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A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held on Tuesday, December 28, 1971, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, with Mayor John M. Belk presiding, and Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Patrick N. Calhoun, 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 Councilman James B. Whittington.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS RECOGNIZED.

Mr. Jim Beatty stated he is a very proud alumnus of Carolina, and this is the week the Tar Heels won the Sugar Bowl Basketball tournament and will go on down and win the Football Gator Bowl against the University of Georgia.

Mr. Beatty stated he is very proud and honored today, particularly, to present to the Mayor and City Council the very lovely, and beautiful young lady from Charlotte who was the Homecoming Queen at Garinger High School a couple of years ago, and is now the Homecoming Queen at the University at Chapel Hill; she is a senior and she is majoring in music; her speciality in that field is piano, and she wishes to bring to the Mayor and Council good tidings of great joy from the University of North Carolina basketball and football teams. Accompanying her today is her father, Mr. George Fragakis. He presented Miss Eve Fragakis.

Miss Fragakis stated it is an honor to be here today. That she hopes the good tidings of great joy she will bring will be a win in the Gator Bowl Tournament on Friday afternoon. After a win last night against Harvard, it is truly an honor to represent such a fine school, and especially one that has been so successful this year in its football program and basketball program.

Mayor Belk also recognized Mr. John and Mr. Mike Plumides.

Councilman Jordan stated also present with us today is Mr. Irwin Belk, brother of Mayor Belk.

PRESENTATION OF SLIDES ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EUROPEAN TRIP.

Councilman Jordan presented slides showing the waste disposal plant in Vienna which he and other members of the Council visited when they were on a Chamber of Commerce trip to Europe. He stated the delegation was greeted very warmly by the Secretary in the American Embassy in Vienna and the City officials.

Councilman Jordan stated the plant is right in the middle of a very fine neighborhood. That there is no fly ash or soot that gets away from this plant. He stated the trucks back into the plant and empty their trash and garbage into a deep concrete type ravine; you can stand at the top of the ravine and none of the dust will come up to where you are standing. It is then picked up by a crane and fed into the furnaces. The furnace is lighted one time with just a match, and it continues to burn from that point on. He stated fine homes are built right next to the plant and there have never been any objections to the plant from the neighbors. He stated the stack is 300 feet in height, and there is very little smoke or ash coming from the stack.

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He stated most of the packing and pressing of the blocks is done in the back of the building; the blocks are used for paving streets and making cement blocks.

Councilman Jordan stated they were told the plant cost \$5.0 million and they intend to amortize this over a ten year period; it is supposed to be self-supporting; it furnishes steam to hospitals and other medical facilities, laundries and public buildings. Also the pipes going from this building to the other buildings are six feet in diameter and run under the roads. In the winter time this heat keeps the roads clear of snow. The electricity that is not used is put into the city system so it does take care of itself.

Councilman Withrow stated Japan sent a crew of six engineers to study this plant. They had studied plants throughout the world, and they had decided this was the best facility in the world to copy. These six engineers stayed for one month and they operated the plant, and the manager of the plant only supervised the work. Japan has now installed one of these plants and they claim they can make blocks out of this material to sell, and it is paying off, and is a profitable operation as well as doing away with the solid waste. He stated as one of the pictures showed, the smoke is all white, and there is no dark smoke at all. They use electro static filters that take out all the carbon and air pollution. The pollution is 1.05. He stated they went out and rubbed their fingers along the fence in back of the plant, and there was no sediment along the fence or along the concrete at all. This proves there was no air pollution or any fallout from this stack.

Councilman Jordan stated this one plant takes care of 40% of the population of Vienna and they have under construction another plant which they expect will take care of all the trash and garbage in the City of Vienna.

Councilman Alexander stated one point is the refuse produced by this plant is usable. Aside from the residue they sell, the other they give away. It is used for building blocks and paving streets. They have already refined it to this point. The plant in Germany only uses its refuse for topography. Councilman Alexander also called attention to the fact this plant is right in the middle of a first class residential neighborhood. He stated the engineer and supervisor of this plant only make the equivalent of \$300.00 a month.

Councilman Calhoun stated they discussed among themselves the practical application of this plant; that apparently the federal government has made a pilot grant to a group in St. Louis, Missouri that involves the Union Electric Company of St. Louis, the City of St. Louis, and the Federal government. He stated they thought perhaps Duke Power Company should be interested because of the way the surplus power goes into a hospital and also into municipal operations. He stated it is too expensive for the City to go into by itself, but with partners we might look into it, and some research would be in order.

Mr. Irwin Belk stated these people have taken the waste and made an asset out of it. This plant not only generates electricity but in the summertime, the waste is used for cement blocks and the metal is picked up by a magnet and resold for scrap. He stated our waste here is a much larger problem than in any of the European countries.

Councilman Jordan stated while they were in Vienna the other members of the Delegation were looking at plants in Munich and Frankfurt. That it looks as though the countries all over Europe are going into this sort of waste disposal facility. That there is no place to take care of this garbage and refuse and they have to go into an incinerator type operation. This seems to be the most likely choice. He stated the group talked about this on the way back, and they hope we might be able to get the government to help or make this a pilot program over here. That the plants are quite expensive, but it seems this is what we are going to have to go to in the future.

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Councilman Calhoun stated Vienna is a major city with a population of about 1,700,000, and this plant takes care of about 40% of the trash and garbage.

Councilman Alexander stated they do not burn wood in this plant; they do not dispose of their wood trash by burning; that he does not remember how they dispose of it.

Councilman Jordan stated the Superintendent of the Plant makes \$3,600 a year; he is a very capable person and very knowledgeable; he was in the operation from its beginning. That someone asked him if he might consider coming to Charlotte to start one of the plants, and he was ready to go right then.

Mr. Fred Bryant, of the Planning Staff, then presented slides of the remainder of the trip.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1972 ON THE SELECTION OF A REDEVELOPER FOR DISPOSITION PARCEL NO. 4, DOWNTOWN URBAN RENEWAL AREA, PROJECT NO. N. C. A-3.

Mr. W. J. Smith, Chairman of the Redevelopment Commission, stated the Commission held a special meeting yesterday, and he is present today to tell Council about some of the decisions made and to make some requests.

The Redevelopment Commission has reached the conclusion that a high density project in the entire first block of Downtown Urban Renewal Area is the most desirable development for this area to conform to the redevelopment plan and the concepts of the study prepared by Ponte-Travers and Wolfe Associates. That the objective can best be accomplished by a single developer. The Redevelopment Commission advertised for a public hearing which was held on December 22, 1971 inviting interested developers to submit proposals consisting of certain minimum requirements, financial qualifications and other information establishing that they are available, qualified and willing to carry out this development. A joint venture, known as Independence Square Associates, which is to be owned by subsidiaries of the NCNB Corporation and Crow, Carter and Associates of Atlanta, Georgia, was the only developer to submit a proposal, financial and other qualifications. The Redevelopment Commission has determined that Independence Square Associates is the only available, qualified and willing developer to assure development which will have the desired beneficial effect upon the neighboring property, the project area, and the community as a whole as contemplated by the redevelopment plan; that the proposed use for redevelopment will assure that the property will not remain unused for an unduly long period, and will result in a return to the local ad valorem tax rolls at a substantially earlier date than uses or redevelopments obtained by other methods of disposition.

Under North Carolina urban redevelopment law the Commission is permitted to negotiate with such developer if such findings are verified and approved by the City Council after a public hearing.

Mr. Smith stated they would like to ask the City Council to approve a resolution calling for a public hearing on this matter. He stated the Commission did not, nor is the City Council being asked, to approve any plans or specifications at this time. At the same time, they were very pleased at the similarity of the design concept which Independence Square Associates presented, and they made the comparison with the Ponte-Travers Wolfe plan.

He stated the Commission in meeting yesterday approved the negotiated method of sale which is permitted under law; the Commission approved Independence Square Associates as meeting the legal requirements of being available, qualified, and willing to develop the block in a manner previously described.

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Mr. Smith stated they would like for Council to agree to this method of sale and to confirm the Commission's findings concerning Independence Square Associates. Council is not being asked to approve plans and specifications. The Redevelopment Commission will do this in greater detail at a later date on several different points at which they must negotiate with Independence Square Associates. Still further, at a later date, the Commission will come back to Council and ask Council to approve the sale of land to them, assuming all the negotiations go as they hope.

He stated it has been pointed out that this is a very attractive piece of property, and it should be developed by someone that can pour into the project literally millions of dollars. This will have great benefit to the city. Even though it is very attractive property, it will require a large corporation with many millions of dollars available to undertake such a venture as this. We are fortunate that one of our leading state, local and regional organizations, a financial institution, the very fine NCNB, finds it is within their time schedule to relocate their principal office. The community is fortunate that this timing is as it is. They must move and they must move quickly. He stated the Commission would like Council to approve what they have done, and would like for Council to call for a public hearing to go through the legal requirements so this can be completed as early as possible.

Councilman Short moved adoption of a resolution calling for a public hearing on Friday, January 14, 1972, at 11:00 A.M. on the selection of a redeveloper for Disposition Parcel No. 4, Downtown Urban Renewal Area, Project No. N. C. A-3. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 8, beginning at Page 21.

Councilman McDuffie asked the valuation of the property now so that a person can see at a glance the advantages? Mr. Sawyer replied he does not recall but will be glad to furnish Council with the information.

ORDINANCE NO. 326-X AMENDING THE 1971-72 BUDGET ORDINANCE TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE CONTINGENCY FUND TO FINANCE THE INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES.

Councilman Whittington moved adoption of the subject ordinance transferring \$2,400 to finance the installation of two flashing lights in the vicinity of Woodlawn and Murrayhill Roads, and in the vicinity of Eastway and Shamrock Drives. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 18, at Page 424.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE ELECTING TO RETAIN THE NONPARTISAN PRIMARY AND ELECTION METHOD TO DETERMINE THE RESULTS OF ITS ELECTIONS FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL.

Motion was made by Councilman Withrow, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, adopting the subject resolution.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 8, at Page 23.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF MODEL CITIES CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS TO JANUARY 31, 1972.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, the subject resolution was adopted extending from December 31, 1971 to January 31, 1972 all appropriate contractual agreements between the Model Cities Department and third party contractors.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 8, at Page 24.

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Mayor Belk asked if this means we will get only nine months, and Mr. Wilson, Executive Director, replied no, that it is being done mainly to conform to North Carolina Laws which will not allow them to spend funds without some budget record. Mr. Wilson stated this is just to extend this year's budget through January; the HUD contract will come to us sometime late in January, and it will be retroactive to January 1. It is a matter of overlapping contract years. HUD is just a little less late this year than last year. We lost three months last year; we will not lose any months in terms of their continuing the contract. This is simply extending this year's contract to cover expenses the first part of next year until we get a legal contract extended to us.

Councilman McDuffie asked what they are doing to conform to North Carolina law? Mr. Carstarphen, Assistant City Manager, replied as a result of the move the Council made a little over a year ago to incorporate the Model Cities program wholly into the city's administrative program, we are required to conform to the North Carolina Fiscal Control Act. That act requires wherever expenditures are incurred that appropriations approved by the local governing body be made in advance. We did this with the model cities program last year; however, anticipating the calendar year operations with the federal government with regard to this program, we stipulated the termination of the contracts to December 31, 1971. Subsequent to that time, we have been advised by HUD that due to some of their internal delays they will be unable to offer us the valid funding contract for the third year of our program, which technically begins January 1, 1972, until after that date - sometime late in January. Therefore, we were left with a gap of almost a month where we had no valid appropriations. We do have adequate funds. The purpose of the action today is to have Council to validate these appropriations for an additional month in order to allow these third party contractors and this department of the city government to continue to operate legally and in accordance with the Fiscal Control Act.

ORDINANCE NO. 327-X AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 190-X, THE 1971 MODEL CITIES BUDGET ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXTENSION OF MODEL CITIES SECOND YEAR APPROPRIATION FROM DECEMBER 31, 1971 TO JANUARY 31, 1972 AND REVISING APPROPRIATIONS TO ACCOMMODATE JANUARY EXPENDITURES.

Motion was made by Councilman Short to adopt the subject ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander, and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 18, beginning at Page 425.

ORDINANCE NO. 328 AMENDING CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE II, SECTION 15 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE RELATIVE TO CURBSIDE SERVICE, ADOPTED.

Councilman Short stated the trash and garbage provisions now basically call for two visits a week to everyone's backyard, plus the pick-up each Wednesday of an unlimited amount of containerized or bundled small trash. In studying the operations in a number of cities, the Council's Litter Committee felt Greensboro had a feature which the citizens of Charlotte would find helpful and which could be done within the constraints of a clean city and a clean environment. Greensboro does not require containerizing or bundling of limbs between four and five feet long. Limbs of this length will fit into a packer and when they have the protruding foliage removed and are neatly piled, sanitation workers lift them into the packers without bundling. He stated the Committee believes this is a practical plan for Charlotte, and has prepared an ordinance to accomplish this. This ordinance rewrites a portion of what the city previously had. The effect is just as he has mentioned; it would excuse from the necessity of containerizing or bundling those larger limbs, but still of a size to fit within a packer provided they are neatly stacked, and the excess foliage is removed from them. It is a little bit unique in that it represents somewhat of a compromise in bundling provisions. They did not find this anywhere else in the United States. The rest of the towns seems to have either the bundling outright or not to have it.

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Councilman Short moved adoption of Ordinance No. 328 amending Chapter 10, Article II, Section 15 of the Code of the City of Charlotte to become effective January 17, 1972. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington.

Councilman Jordan stated in dealing with the refuse collection he feels this is a city service on a daily basis the homeowner can fully appreciate, and can easily see what he gets for his money. He feels he pays enough taxes for a good service and has been accustomed to getting good service through the years, and objects when undue restrictions on collection or preparation of materials for collection are imposed upon him. He stated the broad concept of refuse, meaning both garbage and trash, can best be described as any material that may be generated incident to the ordinary conduct of a household. This includes the many different items other than the normal kitchen garbage such as food stuffs. It means old toys, furniture, appliances, limbs, leaves and shrubbery trimmings, boxes, cartons, and other similar items that become a real problem to dispose or get rid of. There never has been any real problems or criticisms of the way in which the city has collected household garbage; it has always been in cans behind the houses, picked up twice a week. The City has always looked upon garbage as being its primary responsibility.

Councilman Jordan stated he does not feel the problem at present really concerns garbage collection as such, unless it is the number of cans that the people are restricted to at present. The real problem is what to do with trash and what he has to say refers primarily to this problem.

He stated the present ordinance is written, insofar as trash is concerned, to eliminate the trash trucks. No trash items, containerized or not, tied with strings or not, can be placed on the curb and picked up unless it will go in or fit in a rear end packer. Our trash trucks are a forgotten item. This eliminates the pickup of limbs longer than 5 feet in length, or any large or bulky items that will not fit into a rear end packer. All open top trash trucks, of which there are now approximately 20 to 30 available in number, have been removed from service, and parked on the city lot. Therefore, trash of any length or size that will not fit into a packer is left on the streets. This is what the people are complaining about, and unless these trash trucks are put back into service to pick up such items, the people will continue to be unhappy. He stated this is the answer to the whole matter. The people are accustomed to placing the limbs they cut from their trees and shrubbery, boxes, old items of furniture and appliances when necessary, on the curb for pickup. If the city does not make these collections there is no one else available to turn to, for pay or not, to remove these items. The people want this service and they are paying for it, and they will not be happy until they get it.

Councilman Jordan stated he does not think the present ordinance, as it now stands, meets the needs of the people. They want something better. He stated it should contain at least the following requirements:

1. The limit of three cans will be acceptable, but the citizens should be allowed to place household garbage as well as trash items in these cans. Trash in this instance meaning grass and shrubbery trimmings, small boxes, and the like that can easily be placed in cans. This is similar in all respects to what it used to be and worked out very well. The two services a week for the collection of this type material from behind the house has always been adequate for their needs.
2. Limbs up to eight feet in length and no more than three inches in diameter resulting from normal tree trimming should be placed at the curb in a neat pile with the butt end toward the street for ease of handling. These should be picked up without any further restrictions. If a contractor does the work he should be required to remove the material. The amount of limbs that an owner normally places at the curb for collection has never been a problem.

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3. Bulky items such as boxes, cartons, toys, old furniture, and appliances should be picked up at the curb. These items have to be considered as trash items incident to the ordinary conduct of a household and there is no other party available to haul such items, for pay or not, and these are the items that now lay on the streets for weeks at a time.

Councilman Jordan stated he feels the city should give the homeowner pickup service on items he has mentioned because business houses are given a similar service in our bulk container operation. One 8-cubic yard bulk container emptied twice a week is equivalent to about 112 standard size garbage cans. This makes him feel the homeowner, who pays most of the bill anyway, should be given equal consideration when it comes to the pickup of trash.

He stated if the above suggestions are incorporated into an ordinance it will take care of most of the problems the people are complaining about. This will require putting our trash trucks back onto the street on a once a week, or month basis. The pickup of trash could be on the regular schedule now being used, and publicized so the citizens will know when to place their material on the curb. On a weekly or monthly basis, this should not cost more than possibly \$100,000 to \$150,000 additional. This would cover the cost of labor and maintenance for the open top trash trucks with a driver and one helper, and we have the trucks. The driver in this case would also help load the truck. The city operated trash trucks in this department for years with this type arrangements, and this was all the personnel needed to do a commendable job on trash pickup.

Councilman Jordan suggested that the following restrictions be placed on trash:

1. Absolutely no hauling of limbs, tree trunks, etc. resulting from work performed by a contractor for the homeowner.
2. Absolutely no hauling of trees or rubbish resulting from land being cleared for building purposes.
3. No stumps or logs hauled by the city in any instance.
4. No building materials resulting from home improvements to be hauled by the city.
5. No dirt, rocks, concrete, bricks, or similar heavy materials to be hauled by the city.
6. Absolutely no hazardous materials of any nature such as explosives to be hauled by the city.
7. Trash on the streets should be separated into like items, such as limbs in one pile, other items in like piles, for ease in handling.

He stated the present ordinance requirements covering the pickup of leaves is adequate.

Councilman Jordan stated he would like for Council to consider these recommendations; that perhaps we could get together on the two ordinances as they are similar in some instances.

Councilman McDuffie stated he would like to vote on the ordinance proposed by the Litter Committee, and then have further discussion on junk removal which is not incorporated into the ordinance as presented.

Councilman Alexander stated if any changes are to be made he would like to see it done all at one time; this is the first time he has read in detail the Committee's proposal, and this is the first time he has heard Mr. Jordan's proposal.

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After further discussion, the vote was taken on the motion to adopt the ordinance as submitted by the Committee, and carried by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmen Short, Whittington, Calhoun, McDuffie, Withrow and Alexander.

NAYS: Councilman Jordan.

Councilman Alexander stated he did not vote but realizes that under the Council's present policy he will be counted as voting with the majority. That he is just not ready to vote on this today. That he would like to give consideration to both of them together.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 18, beginning at Page 427.

PARKING PROGRAM FOR THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, APPROVED.

Councilman Whittington stated on August 24, 1970, Wilbur Smith & Associates presented a parking program for the central business district. Following this feasibility report, Council authorized the holding of a public hearing to determine that public necessity and convenience would be served by the City providing off-street parking facilities.

Recently the Council received a report from the planning consultants which indicated that Site B of the Wilbur Smith Report, bounded by College Street, Fourth Street, Third Street and Tryon Street should be developed first to coincide with the immediate development in that area. In order to proceed with the development of Site B of the Wilbur Smith report, it will be necessary to develop a functional plan to determine the amount of land needed. Since several land parcels are available, several alternate plans should be outlined using various configurations. This would lead to the selection of the most efficient and economical parking facility. He stated our attorneys and staff have recommended that Council do four things.

Councilman Whittington presented and read a resolution entitled: Resolution by the City Council of the City of Charlotte finding that public necessity and convenience would be served by the provision of off-street parking facilities maintained by the City of Charlotte, and authorizing the City Manager to develop plans for providing said off-street parking facilities.

Councilman Whittington moved the adoption of the resolution, which motion was seconded by Councilman Calhoun, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 8, beginning at Page 25.

Councilman Whittington moved approval of appraisal contracts with Stewart W. Elliott and Willis Henderson for appraisal work in connection with the parking garage at a cost of \$10,700 each. The motion was seconded by Councilman Calhoun, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Whittington moved approval of a survey and mapping contract with Spratt-Seavers Incorporated at a cost not to exceed \$3,000 on Site B. The motion was seconded by Councilman Calhoun, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Whittington moved adoption of Ordinance No. 329-X amending Ordinance No. 176-X, the 1971-72 Budget Ordinance transferring \$30,000 from the general fund contingency account to provide funds for appraisal and surveying fees for the proposed parking facility. The motion was seconded by Councilman Calhoun, and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 18, at Page 429.

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Councilman McDuffie stated in adopting the Ponte-Wolfe study it brought the concept of pedestrian walkway downtown, and that is the reason he can support at least the preliminary studies for the parking garage which he thinks will tie the downtown together with the pedestrian walkway and make it a unique downtown in the United States. The downtown area is a shopping area like other shopping centers, and we have to consider if a parking garage is built it will provide revenue to pay its own way. At least that is the projection we get, and there is a need for it. If other shopping centers become so congested that they could support a parking deck, that we would consider entering into an agreement with those people to do the same thing. That would be on the basis of enough need and revenue for it to pay its own way. This one downtown seems to point to municipal ownership because of the number of parcels of land involved, which only a municipality with condemnation procedures can acquire. He stated he would like for the public to know he can support this because it is unique and there are three or four other sites for parking garages downtown that hopefully will be developed by private enterprise. That the city will, in effect, be opening the door and tying together downtown, and that private enterprise will invest more money and there will be a smaller need for the city to invest its own funds. The walkway is the heart of the thing, and without that, he would be reluctant to talk about a parking deck itself.

DISCUSSION OF JUNK PICKUP AT CURB REQUESTED PLACED ON AGENDA IN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

Councilman McDuffie stated he would like in the next two weeks for Council to put on the agenda for discussion the matter of junk collection. That he personally thinks we should have junk clean ups every six weeks, which would be about nine times a year, and if possible to do it on Saturdays with the open trucks. They could carry off furniture and bulky items that will not fit in the back of packer trucks.

He requested the City Manager to have the Public Works Director to give Council some figures, so when this is considered Council will know exactly how much money is necessary. He stated there is enough feeling to make this kind of change to help people haul off junk.

COUNCILMAN WHITTINGTON ADVISES HE WILL ENTER THE HOSPITAL ON SUNDAY AND WILL BE AWAY FROM COUNCIL SESSION FROM THREE TO SIX WEEKS.

Councilman Whittington stated he will enter one of the local hospitals on Sunday for a hip removal, and will be out for three to six weeks. That he hopes everything goes along smoothly for Council while he is away.

Mayor Belk replied that each one will be praying for him. That he knows this is a trying time for him, physically as well as mentally.

COUNCILMAN CALHOUN LEAVES MEETING.

Councilman Calhoun left the meeting at this time and was absent for the remainder of the Session.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FIREMEN RETIREMENT SYSTEM REQUESTED TO WORK WITH PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTUARIAL EXPERTS TO BRING COUNCIL A STUDY ON BUILT-IN COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR FUTURE RETIREES.

Councilman Short stated there is a situation where retired firemen are seeking cost of living assistance in their pension; on the other hand the currently acting firemen are not so eager to have this because it means they have to make a greater contribution, and it is withheld from their salary. This matter boiled over into the legislature on a number of occasions until

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finally the legislature passed legislation passing this matter on into the hands of City Council provided it first gets advice from the Firemen's Retirement Board of Trustees. Council has on hand a recommendation from the Firemen's Board of Trustees on this matter, they having met recently to consider whether we should give an added pension to retired firemen. Among the provisions of their recommendations to Council, is a paragraph which states the Board of Trustees of the Firemen pension fund recommends to the Council that a study be made as to the advisability of adopting a built-in cost of living increase in retirement benefits for future retirees to be funded by additional deductions from the payroll of firemen, and matching contributions from the city. The recommendation is made in order that requests for appropriations for future retirees will not have to be made from time to time on a demand basis by the City Council. This is a recommendation that Council attempt to get this in order once and for all, and not have to contend with it periodically.

Councilman Short stated he thinks that Council should not do anything on recommendations listed as (a), (b), (c) and (d) until it gets this study made, and then Council will be in a position to hem up the whole matter, and will have the whole ball of wax right in our hands.

Councilman Short moved that Council ask the Board of Trustees of the Firemen's Retirement System to work with Mr. Earle's Department and to work with their actuarial experts to prepare this study for Council, and this study to come back to Council publicly; and regardless of the channel of command that Council allow any individual who wants to speak on the subject to appear when it is presented to Council. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington.

Councilman Short stated Mr. Earle tells him this is mostly a matter of updating, and should be available in a very few weeks.

After discussion, the vote was taken on the motion, and carried unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP ON HOUSING AUTHORITY INCREASED FROM FIVE TO SEVEN MEMBERS.

Councilman Alexander stated the General Assembly has changed the general statutes as it affects housing authorities to the extent that: "An authority shall consist of not less than five (5) nor more than nine (9) commissioners appointed by the mayor, who shall designate the first chairman. No commissioner may be a city official; council may at any time by resolution or ordinance increase or decrease the membership of an authority within the limitations herein prescribed."

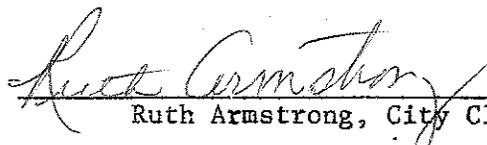
Councilman Alexander stated under this authority he moved that Council increase the membership of the Charlotte Housing Authority from five (5) to seven (7) members. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short.

Councilman Short stated the motion does not include that one of these members would be a tenant. The mayor is the appointing authority, and he recommends the mayor consider this possibility.

The vote was taken on the motion, and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.

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


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk