

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber in the City Hall, on Monday, December 4, 1961, at 3 o'clock p.m., with Mayor Brookshire presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Bryant, Dellinger, Jordan, Smith, Thrower and Whittington present.

ABSENT: None.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by the Reverend Philip Shore, Pastor of First Methodist Church.

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF D. M. ABERNETHY.

A resolution in memory of former Mayor D. M. Abernethy was presented and read, and upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Whittington, was unanimously adopted. The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 4, at Page 160.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Whittington, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the last meeting on November 27th were approved as submitted.

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO CITY EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION DAY, ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Thrower, and unanimously carried, a resolution entitled "Resolution Relative to City Employee Recognition Day" was adopted. The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 4, at Page 161.

ACTION RELATIVE TO TRANSFER OF BRANCH LIBRARY PROPERTY AT 401 S. BREVARD STREET TO REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION DEFERRED ONE WEEK.

Councilman Jordan moved that action on the request of the Redevelopment Commission for the transfer of title to the Branch Library property at 401 South Brevard Street from the City of Charlotte to the Commission, be deferred one week as suggested by the City Manager who wishes to check into some phases of the transfer. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

CONTRACT AUTHORIZED WITH NANCE-TROTTER REALTY, INC. FOR INSTALLATION OF WATER MAINS IN LEWISTON AVENUE AND WILLARD STREET.

Councilman Albea moved approval of a contract with Nance-Trotter Realty, Inc., for the installation of 1,000-ft. of water main in Lewiston Avenue and Willard Street, at an estimated cost of \$1,600.00. The City to finance all costs and applicant to guarantee an annual gross water revenue equal to 10% of the total cost. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thrower, and unanimously carried.

Company, the low bidder, for the demolition and removal of buildings within the right of way of the proposed East 5th and East 6th Street Connectors, at their bid price of \$3,525.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

The following bids were received;

Norman's House Demolishing Company	\$ 3,525.00
Cleveland Wrecking Company	\$ 5,380.00
Suggs Wrecking & Removal Company	\$ 6,135.00

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY LOTS.

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

- (a) Deed with J. J. Haynis and wife, for Grave #4, Lot 25-C, Section 3, Evergreen Cemetery, at \$60.00.
- (b) Deed with Albert S. Miller and wife, for Lot 96, Section 6, Oaklawn Cemetery, transferred from Walter M. Miller and wife, at \$3.00 for transfer deed.

CONTRACT AWARDED THE SOUTHERN COMPANY FOR VITRIFIED CLAY PIPE FOR THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

Motion was made by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried, awarding contract to The Southern Company, the low bidder, for 75,000 lin. feet of 4", 6", 8", 10" and 12" Vitrified Clay Pipe, for the Engineering Department, at their bid price of \$36,033.06, on a unit price basis, by the following recorded vote:

YEAS: Councilmen Whittington, Jordan, Albea, Bryant, Smith and Thrower.

Councilman Dellinger being temporarily absent from the meeting.

The following bids were received:

The Southern Company of Charlotte	\$ 36,033.06
Pomona Terra-Cotta Company	36,333.25
Georgia Vitrified Brick & Clay Co.	36,891.05
Doggett Lumber Company	38,074.57

CONTRACT AWARDED INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY FOR PICK-UP TRUCK FOR MOTOR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Smith, and carried, contract was awarded International Harvester Company, the low bidder, for One 1/2-ton Pick-up Truck for the Motor Transport Department, at their bid price of \$1,747.15, by the following recorded vote:

YEAS: Councilmen Albea, Smith, Bryant, Jordan, Thrower and Whittington.

Councilman Dellinger being temporarily absent from the meeting.

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The following bids were received:

International Harvester Company	\$ 1,747.15
King Chevrolet Company	\$ 1,781.04

CONTRACT AWARDED HENDERSON MOTOR COMPANY FOR COMPACT PANEL TRUCK FOR TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Whittington moved the award of contract to Henderson Motor Company, the low bidder, for One Compact Panel Truck for the Traffic Engineering Department, at their bid price of \$1,759.42. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried by the following recorded vote:

YEAS: Councilmen Whittington, Jordan, Albea, Bryant, Smith and Thrower.

Councilman Dellinger being temporarily absent from the meeting.

The following bids were received:

Henderson Motor Company	\$ 1,759.42
King Chevrolet Company	\$ 1,968.32

HOUSING COMMITTEE OF CHARLOTTE BRANCH, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, REQUESTS LOW COST PUBLIC HOUSING FOR FAMILIES WHO CANNOT PAY RENTAL WHICH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE MUST CHARGE FOR DECENT HOMES.

Mr. Kelly Alexander, Executive Secretary, Charlotte Branch, NAACP, was the main spokesman for their Housing Committee, and requested Council to provide more low-rent public housing for negro families who cannot afford to pay rents that private enterprise must charge for decent homes. He stated public housing is immediately needed to adequately house the displaced families of the Brooklyn Area in the Urban Redevelopment Project, who are being moved by the Redevelopment Commission into high rent areas where the rents are too high for their low incomes. He stated there has been no low-rent public housing constructed in Charlotte since 1953, the last such project for negroes being Southside Homes constructed in 1952. That Negro wages are still far below the wage of the average white worker. Everything has gone up except Negro wages, and they are too low to pay the rent private enterprise must charge. He stated that families who depend on old age assistance, aid to dependent children, aid to the blind, aid for permanently disabled; social security unemployment compensation, veterans administration benefits and railroad retirement, cannot possibly pay rentals which private enterprise requires. That the result is negro families are moving from one slum area to another. That if the objective of the Urban Redevelopment program is the improvement of housing conditions for displaced families, a complete new look must be given the program as it relates to the relocation of families from the Brooklyn area; that many negroes of the Brooklyn area have been forced, because of their economic status, to be rehoused in another slum area in Greenville section, and the Third and First Wards. That it is a known fact that rental homes for \$5.00 and \$7.00 are available in the slums of Charlotte but there is no such housing being built by private enterprise, which is considered standard housing, that rents for \$5.00, \$6.00 or \$7.00 per week. Mr. Alexander asked if it is justice to force these people back to blighted areas when the City of Charlotte can secure the money from the Federal Government to construct low-rent public housing?

Councilman Smith questioned Mr. Alexander's statement that everything has gone up but negro salaries, and Mr. Alexander stated the domestics, chauffeurs and cooks are still receiving low wages - that he is speaking

of the mass worker. Councilman Smith asked further if he means to say the Redevelopment Commission has forced families to move to blighted areas? Mr. Alexander did not reply directly to the question but stated in many cities when the Urban Redevelopment program is started, they begin planning immediately for proper housing for the displaced persons.

Councilman Dellinger asked if Mr. Alexander thinks the families who have been moved from the Brooklyn area have been moved to slum areas? Mr. Alexander replied the greatest relief they have had was the Spangler project and Federal Housing. Councilman Dellinger stated the Redevelopment Commission has the responsibility of putting these families in decent places and if Mr. Alexander has specific information as to any who have been moved by the Commission to slum areas, then he should so advise the Council. At the question of Councilman Thrower as to what amount of rental he thinks these families should pay percentage wise, Mr. Alexander stated he thinks Fairview, Southside and Belvedere Homes, where the rent is based on income is fair.

Mayor Brookshire advised that the Housing Authority has told him they are willing to provide additional housing when the Redevelopment Commission asks for it, which they have not done. That it is the responsibility of the Commission to move people to decent housing and if this is not done they are not living up to their responsibility, and he thinks the Council will insist on the Commission living up to their duty.

The Reverend Peter Crawford, Pastor of Bethel African A.M.E. Church, stated he is much concerned over the crime wave and thinks everyone should stop and consider the cause and do all possible to prevent the development of slum areas.

Mrs. U. S. Brooks, President of the Charlotte Branch, NAACP, stated that what the Council considers good housing may be different from what they call it; that it is a fact that the only places open are shacks broken down by white families. In this way, more slums are created.

The Reverend E. J. Moore, Pastor of Brooklyn Presbyterian Church and Chairman of the Charlotte Branch, NAACP Housing Committee, stated he thinks it is time for us all to look at Charlotte's needs from the longest possible point of view. That the Council cannot do it by themselves and they will have to help the Council, and the Council will have to help them, but together it can be done.

Councilman Bryant commended Mr Moore on his statement, and stated he is right, it will take the cooperation of the two groups to put this over.

A resident of Double Oaks Apartments stated since their rent has gone up, it might be well for the Council to know that Double Oaks is not the place for the low-income families of Brooklyn, as some of the residents of Double Oaks will have to move because of the rent. That the one bedroom units increased on November 27th from \$9.25 to \$11.25 per week and two bedrooms from \$11.25 to \$12.00. Councilman Smith asked if permission did not have to be obtained from the Federal Housing Agency for this increase in rent, and he was advised that is correct. Councilman Dellinger asked the City Manager to find out about this by the next meeting.

Mayor Brookshire thanked the group for coming down and stated the Council will consider the problem and do everything possible.

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CITY MANAGER TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION RELATIVE TO ALL CONTRACTS AND PURCHASING TO BE HANDLED BY THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.

Councilman Smith asked the City Manager if he has had time to study putting another man in the Purchasing Department and putting all purchasing in that office? Mr. Veeder stated he got back in the city only today and has not looked into the matter.

Councilman Whittington stated he talked with the Purchasing Agent today; that requested funds for an additional Clerk and Stenographer amounting to some \$6,000.00 was cut out of the Purchasing Department budget. That he thinks this should be put back in the Budget and put all contracts and purchasing back in this Department for Mr. Beatty to handle.

Councilman Dellinger stated he would want it understood that all purchasing of all types would be put back with Mr. Beatty.

Mr. Veeder stated this was discussed before he went on vacation with regard to independent agencies and he thinks all purchasing should be handled by the Purchasing Department.

Councilman Albea stated he would like the City Manager to make a complete report and recommendations as soon as possible.

CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF HELICOPTER REQUESTED.

Councilman Smith advised that a number of cities have purchased helicopters, which would be useful, particularly in police, fire and other emergency work, and he would like Council to consider the purchase of one for Charlotte.

CHIEFS OF POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS REQUESTED TO MAINTAIN GOOD APPEARANCE OF OFFICERS, AS AT SHRINE PARADE, IF FUNDS AVAILABLE.

Councilman Jordan commended the Police and Firemen for their excellent appearance in the Shrine Parade last Saturday, and moved if funds are available that their appearance be kept maintained in the same fashion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington, and unanimously carried.

RESIGNATION OF KENNETH A. GRIFFIN AS CITY SOLICITOR ACCEPTED.

Councilman Whittington moved the acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Kenneth A. Griffin as solicitor, with regrets. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

Councilman Dellinger recommended that Council have persons in mind to fill the vacancy at next week's meeting.

CITY MANAGER REQUESTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATION RELATIVE TO PURCHASE OF TAPE RECORDER FOR USE IN COUNCIL MEETINGS.

Councilman Thrower again recommended the purchase of a Tape Recorder for use in recording Council Meetings, which was deferred at last week's meeting until the return of the City Manager at the suggestion of Councilman Smith. It was suggested that the City Manager discuss the purchase with the City Clerk and give the Council his recommendation at the next meeting.

COUNCIL ADVISED FOUR MORE PARCELS OF LAND TO BE ACQUIRED BY CONDEMNATION FOR THE EAST 5TH AND EAST 6TH STREET CONNECTORS.

Councilman Dellinger advised he has received his requested report as to the number of lots still to be acquired for the East 5th and East 6th Street Connectors, and there are four more parcels to be acquired by condemnation.

DECEMBER 25TH AND 26TH DESIGNATED AS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES.

Councilman Jordan moved that December 25th and 26th be designated as Christmas holidays for City Employees, which was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

EMPLOYEE AWARDS NIGHT TO BE HELD DECEMBER 6TH AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE AUDITORIUM.

The City Manager advised that Service Awards will be presented City Employees at the Auditorium on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Brookshire advised he will be absent from the City and Mayor pro tem Whittington will act in his behalf. Councilman Thrower expressed his regret that he will be out of the city at that time.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRAFFIC ENGINEER RELATIVE TO LEFT TURNS AND THROUGH TRAFFIC VEHICULAR MOVEMENT ON INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD, ADOPTED.

Councilman Whittington moved that the recommendations of the Traffic Engineer relative to left turns and through traffic vehicular movement at various intersections on Independence Boulevard be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried. The recommendations as adopted are on file in the Office of the City Clerk. (Drawer 144, File 10)

ACTION ON NOVEMBER 27TH RESCINDED AUTHORIZING PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO IMPROVEMENTS TO PINEHURST PLACE.

Mr. Morrissey, City Attorney, called attention that at the last Council Meeting, action on October 30th was rescinded ordering the improvements on Pinehurst Place because of the withdrawal of a signature from the petition reducing the number of signers from a majority of the residents, and a public hearing was ordered on the petition. That in his opinion, there was nothing before the Council upon which a hearing may be had for the reason the original petition was written prior to the enactment of the Charter amendment by the 1961 General Assembly and, therefore, was not filed in contemplation of such provisions. Therefore, action calling a public hearing should be rescinded. Councilman Dellinger moved that action on November 27th calling a public hearing on the improvements be rescinded, which was seconded by Councilman Thrower, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Brookshire asked if the petition under the 1961 law has to have the signatures of 25% or 50% of the residents? Mr Morrissey advised the matter has been discussed with one of the residents of Pinehurst Place and he understands they should get as many signatures as possible, if they secure 51% the General Statutes will apply, if 25% it will come under the City's Charter amendment.

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He suggested that because of this confusion with regard to Pinehurst Place, it may be Council will wish to fix a time that signatures may be withdrawn from a petition.

Mayor Brookshire asked Mr. Morrissey to prepare the necessary resolution in this connection for Council consideration.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Lillian R. Hoffman
Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk