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Regular weekly meeting of the City Council was held at 4:00 o'clock P. M. Wednesday, March 26, 1941, Mayor Douglas presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Britt, Hovis, Huntley, Little, Nance, Sides, Ward and Wilkinson being present.

Absent: None.

MINUTES MARCH 19TH. MEETING APPROVED.

On motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Sides, the minutes of the previous meeting, March 19th., were approved as read.

QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO SECONDARY AIRPORT AND FORTHCOMING \$60,000 BOND ELECTION.

Mr. John Small, Attorney, who had recently submitted a number of questions to Mayor Douglas by mail pertaining to the forthcoming \$60,000 Airport Bond Election and the building of a secondary airport for Charlotte, appeared before the Council at this time to publicly receive the answers to these questions. A large delegation of citizens were present. However, only two stated they were with Mr. Small.

Mr. Small first stated that he was interested in this matter solely for one thing and that was- the City of Charlotte, which is also the sole interest of the City Council.

He then propounded to Mayor Douglas the first of fifteen questions:

1. From the proceeds of the bond issue, if passed, do you intend to pay the notes endorsed by a number of Charlotte citizens, by which money was obtained to purchase land for the United States Army Air Base at the present airport, and if so, how much? To which the Mayor replied "Yes, we intend to pay the note.

Mr. Small asked if, with the \$60,000 from the bond issue the City of Charlotte will get a completely adequate Airport and just how the money will be applied.

Mr. Douglas stated that it was his intention to ask the Council to pay the \$10,000 note of the group of citizens first, because with that \$10,000 the City was able to get land on which the Army base is located. Whether the Council will do that or not he could not say. He stated that at the time the note for \$15,000 was made, only \$10,000 being spent, the City did not contemplate a bond issue. Mr. Small then asked if the City did not intend to follow its contract instead of taking bond issue money and Mr. Douglas replied that the City had been unable to sell the land by which it had intended to pay off this note at a fair price. He then asked if the Graham Street property was worth enough to pay off the endorsements and Mr. Douglas stated that they considered it was. Mr. Small then asked if it was the intention of the Council to sacrifice some improvements at the Airport and Mr. Douglas replied that they do not intend to sacrifice the Airport; that the Federal Government has agreed to give the City of Charlotte \$328,000 with which to build an

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Airport and that the City will put out approximately \$15,000 for land and \$10,000 for engineering services, which will be done by the City's engineering department.

2. Do you intend to purchase other land for the United States Army, if so, for what purpose and at what approximate cost?

The Mayor replied that it was hard to say what the land would cost; that for the first land purchased at the present port the price of \$40.00 per acre was paid and the last purchased was \$200.00 per acre. He said "Yes, we intend to buy more land for the Air Base if the Army says it is going to bring additional troops here.

He then asked if it was the Council's intention to buy land for the United States Army athletic field, and Mayor Douglas replied "Yes". He then explained that the City is trying to get \$5044.00 back from the Federal Government on the construction of the water line, which, if successful in doing, will be more than enough to pay for the athletic field, but that at the present time they cannot say whether they will get it or not. Mr. Small suggested that they use money from the North Tryon Street Underpass for that purpose, but Mr. Douglas stated that if it comes from the Grade Crossing Fund it can only be used for that purpose.

3. What other expenditures do you intend or consider making in connection with the present Airport and Army Base? The above explanation was considered as answering this question.

4. How much has the City already spent on or in connection with the Army Air Base?

Mayor Douglas replied to this question that \$10,000 had been spent of the money provided by citizens and \$33,000 for the water line, which came from a bond issue.

5. Do you propose to retain Douglas Airport as the municipal airport for Charlotte and in particular have the commercial transport companies land there? "Yes".

In connection with this question, Mr. Small then asked if the Council realizes what that will cost the City and submitted to the Council copies of figures on the Airport showing cost of operations over an eight-months period, contending that sooner or later Eastern Air Lines planes will be prevented from using the airport and that the Army will discontinue its gasoline contract with the City and, therefore, the port cannot be operated without a loss.

Mayor Douglas stated that Eastern Air Lines will continue to use the present airport and also any civilian planes with two-way radio. He said that if sufficient revenue is not derived from the airport then the City will not give the same service that it is giving today. Mr. Small stated that the Army can stop all planes from using the airport except those of the Army, but Mr. Douglas produced the lease with the U. S. Government and stated that that lease was good and that under that lease Eastern Airlines will continue to use the port.

6. Do you have any information as to whether the United States Army will continue the present contract to buy gasoline from the Municipal Airport, which contract is now providing such an important portion of the Airport's income? Mr. Douglas' answer to this was: "Frankly, I don't know".

7. Where, at present, do you intend to locate the new air field? Mayor Douglas stated that certain land was now under option but not purchased and that it was necessary to have a topographical map made of some specific land in order to secure a W.P.A. project. The site on which the City has an option and for which a topo map was made is on the York Road, but stated that the airport can be located elsewhere

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if found desirable.

8. Is this location on an air beam or do you have any plans for getting it on an air beam?

This question was answered by Mr. Small himself, who stated that the land on which the City has an option is not on the air beam and that it would be advantageous to locate it in the northern section of the county.

Mr. Douglas stated that he has asked three citizens, who preferred that their names be withheld, to serve as a committee to select a suitable site. Mr. Small then asked if the Council would agree before selecting a final site for the airport to call a public meeting and allow the citizens to look it over and give some advice on it, to which Mr. Douglas asked "If you wouldn't have about forty different opinions after you got through?" and Mr. Small said "I don't think so. I think the flying element interested would agree 90%." And Mr. Douglas then stated that before answering that question "Yes" he would have to know if the committee, composed of two business men and one attorney, would be willing to serve if thrown open to the public, or not.

9. It is our understanding that the government funds are limited to grading, surfacing of runways and providing of field lights and labor for building and improvements. Is this correct? If not, what does the government provide?

Mr. Douglas's answer was "Yes, the government does provide the lighting and runways but not the buildings. We hope to get a separate project for the buildings.

10. On the new field how much do you expect to spend approximately, on land, on administration buildings, on hangars, on beacon tower, or machine shop?

Mr. Douglas stated that it was the Council's hope to get a W.P.A. project on an administration building and hangar. That they expect to spend approximately \$14,000 for land and \$10,000 for engineering services, which will be from the City's engineering department. Mr. Small asked if the \$10,000 for engineering services will be charged to the bond issue and the answer was "No".

11. Do you expect to be able to make the new air field an accredited airport with 24-hour service, including lights? Mr. Douglas stated that most airports are accredited airports and have 24-hour services, and that the secondary port will have boundary lights. "Does that include a lighting tower?" and the answer was that it included all the necessary lighting.

12. Recognizing that the figures cannot be exact, what is your best estimate of operating expenses and operating income from the new air field? Mr. Douglas stated that was not known, that one man's guess was as good as another. Mr. Small stated that it would be approximately \$625.00 per month and that the most they could expect to get as revenue from the new port would be \$450.00 a month, or a loss of \$175.00 per month. Mr. Douglas stated that the present airport was started from nothing and that the cost of operating the secondary port would be taken care of.

13. According to your best information do you not expect and hope the Army Air Base to remain here for years to come? Answer "Yes"

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14. For reasons both for convenience and safety, do not the United States Army and commercial air lines prefer to operate on fields without the other?

Mr. Douglas stated that from information obtained from the Army they are perfectly willing for Eastern Air Lines to come in to the Douglas Airport and from the best information he can get from Eastern Air Lines they want to continue to use the Douglas Airport.

15. Accepting the Army Base as an accomplished fact and without any spirit of criticism of past actions, will not all parties benefit by the building of a new completely adequate municipal airport at which all municipal airport activities can be concentrated? If not, why not?

Mr. Douglas replied "Yes, that's true," and then stated, however, that the City must keep up the present port. He then stated that the first step was to have the bond issue approved and then to start forward on the new airport and that everything will be done to make it up-to-date and well equipped.

After finishing with the above questions, Mr. Small stated that he still had no assurance from the Council that the money from the bond issue would be spent for an adequate airport and that the \$10,000 should not be taken from the \$60,000 to pay off the note endorsed by the group of citizens, since the issue was for the secondary port, but the minutes of the special meeting of the Council of February 18th., were read by Councilman Hovis, showing that the following motion was made to cover this payment:

"Councilman Baxter, seconded by Councilman Albea, moved that the City Council of the City of Charlotte recommend to the Mecklenburg County Delegation of the General Assembly that an Act be passed by the Legislature calling for a special election for the issuance of \$60,000 worth of bonds for the buying of land and/or building, erecting, and improving Municipal Airports for the City of Charlotte".

At the close of Mr. Small's questions, the Mayor called for expressions from those present.

Mr. C. O. Kuester, of the Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Marion Davis spoke on behalf of the secondary airport for Charlotte, as did also Mr. Chas. E. Lambeth, Chairman of the Municipal Airport Commission, Mr. Lambeth stated that the new field will be needed even before the City can get it.

PURCHASE OF GOOSENECKS.

On motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Ward, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign a contract with the Glauber Brass Manufacturing Company for 300 goosenecks, for use by the Water Department, at a net delivered price of \$608.58.

The two other bids received on this equipment were:

Mueller Company	\$652.68
Hajoca Corporation	711.48

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PURCHASE OF CURB STOPS.

The following bids having been received on 400 Curb Stops, for the Water Department:

Mueller Company	\$380.24
Hajoca Corporation	427.28
Glauber Brass Mfg. Co.	505.68

Councilman Albea made a motion that contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, Mueller Company, at the net delivered price of \$380.24 and that the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to sign same. Motion seconded by Councilman Sides and carried.

BIDS ON INCINERATOR UNIT REJECTED.

Bids having been received covering the removal of the present middle furnace unit and constructing a new furnace unit at the Shuman Avenue Incinerator, as follows:

Southeastern Construction Co.	\$18,870.00
Boyd and Goforth, Inc.	19,900.00
W. A. Ebert	24,816.00

The City Manager stated that after a complete canvass of the above bids, a tentative estimate of prices was made for each section and the bids as received were found to be rather high. It was his recommendation that the bids be rejected and readvertised.

Councilman Sides asked for an explanation as to how much was meant when it was said to be found "rather high" and this was explained by one of the bidders present; who stated that certain materials had advanced since last June, altho the refractory material had not advanced, and that the plans had been changed by the City.

After hearing the above explanation, Councilman Wilkinson moved that the bids be rejected and readvertised. Motion seconded by Councilman Albea, and carried.

SANITARY SEWER IN BAXTER STREET.

On motion of Councilman Nance, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, approval was given on the request of John M. Dwelle, 111 Latta Arcade, for the installation of an 8" sanitary sewer in Baxter Street, from Eli Street, 210 feet east towards Queens Road, to serve three houses, and estimated to cost \$190.30.

REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC LIGHT AT INTERSECTION OF S. CHURCH AND SECOND STREET DENIED.

At the meeting of the Council March 19th. petition was presented requesting installation of a Traffic Signal at the intersection of South Church and Second Streets, which was refused. Request has been received from the signers of the petition, represented by Mr. W. A. Goodwin, that the matter be again referred to the Council with the earnest request that it be authorized.

Councilman Albea made a motion that the light be installed, the amount of \$489.00 for same to be taken from the Emergency Fund. Motion seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, with the following vote being recorded:

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Aye: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Huntley, Wilkinson and Britt.

Nay: Councilmen Sides, Ward, Nance, Little and Hovis.

This being a tie vote, Mayor Douglas voted against the motion, and the request was again denied.

**CLAIM AGAINST CITY FOR DAMAGES ACCOUNT OF ACCIDENT ON CITY STREET
TO BE SETTLED OUT OF COURT.**

The City Manager presented a letter from the City Attorney relative to the claim of Robert Crump against the City of Charlotte for damages account of an injury sustained by him on July 4, 1940, when he was thrown from his motorcycle on Worthington Avenue, in which Mr. Scarborough recommended that the City settle with the plaintiff in the sum of \$350.00, to cover doctor and hospital bills, as he did not feel that he could possibly win the case in court, since the Engineer's office files show that a hole on Worthington Avenue at about the point claimed by the plaintiff was repaired on July 8, 1940, just four days after the accident and the Supreme Court had ruled in the case of Barnes against Wilson, which is almost identical in point to this case, that the town of Wilson was liable.

Councilman Ward, seconded by Councilman Baxter, moved that the Council accept the City Attorney's recommendation to settle the case out of court for \$350.00, and on being put to a vote the motion carried on a 6 to 4 vote, several Councilmen opposing it for fear of setting a precedent.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion of Councilman Wilkinson, the meeting adjourned.

Alice B. McConell
City Clerk