

July 2, 1964
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 Special Joint Meeting

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held jointly with the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at 4 o'clock p.m., on Thursday, July 2, 1964, with Mayor Brookshire presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Bryant, Jordan, Smith and Whittington present for the City, and Commissioners Charles M. Lowe, Chairman, J. Frank Blythe, W. Craig Lawing, Alfred W. Shriver and Henry B. Wilmer present for the County.

ABSENT: Councilmen Dellinger and Thrower.

Also present were Mr. W. J. Veeder, City Manager, Mr. John T. Morrissey, City Attorney, Mr. J. H. Weatherly, County Manager and Mr. Thomas Ruff, County Attorney.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Mr. Craig T. Lawing.

MAYOR WELCOMES BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Mayor Brookshire welcomed the members of the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County and remarked that he was sure he expressed the appreciation of the City Council for the very fine working relationship that now exists between the two Bodies, and he thinks he can safely say it is the best that has ever existed between the two local governing Bodies. That gradually the support of services provided on a county-wide basis is being accepted by the two Bodies on the basis of a fair tax distribution of the load to those who are served, and he sincerely hopes that history will accord to the present Board of County Commissioners full credit for this fine relationship and progress we are making in city and county business relationships.

MEETING DECLARED TO BE AN OFFICIAL SESSION OF EACH BODY TO DETERMINE THE PROPORTION OF THE COST OF OPERATION OF MERGED FUNCTIONS TO BE PAID BY EACH BODY, WITH VOTING BY EACH BODY TO BE SEPARATELY AS A UNIT.

Mayor Brookshire stated this is, of course, an official joint meeting of the City Council and Board of County Commissioners to determine the proportion of the cost of operation of merged functions to be paid by each Body, and each Body will vote separately as a unit in accordance with the provisions of the General Statutes of North Carolina regarding such joint action, and any action taken will be binding on each Body. He called attention that the City Attorney, Mr. Morrissey, explained these provisions at our similar meeting in June, 1963.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF CITY MANAGER AND COUNTY MANAGER CONCERNING THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR JOINT FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1964-65.

Mr. Veeder, City Manager, advised that a year ago when the Council and Commissioners met for the same purpose we are meeting today, they authorized that the Institute of Government be requested to make a study of the activities that are jointly financed by the County and the City; this was done and in January and April of this year the results of that work and their recommendations were presented at a joint meeting. That the recommendations were approved

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on how to compute the cost of those activities jointly financed. That the Summary Report reflects dollars for the City and County Governments on the basis of those agreements that were made in January and April. The second sheet distributed by Mr. Weatherly today does not add dollars but tends to clarify the sheet sent them yesterday. He called attention to the Comparative Local Government Participation Activities and Services, showing the total cost at \$2,763,090 on which basis the City would be obligated for \$940,030 and the County \$1,823,069. Mr. Veeder stated that he and Mr. Weatherly recommend approval of the financing of these joint activities as presented on Sheet 1.

Mayor Brookshire asked for comments and Mr. Wilmer asked if the vote should be on the activities as a whole or by subject, and the City Attorney advised that action may be taken either way. Councilman Bryant suggested that action be taken item by item.

TAX SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE BUDGET OF \$330,151.00 ADOPTED.

Councilman Bryant moved that \$330,151.00 be budgeted for the Tax Supervisor's office, as recommended, the City's share being \$54,150 and the County's share \$276,001. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilmer and unanimously adopted by both the Council and the Commissioners.

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE BUDGET OF \$179,764 ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Lawing, and unanimously carried by both the Council and the Commissioners, \$179,764 was budgeted for the Tax Collector's Office, as recommended, the City's share being \$74,338 and the County's share \$105,426.

ELECTION OFFICE BUDGET OF \$67,291 ADOPTED.

Motion was made by Commissioner Shriver, seconded by Councilman Whittington, and unanimously carried by both the Council and the Commissioners, budgeting \$67,291.00 for the Election Office, as recommended, the City's share being \$17,086 and the County's share \$50,205.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS & JUVENILE COURTS BUDGET OF \$361,453 ADOPTED.

Mr. Lowe, Chairman of the County Commissioners, advised it was the hope of the Commissioners that they could take the additional burden of the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court off the City; they were thinking of as much as \$90,000, but at this point they have not been able to come up with the \$90,000. However, they will continue to look for the money and if they find it, or a portion of it, they will be back to see the Council in the next several days and give it to them. This is not a favor, it is something that the County should do and it is something the County will do if they can find the money.

Mayor Brookshire stated we are happy to get this statement from Mr. Lowe but it does not please us quite as much as if they were offering us right now the \$90,000. That, no doubt, all of us are willing to admit that is a county-wide function, available to all of the citizens of the County on a like basis and we had been hopeful the Commissioners might be able to take care of the load the City has been carrying.

Commissioner Shriver advised that based on the calculations on this item that

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he has made, which are all subject to adjustment as they get final figures from their Auditor, his personal feeling is - and he got his impression from Chairman Lowe - that there was a fair amount of hope the County could come up with the money but from the analysis he has made he would not want to leave that impression unless one of the other Commissioners knows something he does not know. He stated he thinks their Chairman has expressed how they feel about it, but from the commitments they already have and the money they have available, he personally would not want to leave a hopeful feeling with the Council.

Mr. Lowe stated further, as best they can estimate, it looks like their tax rate is standing at approximately \$1.59½ and there is no money included in it for the new jail or aerial mapping which would mean a lot to both the City and County, and they are within approximately \$50,000 of their \$1.60 tax rate. If they can go back and refigure something, or if they refigure their sources of revenue and find some additional money, or figure some way that they can come up with the \$90,000 or a portion of it, they want to, and it is at the top of their priority list. But if they can't they won't, it is just that simple.

Mayor Brookshire stated in view of that explanation, and the remarks made, he thinks it is in order to approve the appropriation, hoping that at later date the Commissioners might voluntarily offer the City some help on this item.

Councilman Bryant moved that \$361,453 be budgeted for the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Courts, as recommended, with the City's share being \$180,726 and the County's share \$180,727. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington, and unanimously carried by both the Council and the Commissioners.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE BUDGET OF \$20,429 ADOPTED.

Councilman Whittington moved that \$20,429 be budgeted for the Veterans Service Office, as recommended, with the City's share being \$10,214 and the County's share \$10,215. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shriver, and unanimously carried by both the Council and the Commissioners.

PLANNING BOARD BUDGET OF \$115,005 ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Commissioner Wilmer, and unanimously carried by both the Council and the Commissioners, \$115,005 was budgeted for the Planning Board, as recommended, the City's share being \$57,503 and the County's share \$57,502.

CIVIL DEFENSE BUDGET OF \$40,257 ADOPTED.

Commissioner Lawing moved that Civil Defense be abolished in Mecklenburg County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bryant.

Councilman Smith stated he came out very strong against evacuation signs and even the shelters, which proved inadequate. But the way he looks at it is it is like an insurance policy that you might buy against an earthquake, it is a low premium and will probably never happen, but if you need it you need it real bad and with the trouble we are having in Asia today, going from a cold war to a hot war gradually, he thinks that for this year anyhow it should be left in. Councilman Jordan stated he concurs in this statement, that Civil Defense is still equipping buildings with supplies and he thinks we would be acting hastily to cut it off this year.

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Mr. Veeder stated he would like to say a word in defense of Civil Defense. He read a statement by President Johnson in January on the merits of Civil Defense, also read a second statement by Secretary of Defense, Mr. McNamara as to the value of Civil Defense, and one by Governor Sanford recently that the operation of Civil Defense is fully justified. Mr. Veeder stated he might also mention that over a period of years, the City and County have acquired through Civil Defense surplus equipment, a good portion of which was used by the Voluntary Fire Department, totaling over \$340,000; also, a few months ago emergency equipment was acquired to stock shelters that could take care of citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. That this is insurance and he would recommend that funds be appropriated this year, at least.

The vote was taken on the motion to abolish Civil Defense, and lost by the following recorded vote:

YEAS: Councilman Bryant and Commissioners Lowe, Lawing and Wilmer.
 NAYS: Councilmen Albea, Jordan, Smith and Whittington, and Commissioners Blythe and Shriver.

Councilman Jordan then moved the adoption of \$40,257 for Civil Defense, as recommended, the City's share being \$24,154 and the County's share \$16,103. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and carried by the following recorded vote:

YEAS: Councilmen Albea, Jordan, Smith and Whittington, and Commissioners Blythe and Shriver.
 NAYS: Councilman Bryant and Commissioners Lowe, Lawing and Wilmer.

Commissioner Lowe suggested that the vote be made unanimous, and Commissioner Lawing moved that it be so done. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blythe, and carried.

PUBLIC AND MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET OF \$1,630,749 ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Commissioner Wilmer, and unanimously carried by both the Council and the Commissioners, \$1,630,749 was budgeted for Public and Mental Health, as recommended, the City's share being \$521,859, and the County's share \$1,108,890.

\$6,000 BUDGETED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO BE PAID CITY FOR POLICING MORRIS FIELD.

Commissioner Lawing moved that the County budget \$6,000 to be paid to the City of Charlotte for policing Morris Field as recommended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shriver, and unanimously carried by the Commissioners.

\$12,000 BUDGETED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO BE PAID CITY FOR USE OF CITY'S LANDFILL GARAGE FACILITIES.

Upon motion of Commissioner Shriver, seconded by Commissioner Lawing, and unanimously carried by the Commissioners, \$12,000 was budgeted by the County Commissioners to be paid the City of Charlotte for use of its landfill garbage facilities, as recommended.

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INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT THANKED FOR FINE WORK IN MAKING STUDIES OF COST-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS FOR JOINTLY FINANCED FUNCTIONS.

Councilman Jordan moved that the Institute of Government be thanked for the very fine work they did in making the studies of the cost-sharing arrangements between the City and County Governments for jointly financed functions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shriver, and unanimously carried by both the Council and Commissioners.

COUNTY MANAGER AND CITY MANAGER EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND CITY COUNCIL.

Mr. Weatherly, County Manager, stated he has had considerable experience in working with City Councils and Boards of County Commissioners and he thinks it is unfortunate we will not have this entire group when the budget is considered next year. That he wants to say this is the best group he has ever seen work together and on behalf of Mr. Veeder and himself he offers their thanks and appreciation for the cooperation given them by the members of the City Council and Board of County Commissioners.

CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS POINTS OUT THAT THROUGH COOPERATION OF THE TWO GOVERNING BODIES THE CITY AND COUNTY HAVE PROSPERED.

Mr. Lowe, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, remarked he thinks it is right symbolic, seeing Mr. Veeder and Mr. Weatherly sitting side by side and the Mayor and himself sitting side by side, and the members of the Council and members of the Commission doing the same thing. In the years past it has been the thinking of the County Commissioners and City Fathers to sit down and try to out trade each other, and he does believe in recent years this has not been the feeling at all, but rather to sit down together and face up to mutual problems and come up with mutual answers and with what they feel is mutually right and he thinks that is the way things should be done. That he believes future Boards should take a leaf from what they have done together, for to think and act in this way is what will make Charlotte and Mecklenburg County grow and prosper. He said he says this simply for the record because if some people come over here some day with something on their minds and hearts with the idea of asking rather than giving, he hopes they will read these Minutes and think and act in this manner.

Councilman Smith stated that it might also be pointed out that there are both Democrats and Republicans sitting in this group and working well together.

COUNCILMAN WHITTINGTON EXPRESSES APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION OF COMMISSIONERS.

Councilman Whittington stated he would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of County Commissioners for their cooperation and say especially to Mr. Lowe and Mr. Lawing we wish them well in whatever they undertake in the future and we have enjoyed working with them.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ACT AS HOST AT DINNER TO WHICH MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY OFFICIALS WILL BE INVITED.

Mayor Brookshire called to the attention of the Commissioners the occasion last spring when the Council and Commissioners entertained other Municipal

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and County Officials at dinner, and he thinks he is correct that a motion was made and passed unanimously that evening that a similar dinner would be given in the future and the Commissioners would serve as hosts. That the suggestion was made that we meet for an outdoor affair in July, which is here, and he is wondering if they would like to consider it now.

Commissioner Wilmer suggested that the County Commissioners assume that very pleasant responsibility and he moved that they work out the details and issue invitations that will be appropriate for the latter part of July. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shriver, and unanimously carried by the County.

Mayor Brookshire expressed Council's appreciation for the coming event and stated they will be most happy to receive the invitation and the details later.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Lillian R. Hoffman
Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk