

A regular meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at 11 o'clock a.m., on Wednesday, December 28, 1949, with Mayor Shaw presiding, and Councilmen Aitken, Albea, Boyd, Coddington, Daughtry, Jordan and Wilkinson present.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

HEARING ON AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO REZONING VACANT PROPERTY AT THE CORNER OF PECAN AVENUE AND INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, FIXED FOR JANUARY 18, 1950.

Mr. J. R. Thomas requested that the vacant lot at the corner of Pecan Avenue and Independence Boulevard be rezoned from R-1 to B-1, as recommended by the Zoning Board of Adjustment and deferred by the City Council on November 30th, until the completion of Independence Boulevard. Mr. Thomas stated the traffic lights were now being erected on the Boulevard for its immediate opening, and as he desired to erect a Shoe Store on the lot in question to be completed prior to March 1st, he was again presenting his request. He further stated the only objector, Mr. B. H. Reid, at the hearing on November 30th now advises he was mistaken in the location and no longer objects to the rezoning.

Councilman Coddington moved that a hearing in the matter be fixed on January 18, 1950, and the date be advertised in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilman Boyd, and unanimously carried.

HONORABLE R. L. MCMULLAN OF RALEIGH VISITOR AT MEETING.

The Honorable R. L. McMullan of Raleigh was present and was introduced by Councilman Boyd as being a member of the Raleigh Bar, Past Department Commandar of the American Legion and past Vice-Commandar of the National American Legion. Mr. McMullan expressed interest in the meeting of the Governing Body of Charlotte, having served as a member of the Raleigh Planning Board and as Attorney for the Raleigh School Board. Mayor Shaw expressed his pleasure at having Mr. McMullan present.

OPPOSITION TO CONVERTING EAST FIFTH STREET CEMETERY INTO A PARK EXPRESSED BY MISS JULIA ALEXANDER.

Opposition to the suggested conversion of the old East Fifth Street Cemetery into a park was expressed by Miss Julia Alexander, who stated a similar plan by former Mayor Baxter last spring had "back fired". She referred to the Mayor's statement that Old Trinity Church Cemetery in the heart of New York City was open to the public, and stated it was enclosed with an iron fence, closed at night and constantly guarded and not allowed to be a loafing place for undesirables. She expressed the belief that the reported use of Park and Recreation Bond Funds for this project would be illegal. Miss Alexander recommended that benches be placed along the City Hall walk-ways for the use of the public at large and city employees. Mayor Shaw thanked Miss Alexander for her interest and remarks.

PETITION PRESENTED BY J. B. VOGLER PROTESTING THE ERECTION OF LIMITED PARKING SIGNS ON EAST FOURTH STREET, BETWEEN MCDOWELL STREET AND HAWTHORNELANE.

Mr. J. B. Vogler presented a petition which he stated was signed by practically every merchant on East 4th Street, between McDowell Street and Hawthorne Lane, expressing opposition to the proposed restricted parking on the south side of East 4th Street between 8 and 10 o'clock a.m., and on the north side from 4 to 6 o'clock p.m. He stated the merchants within the area would suffer a serious loss in business if the parking restriction is enforced. He suggested that East 4th Street be made a one-way street west during the suggested two hours morning period, and one-way east during the

afternoon period.

Mayor Shaw assured Mr. Vogler it is not the intention of the Council to work a hardship on any citizen of Charlotte; however, due to the rapid growth of Charlotte and the traffic volume, it is necessary to provide the facilities required for the largest number of citizens; also, that the parking restriction was proposed for a 60 to 90 day trial period. He further stated that no restriction would be enforced until a conference of the Council on the subject.

Councilman Daughtry moved that the City's Traffic Engineer meet with the Council next Wednesday for a discussion of the matter. Motion was seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA TO INVESTIGATE MOTOR BUS SERVICE IN THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE.

Councilman Boyd introduced a resolution entitled, "Resolution Requesting the Utilities Commission of the State of North Carolina to Investigate Motor Bus Service in the City of Charlotte". Following the reading thereof, Councilman Boyd moved the adoption of the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Daughtry, and unanimously carried. Resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 1, beginning at Page 232.

LEASE OF AIRPORT BUILDING TO ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried, the lease of Building No. 290 (Theatre No. 2) at Douglas Municipal Airport was authorized to St. Patrick's Catholic Church, for use as a Chapel, at a rental of \$1.00 per annum.

CURB CUT AT 1311 EAST MOREHEAD STREET APPROVED.

Motion was made by Councilman Aitken, seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried, approving a 9-foot curb cut at 1311 East Morehead Street for a driveway, as requested by Nivens Construction Company.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SANITARY SEWER IN BRIAR CREEK ROAD APPROVED.

Councilman Albea moved approval of the construction by the city of a new 8-inch sanitary sewer in Briar Creek Road, for a distance of 446 feet, at an estimated cost of \$1,360.00, to serve 6 family units and 5 vacant lots. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried.

REPORT OF UNFIT HOUSING PRESENTED BY CITY MANAGER.

In accordance with the requirements of the City Code, the City Manager presented a report on Unfit Housing inspections, which showed that inspections were made and notices to make repairs sent during the month of November on 300 substandard houses; that 500 houses were inspected during this period as to whether required repairs were being made; that condemned signs were placed on 45 houses beyond repairs. The report showed that since the program was begun in August 1948, 2,790 substandard houses have been brought up to standard and 160 demolished, without a single family having been "put out in the street".

CEMETERY DEEDS TRANSFERRED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Clerk were authorized to execute deeds for the transfer of the following cemetery lots:

- (a) Deed to M. H. Powers, for east half of Lot 173, in Section 3, Evergreen Cemetery, at \$52.00.
- (b) Transfer to W. P. Thomason and wife, from W. J. Scoggins and wife of Lot 21, Section L-Annex, in Elmwood Cemetery - at \$1.00 for transfer.

LEASE OF AIRPORT BUILDINGS REPORTED CONCLUDED.

The City Manager reported that leases had been concluded on the following buildings at Douglas Municipal Airport:

BUILDING NO.	LESSEE	MONTHLY RENTAL	DATE AND TERM OF LEASE
88 (renewal)	E. P. Nisbet Company	\$54.00	1-1-50 1 year
61 (renewal)	Morris Field Soda Shop	28.84	12-1-49 1 year
108	E. Pat Hall	20.00	12-1-49 monthly
287	Burnox Hydraulic Equipment Co.	28.00	12-1-49 3 years

PUBLIC HOUSING QUESTION REQUESTED DOCKETED FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT COUNCIL MEETING, AND COUNCILMEN INVITED TO GO ON TOUR OF INSPECTION OF HOUSING, BY MAYOR SHAW.

Mayor Shaw stated he is unhappy about the decision of the City Council at the last meeting on the public housing question, in that only a total of 600 units were approved instead of the 1000 needed and desired. He advised he knew, of his own knowledge, of existing needs for additional low-cost housing in Charlotte. He stated the criminal rate in Charlotte is too high, mainly because of congested and improper living conditions. He invited the Council to go on a tour of inspection of unfit housing this afternoon, together with the Slum Clearance Inspector. He requested that the question of Public Housing be placed on the Council Meeting Docket for next week.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT GIVEN PRESENTATION OF TAXICAB FARES MATTER.

Upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Daughtry, the unanimous consent of Council was given the presentation of the matter of taxicab fares.

TAXICAB ORDINANCE AMENDED CHANGING METERED RATE OF FARE.

Mayor Shaw stated when the present taxicab metered rates were established, it was on a temporary basis. Councilman Aitken stated that in view of the audit of taxicab companies by the City's auditors, Geo. G. Scott & Company, showing that each of the cab companies are losing money under the present rates, and the trial period of the present rates indicating the rates are too low, and the present rates having been established on a temporary basis, he moved that the Taxicab Ordinance (as amended) be further amended by striking out in Section 1 (a) the words "mile and one-half" and substituting in lieu thereof the word "mile", and in Section 2, by striking out the words "November 30, 1949" and substituting in lieu thereof the words "December 31, 1949". Motion was seconded by Councilman Coddington.

Councilman Boyd spoke in opposition to the increase in taxicab fares and to metered fares in general. He vigorously opposed the adoption of the amendment, stating the fares under the metered system are now too high and are depriving the citizens of Charlotte from using taxicabs essential to their work. He urged that the petition of some 90% of the drivers of Red Top Cab Company and Victory Cab Company for the return of the 25 cent taxi fare, be adopted.

Councilman Coddington replied to Councilman Boyd, that he was interested in a taxicab system in Charlotte of which the Council could be proud and that will give dependable service.

Councilman Aitken called attention to the fact that the ordinance provides for the established rate being the "maximum" and that any Cab Company so desiring may operate on a reduced rate; also, that the call service of Cabs operating on a 25 cent rate would not be dependable.

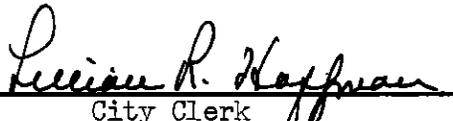
The vote was then taken on the motion by Councilman Aitken to amend the taxicab ordinance, fixing the rate at 35 cents for the first mile, and carried, with the votes cast as follows:

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AYE: Councilmen Aitken, Albea, Coddington, Daughtry and Wilkinson.
NAY: Councilmen Boyd and Jordan.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Aitken, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.



City Clerk