

A regular meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, at 11 o'clock a.m., on Wednesday, June 22, 1949, with Mayor Shaw presiding, and Councilmen Aitken, Albea, Boyd, Coddington, Daughtry, Jordan and Wilkinson present.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by the Reverend Mr. A. M. Smith, Pastor, Wesley Heights Methodist Church.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the meetings on June 13th and June 15th were approved as submitted.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPOSED BUS FARE INCREASE AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT.

The public hearing on the question of an increase in bus fares proposed by Duke Power Company, was concluded with a motion by Councilman Boyd, which was seconded by Councilman Aitken, and unanimously carried, that a Committee be appointed by Mayor Shaw, composed of the Mayor, as Chairman, the City Council, City Manager, City Attorney, City Traffic Engineer and at least seven designated citizens of the City, to meet with Duke Power Company officials, at the earliest possible time, to discuss the proposed increase in fares and the improvement of bus service.

Protests against the increase in fares and inadequate bus service were presented during the discussion which preceded the above motion, as follows:

Mr. L. B. Andrews, President of Merry Oaks Civic Club, composed of residents of the Chantilly section of the city and Lawyers Road, consisting of some 600 persons, petitioned for the extension of the Morningside Bus line to Eastway Drive, with additional service during peak hours. He urged that the fare increase not be approved unless adequate service is assured.

Mr. L. L. Caudle, resident of Sunnyside Avenue, expressed disapproval of inadequate service; overcrowded condition of busses; non-use of rear door of bus as a means of ingress at peak hours and transfer policy at the Square. He suggested that short runs would relieve overcrowding on long runs during rush hours.

Mrs. George Cowan, resident of Roswell Avenue, voiced objections to the difficulty of transferring from one bus to another. She stated it was practically impossible to secure a complete transfer on a trip without going to The Square. She suggested the use of varied colored transfers to permit multiple transfers on one run.

Mr. Charles Henderson, Attorney, spoke in regard to the inadequate service to some 900 negro residents in the vicinity of Fairview School. He advised the nearest bus to this area was six blocks distant and school children were forced to use unpaved sidewalks in walking to and from school.

Mr. Henderson also represented the Radiator Specialty Company, located on Dowd Road, and stated this route serves some fifty families along Dowd Road, as well as the many industrial plants within the area; that the service is so inadequate that Radiator Specialty Company is forced to furnish its own bus transportation to its 150 employees all over the city. He asked that the increase in fare not be approved by Council without vast improvement to the service.

Mr. P. L. Nepton presented a petition signed by twenty-two employees of Industrial Piping, Inc., 1501 Dowd Road, requesting improved service and stating the nearest bus stop is at Mint Street and Dowd Road.

Mr. R. I. Dalton, presented a petition bearing the signatures of 244 employees of Whittin Machine Works, located at Dowd Road and Merriman Avenue, asking that improved bus service be provided, and that the schedules be adjusted to eliminate waits of from 30 to 40 minutes between busses.

Mr. Henry T. Ireland, resident of Colonial Avenue, stated the area was served by three bus routes but the schedules were so uncertain it was impossible to allocate one's time to an advantage. He also registered opposition to the overcrowded condition of busses during peak hours.

Mrs. Lily Scott appealed against the increase in fares in behalf of residents who cannot afford to pay a higher rate.

Mr. Geo. F. Faille stated that other cities in which bus fares are 10 cents and higher provide adequate service, and the cities are zoned for a rate of 5 cents on short runs.

Mr. W. S. O'B. Robinson, Attorney, spoke for the Duke Power Company, stating the necessity for the increased rate was due to sustained losses in bus operations and increased wages of operators and bus maintenance. He stated that in 1946 the Company loss was \$125,000.00 on bus operations; \$123,000.00 in 1947; \$159,848.30 in 1948 and the loss during 1949 has increased at a higher rate, the first 3 months of 1949 showing a loss of \$68,985.96; that even with the increased fare it is estimated the company will not realize a return on its investment. He advised further that the present 7 cent fare was established in 1918 when the wage for motormen was 35 cents per hour, while today Duke Power Company is paying motormen \$1.20 per hour. That the bus miles in Charlotte in 1946 were 147,936,000; in 1947 213,261,000; in 1948 291,192,000. That 14 new busses were added in 1947 and 12 new busses in 1948, with only 5 busses retired during this period. He stated that during 1948 fares were increased to 10 cents or more in 71 per cent of all American cities with a 25,000 population or more. Mr. Robinson assured the Council that the problem of improved service was at all times foremost with Duke Power Company officials.

MAYOR PRO TEM PRESIDES FOR REMAINDER OF THE MEETING.

Mayor Shaw left the meeting at this time, and Mayor pro tem Aitken presided for the remainder of the meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY DIRECTED TO DRAFT CONTRACT TO PERMIT TAPS TO WATER LINES ACROSS PROPERTIES OF MESSRS. EATONS AND MAYHEW.

Councilman Boyd moved that the City Attorney be directed to draw a contract permitting Messrs. Lloyd C. Eaton, C. E. Eaton and C. L. Mayhew to tap onto the city's water line across their properties to serve not exceeding a combined total of twelve houses, as petitioned by these gentlemen. Motion was seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FILING BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1949-50.

A resolution entitled, "Resolution Providing for the Filing of the Budget Estimate for the Fiscal Year 1949-1950" was presented and read, and upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Jordan, was unanimously adopted. Resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 1, at Page 179.

APPOINTMENT OF L. L. LEDBETTER, TREASURER, AS DEPUTY CITY CLERK.

Councilman Albea moved the appointment of Mr. L. L. Ledbetter, City Treasurer, as the Deputy City Clerk to act during the absence or disability of the City Clerk, with the same powers, authority and duties as assigned the City Clerk. Motion seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried.

CONTRACT WITH J. A. MALCOM, ARCHITECT, FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING.

Upon motion of Councilman Daughtry, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried, contract was approved with Mr. J. A. Malcom, Architect, for professional services in connection with the additions and alterations to the Police Department Building.

CONFIRMATION OF SALE OF TAX FORECLOSED PROPERTY AT 1304-06 SEIGLE AVENUE.

Motion was made by Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, confirming the sale of tax foreclosed property at 1304-06 Seigle Avenue, to the high bidder Mr. V. R. Fidler, at \$400.00, at public auction on April 4, 1949.

STREET RUNNING OFF OF ROBINSON CIRCLE FOR ONE BLOCK NORTH NAMED "SILAS AVENUE".

Councilman Jordan moved that the street running off of Robinson Circle for one block north be named "Silas Avenue", as recommended by the Planning Board and the City Engineer. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried.

LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE AND OFFICE AT 1610 NORTH TRYON STREET APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried, the application of Doolittle Tractor and Implement Company to locate a storage warehouse and office at 1610 North Tryon Street was approved.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SANITARY SEWERS.

Motion was made by Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, authorizing the construction of new sanitary sewers at the following locations:

- (a) 8-inch sewer in Avery Alley, from Cherry Street west 203-feet to serve six houses now using outdoor toilets, at an estimated cost of \$438.46.
- (b) Contract with Alfred M. Lewis, 907 North Brevard Street, for an 8-inch sewer in Bancroft Street, for a distance of 255-feet, to serve one house, started and five vacant lots, at an estimated cost of \$533.50. Applicant's deposit of full amount to be refunded in accordance with the terms of the contract.
- (c) Contract with Mr. McCoy Moretz and wife, for an 8-inch sewer in North Poplar Street, West 30th Street and Norris Avenue, for a distance of 1,643 feet, at an estimated cost of \$3,162.94 to serve 44 vacant lots. Applicant's deposit of the full amount to be refunded in accordance with the terms of the contract.

CONTRACTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER MAINS.

Contracts for the construction of water mains were approved as follows, upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried:

- (a) Contract with Marsh Realty Company, for 2,455 feet of 6-inch mains and 2 fire hydrants, in Kimberly Road West Boulevard Subdivision, at an estimated cost of \$5,725.00.
- (b) Contract with The Greystone Homes, Inc., for 1,636 feet of 8-inch, 6-inch and 2-inch mains in Greystone Road, between South Boulevard and Melbourne Court Subdivision, at an estimated cost of \$4,620.00.

CONTRACT WITH F. G. STEPHENSON FOR PURCHASE OF WATER LINE IN ANNEXED AREA.

Upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, contract with Mr. F. G. Stephenson, 4012 Briar Creek Road, was authorized for the purchase by the City of a 2-inch water line in Briar Creek Road, at a price of \$1,165.11.

RENEWAL OF SPECIAL OFFICER PERMITS TO MRS. STELLA PATTERSON AND WM. C. MCINTIRE.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Daughtry, and unanimously carried, authorizing the renewal of Special Officer Permits to Mrs. Stella Patterson on the premises of J. B. Ivey & Company, and to Wm. C. McIntire, on the premises of Independence Park.

LEASE OF AIRPORT PROPERTY.

The City Manager reported that the lease of the following buildings at Douglas Municipal Airport have been concluded:

BUILDING NO.	LESSEE	MONTHLY RENTAL	DATE AND TERM OF LEASE
49	Brumfield Studio	\$25.00	7-1-49 1 year
296	Cotton Mill Machinery Co.	134.00	6-1-49 month to month
287	N. Baumrind	7.00	6-1-49 1 year
68	Carolina School Supply Co.	99.90	6-15-49 1 year

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY LOTS.

Councilman Jordan moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute deeds for the transfer of the following cemetery lots. Motion was seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried:

- (a) Transfer of Lot 6, Section G, Elmwood Cemetery from Mrs. Ida Thomason to Mrs. Cleo Williams, at a cost of \$1.00 for transfer.
- (b) Transfer of Lot 120, Section D-Annex, Elmwood Cemetery, from D. W. Austin to C. W. Austin, at a cost of \$1.00 for transfer.

FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY GRANTED EMPLOYEES.

Upon motion of Councilman Coddington, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, a holiday was granted to City Employees on Monday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Lillian R. Huffman
City Clerk