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The regular weekly meeting of the City Council was held at 4:00 o'clock P. M., in the Council Chamber, City Hall, with Mayor Douglas presiding and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Hovis, Huntley, Little, Nance, Sides and Ward being present.

Absent: Councilmen Britt and Wilkinson.

READING OF MINUTES DISPENSED WITH.

On motion of Councilman Little, seconded by Councilman Huntley, the reading of the minutes of the last meeting was dispensed with due to pressure of other business.

PROPOSED CIVIL SERVICE ACT PRESENTED BY CHARLOTTE CENTRAL LABOR UNION.

Jack Moore, representing Charlotte Central Labor Union, presented a proposed Civil Service bill for Fire and Police Departments in North Carolina, in which it is asked that the Civil Service Commissioners be appointed: one member by the Fire Department; one member by the Police Department; one member by joint action of the Boards of Directors or the Governing Bodies of the Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Association; one member by joint action of the Governing Body of the Womens Club and the Business and Professional Womens Club and one member by the Governing Body of the municipality.

Mr. Moore stated that this was practically the same act under which the Civil Service Commission in Raleigh is operating and that it was found to be satisfactory there.

After hearing Mr. Moore, Councilman Baxter moved that the proposed bill be received as information and studied further. Motion seconded by Councilman Nance and carried.

The Mayor instructed the Clerk to prepare sufficient copies for distribution to the entire Council and asked that they study it carefully.

COMMUNITY CRUSADERS RENEW REQUEST FOR NEGRO POLICE OFFICERS IN CHARLOTTE.

Again a large delegation of negro citizens, representing the Community Crusaders, appeared before the Council with reference to renewal of their request for negro police officers in certain sections of the City occupied by negroes.

At this time the City Manager presented a report of the committee appointed several weeks ago, to meet with a committee from the Community Crusaders. This report stated that a number of beneficial points were brought out at this meeting, but that at the present time the Police budget will not permit of the employment of negro policemen.

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Mrs. H. L. McCrorie and Dr. Nathaniel Tross again made urgent pleas that something be done to curb crime among their race, stating that the Crusaders would be willing to raise the money to employ two negro police officers for a trial period of six months if it is a case of not having funds for that purpose. Dr. Tross asked if there was anything in the City charter that forbids the employment of negro policemen and the City Attorney replied that there was not.

They advised that it was the unanimous opinion of the negroes in Charlotte interested in this question that the experiment should be made in the Brooklyn section of the City and that the other sections would not ask that they be placed elsewhere if the request was granted.

The City Attorney pointed out that applicants for position as Police Officers are required to stand Civil Service examinations both mental and physical and that appointments are made in accordance with their standing on the eligibility lists. The negroes stated that they could get representatives, possibly from Johnson C. Smith University, who could stand these examinations and they asked if the Council would be willing to give an examination and let any vacancies occurring in the Police Department be filled by the negro applicants. The Mayor advised that this was a matter which would have to be taken up with the Civil Service Commission, as they would have to handle the holding of examinations.

After hearing the discussions put forth by the negro representatives, Councilman Baxter stated that he was in favor of making an experiment for the remainder of this fiscal year, and he made a motion that the request made by the negroes of Charlotte for two colored officers to be employed after proper examination by the Civil Service Board as to physical and mental standing, be granted, the salaries of these men to be paid out of the funds to be raised by the negroes.

Councilman Sides brought up the question as to whether the Council would be within the realm of the law in accepting money from outside sources for such as this, but stated that the Mayor has the right to appoint police officers in an emergency and he felt that due to the large number of murders committed in Charlotte recently he felt that it was an emergency.

Councilman Baxter then withdrew his motion and Councilman Sides made a motion that because of the crime wave in the Brooklyn section the Mayor declare it an emergency and appoint two negro policemen to patrol the streets of Brooklyn as special police officers, which motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter.

Councilman Ward stated that he did not feel that these special police officers, who could not be in police uniform, would have the same effect, and that while the City was going into the thing it should be done right. On taking a vote only four affirmative votes: Councilmen Sides, Baxter, Nance and Huntley, were recorded and the Mayor declared the motion lost.

Councilman Hovis stated that most of the trouble with the crime wave in Charlotte was in the courts, and that the Legislature would probably create a new judicial district and give Mecklenburg County a Solicitor to prosecute and properly handle cases in court and he felt that this would, in a large measure, aid in cutting down the amount of crime.

TRAFFIC SITUATION.

At this point, Councilman Baxter brought up the large number of deaths in Charlotte from automobile accidents and made a motion, which was seconded by Councilman Albea, that the Mayor appoint a committee to study the possibility of working out a method whereby motorists should be licensed to drive automobiles in a business-like way, suggesting that they be given a written examination as well as a physical examination as to

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color-blindness, and road tests by the Police Department. He asked that this committee consist of three members of the Council, the City Manager, the Chief of Police and representatives from each newspaper and a member of the State Highway Patrol, and that they report back to the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Douglas appointed on this Committee: Councilman Baxter as Chairman, Councilmen Ward and Little, Messrs. Young and Watkins as Ex Officio members from the press.

After going back to the question of negro policemen and further discussion taking place among the Council, it was suggested that the plan of appointing negro police be postponed until next budget making time, which the Mayor stated was the proper time for presenting same.

PURCHASE OF CHECK VALVES.

On motion of Councilman Huntley, seconded by Councilman Albea, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign a contract with the Globe Automatic Sprinkler Company for 2 Automatic Check Valves and connections for use by the Water Department, at a net delivered price of \$292.00.

The bid of Grinnell Company on this equipment was \$305.00 and award was made to the lowest bidder.

GATE VALVES FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS AT FILTER PLANT.

The City Manager reported that due to a break in the feeder line at the Filter Plant it was necessary to make an emergency purchase of 1- 24" Chapman Gate Valve to replace a similar valve, and on motion of Councilman Nance, seconded by Councilman Hovis, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign a contract with the Chapman Valve Manufacturing Company for this equipment at the net delivered price of \$391.00.

STREET MAINTENANCE - BEACON STREET.

On motion of Councilman Hovis, seconded by Councilman Huntley and carried, Beacon Street from Marguerite Street to Mecklenburg Avenue, was taken over for City maintenance. The approximate cost of putting this street in condition for maintenance is \$120.00.

WATER LINE TO DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

The City Manager reported that the 8" water line along Wilkinson Boulevard to the Douglas Municipal Airport has been completed. Also, that this line is laid on the south side of the Boulevard and certain questions have been raised as to laterals to serve residents on the north side. He stated that a policy should also be formed as to public fire protection outside the City limits. Whereupon, Councilman Hovis made a motion that the Mayor appoint a committee from the Council to work these matters out with the City Manager and City Attorney. Motion seconded by Councilman Huntley and unanimously carried.

Mayor Douglas appointed on this committee Councilman Hovis as Chairman, Councilmen Sides, Albea and Nance.

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CONTRACT FOR YEARLY AUDIT.

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Sides, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign a contract with George G. Scott & Company for auditing the accounts of the City of Charlotte for the period from July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1941, at a price not to exceed \$2,750.00.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT ELIZABETH AVENUE AND HAWTHORNE LANE.

On motion of Councilman Hovis, seconded by Councilman Albea, a traffic light is to be placed at the intersection of Elizabeth Avenue and Hawthorne Lane, to relieve the congested traffic situation at this point.

PURCHASE OF SEWER LINE IN KATONAH AVENUE.

The City Manager reported that Mr. Brice McLaughlin had asked that the City take over a sewer line serving Katonah Avenue and that on investigation by the Engineering Department it was recommended that this line be taken over by the City, thus making it unnecessary for the City to build a new line, and that the City pay to Mr. McLaughlin, Agent, the sum of \$529.31 for the existing line, which is approximately one-half the cost of building a new line; which price will include a 15-foot right of way to enable the line to be properly maintained at all times.

On motion of Councilman Nance, seconded by Councilman Albea, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. McLaughlin on the above basis, and take over this sewer line.

SPECIAL OFFICER PERMIT FOR ROBERT F. MCCLELLAN.

On motion of Councilman Ward, seconded by Councilman Huntley, special officer permit was granted to Mr. Robert F. McClellan on the premises of the North Charlotte Motor Company.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED.

A copy of the Annual Report of the Charlotte Fire Department as of December 31, 1940, was distributed to each member of the Council.

FALSE ALARMS TO BE INVESTIGATED.

Councilman Nance reported that a large number of false alarms of fire were being turned in and that apparently the law governing this was not being enforced. After discussion, Mr. Armstrong stated that he would check into the matter and have a report for the next meeting of the Council.

FREE WATER TO BE FURNISHED FOR WORK AT AIRPORT.

On motion of Councilman Sides, seconded by Councilman Ward and unanimously carried, water for the concrete work being done by W.P.A. at the Airport and for employees at work there, is to be granted free of charge.

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AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR EASEMENT OVER THE LANDS OF THE CITY AT DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

The City Attorney read an agreement which had been prepared to cover the furnishing and leasing of an easement unto the Government over the lands of the City of Charlotte, and a number of others, for the purpose of permitting the Government to construct and maintain a sewer line from the Army Air Corps base, adjacent to the Douglas Municipal Airport, to the sewage disposal plant of the City; said right of way to be fifteen feet in width over all of the lands necessary to cross for that purpose. The terms of the lease to be for a period of one year with the right of the Government to renew the same from year to year for a period of twenty-five years.

After the agreement was read in its entirety, Councilman Ward moved that same be signed by the Mayor and Clerk on behalf of the City of Charlotte, which motion was seconded by Councilman Nance and unanimously carried.

A copy of this agreement will be on file in the office of the City Clerk when executed in full by the City and the United States Government.

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO VOTING ON ISSUANCE OF BONDS FOR NEW AUDITORIUM.

Acting on the special request of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and numerous other citizens; the following resolution was made by Councilman Sides, seconded by Councilman Hovis and unanimously carried:

BE IT RESOLVED That the City Council request that the General Assembly pass an Act whereby at some future time the citizens of Charlotte may be privileged to vote on the question as to whether or not they would like to issue bonds for the purpose of building a New Auditorium in the City of Charlotte.

LETTER FROM EASTERN AIR LINES REGARDING USE OF RUNWAYS AT DOUGLAS AIRPORT.

Mayor Douglas presented a letter which had just been received from Eastern Air Lines regarding the use of the runways at the Douglas Airport by trucks and automobiles working at the Airport. This letter stated that a near accident occurred that morning and that something should be done to keep traffic off the runways. After discussion, Councilman Ward moved that the City Manager be instructed to take whatever action he deems necessary to remedy this situation, which was seconded by Councilman Huntley. Councilman Sides and Councilman Albea recommended that this matter be worked through the Airport Commission, and Mr. Armstrong was instructed to work with the Commission on the matter. The above motion carried.

LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES RELATIVE TO PARK COMMISSION.

Mayor Douglas read a letter received from Mrs. V. K. Hart, of the Council of Social Agencies, asking for the retention of the present Act creating a Park and Recreation Commission, suggesting that the next City Council name a Commission from its own personnel, which would integrate the administration of the Park and Recreation Commission with that of the City government. This letter was received as information.

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OAKLAWN CEMETERY.

The following motion was made by Councilman Ward, which was seconded by Councilman Little and carried unanimously:

"I move that the City Manager have notice to vacate served upon Mr. J. J. Misenheimer, so that the City may take possession of the property now owned by the City and occupied by Mr. Misenheimer."

CEMETERY DEEDS.

On motion of Councilman Hovis, seconded by Councilman Little, the following cemetery deeds and perpetual care agreements were approved:

Mrs. T. E. Wingate, North Half Lot No. 15, Section B.B. Elmwood	\$63.00
W. R. Helms, Jr. " " " 28, " B.B. "	63.00
Mrs. C. C. Ritter, South " " 43, " B.B. "	49.00
Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Johas, N. Half 70, " "X" "	70.00
Perpetual care on this lot	60.00
E. R. Gary, South Half Lot No. 71, Section "X"	70.00
Perpetual care on " " " " "	60.00
Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Pearson, Lot No. 198, Section "Y"	35.00
Mrs. Laura G. Gould, Lot No. 255, Section "Y"	58.80
Mrs. Mary Lee Nuchols, S. $\frac{1}{2}$ Lot No. 74, Lot No. 75 and N. $\frac{1}{2}$ #76, "X"	280.00
Perpetua& care on these lots	240.00

SETTLEMENT ON STREETS ASSESSMENTS MRS. ESTELLE R. MILLER AND MRS. ELIZABETH M. HUNTER, LAND PART OF BRYANT PARK.

The following agreement was presented by the City

Attorney:

NORTH CAROLINA)
MECKLENBURG COUNTY)

WHEREAS Mrs. Estelle R. Miller and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Hunter owners of land fronting on West Morehead Street or Wilkinson Boulevard, and the said land has street assessments against the same in the principal sum of \$10,179.60 and interest thereon in the sum of \$6386.06 and there is existing a dispute as to the legality of the lien of said assessments, and WHEREAS, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Hunter have agreed to settle this dispute by making certain adjustments between the City and themselves whereby the City would receive the principal sum of \$10,179.60 in cash at this time and conveying unto the City five and one-sixth acres of land fronting 193.6 feet on the Southerly line of W. Morehead Street and extending back to the Elizabeth Mill tract of land and formerly being a part of Bryant Park in full satisfaction of the liens on the lands as above set forth; in particular being assessments numbers 25283 through 25285 both inclusive; 25292 through 25299 both inclusive; 25300 through 25307 both inclusive except 25306; 25312; 25313, 25315; 25317; 25319; 25320; 25321, 25328; 25329; 25330; 25331- 25332; 25322; 25322; 25323; 25324; 25325; 25334 through 25345 both inclusive. except 25337 and be cancelled as of record.

It is therefore upon motion of Councilman Hovis, seconded by Councilman Ward that the adjustment hereinabove be accepted and the City Collector of Revenue be and he is hereby authorized to accept such settlement and cancel said assessments lien evidences from the record, and that said liens be satisfied in full when Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Hunter have paid the \$10,179.60 and conveyed said property as provided.

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ADJOURNMENT.

On motion of Councilman Little, duly seconded and carried
the meeting adjourned at 6:30 P. M.

Alia B. McConnell
City Clerk

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