

March 27, 1940
Page 142.

Regular weekly meeting of City Council, held at 4:00 o'clock P.M., Wednesday, March 27, 1940, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, with Mayor Ben E. Douglas presiding, and Councilmen Baxter, Britt, Hovis, Hudson, Huntley, Nance, Sides, Ward and Wilkinson being present.

Absent: Councilmen Albea and Little.

MINUTES APPROVES.

On motion of Councilman Huntley, seconded by Councilman Baxter, the minutes of the meeting of March 20th. were approved as read.

REQUEST FROM SECOND WARD SCHOOL TO HOLD CARNIVAL FOR BENEFIT OF RECREATIONAL COUNCIL.

Woods Morgan, colored, introduced a representative from the Recreational Council of the Second Ward School, who asked permission to have the Keller Acme Shows of New Jersey show in Charlotte, on a lot just off Fourth Street; 10 percent of the proceeds from same to go to the Recreational Council for playground activities.

After referring back to the action taken by the Council in October 1939 regarding other carnival shows opening in Charlotte, following the granting of permit to the carnival company wintering in Charlotte; and in view of the fact that this request called for the carnival to be held within the fire district, Councilman Hovis moved that the request be denied. Motion seconded by Councilman Ward and carried.

LETTER FROM PROPERTY OWNERS COMPANY, INC. PRESENTED.

Mayor Douglas read the following letter addressed to the Mayor and Members of the City Council, from the Property Owners Company, Inc., which bore date of March 16, 1940:

"Dear Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen:

The Housing Authority of the City of Charlotte has just submitted to you its first annual report which we have read with a great deal of interest and care.

We note that 53% of those of our citizens who rent "sub-standard" homes pay not exceeding \$9.99 for their homes and that 46% of these same citizens make not exceeding \$600.00 per annum.

The apartments that The Housing Authority is erecting for colored people will cost about \$2,830.00 per unit and for white people will cost about \$3,200.00 per unit. We are informed that a tentative rental per room per month has been set of \$2.25 for colored tenants and \$2.75 for white tenants, or an average monthly rental of \$10.13 colored and \$11.35 white. We are further informed that in addition to this base "shelter rental" the tenants must pay for heat, lights, water and such other items as would be expected in keeping with their new homes. These additional items will, according to figures we have before us, amount to about \$8.00 per month per rental unit. The total average rental per month per unit will thus be \$18.13 per colored renter and \$19.35 per month white renter.

The 53% of our citizens in the lower income brackets will thus not be financially able to live in the properties The Housing Authority has under construction as not over 20% of the income of any renter should go to pay rent.

March 27, 1940
Page 143.

It is our understanding that the purpose of establishing The Housing Authority was to provide adequate living quarters for our citizens of low income. No need has ever been found by any fact finding body in this City for housing for any of our citizens except, we submit, those in the 53% of our citizens referred to above who cannot take advantage of the buildings now under construction by The Housing Authority.

With these facts before us and realizing your interest in the social problems presented by the "slum dweller" we, representing taxpayers in this City, respectfully request that, until the present "projects" of The Housing Authority have proven their qualifications to assist in the job it was intended they should, you do not enter into any new cooperation agreement with The Housing Authority. The existing cooperation agreement under which the citizens and taxpayers of Charlotte assist in underwriting the two existing projects expired on March 13, 1930, and we urgently request no new agreement be entered into whereby new construction not now contracted for could be undertaken by The Housing Authority.

The laboratory with \$2,617,000.00 appropriated is not undercapitalized, thus let the experiment prove the result before more capital is appropriated.

Very truly yours,

PROPERTY OWNERS COMPANY, INC.

(Signed) BY M. L. Westmoreland
Secretary

Approved:

Ernest J. Sifford (Signed)

W. J. Brown (Signed)

John D. Shaw (Signed)
Committee

Mr. John Shaw, a member of the committee, who was present, along with Mr. Westmoreland, asked that before the City enters into a new agreement with the Housing Authority that they be permitted to have a hearing, or that the matter be referred to the City Manager to determine just how much ~~of~~ the annual subsidy to the Housing Authority amounts to.

The Council had no comments to make on the above letter, but Councilman Wilkinson stated that he was of the opinion that the Council should go on record as agreeing to notify the Property Owners Company, Inc. before any other contracts are entered into, and the Mayor advised Mr. Shaw that they will be notified when any such agreements come up.

NEW GASOLINE ORDINANCE TO BE PRESENTED TWO WEEKS HENCE.

A large delegation of gasoline distributors were present in case a new gasoline truck ordinance was presented, but on motion of Councilman Hovis, seconded by Councilman Ward and carried, the new ordinance which has been prepared, is to be presented two weeks from this date.

Mr. S. B. Cardo asked to be permitted to speak to this delegation on the hazard presented by the size of the trucks used. He stated that the hauling of gasoline was no greater ^{hazard} than the hauling of other merchandise but that all trucks should be limited in size and that all merchandising trucks should be compelled to have a depot and transfer to smaller trucks for city deliveries, especially in the congested section of the city.

March 27, 1940
Page 144.

PURCHASE OF ONE CAR 8" TERRA COTTA PIPE.

On motion of Councilman Huntley, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to enter into a contract with Tucker-Kirby Company for the purchase of one car of 8" Terra Cotta Pipe (1300 feet), at a total delivered price of \$341.00.

Bids received from nine local concerns were at this same price and contract was awarded on the basis of alternating business where price and quality are equal.

PURCHASE OF SIGNAL CONTROLLERS.

On motion of Councilman Huntley, seconded by Councilman Sides, the Mayor and Clerk were authorized to sign a contract with The Southern Electric Service Company, Inc. of Charlotte, for four Signal Controllers to be used in connection with the signal system in the business section of the city, at a price of \$212.50 each, or a total of \$850.00 for the four.

The City Manager advised that inasmuch as the City has standardized on equipment manufactured by the Eagle Signal Corporation and fourteen of the present units are of this manufacture, that it was desirable that the additional controllers be of this make and manufacture. Therefore, no other bids were presented.

REQUEST FOR SIGNAL LIGHTS AT OAKLAWN AVENUE AND BEATTY'S FORD ROAD REFERRED TO TRAFFIC DIVISION.

A request having been received from a number of people for installation of a signal light at the corner of Oaklawn Avenue and Beatty's Ford Road, on account of the building of the colored project by the Charlotte Housing Authority at this location, Councilman Sides made a motion that this request be turned over to the Traffic Division for investigation. Motion seconded by Councilman Wilkinson and carried.

BOND PURCHASED.

On motion of Councilman Sides, seconded by Councilman Britt, the City Treasurer was given authority to purchase one \$1,000.00 Union County Road and Bridge Bond, due 4-1-41, to yield 1.30%, for the Sinking Fund Account, subject to approval of the Local Government Commission.

USE OF ARMORY WITHOUT COST FOR UNION SERVICE OF METHODIST CHURCHES.

On motion of Councilman Wilkinson, seconded by Councilman Huntley and carried, use of the Armory-Auditorium on Sunday evening, May 19th. for a union service of the Methodist Churches in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, was granted without cost.

TRAFFIC DISCUSSED.

The matter of the traffic situation in Charlotte was brought to the attention of the Council by Councilman Ward, who asked if it would not improve traffic by turning off the traffic signal lights during the day and putting officers at the busy corners to speed up traffic. The City Manager stated that sufficient officers for this purpose would not be available, and a general discussion of traffic was

March 27, 1940
Page 145.

entered into by the entire Council.

Councilman Hovis made a motion that jay-walking be prohibited, which later received a second from Councilman Ward, but failed to carry. Councilman Baxter suggested that a system of working two lights together be tried, and Councilman Huntley recommended that the City send an officer or person to New York to make a thorough study of the traffic situation there and if necessary spend four, six or as many weeks as necessary, to get the proper information.

Councilman Nance made a motion that the lights be speeded up by five more miles than the present system now calls for. This motion seconded by Councilman Baxter, but lost on a five to four vote.

Councilman Sides was of the opinion that the City should employ a traffic expert, on a full time basis, since Mr. Skinner, the Traffic Authority, is not a trained expert and does not have the time to devote to this job and that Mr. Williams, of the Police Department, does not have the proper technical training to work out the traffic problems of Charlotte.

After much discussion and the failure of the two motions made to carry, no further action was taken.

CEMETERY DEEDS.

On motion of Councilman Huntley, seconded by Councilman Nance, the following cemetery deeds were approved:

Mrs. Z. F. Grubbs and son, Reddy Grubbs, Lot No. 41, Section B.B. Elmwood-	\$49.00
L. L. Love, Lot No. 191, Section "Y", Elmwood	105.70

INVITATIONS PRESENTED.

Councilman Hudson presented an invitation extended by Mr. Hill Scogging, to the Council to attend the graduation exercises of the Safety School recently conducted by Mr. Scoggins, at 8 P.M. Friday, March 29th., and Mr. Scarborough extended, on behalf of Mr. J. T. Matthews, Jr., an invitation to a meeting at the same hour, in the Commissioners Room, Court House, for the purpose of working on the opening of the Public Library.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion of Councilman Hudson, the meeting adjourned.

Alice B. McCune
City Clerk