

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 250

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held on Monday, February 12, 1973, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, with Mayor pro tem Fred D. Alexander, presiding at the beginning of the session, and Councilmembers Ruth M. Easterling, Sandy R. Jordan, James D. McDuffie, Milton Short and James B. Whittington present.

ABSENT: Mayor John M. Belk at the beginning of the session, and Councilman Joe D. Withrow for the entire session.

* * * * *

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman James B. Whittington.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman McDuffie, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the meetings on January 30, and February 5, 1973 were approved as submitted.

CONTRACT WITH PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL AND COMPANY FOR AUDIT OF FEDERAL GRANT AGREEMENTS, APPROVED.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, approving the contract with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company for the audit of certificates of cost and performance in connection with various federal grant agreements, in the amount of \$15.00 per hour, or an annual ceiling of \$5,000.00, which will be charged to the applicable grant project.

MAYOR COMES INTO MEETING AND PRESIDES.

Mayor Belk came into the meeting at this time, and presides.

CONTRACT WITH TILLINGHAST AND COMPANY, INC. TO PERFORM ANNUAL ACTUARIAL VALUATION OF THE FIREMEN'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM, APPROVED.

Councilman Short moved approval of a contract with Tillinghast and Company, to perform the annual actuarial valuation of the Firemen's Retirement System, at a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman McDuffie.

Councilman McDuffie asked if this is out of the city budget; and if funds are not available in this system to perform this valuation? Mr. Bobo, Assistant City Manager, replied the funds are from the city, and they do not have the funds in this account to perform this. Councilman McDuffie stated it could be argued that all of this should be under one plan; that he thought someone was studying this with the thought of putting the two plans together. Councilman Short stated he thinks everyone was of the opinion that this would be good; but it was so complex to get done what Council was able to do, that the other problem was left off.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 251

Councilman Whittington asked if these funds are at the request of the Firemen's Retirement Board, or is this something the city is saying needs to be done? Mr. Bobo replied this is something that should be done annually, and it has been budgeted in the general funds. Councilman Jordan stated the city has been doing this for years. Councilman McDuffie stated somewhere there was a date, and after that date, everyone was to come under the city plan. Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated the State would not agree to take these plans over until they are made actuarially sound. The cost of doing this in cash money is over a million dollars. That the city did not have this kind of money to have the state take it over.

The vote was taken and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL GRANT FUNDS FOR PLANNING FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Councilman Alexander stated Council should be brought up to date on the present proposals for community development. That he is not against approving the resolution today; but Council should be brought up to date on what is being done now, rather than waiting until it is all done, and someone comes in and tells Council this is what has been done. He stated he is not asking for this today.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated Council has been asked to do one thing, and it has not been done. That is to approve the evaluation position. That is the only thing that has been proposed in community development so far.

Councilman Alexander stated we know we have to establish a community development planning process; and Council, itself, should be intelligently informed of what process is necessary in arriving at the community development planning process - the organization of it - so that Council could be a little more intelligently informed about it. Council is asked questions from the public about what is being done about community development. More people than Council know that community development is a part of things that have to come about. He stated all he can say is he is sure we are studying it; but that does not satisfy people who want to be informed and who would like to have a little stronger answer coming from an official. There should be some conferences to bring Council up to date about what we are thinking about as far as establishing a community development process.

Mr. Burkhalter advised the plan before Council today indicates the positions and the area in which planning is required by federal act to get these laws passed, and everybody says it will be.

Councilman Alexander stated his point is that Council should have a little more indepth knowledge on why it is required and why three positions are needed, and things of that sort. That before giving his approval he would like to be updated on why we moved into this particular position for approval; then he is a little better attuned to how he can come up with his decision to approve the resolution when it is submitted.

Mr. Burkhalter stated he will bring this to the next meeting. The federal government has informed us they intend to remove these grant programs, and the President has stopped them. They have said to all cities, that cities will soon be asked to serve as the contact instrument in the delivery of the program. Council will have this responsibility. What is being done today by Council is to give Staff the opportunity to get the information to give to Council so that Council will be able to determine which of these programs it wants to continue. The last federal act that was introduced said Council is going to have to determine the needs; provide the delivery and evaluate the programs. He stated this is talking about the programs that we are now involved in. There are 31 model cities programs; there are a tremendous number of programs involved in the Charlotte Area Fund.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 252

Councilman Alexander stated he is only trying to say that Council needs to know what is being done now.

Councilman Whittington asked Mr. Burkhalter if Council approves this resolution, is this what he asked the Council to delay, and what Mr. Withrow asked be held up until he is back? Mr. Burkhalter replied no; this is an application for funds for next year for community development programs.

Councilman Whittington stated on Page 2 of the Report which is attached, at the top of the page it refers to MIS making a study on the community needs. That he has a question about that. Second on Page 6, it refers to \$40,600 to develop a concise statement of community objectives, priorities, which can serve as the basis for the improved use of the available resources. If Council approves this item 5 does that mean it is approving the \$40,000 and under Section B, the \$15,000? Mr. Burkhalter replied no, as the city does not have that now; we have been informed if we make this application we will get it.

Councilman Whittington asked the City's share, and Mr. Burkhalter replied it is \$25,000, and Council has about 14 ways to enroll in this. What is being done today is authorizing the Mayor to file an application. We have been told the money is there, and this is an area in which we should develop our capabilities to plan to accept what could be up to \$15.0 million in grants. If we do not have a plan, we cannot qualify for this program. They have found that cities all across the country were unable to provide plans. He stated the next thing to come up is that we will have to establish the positions involved in this. By the time this comes up, it is hoped that Council will already have done this. He stated we cannot utilize this money until the city matches it, and Council will not be asked to match it until the next budget.

Councilman Alexander moved adoption of the resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an application for federal grant funds for planning and community development. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 9, at Page 37.

REQUEST TO EXTEND FIRE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONAL LIST FOR DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF POSITION DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.

The request of Chief Lee to extend the Fire Department promotional list for district fire chief position until such time as a new list is established or for six months, whichever is the earlier was presented for Council action.

Councilman Jordan moved that the item be deferred until the next Council meeting as he has some questions he would like to check on. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington, and carried unanimously.

Councilman Whittington stated Council should have a conference meeting with Chief Lee, and it should be done before things like this are approved. This is not his fault, perhaps; but he is not going to vote for this, and he wants to ask some other questions. He should come to Council with anybody he wants to bring before this item and any other things about the department are resolved.

AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACT FOR TECHNICAL OR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN MODEL CITIES DEPARTMENT AND THREE PROJECTS, APPROVED.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, approving amendments to the following contracts:

- (a) Eckerd's Drugs - in the amount of \$20,180
- (b) Manpower Services - in the amount of \$134,598
- (c) Senior Citizens - in the amount of \$52,071.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 253

CONTRACT BETWEEN MODEL CITIES AND CHARLOTTE DENTAL GROUP, APPROVED.

Councilman Whittington moved approval of a contract for Technical or Professional Services between the Model Cities Department and Charlotte Dental Group, in the amount of \$30,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY REQUIRES THE TAXICAB SERVICE PROPOSED BY THE APPLICATION OF VICTORY CAB COMPANY FOR THE ISSUANCE OF TWO ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATES TO OPERATE TAXICABS IN THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE.

The request from Victory Cab Company for two (2) additional certificates of public convenience and necessity for the operation of taxicabs in the City of Charlotte was presented for Council's consideration.

Officer Dellinger, Taxicab Inspector, stated as of December 31, 1972, all the certificates that were not represented by taxicabs were not reissued. As of January 1, 1972 there were 163 taxicabs in operation with 259 certificates. As of January 1, 1973 we have 151 certificates and 151 taxicabs on the street. This additional request would not bring us up to the amount that we had in operation on January 1, 1972. All the certificates are now being operated.

He stated the request today represents two cars that are licensed and insured, and they are ready to go as soon as Council approves them.

No opposition was expressed to the approval of the request.

The City Manager stated when Council revised the taxicab ordinance sometime back, and required every permit to be in use, Council fixed a number of permits automatically, by cancelling all permits that were not in use the first of the year. There are now 151 and in this case Council will have to find that it has looked at the situation and two additional cabs are needed in this city.

Officer Dellinger stated at the time the taxicab study was completed, the owners who were losing these certificates were promised if they had a vehicle, licensed and insured, they could get it back into operation in a matter of ten days. This was a promise made through the City Manager's office, once the Council approved it.

Mayor Belk stated the city is not promising anybody any certificates; but they can be brought to the Council for consideration. All the Council was doing was trying to clean up those certificates that were not in use.

Councilman Jordan moved adoption of a resolution declaring that public convenience and necessity requires the taxicab service proposed by the application of Victory Cab Company for the issuance of two additional certificates to operate taxicabs in the City of Charlotte. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 9, at Page 38.

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, the subject encroachment agreement was approved with the State Highway Commission permitting the City to construct a 6-inch sanitary sewer pressure line and a 12-inch water main within the right of way of I-77 at Gilead Road Crossing.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 254

CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 IN CONTRACT WITH T. A. SHERRILL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR SHARON LANE WIDENING, APPROVED.

After discussion, Councilman Whittington moved approval of Change Order No. 1 in contract with T. A. Sherrill Construction Company, Inc. for the Sharon Lane Widening, increasing the contract price of \$599,979.65 by \$12,460.00. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried unanimously.

CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER MAINS, APPROVED.

Councilman Whittington moved approval of the following contracts for the construction of water mains, which motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously:

- (a) Contract with Evans Construction Company for the construction of approximately 1,520 feet of 6" and 2" mains and one fire hydrant, to serve the McClintock Woods Subdivision, Section 4, outside the city, at an estimated cost of \$6,450.00. Funds will be advanced by the applicant and refunded under the terms of existing policies as related to such water mains.
- (b) Contract with Motion, Inc. for the construction of approximately 375 feet of 2" water mains, to serve property abutting on Water Oak Road, inside the city, at an estimated cost of \$1,150.00. Funds will be advanced by applicant and refunded under the terms of existing city policies as related to such water mains.
- (c) Contract with The Klingbeil Company for the construction of approximately 260 feet of 8" water main and one fire hydrant, to serve property abutting on Timberbrook Drive, inside the city, at an estimated cost of \$1,800.00. Funds will be advanced by applicant and refunded under the terms of existing city policies as related to such water mains.

STREETS TAKEN OVER FOR CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE BY THE CITY.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, the following streets were taken over for continuous maintenance by the City:

- (a) Braden Drive, from Capps Hill Mine Road to 1,275 feet south of Capps Hill Mine Road.
- (b) Dedmon Drive, from Braden Drive, 625 feet west of intersection of Braden Drive.
- (c) Milan Road, from Braden Drive 1,563 feet west of intersection of Braden Drive.
- (d) Otwell Court, from Milan Road 205 feet south of intersection of Milan Road.
- (e) Bardot Drive, from Dedmon Drive to Milan Road.
- (f) Fagan Way, from Bardot Drive to Milan Road.
- (g) Clendon Court, from Bardot Drive to 273 feet east of intersection of Bardot Drive.
- (h) Shoup Court, from Bardot Drive 167 feet east from intersection of Bardot Drive.
- (i) Old Post Road, from centerline of Melba Drive to Monroe Road.
- (j) Forest Way Drive, from Old Post Road to Monroe Road.
- (k) Belquin Court, from Old Post Road 195 feet north of Old Post Road.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 255

ORDINANCES AFFECTING HOUSING DECLARED UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CITY'S HOUSING CODE.

After viewing pictures of the dwellings, motion was made by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, adopting the following ordinances affecting housing:

- (a) Ordinance No. 730-X ordering the dwelling at 717 Sunnyside Avenue to be demolished and removed.
- (b) Ordinance No. 731-X ordering the dwelling at 1815 Luther Street to be vacated and closed.

The ordinances are recorded in full in Ordinance Book 20, beginning on Page 7.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY BELONGING TO STATEWIDE STATIONS, INC. AND CARL CHRISTIAN, LESSEE, LOCATED AT 5238 PINEVILLE ROAD.

Councilman Short moved adoption of a resolution authorizing condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of property belonging to Statewide Stations, Inc. and Carl Christian, Lessee, located at 5238 Pineville Road, in the City of Charlotte, for a sanitary sewer to serve White Stores. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 9, on Page 39.

PROPERTY TRANSACTION AUTHORIZED.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, approval was made for the acquisition of 10' x 819.24' of easement at 2600 Milton Road, from Ralph Squires Construction Company, Inc., at \$1.00, for sanitary sewer trunk to serve Milton Acres II Project.

CONTRACT AWARDED O. G. PENEGAR COMPANY FOR FOUR DESKS AND FOUR CREDENZAS FOR CIVIC CENTER.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Alexander, and unanimously carried, awarding contract to the low bidder, O. G. Penegar Company, in the amount of \$1,834.00, on a unit price basis, for four desks and four credenzas, for the First Floor Staff Offices at the Civic Center.

The following bids were received:

O. G. Penegar Company	\$1,834.00
O. G. Penegar Company	2,394.00
Kale Office Outfitters	2,543.32
Millers Office Equipment	2,602.10
Bound & Moore Company	2,655.44
Millers Office Equipment	3,044.58

CONTRACT AWARDED O. G. PENEGAR COMPANY FOR TWO CONFERENCE TABLES FOR THE CIVIC CENTER.

Councilman Whittington moved award of contract to the low bidder, O. G. Penegar Company, in the amount of \$1,779.00, on a unit price basis, for two conference tables for the First Floor Sales and Staff areas in the Civic Center. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

The following bids were received:

O. G. Penegar Company	\$1,779.00
Millers Office Equipment	3,030.00
O. G. Penegar Company	3,298.00

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 256

PURCHASING AGENT, CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY TO PREPARE POLICY STATEMENT PROHIBITING SPECIFYING ITEMS FOR PURCHASE OR BIDDING WHICH PROHIBIT TAXPAYERS FROM BIDDING BECAUSE OF FRANCHISING DECREES.

Councilman Jordan asked how Penegar gets all the business from the city? What is wrong with the suppliers in the City? Mr. Brown, Purchasing Director, stated Penegar is a going outfit, and they have recently opened an office in the city; they are a big outfit and represent quite a few lines.

Councilman Short stated his comments are not directed in any way against Penegar; they are great people and very ethical, and if they win it is because they deserve to win. However, there is a factor involved which Council could consider a little bit. We actually have situations here because of the franchising arrangements made by the manufacturer, the specified items are not available for bidding by our own taxpayers here in the City of Charlotte because they are cut out by the franchise arrangements made by the manufacturer. That he has talked to Mr. Brown about this, and this is one of the basic reasons why he objected to these things when they were bid the first time. This was rebid and some of the items went to the same company, and namely the one whose restricted franchising cuts out our own taxpayers, but others did not go to this same company, and he thinks Council should go ahead with this today.

Councilman Short moved that Council ask Mr. Brown, the City Attorney and the City Manager to prepare a policy statement which would say in effect that those specifying items for purchase or for bidding by the city, which items are widely distributed like furniture, that they would not specify items which, because of franchising decrees of the manufacturer are prohibited from bidding by our own taxpayers. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Easterling.

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

CONTRACT AWARDED KALE OFFICE OUTFITTERS FOR EIGHT STOOLS FOR THE CIVIC CENTER.

Upon motion of Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Whittington, and unanimously carried, the subject contract was awarded the low bidder, Kale Office Outfitters, in the amount of \$542.96, on a unit price basis, for eight stools for the Lobby (Ticket and Information) in the Civic Center.

The following bids were received:

Kale-Office Outfitters	\$542.96
O. G. Penegar Company	572.00
Millers Office Equipment	666.00
O. G. Penegar Company	828.00

CONTRACT AWARDED O. G. PENEGAR COMPANY FOR ONE CONFERENCE TABLE FOR THE CIVIC CENTER.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, awarding contract to the low bidder, O. G. Penegar Company, in the amount of \$637.00, on a unit price basis, for one conference table for the Conference Room, Second Floor Executive Offices, in the Civic Center.

The following bids were received:

O. G. Penegar Company	\$ 637.00
O. G. Penegar Company	1,169.00
Millers Office Equipment	1,180.00

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 257

CONTRACT AWARDED TENNANT COMPANY FOR ONE POWER SWEEPER FOR THE CIVIC CENTER.

Councilman Whittington moved award of contract to the low bidder, Tennant Company, in the amount of \$6,785.50, on a unit price basis, for one power sweeper for use at the Civic Center, which motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried unanimously.

The following bids were received:

Tennant Company	\$6,785.50
American-Lincoln Products, Inc.	7,736.36

CONTRACT AWARDED A. E. FINLEY & ASSOCIATES FOR ONE FORKLIFT FOR CIVIC CENTER.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Alexander, and unanimously carried, subject contract was awarded the low bidder, A. E. Finley & Associates, in the amount of \$6,500.00, on a unit price basis, for one forklift for use at the Civic Center.

The following bids were received:

A. E. Finley & Associates	\$6,500.00
Dillon Supply Company	8,280.00

CONTRACT AWARDED EUREKA FIRE HOSE DIVISION FOR FIRE HOSE.

Motion was made by Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Alexander, and unanimously carried, awarding subject contract to the low bidder, Eureka Fire Hose Division, in the amount of \$30,693.60, on a unit price basis, for fire hose to be used by the Fire Department.

The following bids were received:

Eureka Fire Hose Division	\$30,693.60
Southern Rubber Company	31,086.00
Burgess Fire Equipment, Inc.	31,160.00
Action Fire & Safety, Inc.	31,280.00
Blaze Guard Mfg. Division	31,840.00

CONTRACT AWARDED CAROLINA EQUIPMENT COMPANY FOR ONE STREET SWEEPER.

After explanation by the Purchasing Agent, Councilman Alexander moved award of contract to the only bidder, Carolina Equipment Company, in the amount of \$12,636.50, on a unit price basis, for one street sweeper, for the Public Works Department, which motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington, and carried unanimously.

MAYOR LEAVES CHAIR.

Mayor Belk left the Chair at this time, and Mayor pro tem Alexander presides.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 258

CONTRACT AWARDED SANDERS BROTHERS, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SANITARY SEWER FACILITIES TO SERVE SEABOARD INDUSTRIAL PARK.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, subject contract was awarded the low bidder, Sanders Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$172,790.00, on a unit price basis, for construction of sanitary sewer facilities to serve Seaboard Industrial Park.

The following bids were received:

Sanders Brothers, Inc.	\$172,790.00
Ben B. Propst	174,929.00
Thomas Structure Company	190,772.00
Blythe Brothers Company	225,642.30
Joe R. Abernathy	234,458.00
Dellinger, Inc.	293,299.05

MAYOR RETURNS TO CHAIR.

Mayor Belk returns to the Chair at this time and presides.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE TO ENTER INTO A MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION TO MAKE CERTAIN TRAFFIC CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY UNDER PROJECT W. O. TRAFFIC SIGNALS.

Councilman Whittington moved adoption of the subject resolution authorizing the State Highway Commission to make certain traffic control improvements at 40 intersections within the municipality under Project W. O. Traffic Signals. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 9, at Page 40.

PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPROVEMENTS AT BELLHAVEN BOULEVARD AND INTERSTATE 85.

Councilman McDuffie asked the status at Bellhaven Boulevard and I-85. That Council had a report several weeks ago that the State was going to put up a traffic signal and add a lane? That this has been talked about for a year, and the last report was that the State was going to consider paving an extra lane and then they would decide whether they needed a traffic signal. In the meantime what are we doing about helping people get off the interstate; they sill come to the dead-end and there is no way to cross.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated Mr. Hoose has advised him that the last thing he received from the State was they were going to put in the extra lane, and they have not done it because of the weather. When they get the lanes in they will determine what signals are necessary.

NOMINATIONS TO THE CHARLOTTE AREA FUND BOARD.

Councilman Short placed in nomination the name of Reverend R. A. ^{Macon}~~Macken~~ to serve on the Charlotte Area Fund Board.

Councilman Alexander stated since the Council is entitled to a number of positions on the Board, would this not have to be to serve in someone's place? Councilman Short replied he is not sure his nominee is to serve in his place as several years ago he nominated Mr. Jim Preston, and he later served as Chairman; that he is not sure if he is still on the Board.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 259

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated this past week he had a visit with the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Peter Gerns, and Mr. Bob Persons, the Director. He stated they are very concerned because the President has said this program is over. They are very anxious to have members of the Council to come to these meetings or to have their representatives as they are having difficulty in getting enough people for a meeting.

Councilman Alexander stated there is a question if Council members do not go and fill these slots, can they name someone to fill a particular slot. Mr. Burkhalter stated his feelings would be that Council would name three people.

Councilman Alexander placed in nomination the name of Mrs. Mary Moore, Double Oaks Road.

COUNCILMAN SUGGESTS THAT NOMINEES FOR MEMBERS OF THE STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION COME FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS RATHER THAN POLITICAL PARTIES WHEN THE RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION TAKES PLACE.

Councilman Short stated this Council has a lot of activities in connection with street and roads within the city as well as within the County, and has always tried to work closely with Mr. Broadrick, Mr. Younts and Mr. Maxwell. He stated obviously we have an interest in the highway department which is now to be re-organized according to the Governor and various members of the legislature.

He stated he would like to throw out an idea for consideration by Council. When this is reorganized it might be done regionally and with the highway district line being the same as those of the 17 regions. Another part of the suggestion is the Governor selects the members from nominees that are made by local elected officials, and he does not have any suggestions as to exactly how this would be done. It might be done by county commissions or county commissions and city councils. This is in lieu of the present procedure where the nominations are suggested to the Governor by the political parties. This is something we should think about. It is in order for Council to have something in mind this way; because obviously this department is going to be restructured and it behooves this Council to have some input into this as we have to deal very constantly with the Highway Department.

Mayor Belk asked if this does not come from the legislature, and the Governor cannot change it now? Councilman Short replied he does not know the answer to that, but regardless of which has the upper hand it obviously is going to be reorganized in some way. Mayor Belk stated the point he is trying to make is that the Governor makes the appointments now because of the act of the legislature, and they will have to change the law. He had to reappoint the same numerical number because that is what they had. What Council should do is report to its delegates Mr. Short's suggestions. Councilman Short stated he has in mind doing that when Council meets with them in Raleigh, but he did not want to do it in a surprise situation. That he is mentioning this to Council in hopes that when he mentions this to the delegation it will receive support from Council.

Councilman Short stated heretofore suggestions have been made to the Governor from the Party Executive Committee, which makes it just about as political as you can get. That he is suggesting the Highway Department zones or districts be co-terminus with the 17 planning regions as many other planning efforts are organized this way; he thinks this is logical, and that the nominees come from elected local officials, rather than from the political party.

Councilman Whittington asked if he is suggesting that Charlotte City Council go along with a highway commissioner to be appointed by the Governor after he is recommended by elected officials from cities and counties from the total COG, which would represent Mecklenburg and the Central Carolina Council of Government in its entirety? Councilman Short replied no; that he is not saying the COG Board would make the nomination to the Governor. That he is just saying that he believes some system should be devised, where the local elected officials within this district or region would make nominations to the Governor rather than the political parties.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 260

Councilman Whittington asked if he did not understand Mr. Short to say that this person who is appointed would represent the 17 counties in COG? Councilman Short replied he is saying whereas the district we now have is Mecklenburg and Gaston as one district, and there are many districts in the state. Councilman Whittington stated the point he would like to make to Mr. Short in answer to what he is proposing if this is going to be proposed by him with the delegation, he would want to speak in opposition to that because we have been trying for years to have a highway district in Mecklenburg, and leave out Gaston County. To get into a 17 county situation to him would be going backwards. That this is new to him and on the surface he would have to be opposed to it.

Councilman Short stated COG really would have nothing to do with it. It is just a matter of making the districts the same as the planning districts that are generally used. That he is not saying the COG Board would make any nominations to the Governor; he is just saying he thinks the nomination to the Governor should be made on some basis by county or city officials, rather than by the political parties.

COMMENTS ON USE OF POWELL BILL FUNDS BY MUNICIPALITIES FOR MASS TRANSIT.

Councilman McDuffie stated that brings up the point of the memo Council received the other day about the Mayor's call from Raleigh about the possibility of using powell bill funds for mass transit study. He stated he had a call from a legislator, and the point he made was that the proposition was to allow those communities that might want the alternative of using their powell bill funds for some kind of mass transit - someone might want to use it for a bus system. At present they are restricted to the sidewalks and paving streets. In one county he said they even paved driveways for a lot of people because they did not have anything else to do with the money. The question was not whether to take the powell bill funds from Charlotte-Mecklenburg and use it for mass transit unless the local people wanted to do that.

Mayor Belk stated if someone has to use powell bill money to pave private driveways, he does not think they will have to be worried about mass transit. Therefore, he would just eliminate that kind of a thought and not lose any sleep over it.

Councilman McDuffie stated if they are using the funds for that kind of thing they should be entitled to use it for something better in a bus or transit system. That he does not really want to put them in a position of saying it cannot be used for that if you need to. Charlotte-Mecklenburg might need to use powell bill funds for that as much as it uses a sales tax to support a bus system. That he sees very little difference.

Mayor Belk stated we do not want to change the powell bill. It has been a fight for years. The eastern part of the state has always wanted it according to the area, and as the population has shifted into the Piedmont section it has been according to the need and the population. In the last session of 1971, they changed this and we say do not touch this again because we do not want this fight to start all over again. If you break this open and say just put it in for mass transit, then you are back to the same spot. Our problem is getting money for streets because our population is growing so much, and automobiles are growing so much that we do not have enough money. If we just built what we want to build, we would be out of date. What we do not want to do is to get this thing shifted back into the east again.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 261

Councilman McDuffie stated that may be true; but if anybody would ever benefit from mass transit either for a study or the implementation of it, it has to be the Piedmont area and Mecklenburg County. If we wanted to use the powell bill funds for mass transit we should have that possibility because paving a street and running a bus on it is somewhat similar. He stated he does not really know that saying we oppose that kind of change is factual or not. Mayor Belk replied we are not opposed we just want to keep it the way it is.

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING, AND REQUEST THAT MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS BE MAINTAINED AND DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND THE COUNTY COMMISSION.

Councilman Alexander stated last week he attended the Transportation Committee meeting which he thought was very important to our total transportation program. One of the questions he wants to raise is if it is possible that the minutes of such a meeting could be kept and distributed to Councilmembers. That he thinks the impact of that meeting was such that each councilmember should have knowledge of the details of what took place there. The federal people were present, and so were the state highway people. Much was gained from this meeting that each councilmember should know. Also, each member of the Board of Commissioners should know. One of the things he saw coming from this meeting was the need for immediate steps for coordination of all the various facets of government that are involved in our transportation problems now.

Mayor Belk stated this is a good suggestion.

Councilman Alexander asked that arrangements be made by whoever schedules the meeting to have minutes. This information is highly important for the decisions we are going to have to make. One of the things he sees coming out of it is an immediate need for Council to take consideration of how the city and county can coordinate its responsibilities because there will be no way to resolve the transportation problems of Charlotte as a urban area without consideration of the county, and there is no way the county can resolve theirs without consideration of the city. The end terminus of any road we are talking about crosses somebody else's authority. He stated he is passing on his comments on things that he thinks are pertinent to an intelligent resolve we are going to have to make as Councilmembers, or whoever sits here as councilmembers, if we hope to get our transportation problems solved locally. They are no longer just Charlotte's problems; it is no longer just a county problem; and it is no longer just a city problem; it is no longer just a federal problem. So all of these are the problems and it means the sooner we can sit down and evaluate the true position of the relative importance of all these facets of government to the resolve of our transportation problems, the better able we will be to come toward the solution of them.

Mayor Belk requested Mr. Bobo, Assistant City Manager, to send the minutes to all councilmembers and to the county commissioners.

Councilman Whittington stated the County Chairman is now trying to get legislation to buy right of way so these four lane streets do not stop at the city limits.

Councilman Alexander stated these are the reasons that will force us into just what consolidation means to a total community development. We should look at it from that point of view, and we have to resolve a position there because this is where we are going to run into troubles when it comes time to deal with separate authorities. One of the things growing out of this is that we will have closer contact with the federal representative from this region than we have had before if what he stated at the meeting holds true.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 262

COUNCIL ADVISED THAT BLACK FIREFIGHTER HAS BEEN UPGRADED TO FIRE INSPECTOR I.

Councilman Alexander stated from a public relations point of view he would like to announce that we are making some progress in some areas where some of us have some concern, and where perhaps some think nothing is being done. He stated in the fire department, a black firefighter has been upgraded to Fire Inspector I.

DISCUSSION OF COUNCIL AGENDA MATERIAL AND THE NEED FOR RECEIVING THE AGENDA EARLIER AND NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Councilman Alexander stated there are some matters coming to Council on the agenda that are not received until Friday; this does not give Council enough time to give the study to some particular items that come which Council should have. That he would like to see Council get some of these items sooner so there would be time to go through them a little more thoroughly and be a little more intelligent about what actions are taken.

Councilman Jordan stated this is true because Council does get the agenda on Friday, and unless they can talk to the Manager or someone over the weekend or they get down early on Mondays, they really do not have an opportunity to digest it. There could be many questions they would like to ask, and they have to postpone the item until they can get more information.

The City Manager replied staff does try to do this. As an example, an advance notice was sent this week to Council on one item. He asked the councilmembers to call him and tell him about things they think are surprises as this is the only way he can judge what the members think are surprises or where they need more information. Mr. Bobo prepares the agendas; that they discuss these matters all during the week.

Councilman Short stated there is some lack of opportunity to zero in on department heads, essentially through no fault of theirs. Council receives the agenda at the end of the day on Friday; that means if they want to discuss one of these or ask a question of a department head, they have to interrupt his day off or you have from about nine to twelve on Monday, and if your freedom to get to the telephone and his freedom to get to the telephone coincides between nine and twelve on Monday morning that is a miracle. He stated there is not much chance to confer with Department Heads.

Councilman Jordan stated he knows it is a problem with Staff and with Council; and he is sure the public often thinks Council continuously postpones things. But he would rather postpone an item and get more information and try to vote more intelligently. Mr. Burkhalter replied this is the proper procedure when council members think they do not have enough information.

SUGGESTION THAT CENTER BE SET UP FOR RETURNING VETERANS TO GET THE INFORMATION NEEDED ON HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT AND ANY OTHER PROBLEMS THEY MAY HAVE.

Councilman Alexander stated now that peace has been declared in Vietnam and prisoners of war are returning home, we are going to have a problem when the soldiers themselves return home. Soldiers coming home this time are going to be a different type of soldier than returned home from any previous war. We are going to have community problems that will grow from returning veterans that we have never had before.

He stated it would be well if the City of Charlotte itself would give thought to how we can establish some type of system where a returning veteran would not have to be guessing and running around all over town to find some resolve to his problems. We should establish a center or an office where the veteran could go in whether it is a problem of housing, employment or a psychiatric problem, or a problem of family concern, or whatever it is, that this office should be able to direct him to where he should go. He stated this is a

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 263

community responsibility. We should take inventory right now to do this type of thing so we can better develop it for our own community use. These are the things he thinks we should give attention to, and it should be done before we get the complexity of problems growing from the arrival home of veterans of the Vietnam war who he knows will run head on into the problem of housing and the problems of employment, and they will be mean and mad. They are coming home thinking things are a little better than what they are.

Councilwoman Easterling stated she agrees with Mr. Alexander. If we listened to every speaker at the Peace Observance, she zeroed in on this problem and said in effect just what Mr. Alexander has been saying. The City should gird itself and be ready to help the returning veteran in whatever problems he has.

Councilman Whittington stated he cannot react to everything Mr. Alexander has said except to say he agrees with him. This is not a problem, historically, the community had when veterans returned from the wars he remembers. We should do something about it. He stated he can say to this Council and to the families of veterans who are returning that the Veterans Service Office of which Mr. Jim Howard is the Service Officer, has a staff of about nine people; they are going to ask for more and hopefully more help from the State. They are geared now to help these veterans. There is something like \$21.0 million a year brought into this County by this office by veterans families, educational benefits and so on. That office is available. To pursue what he has said, perhaps Council should ask the City Manager to bring in Mr. Gerald Elston, Jim Howard, the State Veterans Service Officer, someone from Social Services and the man with the Community Relations Committee to gear up something such as Mr. Alexander is talking about. Perhaps all these agencies could meet two hours a week or two hours a day, three days a week to confer with these people on the spot and react to their problem and set them in the right direction right then.

Councilman Alexander stated perhaps there is something that could be handled through the Community Relations or in the Information setup. That he is just throwing out the idea.

The City Manager stated whatever is set up should be in conjunction with whatever is going on. The City has been looking with some anticipation to their return as it will have to staff up two of our public safety units and veterans usually are very qualified candidates. We are looking forward to this really helping in the recruiting program.

MEETING OF PRODUCERS COUNCIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19 AT 6:00 P.M. OPEN TO PUBLIC AND MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS INVITED TO ATTEND.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated Mr. Bruce Lain, Program Chairman for the Producers Council who is hosting an agri-business dinner, Monday night, a week from today, at 6:00 o'clock at Wagner Hall, called and asked him to notify the Mayor and Council that they are welcome if they care to come. It is \$2.50 for the meal and former Governor Scott will be the main speaker. It is public and everyone is invited. He stated he has a number to call if anyone wants to reserve a ticket.

ELECTION OFFICE TO BE OPEN FOR VOTER REGISTRATION MARCH 3 AND MARCH 10 FROM TEN A.M. TO FOUR P.M.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated the Board of Elections has asked if Council would like to have the voter registration open on Saturday, March 3 and March 10, from ten to four. He stated they will be glad to perform this service for the actual cost. It will be less than \$100.00 for the two days. The main office will be open from ten to four.

February 12, 1973
Minute Book 58 - Page 264

Motion was made by Councilman Alexander, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, authorizing the Election Office to be open for voter registration on Saturday, March 3 and March 10, from ten to four o'clock.

MEETING SET FOR FEBRUARY 27 WITH DELEGATION IN RALEIGH.

Mr. Burkhalter stated he has been notified that Tuesday night, the 27th of February would be an appropriate time for Council to meet with the State Legislative Delegation in Raleigh.

Councilman Short stated he would not be able to attend on that date.

After discussion, it was decided to meet with the Delegation on February 27.

PROGRESS REPORT ON HISTORICAL PROPERTIES COMMITTEE.

Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, stated recommendations were made and he was asked to look into them about a Historical Committee. He stated he read in the paper almost at the same time that the architects of the city were doing the same thing. He stated he is working with them and will come up with something. Councilman Alexander stated he does not want our historical commission to be garbled up by the architects; he hopes the two can work together.

COUNCIL ADVISED THAT MEETING WILL BE SET WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS SOON AS IT CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH THE COUNTY MANAGER.

Mr. Bobo, Assistant City Manager, stated he has talked with the County Manager about arranging a meeting between the County Commissioners and City Council. That the County Manager had asked that he be given until today to finalize their report, and he would advise what date they can meet before they go to Raleigh. That they have not finalized their legislative package.

COMMENTS FROM W. J. ELVIN ON SEVERAL SUBJECTS.

Mr. W. J. Elvin spoke to Council on several subjects. He commended the Mayor on improvement in his presentations. He stated he purchased the telephone directory for the city and county, and it is considerably overdone. Mr. Elvin stated Mr. Alexander is doing a splendid job; he has always done an excellent job. He stated he would be glad to do anything he can to help in Mr. Alexander's suggestion about the returning veterans as he has had experience and knows what it is.

ADJOURNMENT.

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



Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk