

SPECIAL MEETING  
 July 28, 1948  
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A special meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Wednesday, July 28, 1948, at 4 p.m., due notice having been given each Councilman in accordance with the requirements of the Charter. Mayor Baxter presided, and Councilmen Albea, Childs, Jordan, Lambeth, McKee and White were present.

Absent: Councilman DeLaney.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Mayor Baxter stated the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the enactment of slum clearance legislation. That in 1945 a Slum Clearance, or Standard House Ordinance was adopted but due to the scarcity of critical materials during the war years, the strict enforcement of its provisions was postponed. However, in the interest of public health and sanitation, and in the light of the high incidence of poliomyelitis compliance with the ordinance must now be required, and dwelling units in Charlotte be brought up to standard.

SANITATION PROGRAM ENDORSED BY VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

Mr. Art Jenkins and Dr. Carlton Watkins, representing the Junior Chamber of Commerce, reviewed the findings of the members of their organization in/a voluntary city-wide sanitary inspection made by them to assist the Health Department in the fight to check the spread of poliomyelitis.

Mr. Jenkins stated that on July 21st, following the inspection, the Junior Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution containing recommendations for the elimination of insanitary conditions in Charlotte; that one of these recommendations is that the present ordinance requiring indoor toilet facilities be put into effect by January 1, 1949 to the end that there be no outside toilets in Charlotte by the summer of 1949, and that all open sewers be eliminated.

Mayor Baxter requested Mr. Jenkins to file the complete list of recommendations with the City Manager for study.

Representatives of the American Association of University Women, The Charlotte Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club, and The Parent-Teachers Association voiced appeals for the enforcement of the Standard House Ordinance and pledged their cooperation in the clean-up program.

Mr. Edwin Jones, Chairman, Charlotte Housing Authority, expressed the desire of the Housing Authority for the enforcement of the ordinance; thereby adding another step towards proper housing for Charlotte to that taken ten years ago through the inauguration of the low-cost housing program for the elimination of sub-standard houses.

The support of the Charlotte Real Estate Board in carrying out the provisions of the ordinance was voiced by Mr. Paul Guthery. He called attention to the Board having endorsed standard housing for Charlotte since its initial phases, and suggested that the enforcement be done on a zone basis rather than city-wide in order to remove the possibility of land-lords issuing eviction notices rather than attempt conformity with the ordinance. He expressed the opinion that the responsibility for

present conditions, and their elimination, is three-fold, namely - that of the property owners, the City and the tenant.

Dr. Bethel, City Health Officer, urged the immediate enforcement of the ordinance.

Opposition to the ordinance was expressed by Mr. R. W. Kuykendall from the view point of high taxes and too many local laws.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPAIR OR ELIMINATION OF UNFIT HOUSING AND DANGEROUS BUILDING CONDITIONS.

The following resolution was presented and read, and upon motion of Councilman McKee, seconded by Councilman Albea, was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POLICY IN CONNECTION WITH THE REPAIR OR ELIMINATION OF UNFIT HOUSING AND DANGEROUS BUILDING CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, the City Council, on December 11th, 1945, adopted a Resolution recorded in Minute Book 31, page 279, defining the then policy of the City Council with respect to the repair and elimination of unfit and dangerous housing; and

WHEREAS, it appears to the City Council that materials necessary to make such housing comply with existing ordinances are more readily available than they were in 1945;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE:

That the resolution hereinbefore referred to, adopted by the Council on December 11th, 1945, be, and the same is hereby, repealed.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that those in charge of enforcing the ordinances of the City of Charlotte with respect to unfit housing and dangerous buildings, be, and the same are hereby, authorized and directed to enforce said ordinances, provided, however, that when any housing and buildings, in the opinion of the Chief Building Inspector of the City of Charlotte, are in violation of existing ordinances as above referred to, he shall, before taking legal steps in connection with the same, give the owner and other parties in interest, not exceeding ninety (90) days, notice of his intention to take steps with respect to the same in order that they may have opportunity to make said housing and buildings comply with the ordinances of the City of Charlotte.

ADDITIONAL SANITARIANS REQUESTED BY HEALTH OFFICER.

Dr. Bethel, City Health Officer, stated that the lack of personnel for inspection of environmental sanitation has been an important factor in present conditions; that the present personnel consists of three men for milk inspections, four men for food inspections, two men for meat inspections, two men for typhus inspections and two men for general complaints. That it will be necessary to increase the corps of sanitarians from thirteen to thirty, with an additional five men when the City limits are extended on January 1st, in order to make the proper inspections; that additional funds will be necessary to supplement the current Health Department budget.

Mr. Ledbetter, City Treasurer, and Acting City Manager, advised that the \$30,000.00 Emergency Fund has commitments amounting to \$5,415.17, leaving a balance of \$24,584.83.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Jordan, the meeting was adjourned.

*Lillian R. Huffman*  
 City Clerk