

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber in the City Hall on Wednesday, March 20, 1968 at 9:30 o'clock a.m., with Mayor Stan R. Brookshire presiding, and Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, Gibson L. Smith, James B. Stegall, Jerry Tuttle and James B. Whittington present.

ABSENT: None.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Milton Short.

#### PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Mayor Brookshire advised pursuant to written notices hand delivered to all members of the City Council on Tuesday afternoon, this is a special call official meeting of the Charlotte City Council called for the purpose of considering the appointment of a Chief of Police for the City.

#### RESIGNATION OF CHIEF JOHN E. INGERSOLL ACCEPTED EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1968.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and unanimously carried, the resignation of Police Chief John E. Ingersoll was accepted with regrets to be effective April 1, 1968.

#### STATEMENT OF COUNCIL CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF A CHIEF OF POLICE.

Councilman Whittington stated Council has asked him as Mayor pro tem of the City to make the following statement concerning the selection of chief of police:

"Towards the end of seeing that everyone is informed about what has taken place during the last several days, we thought it might be helpful if a summary of the events and some of the thinking involved were presented. This statement will attempt to do this.

The first knowledge anyone had that Chief Ingersoll was leaving was on March 7. That morning he informed the Mayor and City Manager of his plans.

Tuesday evening, March 12, the Council had dinner together and the Mayor and City Manager informed the Councilmen of Chief Ingersoll's decision. During the preceeding weekend, the FBI had started an intensive background check on Chief Ingersoll and the contacts made in this process had started some speculation in the community. Some members of Council became aware of this speculation during that weekend. During the course of the dinner meeting on the 12th, the Council initiated steps pointing towards the selection of a successor to Chief Ingersoll. At that time there was considerable discussion of possible

candidates, including Councilman Stegall.

On March 14, the Council and Mayor met with Chief Ingersoll. At that meeting the Council had expressed to Chief Ingersoll its thanks for a job extremely well done and regret on this decision to leave. At that meeting Chief Ingersoll recommended that his successor come from within the department. He reviewed in some detail the background of two members of the department.

On Sunday, March 17, the Council met again to continue the discussion on the selection of a Chief of Police. During these and earlier discussions it became clear that the Council had several objectives in mind.

In brief, they were:

- (1) The position should be filled as soon as possible.
- (2) It should be filled by the best qualified person available.
- (3) In this case we felt the Council should be unanimous in its selection of the Chief.
- (4) The new Chief should be in complete agreement with the programs and policies initiated by Chief Ingersoll and should indicate that he would continue them.

During this Sunday evening discussion the Council decided that on the following night it would interview three ranking members of the Police Department.

Monday evening, March 18, the Council met with the Mayor and City Manager for a lengthy session. During the evening the Council interviewed three members of the Charlotte Police Department. Following these interviews the Council continued its discussion related to selecting the Chief. At no point in these discussions was it apparent that anyone had the unanimous support of Council. This meeting then broke up after midnight with no agreement as to who would be selected.

On Tuesday, March 19, following the public hearing at Ovens Auditorium, the Council returned to City Hall and continued its discussions. At this time Councilman Stegall informed Council he would only consider appointment to the position as Chief if he had the unanimous support of Council and inasmuch as he did not have the unanimous support of Council, he at that time withdrew himself from further consideration.

After further discussion, Assistant Chief Goodman and Capt. Miller were asked to again meet with Council to discuss their interest in the position of Police Chief. Capt. Miller declined to meet with Council at that time.

Following a most informative session with Assistant Chief Goodman, the Council decided to have this formal meeting this morning called for the purpose of appointing Charlotte's new Chief of Police.

The Council has assumed its responsibility in this selection process and for the last week has spent much time on the question. This has been the Number One order of business and in our opinion has been handled in an effective fashion."

Mayor Brookshire replied this is a fair and factual statement of facts leading up to this meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT J. C. GOODMAN TO THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE, EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 1968.

Councilman Stegall stated after careful consideration and many searching interviews, Council has decided to appoint Assistant Chief Goodman, Chief of the Charlotte Police Department. Mr. Goodman has been Assistant Chief and knows and understands the programs of the Charlotte Police Department and has enthusiastically endorsed these programs and will continue them.

He stated Assistant Chief Goodman is an officer of the finest character and is highly thought of in the Police Department and the community. Council is determined to keep the Police Department on the top most level. They feel it now has the total community backing and hope to receive the continuing support of the citizens.

Councilman Stegall stated the Council feels the Police Department is more vitally important to our City than ever before in its history. They pledge their best efforts to see that Charlotte has the finest Police Department possible.

Councilman Stegall moved the appointment of Assistant Chief J. C. Goodman to the position of Chief of the Charlotte Police Department effective April 1, 1968.

Councilman Smith seconded the motion and stated he is sure Chief Goodman will make a fine police chief and will carry out the policies Chief Ingersoll has set forth.

Councilman Alexander seconded the motion for the appointment of Mr. Goodman as Police Chief for the City of Charlotte.

Councilman Short seconded the motion for the nomination of Chief Jake Goodman and stated this is a profession that has become one of the most professional of all professions and is getting more so, and we are fortunate to have this fine local man who has mastered this profession to take over this job.

Councilman Tuttle stated it is his pleasure to second the motion.

Councilman Whittington stated it is a pleasure to second the nomination of Chief Goodman as Chief of Police.

Councilman Jordan stated it is his pleasure also to second the nomination of Assistant Chief Goodman to Chief of Police; that it is a fine selection.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

March 20, 1968  
Special Meeting  
Minute Book 50 - Page 166

STATEMENT BY MAYOR BROOKSHIRE REGARDING RESIGNATION OF CHIEF  
INGERSOLL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CITY OF CHARLOTTE.

Mayor Brookshire stated while we deeply regret that Chief John Ingersoll is leaving for a larger area of responsibility and opportunity, we want to thank him for the outstanding service rendered our City and offer him our congratulations and best wishes as he continues to make progress in his chosen field of law enforcement, for which he is so highly qualified and so deeply dedicated.

The services of Chief Ingersoll will not entirely be lost to Charlotte as he moves into an important law enforcement post of our Federal Government, which seeks to assist urban communities in finding solutions to the problems of mounting crime rates. In a manner of speaking, we are only sharing his services with the rest of the nation.

He wished Chief Ingersoll Godspeed.

Mayor Brookshire stated important decisions are not easily made. The unanimous decision of this City Council today in naming a replacement for Chief Ingersoll represents a thorough and impartial consideration of all factors that relate to our continuing efforts to maintain and promote law and order throughout our community.

We believe that in promoting Assistant Chief J. C. Goodman to the position of Chief of the Charlotte Police Department, we have reached the best possible decision. We believe his qualifications, his long experience in the department and his having worked closely with Chief Ingersoll will enable him to carry on the programs initiated under Ingersoll without disruption to the benefit of the entire community.

He stated these are changing, difficult and challenging times. We have a good police department, a new qualified chief. He and his department needs, and will have, the solid support of City Council and hopefully the full backing of all the responsible citizens of our City. Together, and only altogether, can we convince the irresponsible and those who would break the laws that crime in Charlotte does not pay.

While making every effort to maintain law and order to deter the criminally inclined and to apprehend and convict the offenders of the law, we at the same time must make a greater effort to remove the cause of crime through constructive measures to provide decent housing, training and job opportunities for more of our citizens.

For those who have an interest in, or a real concern for the crime rate in Charlotte, he would invite them to tour some of the City's slums. The actions of people tend to reflect their environment and there are people in our city, human beings and citizens, born into and destined to live in conditions of hopeless despair. If anyone doubts what he is saying, they only need to make a tour through the Greenville Section of our city.

Mayor Brookshire stated he thinks this a community's responsibility. Thankfully, Charlotte is doing something about these inhuman conditions, through urban renewal, through enforcement of the minimum housing code, through efforts to provide training and job opportunities and now through new efforts under the Model Cities program. He stated unfortunately all of these programs not only take, but require a lot of money, and a lot of time. Those who would understand the problems

of law enforcement, the high rate of crime, and the challenge of our police department, must also understand the conditions in our city are the major causes of crime, and seek more earnestly to do something about them.

Mayor Brookshire commended the Council on its efforts both to enforce the law and to remove the known causes of crime and plead with the citizens of Charlotte for greater support of both efforts.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF GOODMAN PLEDGES HIS BEST AS CHIEF OF CHARLOTTE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

Assistant Chief Goodman stated he sincerely appreciates the confidence and support indicated here this morning. That he will need Council's support in the future along with the support of all law abiding citizens in the community. That it is a difficult task and one that has a tremendous responsibility and has a terrific pace. But this is true of all law enforcement officers, even down to the newest recruit.

Assistant Chief Goodman pledged his best and stated with God's help and the help of the men in the department, they will maintain law and order in the City of Charlotte.

**STATEMENT BY CHIEF JOHN E INGERSOLL REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF GOODMAN - CHIEF OF POLICE**

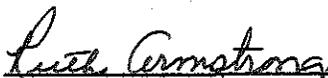
Chief Ingersoll congratulated the Mayor and Council on their action this morning and stated he thinks this will well serve the city for an extensive period of time. He expressed his gratitude for the support provided for the programs introduced to law enforcement in Charlotte during his administration. He expressed his regrets at leaving the city at this time.

He stated a few months ago he indicated there was a great deal of unfinished work and it would be something less than of the highest professional order for him to leave. That he still feels this way, but he also feels torn between an obligation to serve the City of Charlotte and an even higher obligation. The problem of crime control in all its ramifications, including the great unrest that is occurring throughout the nation, is one that is of the utmost importance in his mind. The population generally regards it as the number one domestic issue in the country today. It is with the hope that perhaps he can make some small contribution towards alleviating some of these critical problems that he takes leave of Charlotte with the greatest reluctance and with the utmost gratitude for the support, not only of the governing body, but of the community and with a heart full of gratitude for the many fine friends and many enjoyable days he has spent here.

Upon motion of Councilman Tuttle, seconded by Councilman Alexander, and unanimously carried, Chief Ingersoll was made an honorary citizen of Charlotte for life.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk