Margaret H. Marrash	16,528	
John H. Murphy	6,196	
Edgar Price	15,853	
Milton Short	24,981	Elected
James B. (JIM) Whittington	27,433	Elected
Neil Williams	17,026	Elected
Joe D. Withrow	22,831	Elected

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Write-in Votes as follows:

FOR MAYOR

Pat Locke	1
Rumley	2

FOR COUNCIL

Robert Walton	1
Wm. B. A. Culp	1
Tom Blowe	1

MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

By: Evelyn H. Renfro, Chairman
 William L. Griffin, Secretary
 Thomas M. Martin, Member"

RETIRING COUNCILMEMBERS EXCUSED.

Mayor Belk excused the retiring Councilmembers Sandy R. Jordan, Ruth M. Easterling, and James D. McDuffie.

Mr. McDuffie stated they will be expecting bigger and better things from the City Council under the leadership of Mayor Belk.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO JOHN M. BELK, MAYOR-ELECT.

The City Clerk then administered the oath of Office to John M. Belk, Mayor-elect.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO COUNCIL-ELECT.

Mayor Belk then administered the oath of office to the Council-elect, Fred D. Alexander, Kenneth R. Harris, Pat Locke, Milton Short, James B. Whittington, Neil C. Williams, and Joe D. Withrow.

JAMES B. WHITTINGTON ELECTED AS MAYOR PRO TEMPORE OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Councilman Alexander stated the Charter of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina calls for the position of Mayor pro tem or vice-mayor. This position is nominated and delegated by members of the City Council.

Councilman Alexander placed in nomination the name of James B. Whittington. The nomination was seconded by Councilwoman Locke.

There were no other nominations.

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 DESIGNATED AS DATE FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

Councilman Whittington moved that Monday, December 10, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., be designated as the date for the next Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Withrow, and carried unanimously.

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STATEMENT BY MAYOR JOHN M. BELK.

Mayor Belk stated since 1768 the City of Charlotte has held four different kinds of government: (1) Trustee Form; (2) Commission Form; (3) Alderman Form; and (4) Council/Manager Form.

Charlotte was run by the Commission Form of government for more than 60 years.

In August of 1854, the Board of Commissioners required the Town Guards to wash and clean the public lamps on a weekly basis during the dark of the moon and fined them \$1.00 for failure to do so. He stated it seems they even had an energy crisis in 1854.

In July of 1872 the Board of Commissioners adopted the City's first tree ordinance, making it unlawful to cut down a shade tree standing or fronting upon a public street. It was also unlawful to hitch horses to these trees, and that was a fine of \$10.00.

In June of 1887, the first year we had electricity in Charlotte, a mule was fatally injured after falling into a hole in the street at the corner of 9th and Tryon Streets. The owner requested the City to pay \$100.00 to pay for the loss of the animal and the Board of Commissioners paid it.

The terms of office varied in those days from one, two to four years. It seems they could not decide exactly how long they wanted to serve.

Charlotte adopted the Council-Manager form of government in 1929. Since then 70 distinguished Charlotte's citizens have served as City Councilmembers. From 1929 to 1935, Council consisted of four members; from 1935 to 1945 Council consisted of 11 members, and since 1945 there have been seven members.

Charlotte has had eight city managers since 1929. There have been two ladies who served, and this morning the third lady was sworn into office. There have been fifty mayors in Charlotte since 1851.

Mayor Belk stated he believes history will prove this last Council has served the city well, and the people will be proud when they look back on this two year term, and those having served will be remembered as the starting point of the growth and planning of the city.

He stated Charlotte is still the leader in the State of North Carolina, and in order to continue with this leadership, it will not be able to have a negative attitude; it will have to have a positive attitude. A negative attitude will only be a detriment to this area.

Mayor Belk stated he would like to personally thank Mr. Jordan for his personal efforts; that he has served the City of Charlotte for 20 years and has served it well. That he observed as they went from precinct to precinct that everyone loves him; and after 20 years he does not know how he has kept them all on his side.

He stated to Mr. Alexander that he has been a loyal mayor pro tem, and he would like to thank him as there has never been a time when he has called on him that he failed to come forth, and provide the city with leadership.

To Mrs. Easterling he stated that she came into office easier than anyone else; that she ran hard and stayed up, and he thanked her for her loyal service.

To Mr. McDuffie, he stated there are two or three rumors about what his future might be, and he wished him God Speed.

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Mayor Belk stated as this Council takes over, it has no marks for or against anything they have done to this point. There have been a lot of promises, but nothing have they accomplished except to be sworn in. They are now obligated to be the leaders of this city, and he knows they will serve well. It is a well balanced Council. There is a lot of good experience here when it is needed. He stated he looks forward to serving with this Council in anyway that he can be of assistance. As a non-voting Mayor he hopes he will never have to vote. He stated it will be a great two years with many trials and tribulations out in front. Since Thomas Polk built the first courthouse, Charlotte has been a man-made town. It will be up to this Council to give this leadership to continue what the people have done in the past.

He stated to the audience that this is a very dedicated group; there have been a lot of things thrown at elected officials, and they have always tried to do their job well.

Mayor Belk then introduced his wife, Claudia.

STATEMENT BY MAYOR PRO TEM JAMES B. WHITTINGTON.

Mayor Belk stated Councilman Whittington has been elected as Mayor pro tem, and he looks forward to working with him. He stated Councilman Whittington has the honor to serve as the President of the North Carolina League of Municipalities. This is not only an honor for Councilman Whittington, but an honor for the City of Charlotte.

Councilman Whittington stated as this holiday season approaches, he has many things to be thankful for; many loyal friends like those in the audience, and more loyal friends out in Charlotte who helped him obtain this victory on November 6. Whatever he has accomplished as a city councilman has been with people like those in the audience, and the people in this community who have come to him and offered advice and good counsel about what would be best for this city. He thanked each one for that contribution.

He then introduced his wife of over 30 years, Janet, who has been his right arm in all these campaigns; he introduced, Evelyn and Irvin Hankins, his business associates, and thanked them for their patience and understanding for the past 14 years. He introduced their son, Ronnie Hankins, a student at Chapel Hill, and his girl friend, Vickie Thompson.

Councilman Whittington stated he would like to recognize Bob Baker and Al Hilton who were not successful in this campaign; that he knows they tried hard, and he would like for them to be recognized. He also recognized Frank Suddreth, Mr. Snyder, Col. J. Norman Pease, Jim Stenhouse, Margaret Marrash and George Seldon.

Councilman Whittington stated for the 14 years he has been down here he has tried to be a part of a team. That they do not always agree, but the way to get a job done is to try to reach some compromise on the problem, and then move forward with it. No quarterback is any good unless he had a good line up front who can move those guards and tackles out of the way, and get his backs through the line; that is what he has tried to do as a member of this Council.

He pledged the same cooperation in the future, and stated he appreciates again the opportunity to serve the people of this great city.

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STATEMENTS BY COUNCILMEMBERS, AND INTRODUCTION OF WIVES, HUSBAND, FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Councilman Alexander stated he cannot help but feel good to realize that a little black boy born in the slums of Brooklyn, grew up in the City of Charlotte, and has served his community as the first Black elected official. He hopes he has done his job well; not only to serve as the first Black elected official, but as the black Mayor pro tem. It has been an interesting two years, and he would not take anything for his town of Charlotte. That is why he talks about it all the time. Some people wonder how! But he says it is the greatest town anywhere, and he thinks he is proof of it. He thanked all his colleagues, the Mayor, the administrative heads, and the chief employees who helped make his two years as Mayor pro tem successful. That he would like to feel that it has been successful for without their support it could not have been. He stated we have not won all the things we would have liked to have won; but no one does. But it has been good trying.

Councilman Alexander thanked all the citizens of Charlotte who placed this confidence in him in the previous years, and who at this election gave him their support again to place him here again to serve. As he has done in the past, he will continue to attempt to take care of the responsibilities of this office, giving his considerations to the concerns of the total community, and hoping that God gives him the strength and courage to do just that.

Councilman Alexander then introduced his wife, Mauvene, and stated she is the person who makes all of this possible, and who has taken many hours out of her time and her life. He stated his daughter and granddaughter could not be present this morning as she decided she was not going to get up this early in the morning even for her granddaddy to be sworn in.

Councilman Short stated he is delighted to have this opportunity to introduce his great wife of 31 years, Veegie Short. He introduced his daughter, Gay Short, his mother-in-law, Mrs. G. G. Slaughter, his sister-in-law, Mrs. Jim Mericka, and his daughter's finance, Mr. Smith Patterson.

Councilman Short stated he has enjoyed so much working with, and has appreciated the talents and judgements of Sandy Jordan, Ruth Easterling and Jim McDuffie and certainly none of us are saying goodbye to them, but rather pledging a continuation of close friendship. These folks will be right here in this community and he is sure they will be active in the community and most importantly they will be our advisors and confidants and assistants in all of the work that the Council will be doing for the next two years. He gave a word of special welcome to Ken Harris, Pat Locke and Neil Williams and stated he is looking forward to arguing with them on some occasions, and disagreeing with them on some occasions. These folks have realized what a lot of people realize and that is your business is not confined just to the store or office, and your home and home life is not confined just within the doors of the home. But rather the entire city is a part of one's business and a part of one's home, and especially the public places. These three have, along with the rest of us, acted on this realization and have offered themselves for office and have been elected and they now take their place as public officials in charge of the public parts of the city. He stated he is looking forward to working with them along with some of the best friends he has ever had, Joe Withrow, Fred Alexander, John Belk and Jim Whittington.

Councilman Withrow stated he has enjoyed working with Sandy Jordan, Ruth Easterling and Jim McDuffie, and he looks forward to serving with Ken Harris, Pat Locke, and Neil Williams, and he hopes as they serve together they will forget whether they are democrats or republicans and serve the people of Charlotte. That he does not believe any one of this City Council has ever taken his ball and bat and gone home. He hopes that none of them do during the deliberations and during the time here on City Council.

He thanked all the people in the audience and all the people of Charlotte who voted for him.

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Councilman Withrow introduced his wife, Florence, and his son, David, and his brother Earl who helped him get elected to this office.

Councilman Harris stated this Council is a reflection of the city itself - the blending together of our heritage of the past as well as the enthusiasm of the future. This combination of experience and excitement has a potential of providing dynamic leadership that will be responsive to the needs of the community both now and in the future. In accepting the responsibility of this office, he pledged to endeavor at all times to represent all of the citizens of this community to the best of his ability. He also pledged to encourage more citizen involvement in facing the challenges of today with positive action that reflects the spirit of our community. He also pledged to work together as a team member of the Council keeping in mind that consensus should be the best of the whole body rather than just a simple point of view.

Councilman Harris recognized Hank Wilmer, Dot Presser, Jerry and Sandy Green, Betty Blanton, and Boyce Carrouthers. He introduced his wife, Sally, and his children, Ken, Charlie, Joe, Ben, Katie, Shannon and Chris. He stated they only have seven of their eight children with them today as one of them was under the weather. He stated this is one of the biggest reasons he is interested in good government in this city and in the future.

Councilwoman Locke stated it so so great to be here, sitting in this seat; that she has worked long for it, and she is going to work hard for all the people. She has three areas of people to thank. First, the 21,187 people that voted for her; that her husband has just begun to realize what is ahead. He had some tires changed the other day, and the attendant saw some of her fliers in the back of the car and said to her husband - "Oh, you voted for my girl." Her husband replied that it just happened to be his wife. The man stated he voted for her and thought she was just great, and that she is really going to work hard for him. Councilwoman Locke stated she is going to work hard for that man that she has never met and for all the people who voted for her, and for all the people of Charlotte.

She introduced her friends who were present and who had worked very hard for her, Mary Harper, George Seldon, Dot Furr and Colleen Spencer.

Councilwoman Locke stated she would like to thank her family. One of her son's is not present today because he is away in college, and was gone most of the time during the campaign. Those that she will introduce have been wonderful; they were patient, understanding, loyal and gave her moral support and she would not be here without their love and dedication. She loves them, and appreciates everything they have done. She then recognized her daddy, husband and her sons, John and Jim.

Councilman Williams stated like many others of the Councilmembers he is very grateful to be here and feels very fortunate and is appreciative of all the work that everybody did to help him get elected, and appreciates all the people who voted for him to get him elected.

He introduced his wife, Murial who worked very hard and gave him a great deal of moral support at all times during the campaign.

Councilman Williams stated he hopes during the next two years he will be able to justify the confidence that all the voters expressed in him, and all of his friends and supporters. During the next two years there are going to be some problems that Council is going to have to come to grips with, and grapple with. In a city that is growing and that is as dynamic as Charlotte is, those problems are inevitable. We will have to face them; life is going to be more complex the bigger we get, and we will probably have to assume greater responsibility to meet the problems that a more complex life will present us with. At the City Council level, the government is probably closest to the people of any other place. If you are a representative in Raleigh or Washington, you might

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be a little out of touch with the people; but here is where we face the nitty-gritty. Here is where people call us about the stop lights on the streets, about the zoning matters or about their trash being picked up. We must be responsive to the citizens who elected us. In making policy decisions, we need to balance individual inconveniences of our decisions or individual inconveniences that our decisions might cause against the public good, and remember at all times the public good is the star that we are trying to follow. If when we are making these policy decisions, we do disagree, let's hope that we will not be disagreeable in disagreeing and in that way we can move ahead and bring progress to the whole city.

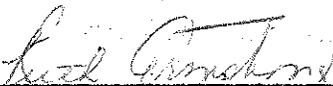
RECOGNITION OF CITY MANAGER, FORMER CITY MANAGER, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY.

Mayor Belk stated Bill Veeder, who was the City Manager for over a decade, was in the audience earlier. That he did serve us well, which shows that under his leadership and under David Burkhalter's leadership, we have fine and excellent people who are working for the betterment of the services for the citizens of Charlotte. He stated they are loyal, very dedicated and excellent people.

Mayor Belk stated he would like to recognize Mr. George Dowdy, a former member of the Housing Authority.

ADJOURNMENT.

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



Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk