

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 282

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, March 31, 1970, at 3:00 o'clock p.m., with Mayor John M. Belk presiding, and Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, John H. Thrower, Jerry Tuttle and James B. Whittington present.

ABSENT: Councilman Joe D. Withrow.

* * * * *

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Mr. W. J. Elvin.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and unanimously carried, the Minutes of the last meeting, on Monday, March 23, 1970, were approved as submitted.

STUDENTS OF CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ADVISE THEY ARE GETTING UP PETITIONS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE AIR POLLUTION IN CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG.

Mr. Tripp Lowry of Catholic High School stated there are four people from his school heading a project to do something about air pollution - Donald Carr, Tommy Helms and David Gault. He stated they are studying ecology in their Science Class and their teacher asked what they could do about it and they decided to get a petition on air pollution; so far they have about 800 signatures and have the backing of many prominent names in the city such as Mayor Belk. He stated they are going to ask the Board of County Commissioners to inspect it to see if they can get each company to put in a filtration system. Mr. Lowry stated they feel the city needs it as in a few years it will be as bad as some of the bigger cities in the United States.

Mayor Belk thanked the students for their fine work for the betterment of our city and stated the city will be glad to help them in any way.

COPIES OF STATEMENT BY W. J. ELVIN TO BE MADE FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Mr. W. J. Elvin stated for the head position on the Consolidated Government, he would not recommend either Mayor Belk or Chairman Lowe and many others as he does not think they are suitable; but he would give the Mayor a ten year lease on the job to be the top representative in Charlotte that we look up to and would be proud to say that John Belk is the No. 1 man in Charlotte. Mr. Elvin stated we must have superior men to serve in the consolidated government. The head man should be a very successful administrator, and preferably should have a year at Harvard Business School. We should start now to make sure that we have the right man in the right place at the right time in this consolidated government. He stated he will do all he can to assist in selecting the right man.

Mr. Elvin stated this Council has failed to provide the leadership demanded today - outstanding examples have been demonstrated time and time again with such items as dog pounds, police hassles, labor troubles, cemetery fence, garbage men and firemen.

He stated Charlotte does not need a convention center and we do not need it downtown; the place for a convention center is on the outskirts of the city; we should get away from the idea of being larger than Atlanta.

Mayor Belk stated Mr. Elvin's statement has a number of different subjects, and in order for Council to digest them, he asked Mr. Elvin to have copies made for distribution to Council.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 283

PETITION NO. 70-41 BY GOLDEN EAGLE INDUSTRIES, INC. FOR A CHANGE IN ZONING OF APPROXIMATELY 250 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED BETWEEN MONROE ROAD AND INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD EXTENDING FROM WOODBERRY FOREST SUBDIVISION ON THE WEST TO MCALPINE CREEK ON THE EAST, DEFERRED.

Councilman Tuttle moved that the subject petition be deferred pending further study by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

PETITIONS NO. 70-42 AND 70-43 FOR CHANGE IN ZONING DEFERRED UNTIL SEVEN MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT.

Councilman Short stated it has been Council's practice not to vote on zoning petitions that have the 3/4 Rule invoked unless seven Councilmen are present; that Petition No. 70-43 has the 3/4 Rule invoked and there are only six members of Council present; that Petition No. 70-42 is related to it and the protesters were in common at the hearing.

Councilman Short moved that Council defer action on Petition No. 70-42 by Lex Marsh and Petition No. 70-43 by Dorothy A. Potter, et al, until seven members of Council are present. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington.

Councilman Tuttle made a substitute motion to deny Petition No. 70-42 by Lex Marsh as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion did not receive a second.

The vote was taken on the motion to defer decision on Petitions No. 70-42 and 70-43 and carried by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmen Short, Whittington, Alexander, Jordan and Thrower.
NAYS: Councilman Tuttle.

ORDINANCE NO. 535-Z AMENDING CHAPTER 23, SECTION 23-8 OF THE CITY CODE AMENDING THE ZONING MAP BY CHANGING THE ZONING OF PROPERTY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF LASALLE STREET, WEST OF BEATTIES FORD ROAD, ON PETITION OF JOHN W. MCDONALD.

Councilman Jordan moved adoption of the subject ordinance changing the zoning from O-6 to B-1 of a parcel of land 50' x 171' on the south side of LaSalle Street, beginning 207 feet west of Beatties Ford Road, as recommended by the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 17, at Page 28.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, TO FILE AN APPLICATION WITH THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT A SOLID WASTES MANAGEMENT PROJECT FOR THE ENTIRE POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY.

Mr. Veeder, City Manager, stated the subject resolution permits the filing of an application in an effort to obtain federal government approval for the cost of the study. The action of putting the application in is no commitment that we can obtain federal money; it is only the beginning point. In order to get the project moving, we must first put in an application to have a point to work from. If this is approved, it is anticipated that it will not be approved until some time in the next fiscal year.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 284

Mr. Veeder stated that Mr. Hopson, Public Works Director, and Mr. Connerat, Local-Federal Coordinator, along with officials of the County, were in Washington last week and discussed this as a possible project with the official of HUD.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Short, and unanimously carried, to adopt the subject resolution for a comprehensive waste disposal study with the federal funds to finance up to two-thirds of the total cost of the study and the local governments to finance the remaining one-third.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 7, at Page 63.

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FIRST WARD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION AS A COMMUNITY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Mr. Veeder, City Manager, advised this is a request from the First Ward Improvement Association, Joseph A. Carter, President, that the Association be designated as a Community Industrial Development Corporation in order for the organization to qualify for certain security exemptions; it has been reviewed by Mr. Jack Bullard; that Mr. Bullard has discussed it with a number of individuals including Mr. Bob Person. That a similar request was approved by Council a few months ago when presented by Reverend Henderson. He stated Council's approval is not obligating the City in any way; it is a requirement of State Law that this come before Council for approval and in so doing it is not committing any resources.

Councilman Tuttle moved the adoption of the subject resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Thrower, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 7, at Page 64.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE AND SOUTHERN RAILROAD FOR INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS AT WOODLAWN ROAD AND OLD PINEVILLE ROAD.

Upon motion of Councilman Thrower, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and unanimously carried, the subject resolution was adopted and is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 7, at Page 65.

Councilman Whittington asked what part of this expense for the installation of these signals does the Southern Railroad incur? Mr. Veeder, City Manager, replied none.

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS AUTHORIZED.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and unanimously carried, approving the following property transactions:

- (a) Acquisition of 30' x 3,506.29' of easement at 2400 Colony Road, from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, at \$1.00, for the Briar Creek Outfall.
- (b) Acquisition of 10' x 716.89' of easement from H.L.C. & Associates Construction Company, on Faye Street off Brooksvale, off West Boulevard, at \$1.00, for sanitary sewer to serve Boulevard Homes Low Rent Housing.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 285

ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHARLOTTE CITY COACH LINES, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TICKET AND CHANGE BOOTH IN SIDEWALK AREA NEAR NW CORNER OF W. TRADE AND N. TRYON STREETS, DEFERRED.

Councilman Whittington moved that action on the subject encroachment agreement between the City of Charlotte and Charlotte City Coach Lines, Inc. for the construction of a Ticket and Change Booth be deferred. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 536-X AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF A PORTION OF THE \$10,000,000 BONDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE STATION IN THE NORTHWEST SECTION OF THE CITY.

Councilman Alexander moved adoption of the subject ordinance authorizing the transfer of \$200,000 from the sale of public buildings bonds to be used for the construction of a fire station in the northwest section of the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and carried unanimously.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 17, at Page 29.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION OF THE TERMINAL AT DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE.

Motion was made by Councilman Tuttle, seconded by Councilman Thrower, and unanimously carried, approving the subject resolution for a grant in the amount of \$243,800.00.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 7, at Page 66.

LEASE BETWEEN CITY AND PEACTREE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR GROUND RENTAL ON DOUGLAS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, AUTHORIZED.

Councilman Thrower moved approval of the subject lease for a term of ten years with option to renew for an additional five years, with the payment for the first year to be \$435.60 per month (\$0.06 per square foot per year), and to escalate to \$871.20 per month (\$0.12 per square foot per year) in the tenth year, and the base rate for negotiations for the additional five year term to be \$0.12 per square foot per year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington.

Councilman Tuttle asked if \$0.12 will be the minimum, but the five year option not granted until the rate is negotiated, or can they exercise it for \$0.12? Mr. Knight, Airport Manager, replied the \$0.12 is the base rate for negotiating the last five years; it goes from \$0.06 to \$0.12 for the first ten years and then the \$0.12 per square foot is the base for negotiating for the five year option.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

COUNCILMAN ALEXANDER LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS TIME AND RETURNED AS NOTED IN THE MINUTES.

Councilman Alexander left the meeting at this time and returned later as noted in the minutes.

CONTRACT WITH SPACE UTILIZATION ASSOCIATES FOR SPACE STUDY FOR CITY AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS, DEFERRED.

Councilman Whittington stated if there is no urgency in approving this contract today he would like Council to defer action until the City Manager can discuss it with Council in a more thorough way.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 286

Councilman Whittington moved that decision on the subject contract be delayed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thrower.

Councilman Tuttle asked the City Manager to explain to Council at the later date why the County is only participating 10-15 percent in the study.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

ORDINANCE NO. 537-X AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 255-X, THE 1969-70 BUDGET ORDINANCE, TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND UNAPPROPRIATED SURPLUS TO NON-DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES - PARK AND RECREATION CAPITAL OUTLAY.

Motion was made by Councilman Tuttle, seconded by Councilman Whittington, and unanimously carried, adopting the subject ordinance authorizing the transfer of \$30,600 to be used to purchase Park and Recreation Capital Outlay items identified as critical equipment needs.

The ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 17, at Page 30.

COUNCILMAN ALEXANDER RETURNED TO MEETING.

Councilman Alexander returned to the meeting at this time and was present for the remainder of the session.

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON PARK AND RECREATION FUNCTION.

Mr. William Carstarphen, Administrative Assistant, stated Council members and members of the Staff have been in communication with the Park and Recreation Commission relative to a number of matters relating to the operation of the Park and Recreation function of the City. In addition to the action Council has just taken appropriating some \$30,600.00 for needed capital improvements and capital outlay items, the discussions have included such matters as the budget of the Commission, tax revenue needs of the Commission, certain administrative services which relate to the Commission's functions, the expenditure of bond funds which were recently approved by the voters as well as the overall comprehensive park planning process.

He stated the Park and Recreation function dates back to 1927; it started out with five parks and a total of 143 acres and was supported by a two cent property tax rate. In 1949 the property tax rate was raised to six cents, in 1950 to seven cents and in 1951 to eight cents which is the present tax rate associated with the Park and Recreation function. That over the past few years increased operating expenses and increased capital expenses which have been borne by the Commission operations have continued to put real pressure on the revenue sources which the Commission has available to it. That since 1964 Council has been called on to appropriate a substantial amount of money to prevent the Park and Recreation from operating in the red or to provide adequate resources for them to carry out their budgeted program. Since 1964 that has amounted to \$430,000.

Mr. Carstarphen stated they have attempted to analyze the financial situation which the Park and Recreation Commission faces as well as make some recommendations on some administrative procedures and the planning process. In the area of budget control, in June 1969, the Commission presented Council with a 1969-70 budget which showed a deficit of \$353,000, at which time they requested funds to cover this deficit. After considering the City's revenue situation and the needs of the Commission, Council appropriated some \$180,000 for use by the Commission. In January, 1970, the Commission reported they were in need of additional funds and made a request for some \$255,000 of supplemental funds. At that time the City's staff and the Park and Recreation staff jointly began a review of the budget

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 287

situation and basically concluded that for the remainder of the year, the operating needs of the Park and Recreation Commission could be met by revenue which is available to it; they concluded at that same time that revenue would not be adequate to meet the capital outlay needs which they think were extremely critical and which by the appropriation of some \$30,600 Council has met this afternoon. Since the passage of the bond issue there are some additional resources of assistance there; the \$30,000 appropriation they felt was extremely important and the action Council took today provides an answer to that need. He stated they also suggest that the City's administrative services, in the form of budget control, be extended and offered to the Recreation Commission for the remainder of the year to help carry out the current budget within the existing appropriations.

Mr. Carstarphen stated in terms of the long term financial outlook for the Commission they reported to Council that the eight cent property tax levy now made for Park purposes is inadequate to finance the operation which the Park and Recreation Commission has the responsibility for; in addition, they see a growing need rather than a decreasing one. Next year, the eight cent property tax for the Park and Recreation function will produce from \$900,000 to \$940,000 in revenue; at the same time the personnel expenses just for the current positions at current salary scales within the Park and Recreation operation will exceed \$975,000. Based on a moderate project, with moderate increases they project a deficit in the neighborhood of \$350,000 to \$380,000 next year. To reduce the projected deficit for next year, it will require (a) abandoning the objective of maintaining wage comparability of park and recreation employees with the city; (b) it would eliminate any new capital outlay purchases; and (c) require some severe cut back in the Park and Recreation services. He stated if, on the other hand, the attempt was made to cover this projected deficit through the appropriation of general fund revenues, they can see the possibility of having to divert between 3.5 cents and 4 cents of city tax rates to Park and Recreation function.

He stated in taking a look at the long term needs of the Commission, they refer to a report presented to Council in April 1969 by the City Manager when he pointed out the costs that would have to be incurred to finance a long term capital improvements program which the Commission had presented to Council. The report pointed out that some \$3.34 million in bonds and a total tax increase of nine cents would be required to finance the program presented to Council. He stated in the current situation these projections remain adequate with two exceptions - in the area of debt service requirements and in the area of operating revenue requirements. That the voters approved some \$1.65 million in bonds rather than the \$3.34 million and today \$500,000 of that amount has been approved for sale and will be available April 1. This reduces the requirements for debt service that the Commission faces. In addition, the reduction in the number of physical facilities to be constructed that were projected in April of last year by the Manager have been reduced.

Mr. Carstarphen stated in summarizing the revenue needs in the future, it is recommended that the Commission and the Council give serious consideration to calling for a tax referendum on increasing the Park and Recreation tax by some five cents, up to a maximum of thirteen cents as opposed to the existing eight cents.

He stated the second part of the report deals with administrative procedures followed by the City and the Park and Recreation Commission. There have been staff discussions between the Commission and the City's staff over the past several months in which these procedures have been reviewed. One result of these discussions already in effect is the decision for the Commission to utilize the same budget preparation process used by the City departments for the upcoming fiscal year; this is underway. In addition, they suggest that during the next fiscal year, from July through June, 1971, the following administrative services of the City be extended to the Park and Recreation Commission including (1) budget control, (2) accounting, (3) data processing, (4) personnel and (5) purchasing. He stated

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 288

they feel the consolidation of these staff services will make available to the Commission function additional professional staff in the fields of budget preparation, personnel services, comprehensive cost control, automatic data processing and the increased economy of high volume purchasing operation which the City and County now operate.

Mr. Carstarphen stated the final part of the report deals with the comprehensive park planning process which is recommended; in the past the park planning process has used as a primary basis a series of consultants reports - the latest of which was produced in 1966 by the Charles M. Graves organization of Atlanta, "The Master Plan for Recreation". He stated the two most recent plans of 1956 and 1966, recommended a significant array of new recreational facilities for the city and in many cases an array which was beyond the fiscal realities that the City and Park and Recreation Commission face. These plans have not served as effective guides in the expansion of park and recreation facilities. In the past few years a number of agencies, including the Redevelopment Commission, Housing Authority, Model Neighborhood Commission and others have been involved in developing proposals for open space and recreation facilities. These proposals, some of which have been implemented, have not been a part of a comprehensive plan for recreation and open space services. No planning structure of this comprehensive nature has existed; nor has there been a comprehensive plan to guide these proposals.

He stated they suggest that the Council and the Commission give consideration to requesting the City-County Planning Commission to undertake the continuing responsibility for such park planning processes. An essential goal of which would be to achieve the most equitable distribution of recreation service possible to the total community.

Mr. Carstarphen stated there are five basic recommendations in the report. The first relates to the appropriation of the capital outlay funds which Council acted upon today; the second is offering the city's assistance to the Commission in the control of the Park and Recreation budget; the third suggests that serious consideration be given to a referendum to be put before the voters of the City in the Spring or before the Summer of this year offering the voters the question of increasing the Park and Recreation tax rate up to five additional cents; fourth is the extension of a number of administrative services that are available in the city organization to the Park and Recreation Commission; fifth, the assigning of the continuing responsibility for park planning to the City-County Planning Commission.

He stated there are two other communications included in the report to Council; one deals with the expenditure of park bond funds and the second with considerations that Council might wish to think about in setting a date for the referendum. The first memorandum reports to Council the recommendations the Park and Recreation Commission have submitted on the expenditure of the December 12 bond funds. That \$500,000 of the amount will be available April 1 for expenditure for park purposes. The recommendations are as follows:

1. \$200,000 of the bonds to be for the improvements to existing park facilities including such parks as Southside, Midwood, Alexander, Freedom Park, Community Center at Revolution Park, Tennis Courts at Veterans Park and the Bonnie Brae Golf Course.
2. \$25,000 of the bonds be used for improvements to the Commission's Maintenance Shop which houses the maintenance operation.
3. \$500,000 of the bonds be used to construct two new community centers.
4. \$925,000 of the bonds be made available for the purchase of new parks and community center sites; these sites include two major parks; one in the northwest and one in the southeast area of the city.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 289

He stated the review of these recommendations have resulted in the following recommendations considering the \$500,000 which is currently available for expenditure on these project:

1. That \$200,000 for existing park improvements as recommended by the Park and Recreation Commission be authorized for expenditure.
2. That \$25,000 for improving the Park Maintenance Shop be authorized.
3. That \$75,000 estimated required for the purchase of certain community center sites be approved.
4. That the remaining \$200,000 of bonds funds now available be authorized for the acquisition of park sites, including options, as sites are reviewed by the Planning Commission under the new park planning process.

He stated the remaining funds, some \$1.15 million in bonds will be available for expenditure in March 1971. During the time the two staffs of the Commission and the City will present recommendations to Council for the expenditure of those funds.

Mr. Carstarphen stated the final communication deals with considerations Council might wish to make in terms of setting a date for a referendum on increasing the Park and Recreation Commission property tax base, from the existing 8 cents up to a maximum of 13 cents. He stated if the increase is to have an impact on the upcoming budget, the referendum will have to be held prior to mid-July of this year in order to allow Council to set the final tax rate by the legal limit. There are at least three considerations that should be included in the decision: (1) a thirty-day notice must be given by Council prior to the date of the referendum; (2) primaries for state and county offices will be held on May 2, 1970, and (3) Mecklenburg County will present a county-wide bond proposal on May 30, 1970. The thirty-day notice requirement prohibits the holding of the referendum before May 1. In order for the voter's decision on the question to be reflected in the 1970-71 tax rate, the referendum can be held no later than mid-July 1970. Of primary concern is that the date set for the referendum allows time for the Council and the Commission to inform the voters fully on the questions that will face them concerning the future of the Park and Receptions program.

Councilman Thrower asked how long the city has been operating under the eight cent rate? Mr. Carstarphen replied there was a referendum in 1949 which allowed the city to go up to eight cents; on that basis, it moved up from the two cent limit to six cents in 1949, seven cents in 1950 and eight cents in 1951; that the referendum would give Council the option to increase the tax up to a maximum of five additional cents; the decision as to when the increases would take place will be Council's; a staggered increase can be accommodated. Mr. Carstarphen stated a thirty days legal notice is needed; this would not require Council to actually set a date today unless they are interested in holding the referendum around May 1.

Mr. Daniel R. Martin, Chairman of the Park and Recreation Commission, stated the Commission appreciates Council's action today; they are in favor of the recommendations presented, and in every instance before a decision has been made on the location of a Park, the Planning Commission has been consulted; these recommendations today will get the Planning Commission more involved and give the Park Commission a better insight on where parks should be located; they are very much in favor of it.

Councilman Alexander asked if Council will have the privilege to review the proposed locations of the two community centers before final approval? Mr. Martin replied this is the privilege of Council.

Councilman Alexander asked the possibility of opening up recreation centers on week-ends; that he notices they now close at 12:00 o'clock noon; that this is the time when most kids start their reckless weekends and he wonders if

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 290

keeping the centers open would not afford an opportunity for many of these kids to stay inside rather than going out in the street. Mr. Martin replied he is not aware that all the centers close at 12:00 o'clock on Saturday. Mr. Marion Diehl, Park Director, replied they do not close; they may stop for an hour's lunch, but the Parks stay open until 6:30 during the week and until 10:30 and 11:00 on the weekends according to the type program.

Mayor Belk requested Mr. Diehl and Mr. Martin to check and let Council have the information on whether they do stay open or not, just to make sure.

REFERENDUM INCREASING THE AD VALORUM TAX TO THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION FROM EIGHT CENTS TO THIRTEEN CENTS TO BE HELD BETWEEN JUNE 1 AND JULY 15.

Councilman Short moved that a referendum be held to increase the amount of the ad valorum tax allocated to the Park and Recreation Commission from eight cents to thirteen cents, and this referendum to be held between June 1 and July 15 and at a date Mr. Veeder and Mr. Diehl can confer on and recommend to Council next week. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington.

Councilman Short stated the purpose of the date he mentioned is to have it after the bond referendum and prior to such time as Mr. Carstarphen says is necessary in order to have an impact on the next budget.

Mr. Clarence (Ace) Walker, member of the Park and Recreation Commission, speaking for all members of the Commission, stated they appreciate Council action to place this referendum before the people; they realize the burden it places on the Park and Recreation Commission to communicate to the people of this community the dire need of this additional five cents in the tax structure for Parks and Recreation; that Councilman Thrower has already indicated the need for it in terms of inflationary measures; that he would suggest also there is a need to increase the programming and they have over the past nineteen years been increasing the programming of the parks in terms of the recreational opportunities offered because of the pressures of urbanization; they know they are far behind the national average in the raw acreage in this city available to the citizens for public parks and open spaces; as they attempt to catch up and get into the "ball park", there will be additional programming needed. This is a need that is a crying need and he knows all the members of the Park and Recreation Commission will accept very seriously and very urgently the responsibility of communicating this to the people. He asked Council to be with them in this and to provide them with the assistance so important in putting this before the people with positive leadership on Council's part.

The vote was taken on the motion, and carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PARK AND RECREATION FUNCTION PRESENTED BY MR. CARSTARPHEN APPROVED.

Councilman Whittington moved that the recommendation of the Staff headed by Mr. Carstarphen and the Staff of the Park and Recreation Commission be approved. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jordan.

Councilman Short asked if this includes the various things recommended in the form of eventual happenings and if it includes some immediate things such as selling the \$500,000 bonds, and the requesting of the Planning Commission to engage in the Planning Activities. Councilman Whittington replied it includes the information presented by Mr. Carstarphen and included in the written report handed to Council. (Copy of the report is attached and made a part of the minutes.) See Attachment #1

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

Attach # 1

CITY OF CHARLOTTE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 27, 1970

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: W. J. Veeder
City Manager

SUBJECT: Report and Recommendations on
Park and Recreation Function

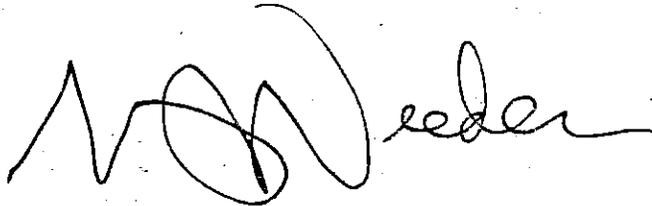
Discussions with the Park and Recreation Commission over the past few weeks have resulted in a number of recommendations for consideration by Council. In addition to the recommended appropriation of \$30,600 in City funds to the current year Park and Recreation budget, which appears on Tuesday's Council Docket, staff recommendations have been made in the areas of budget control, tax revenue, administrative services, bond funds expenditure and park planning. These recommendations are included in the following attached items:

1. Report to Mayor and City Council on the Park and Recreation Function.
2. Memorandum on Expenditure of Park Bond Funds.
3. Memorandum on Date of Proposed Referendum to Increase Park and Recreation Property Tax Rate.

These reports and recommendations will be summarized Tuesday for consideration by Council.

WJV:p

Attachments



Report
to the
Mayor and City Council
on
The Park and Recreation Function

City Manager's Office

March 4, 1970

Report Outline

Part I: Financial Review and Recommendations

Background

Analysis of Current Budgetary Problems

Analysis of Future Revenue Needs

Fiscal Year 1970-71

Fiscal Years 1971-74

Part II: Recommended Revisions in Administrative Procedures

Part III: Recommended Revisions in The Park Planning Process

Part I

Financial Review and Recommendations

Background

The Charlotte Park and Recreation Commission operates 74 parks and playgrounds on 1,000 acres of land located both within and outside of the City. Its principle sources of operating revenue are an eight cent City property tax, fees charged for the use of some of its facilities, a small percentage of A. B. C. profits and intangibles tax revenues and in recent years, substantial contributions from the City General Fund.

The Commission began operating in 1927. The original system consisted of five parks totalling 143 acres and was operated on revenue from a two cent property tax rate. The park tax rate was raised to six cents in 1949, seven cents in 1950 and eight cents in 1951. Over the past decade, pressure on the Commission's revenue structure from both capital and operating expenditure requirements has continued to increase. As a result, contributions from the City General Fund have been required to sustain balanced Park and Recreation Commission budgets. Since 1964 these contributions have totaled \$430,000.

Analysis of Current Budgetary Problems

In June of 1969, the Park and Recreation Commission submitted a 1969-70 budget to the City which showed a deficit of \$353,000. Funds to cover the

deficit were requested. Following a review of the City's revenue situation and the needs of the park program, the City appropriated \$180,000 to the Park and Recreation Commission to be used primarily to cover salary increases. In January 1970 the Commission submitted to the City Manager a request for \$255,000 in supplemental funds for the remainder of the 1969-70 fiscal year. The request was based on projected over-expenditures of available revenues in that amount. A complete review of the Commission's projections as well as actual expenditure figures (through January 30, 1970) was undertaken by the City administrative staff. The resulting projections of 1969-70 Commission revenues and expenditures appear in Table I, "Projected Park and Recreation Revenues and Expenditures: 1969-70":

Table I

Projected Park and Recreation Revenues and Expenditures: 1969-70

Revenues

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Property Taxes	\$ 820,000
A. B. C. Funds	59,000
Intangibles Taxes	46,500
Facilities Fees	195,000
City Contribution	180,000
Miscellaneous	<u>44,465</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,344,965

Expenditures: Operating

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Actual 7/1/69 - 1/30/70	\$ 777,466
Salaries 2/1/70 - 6/30/70	334,338
Summer Program through 1/30/70	36,600
Other Operating Expenses	<u>196,390</u>
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,344,794

Expenditures: Capital

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Capital Outlay	30,600
Capital Improvements	<u>110,060</u>
Total Capital Expenses	\$ 140,660

Projected revenues appear to be adequate to meet projected operating expenditures for the last five months of this year. Revenues will not be adequate to meet budgeted capital outlay or capital improvement expenditures. However, revenue from some \$500,000 of the \$1.65 million in City park bonds approved by the voters in December, 1969 will be available for capital improvement expenditures after April 1. The budgeted \$110,060 in capital improvements can be financed from these bond revenues.

The remaining \$30,600 in budgeted capital outlay expenditures are largely for automotive equipment which is desperately needed. Some of the equipment which would be replaced with the expenditure of these funds is in excess of fifteen years old. It is recommended that revenue in this amount be appropriated by the City for expenditure on specific capital outlay items identified by the Commission staff as critical equipment needs. It is also recommended that the expenditure of Park and Recreation Commission capital outlay and operating funds be reviewed monthly by the Commission staff and the City administrative staff for the remainder of the 1969-70 fiscal year in an effort to prevent any over-expenditure of the above projected budget.

Analysis of Future Revenue Needs

Fiscal Year 1970-71 - The eight cent property tax now levied for park purposes is inadequate to finance the current level of park service. The Commission has become increasingly dependent in recent years on supplemental City appropriations to meet minimum operating expenses. As the Park and Recreation salary structure is made more comparable with that of the City and as inflation continues, the Commission's revenue problems will grow.

Next year the eight cent tax levy will produce an estimated \$900,000 to \$940,000 in revenue. Salary costs alone next year at present levels will

exceed \$975,000. Normal increases in personal services and other operating expenses and a modest capital outlay budget for the 1970-71 fiscal year will result in a projected deficit of between \$356,000 and \$381,000 for the Commission. Table II projects Park and Recreation revenues and expenditures for 1970-71 on the basis of the current revenue structure and alternative increases in operating and capital outlay expenditure requirements.

Table II

Projected 1970-71 Park and Recreation Commission Budget

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Assumption #1</u>	<u>Assumption #2</u>
Eight cent property tax	900,000	940,000
Other revenue	<u>350,000</u>	<u>350,000</u>
	\$1,250,000	\$1,290,000
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Personal Services	1,009,000	1,009,000
Other Operating Expenses	537,000	562,000
Capital Outlay	60,000	100,000
Current Revenue		
Capital Improvement	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
	\$1,606,000	\$1,671,000
<u>Deficit</u>	356,000	381,000

Note:

Assumption #1 is based on five percent salary increase, a ten percent increase in other operating expenses and a \$60,000 capital outlay budget. Assumption #2 is based on five percent salary increase, a fifteen percent increase in other operating expenses and a \$100,000 capital outlay budget.

To reduce projected 1970-71 Park and Recreation expenditures by the amount of the projected deficit, would require a) abandoning the objective of maintaining wage comparability with city employees, b) elimination of any capital outlay purchases and c) a severe cut back on some Park and Recreation service programs. To attempt to cover the deficit with continued supplemental City appropriation would require diverting to the Park and Recreation Commission City General Fund revenues in an additional amount equal to between 3.5¢ and 4¢ on the City property tax rate.

Fiscal Years 1971-74 - In April 1969 the City Manager reported to Council on the cost of financing the first two years of a proposed five-year Park and Recreation Commission Capital Improvement Program. The report concluded that \$3.34 million in bond funds, a five-cent increase in the tax rate to meet operating expenses and a four cent increase to meet debt service needs would be required. These conclusions remain accurate in March 1970 with two exceptions. The exceptions are in the areas of debt service requirements and ⁷operating revenue requirements for new facilities. The amount of park bonds submitted by the City to the voters in December was \$1.65 million rather than \$3.34 million. In addition, only \$500,000 of the bonds were sold as a part of the first year program. Consequently the

increase in the City debt service tax rate required to meet debt service expenses can be reduced to approximately one cent for fiscal 1970-71, one-half cent for 1971-72 and one-half cent for 1972-73. The reduction in the amount of new facilities to be constructed will occasion a similar reduction in the revenue required to operate the new facilities, to about one cent. Updating the City Manager's April 1969 report on this basis results in a total 1970-71 tax rate increase for park purposes of five cents.

The increase is distributed as follows:

To maintain the park program at the present level. . .	2¢
To meet debt service requirements on bonds	1¢
To operate the new facilities constructed with bonds .	1¢
To increase the current level of service or start new programs.	1¢

The Manager also pointed out in his report that while it would be possible to increase the park tax rate only, without approving the sale of bonds for park purposes, it would not be reasonable to approve the sale of bonds without approving an increase in the tax rate. There are three reasons for this: (1) about two cents of the tax rate increase is needed in order to meet the existing operating needs of the Park and Recreation Commission; (2) the capital improvements which would be achieved through use of bond funds will themselves generate a need for an increased

maintenance allowance, and; (3) additional tax money would be required for debt service on the bonds.

Part II

Recommended Revisions in Administrative Procedures

Discussions between the Park and Recreation Commission and the City administrative staff in January 1970 resulted in an agreement to extend the administrative practices and procedures now utilized in the city organization to the Park and Recreation Commission. The initial result of this agreement was the decision for the Park and Recreation Commission to follow the same budget process used by the City in developing the Commission's 1970-71 budget. Efforts toward that end involving the Park and Recreation staff and the City staff have been underway since January. In addition to budget preparation, administrative services in the following areas will be extended by the City to the Park and Recreation Commission after July 1, 1970: (1) budget control, (2) accounting, (3) data processing, (4) personnel and (5) purchasing. The adjustment of various administrative procedures now followed by the Park and Recreation Commission to conform with those of the City will enable the City staff departments to provide services to the Commission staff in the same way the services are now provided to all other City departments. The consolidation of these staff services with the City will make available to the Park and Recreation Commission the resources of a professional staff in the fields of budget preparation and personnel services, comprehensive cost control and automatic data processing capabilities and the increased economy of high volume purchasing.

Part III

Recommended Revisions in the Park Planning Process

In 1966 the Charles M. Graves organization of Atlanta, Georgia prepared a "Master Plan for Recreation" for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. A similar plan was also prepared in 1956 by the Allen organization of Bennington, Vermont. Both the plans assessed the community's park and open space needs from the consultants perspective and proposed extensive additions to the City's recreation facilities. Neither plan was developed with any significant amount of citizen participation. Both of the plans recommended an array of new and expanded facilities which was beyond what the City might expect to achieve with its limited financial resources. The plans have not served as effective guides in the expansion of park facilities.

In the past few years several agencies of City government have become involved in the park and open space planning process. These include in addition to the Park and Recreation Commission, the Redevelopment Commission, the Model Neighborhood Commission, the Planning Commission, the City Landscaping Division, the Intergovernmental Program Coordinator, the Housing Authority and others. These agencies and others have developed and sometimes implemented a variety of park and open space proposals related primarily to their respective special interests. No City-wide planning structure now exists to coordinate the efforts of these various agencies. Nor is there a comprehensive plan which identifies the park and

open space needs of the community as a whole and provides for the programmed investment of public funds to meet these needs. The community is in need of such a plan and of such a comprehensive park planning structure.

Such a park planning and development program should give consideration of the following factors:

- The present distribution of various types of public and private recreation services and facilities in the City
- Deficiencies in recreation services in various parts of the city
- Comparative needs for recreation services in the different socio-economic areas of the City
- Needs and preferences for recreation services as expressed by residents
- Present and future population distribution
- Present and future land use
- Present and future school locations
- Present and future major roads and public transportation facilities
- Present and future redevelopment areas
- Present and future multi-family housing developments

It is recommended that the City Council and the Park and Recreation Commission consider requesting the City-County Planning Commission to undertake the continuing responsibility for such a park planning process.

An essential goal of the process would be to achieve the most equitable distribution of recreation services possible for the total community.

CITY OF CHARLOTTE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 26, 1970

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: W. J. Veeder
City Manager

SUBJECT: Expenditure of Park Bond Funds

A total of \$1.65 million in City park bonds were approved by the voters in December 1969. Revenue from the sale of \$500,000 of those bonds will be available for expenditure after April 1. The remaining \$1.15 million in bonds is currently scheduled for sale in March 1971.

In recent weeks, the Park and Recreation Commission has presented its recommendations for the expenditure of the total \$1.65 million to Council. In summary these recommendations are:

1. Improvements to existing park facilities \$200,000

The facilities to be improved are Southside, Midwood and Alexander Parks, parking facilities at Freedom Park, Revolution Community Center, Veterans Park Tennis Courts and the golf course storage building and club house. *Burns Trace*

2. Expansion of the Commission Maintenance Shop 25,000

3. The construction of two community centers 500,000

The centers would be located in two of the following four areas: Griertown; Westerly Hills, Methodist Home Park and Veterans Park.

4. Land acquisition for new parks and community centers 925,000

The following park and community center sites have been proposed:
a) Northwest Area Park - approximately 100 acres b) Southeast Area Park - approximately 100 acres c) Community Centers: Griertown, Westerly Hills and Methodist Home.

The City administrative staff recommends that the expenditure of \$500,000 in park bond funds for the following projects be authorized immediately:

Mayor and City Council
March 26, 1970
Page 2

Improvements to existing park facilities	\$200,000
Expansion of Park Maintenance Shop	<u>25,000</u>
Purchase of Community Center Sites	<u>75,000</u>

It is recommended that the remaining \$200,000 of the bond funds now available be authorized for acquisition of park sites, including options, as sites are reviewed by the Planning Commission under the new park planning process.

Plans for the expenditure of the remaining \$1.15 million in park bond funds will be developed over the next several months by the City and Park staffs on the basis of the evaluation of several factors listed for consideration in the Park planning process. The data on community preferences gathered by the Park questionnaire of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Urban Renewal and Community Improvement will be evaluated as a part of the planning process. The staff recommendations will be presented to the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council prior to the March 1971 sale of the remaining park bonds.

WJV:p

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. J. V.', written in a cursive style.

CITY OF CHARLOTTE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 26, 1970

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: W. J. Veeder
City Manager

SUBJECT: Date of Proposed Referendum to Increase Park and Recreation
Property Tax Rate

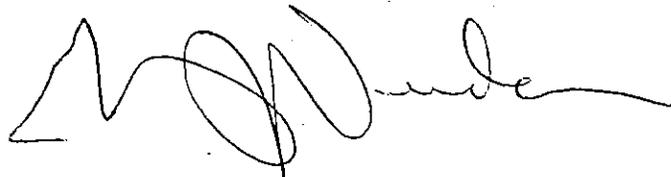
Included in the Report on the Park and Recreation Function is the recommendation that Council call a referendum on the question of increasing the property tax rate for Park and Recreation purposes by five cents. The referendum should be held before the beginning of the 1970-71 fiscal year if the results are to be reflected in the Park and Recreation budget of 1970-71.

The following factors should be considered in setting the date of the referendum:

1. Thirty day notice must be given by Council prior to the date of the referendum.
2. Primaries for state and county offices will be held on May 2, 1970.
3. Mecklenburg County will hold a bond referendum on May 30, 1970.

The 30 day notice requirement prohibits the holding of the referendum before May 1. In order for the voters' decision on the question to be reflected in the 1970-71 tax rate, the referendum can be held no later than mid July 1970.

WJV:p



Attach # 2

CITY OF CHARLOTTE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 27, 1970

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: W. J. Veeder
City Manager

SUBJECT: Clarification and Amendment of the Employee-Employer
Relations Policy

Some of the requests received from employee groups are at variance with State law and City policy. Others may be a cause of concern to employees and members of the public as well as to the members of the City Council. In the interest of avoiding the confusions and misunderstandings that may otherwise occur, it is recommended that Council reaffirm its position with respect to State law and the Employee-Employer Relations policy and clarify its position with respect to certain of the requests of employee groups. A statement to this effect is attached. (Attachment #1)

The Employee-Employer Relations policy adopted as a part of the Personnel Rules and Regulations incorporates the following with respect to strikes and work stoppages:

- (c) Strikes and work stoppages by City employees will not be permitted. Infractions of work rules including unauthorized absences from work shall be cause for disciplinary action.

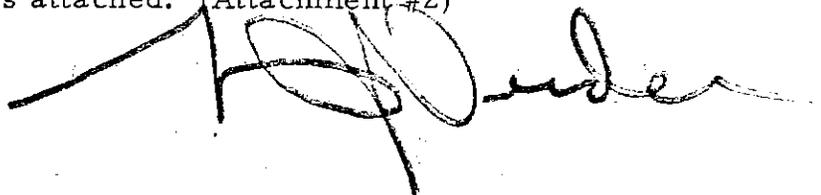
The statement establishes the City's position. It does not, however, define the basis for disciplinary action or the degree of disciplinary action that may be taken. This is an omission which should be corrected and I recommend amendment by substituting the following:

- (c) Strikes and work stoppages by City employees will not be permitted. Instigation of, participation in, or giving leadership to a strike or work stoppage shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
- (d) Infractions of work rules including unauthorized absences from work shall be grounds for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

A resolution to this effect is attached. (Attachment #2)

cw

Attachments



A Statement of Council Policy With Respect to Certain Requests Received From Employee Groups Pursuant to the Provisions of the City's Employee-Employer Relations Policy.

Within the past few weeks the City Council has received requests from two organized employee groups, Local 660 of the International Association of Firefighters and the recently disaffiliated Local 1127 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. These requests, submitted in accordance with the Employee-Employer Relations Policy, are, in some instances, incompatible with this policy or State Law. Illustrative of this are requests from the firefighters and the sanitation workers for formal union recognition, rights of exclusive representation, and checkoff of union dues.

In addition, Local 660 of the International Association of Firefighters requests that members of the City Council negotiate directly with representatives of the firefighters union on wages, terms and conditions of employment and the annual budget for the Fire Department.

Since these requests are contrary to adopted policy and State Law, it is the responsibility of the City Council to clearly set forth its position, as follows, so as to avoid any misunderstandings:

- (1) The City Council cannot, in adhering to State Law and its adopted policy, formally recognize or grant rights of exclusive representation to any employee organization.
- (2) The adopted policy of the City Council designates the City Manager as being the spokesman for the City of Charlotte in matters concerning employee relations and authorizes the City Manager or his designee to meet or confer with

employee representatives. Therefore, the City Council will not appoint or authorize any of its members to negotiate wages, hours and conditions of employment with employee representatives.

- (3) The City Council is opposed to payroll deduction of union dues. This position is based on personal convictions and on legal opinions that payroll deduction of union dues is prohibited by State Statute.

The City Council has also received requests for a reduction in the firefighter workweek from its present 52 hours per week to 40 hours per week. The workweek for firefighters has, in fact, been reduced from 60 hours to 52 hours within the past two years. Council has discussed a further reduction in the firefighter workweek and this may have led to misunderstandings.

Since this request may be based on misunderstanding, the City Council's position is set forth as follows:

A large majority of firefighters in North Carolina and throughout the nation work duty-shifts of more than 52 hours per week.

Reducing duty-shifts to less than 52 hours per week for Charlotte's firefighters cannot be justified.

The magnitude of the pay increases requested by the sanitation workers (25%) and the firefighters (30%) is of concern to the City Council. A pay increase of 30% for all employees would increase annual payroll costs by more than \$5 million dollars. Further, previous demands of the firefighters for pay equal to that of policemen may be of concern to other employee groups.

As assurance to all employees that pay rates will be fairly determined on the basis of the best available criteria the City Council's position is set forth as follows:

The City Council will adhere to a pay policy wherein rates of pay provided for the various classes of employment are determined by the relative difficulty and responsibility of work performed, the availability of employees in particular occupational categories, prevailing rates of pay for similar employment and economic factors. The City Council does not and will not consider the pay rates of unrelated and dissimilar classes of work as being reasonable criteria for setting rates of pay for any class of employment.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 291

ORDINANCES ORDERING THE DEMOLITION AND REMOVAL OF DWELLINGS PURSUANT TO THE HOUSING CODE OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, AND ARTICLE 15, CHAPTER 160 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Motion was made by Councilman Whittington to adopt fourteen ordinances ordering the demolition and removal of dwellings pursuant to the Housing Code of the City of Charlotte and Article 15, Chapter 160 of the General Statutes of North Carolina. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thrower. The ordinances are as follows:

- (a) Ordinance No. 538-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1301 Ashby Street.
- (b) Ordinance No. 539-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1303 Ashby Street.
- (c) Ordinance No. 540-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1305 Ashby Street.
- (d) Ordinance No. 541-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1307 Ashby Street.
- (e) Ordinance No. 542-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1309 Ashby Street.
- (f) Ordinance No. 543-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1311 Ashby Street.
- (g) Ordinance No. 544-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1313 Ashby Street.
- (h) Ordinance No. 545-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1315 Ashby Street.
- (i) Ordinance No. 546-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1317 Ashby Street.
- (j) Ordinance No. 547-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1319 Ashby Street.
- (k) Ordinance No. 548-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 1323 Ashby Street.
- (l) Ordinance No. 549-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 223 North Clarkson Street.
- (m) Ordinance No. 550-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 414 Biddle Street.
- (n) Ordinance No. 551-X ordering the demolition and removal of dwelling at 3208 Ridge Avenue.

Councilman Tuttle asked if any are contested? Mr. Veeder, City Manager, replied all the houses located on Ashby Street and the one on Clartson Street are under one ownership and the owner has requested the City to proceed on this basis. Mr. Underhill, City Attorney, replied there are only two contested. As information, recent snapshots of all the houses were passed around for Council to view.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

Mayor Belk requested in the future if any of the requests for demolition are contested that the information be included as part of the agenda.

The ordinances are recorded in full in Ordinance Book 17, beginning at Page 31.

STREETS TAKEN OVER FOR CONTINUOUS MAINTENANCE BY THE CITY.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and unanimously carried, authorizing streets to be taken over for continuous maintenance by the City, as follows:

- (a) Erinshire Road, from Worcaster Place to Doncaster Drive.
- (b) Ormsby Court, from Erinshire Road to 170 feet northeast of Erinshire Road.
- (c) Doncaster Drive, from 390 feet northeast of Erinshire Road to 410 feet south of Erinshire Road.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 292

- (d) Bulfinch Road, from Barclay Downs Drive to 233 feet north of Barclay Downs Drive.
- (e) Fletcher Road, from Barclay Downs Drive to 154 feet north of Barclay Downs Drive.
- (f) Morrison Boulevard, from Barclay Downs Drive to Sharon Road.
- (g) Dalton Village Drive, from West Boulevard to Farmer Street.
- (h) Farmer Street, from Dalton Village Drive to Clanton Road.

TRANSFER OF CEMETERY LOTS.

Upon motion of Councilman Short, seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and unanimously carried, the Mayor and City Clerk were authorized to execute deeds for the transfer of cemetery lots, as follows:

- (a) Deed with Mrs. Dorothy D. Norwood for Graves No. 3 and 4, in Lot 708, Evergreen Cemetery, at \$160.00.
- (b) Deed with Walter L. and Kathryn I. Brown, for Lot No. 278, Section 6, Evergreen Cemetery, at \$320.00.
- (c) Deed with Luther J. and Georgia L. Invester, for Lot No. 277, Section 6, Evergreen Cemetery, at \$320.00.

APPRAISAL CONTRACTS FOR BELMONT NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Motion was made by Councilman Jordan, and seconded by Councilman Whittington, to approve appraisal contracts for the Belmont Neighborhood Improvement Project, as follows:

- (a) Contract with B. Brevard Brookshire for appraisal of thirteen parcels of land with three at a fee of \$70; eight at a fee of \$100; one at a fee of \$130 and one at a fee of \$180.00, each.
- (b) Contract with Henry E. Bryant for appraisal of thirteen parcels of land with two at a fee of \$70; and eleven at a fee of \$100.00, each.
- (c) Contract with Stuart W. Elliott for appraisal of thirteen parcels of land with three at a fee of \$70; eight at a fee of \$100; one at a fee of \$130 and one at a fee of \$180.00, each.
- (d) Contract with John W. Huffaker for appraisal of thirteen parcels of land with two at a fee of \$70; and eleven at a fee of \$100.00, each.
- (e) Contract with Alfred E. Smith for appraisal of twelve parcels of land with ten at a fee of \$100; and two at a fee of \$150.00, each.

Councilman Alexander stated he raised a question several weeks ago about the Belmont Neighborhood Improvement Project, and before he votes on any more of the project, he would like to know what Council is going to do about the NIP Program. Is Council going to make an effort to investigate the project as a Council or are we accepting what is as is; or what? Mr. Bobo, Administrative Assistant, advised these contracts are for street work. Councilman Alexander stated if it is for street work, then he will take back his objections.

Councilman Jorda stated at the time Council made the tour of the Belmont Project, Mr. Sawyer, Executive Director of the Redevelopment Commission, told Council that an investigation was being made and he would give Council a report; that perhaps Mr. Veeder should ask Mr. Sawyer to bring Council a report on the program. Councilman Tuttle stated he read in the paper that HUD in Atlanta had been requested to make an investigation, and he assumes this is underway. Mr. Veeder replied he is aware that the Redevelopment Commission has made this request and he does not know if anyone is on the scene as yet.

March 31, 1970

Minute Book 53 - Page 293

Councilman Alexander requested the Redevelopment Commission to give a progress report on what has been in the paper; that the request to HUD and HUD granting the request are two different situations; that this is a matter he would not like to see drag on for 60-90 days for HUD to say they will or whill not; that Council has a certain responsibility even before HUD gets to it.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried unanimously.

APPRECIATION EXPRESSED TO SANITATION DEPARTMENT FOR PICKING UP TRASH.

Councilman Jordan stated last week Council requested the Sanitation Department to pick up trash that has been lying on the streets, and a number of people had called about and were not getting their trash picked up. He stated the locations that he called attention to have had their trash picked up now and the people appreciate it very much, and called to say it had been picked up.

REPORT ON FIRST YEAR BOND PROJECTS.

Councilman Whittington stated last week he asked the City Manager for a report on the first year bond projects, and he has done this, and he appreciates it.

He called attention to some of these projects - for example, Sugar Creek Road and the Eastway Drive projects; that the State Highway Commission has held the two required public hearings on Eastway Drive, and are currently evaluating the results of that hearing. He stated the City now should write Mr. Charles Maxwell, Chairman of the Highway Commission for this area, the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Lough Faircloth, the Governor of the State, and tell them of the need for these state projects to begin.

He stated this statement is not critical of anyone, but Sugar Creek is not anticipated to be let for bid until August; that he does not know why this cannot be let sooner; the need is more critical every day; that we have been talking about the widening of Sugar Creek Road, from North Tryon Street to I-85 for six or eight years, and been talking about the Belt Road, for longer than that. He stated this is something that the City's staff should stay on all the time and if anything can be moved up 30 days then he thinks it should be moved up the 30 days.

Councilman Whittington stated nothing is going to happen in these projects until dirt is moved; that he would hope the news media would take the report on the Bond Projects as presented by Mr. Veeder, and put everything in the paper so that the general public will know that the Archdale Bridge, for instance, will be out for contract on a certain date.

Mr. Veeder stated there is a device that the staff would like to use to identify bond projects so that the public will be able to see some of these things. Three signs were shown, and he stated this type sign will be placed on each project and it will show the completion date. He stated this is some of Mr. Woodward's work in the Public Information office.

Mr. Veeder stated under the redevelopment projects there are a number of contracts to be let, and some are being advertised now for award next month in Brooklyn, in addition to the ones listed in the report, there is approximately \$2.125 million worth of work to be let in Brooklyn between now and August. In Brooklyn No. 2 is the sewer outfall relocation, storm drainage, House of Prayer demolition and construction of the park, pools and walkway as part of the governmental center is anticipated to be under contract in August. In Brooklyn No. 3, there is some site improvements scheduled through the post office site, storm drainage, and box culverts scheduled for April; some site improvements on the extension of 3rd Street, and the rebuilding and widening of 4th Street which is anticipated to be

under contract in June. The Redevelopment Commission is waiting for some answers on Blue Heaven before proceeding on site improvements there; this is still awaiting decisions from Council based on the Blue Heaven Committee. In June they plan to put under contract over \$400,000 site improvements including the rebuilding and widening of McDowell Street, rebuilding sections of Alexander Street. He stated all together, this will involve over \$2.0 million worth of construction, all of which will get underway between now and summer, with the only thing on hold being the Blue Heaven improvements.

Mr. Veeder stated this is, in effect, using bond money authorized in December, but at the same time, using temporary financing to accomplish this.

Councilman Whittington requested Mr. Veeder to give members of Council a copy of this report also.

Mr. Veeder stated there are activities going on in Model Cities which is, in effect, using some temporary financing by using some of that money to be replaced when bonds are sold a year from now. The neighborhood center land acquisition, the Third Ward Park Improvements, mini-parks and some acquisition of land.

Councilman Whittington requested Mayor Belk, on behalf of Council, to write the letters to Mr. Charles Maxwell, Mr. Lough Faircloth and to Governor Scott to tell them the need for the state projects such as Sugar Creek Road and Eastway Drive.

DISCUSSION OF SHARON LANE AND PROVIDENCE ROAD INTERSECTION.

Councilman Whittington stated in considering the project design and acquisition for Sharon Road, it seems foolish and would be a gross mistake to not consider another lane of traffic on both sides at the Sharon Lane and Providence Road intersection. That this intersection is congested not only during the peak hours but it is this way all the time.

Mr. Veeder, City Manager, stated there are two principal things that will improve that situation. One is the extension of Fairview through to Carmel Road and if the State will move ahead on the Independence and Park Road section.

Councilman Tuttle stated he is glad that Mr. Whittington brought this up again; that twice in the past week, coming from town around ten after five, he waited on three or four lights in order to get into the left turn lane - this is going south coming out of town on Sharon Amity. First, the lane is not long enough and whether it can be elongated, he does not know; when he finally got up to Providence Road, he had to wait on the light and he sat for three minutes and fifteen seconds. At one time about half way through the wait, he looked back and the cars were lined up as far as he could see over the top of the hill towards Cotswold.

TRAFFIC ENGINEER REQUESTED TO CONSIDER PEDESTRIAN WALKWAYS AT THE SQUARE.

Councilman Whittington stated he read in the paper last week that Mr. Hoose had stated they would not consider changing the loading and unloading and transferring of passengers at the Square at this time. That Mr. Hoose had good valid reasons for this and he does not question that.

Councilman Whittington suggested to Mr. Hoose that he consider planning pedestrian walkways. For example, from Florsheim Shoes directly across the Square to Eckerds so that the pedestrians do not have to cross all the streets and go all the way around the corner. He stated this seems to have some merit and he hopes Mr. Hoose will consider this.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 295

Councilman Short stated he would like to endorse this recommendation. That this was started in Columbia on their main street and it is true that it delays automobile traffic, but he thinks this should be considered.

Councilman Alexander stated most of the places where there is delayed traffic and the pedestrians can cross in any direction, the cities observe a strict jaywalking ordinance; they give you a jaywalking ticket and you pay it right there.

COUNCILMAN TUTTLE REQUESTS VARIOUS REPORTS.

Councilman Tuttle stated he has not received a report on his request of several weeks ago for more street lighting at the corner of Fourth and College Streets.

Councilman Tuttle asked the City Attorney if he has received a copy of Dayton's Ordinance designating certain areas as loitering areas? Mr. Underhill replied he has written and called Dayton and he has been promised something; that he has also written the National City Attorneys organization.

Mr. Jerry Wones, Administrative Assistant, stated just four weeks ago he came from the City of Dayton having worked in the City Manager's office. He stated they worked with the City Attorney's office in preparing the ordinance on loitering which has some very questionable constitutionality. That it was contested by everyone, but it was passed. That it is now being tested in the courts.

Councilman Tuttle stated all he is trying to get at is what Dayton has and to see if Mr. Underhill can, with modifications, come up with something to do a very desperately needed job of policing, some way to pick these people up when they know they are standing there ready to sell dope or when we know they are standing there waiting for someone to pick them up in a automobile. Mr. Wones stated Dayton found they were arresting people for prostitution and would arrest them ten more times before the first trial would even come up. Councilman Tuttle stated he appreciates this but if they had a bad law, and we take a look at it there may be a way to make a good law out of it.

REPORT REQUESTED ON WHEN SOUTHERN PORTION OF THIRD STREET EXTENSION WILL BE CUT THROUGH.

Councilman Short stated he has been asked when the people who live in the Providence, Randolph and Queens Road area might be able to get around cutting back up College Street and going down Fourth Street when they are trying to come along Third Street getting to the Myers Park area. He asked when Third Street will be cut through? That it is not a bond project but it is a capital improvement project. When you try to find out about this you get several answers. One - it is waiting on the throughway along Sugar Creek; that throughway is not even funded yet or even planned specifically. The other is it is waiting on the orphanage which has now moved. The other is it is waiting on the State.

The City Manager replied the Urban Redevelopment Commission reports they plan to put under contract in June the extension of Third Street and the rebuilding and widening of East Fourth Street; this will be through the Brooklyn Area and will take it to the creek. From that point back to where it will tie in at Kings Drive, the City has agreed that the State Highway Commission has an interest in acquiring some of the orphanage property for expressway purposes, and the city having some interest in the property for purposes of extending Third Street, that the Highway Commission will negotiate for both the City and the State. That he will have to get a current status report from the State.

Councilman Short requested the City Manager to bring a report on the southern portion beyond the creek.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 296

REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR PEDESTRIANS AT AN EARLY CONFERENCE SESSION.

Councilman Short stated sometime ago he suggested and Council voted to request Mr. Hoose to discuss with Council what is possible for pedestrians in Charlotte; that there are several things that can be discussed, and he hopes Mr. Veeder has this planned for one of Council's conference sessions.

REQUEST THAT CHAPEL ON OLD THOMPSON ORPHANAGE PROPERTY BE PRESERVED.

Councilman Alexander stated he read in the paper that Thompson Orphanage has been moved to its new location. He requested Council and the Manager to keep in mind his request to Council several years ago about preserving the Chapel. That as we get closer to adding improvements around that site he would ask that we not lose site of preserving the Chapel.

Councilman Tuttle stated in the last week two people have said to him that it would be a crime to tear the Chapel down, and he agrees with Mr. Alexander's request.

PROGRESS REPORT ON REQUEST FOR CONFERENCE ON CRIME WITH VARIOUS LOCAL, COUNTY, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.

Councilman Whittington asked if any action has been taken on setting up a meeting with the various agencies to consider the problems of crime? The City Manager replied they have approached UNCC to see if they had any interest in sponsoring such a conference and to take the initiative to schedule and in part to fund some of the costs. That they expressed considerable interest. Mr. Curtis Branscome has been working with Mr. Larry Owens at the University, and apparently the University will schedule this.

Councilman Tuttle stated Council does not want to go to something and listen to a lot of speeches; that Council wants to sit down and call some spades a spade. Mr. Veeder replied there is no interest in changing the intent of Council, and this is exactly what has been presented to the University.

MOTION TO ESTABLISH A JOINT CITY-COUNTY MASS TRANSIT COMMISSION SYSTEM WITHDRAWN.

Councilman Thrower moved that Council establish a Joint City-County Mass Transit Commission System for the City of Charlotte and the County of Mecklenburg. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander.

Councilman Whittington asked what this Commission will do and if the Planning Commission thinks it is necessary at this point.

Mr. McIntyre, Planning Director, stated there are many things in motion relating to mass transit planning. That planning for transportation involves (1) population, both present and future and (2) location of employment for the people; that this is of particular importance in Charlotte where we are growing so rapidly; you have to think about the future of transportation in relationship to a comprehensive development plan for the whole community. At present the Staff of the Planning Commission, State Highway Commission Staff, City Engineering Department, and Traffic Engineering Department are all involved in various aspects of heading towards a general city-county development plan looking to the period 1970 through 1995.

That such a development plan has to be based on a good deal of information. Basically where the city is now; you have to consider present population and this study has been completed; you have to consider existing land uses and that study is in process; you have to consider present employment distribution and that study is in process; you have to consider housing; consider income and this study is in process; an origin and destination survey is in process and the State Highway Commission staff is primarily responsible for this study - the survey is to determine what trips are made on an average daily basis; and you have to have a survey of the present public transportation

March 31, 1970

Minute Book 53 - Page 297

and Council sometime ago approved a partial study of public transportation in particular that part that relates to low income people and relates to job opportunity, and that inventory will have to be amplified to consider public transportation as a whole.

Mr. McIntyre stated the first portion being done then you need to get into the area of making future development projections, and this is extremely important in the transportation planning process. In planning for a period from 1970 to 1995 we are planning for some 400,000 people who are not even here yet. Involved in this portion is the economic study which is completed and will be available shortly; (2) the population study is now just about complete and will be published shortly in which they made projections of populations and future distributions; (3) projections have to be made on vehicular traffic and transit; (4) a key to successful transportation planning is anticipating use of land that will evolve over this criteria.

He stated the approach recommended by the people working on this project is to come up with future development alternatives; alternatives in terms of major roads, public transportation, land development and jobs. He stated the reason they think it is important to come up with alternatives in this kind of planning process is what we are dealing with here is what kind of community Charlotte and Mecklenburg County should become over the years ahead, and they do not think this kind of decision should be made strictly on the basis of professional recommendations, but that alternatives to professional recommendations be developed and widely discussed so that out of the planning process we develop some kind of consensus as to the kind of community that Charlotte-Mecklenburg might become.

Councilman Alexander asked if this is the point where a Commission as recommended by Mr. Thrower could be useful? Mr. McIntyre replied it would be useful at that time; but in the consideration of alternatives you have to go easy on a single committee and it has to really involve the cross section of the whole community.

Councilman Tuttle stated he would not want to see a committee appointed just for the sake of appointing a committee. He asked if Mr. McIntyre's study has gone far enough for a Committee to start to work or if it is premature at this time? Mr. McIntyre replied it is premature at present; that a lot more professional input is needed to get further down the road in the whole planning process before a committee can be effectively used. Councilman Tuttle stated he thinks Mr. Thrower is right and we have to have this committee, but we have committees now that do not function, and if we appoint a committee and they have to sit back and wait, the enthusiasm will be gone.

Mayor Belk stated the Chamber of Commerce has a Committee on this and they did not realize how much work the City has done on this, and the County has requested Council to appoint this committee to help them.

Councilman Thrower stated the Parking Committee which has been suggested could probably be included in this later; that we can sit back and wait, and wait until 1980 and we will be in the hole. He stated he was in Washington and they talked 95 percent about mass transit and public transportation and 5 percent about roads and highways, and unless the city and county get on the ball we will be left so far behind we will never catch up with them.

Mr. McIntyre stated in terms of public transportation they are proposing to the City and County governments the hiring of Wilbur Smith and Associates to work with this team on the public transportation aspects; that you cannot consider public transportation as an isolated entity separated from the major thoroughfare plan.

March 31, 1970

Minute Book 53 - Page 298

Councilman Thrower stated he does not think you are going to get the cooperation that we have gotten in the past, and now is the time to act on this; the Chamber of Commerce recognizes this and the County recognizes it. That he is talking about an end product; a Commission to take over a portion of that end product.

Councilman Whittington stated he is not in opposition to Mr. Thrower's suggestion, but from what Mr. McIntyre has said and what Mr. Veeder has said more has gone into the study of public transportation and mass transportation than the general public realizes. This Committee of which Harry Wolfe is Chairman, the Coordinating Committee for Urban Affairs and Environment, has been meeting every Wednesday in the office of the Planning Commission with Mr. McIntyre; and all these things that he has presented today is in the works. He stated until this Committee of Harry Wolfe's reports he would urge that Mr. Thrower not insist that the committee be created today. When the Chamber of Commerce reports on their Mass Transit and Wilbur Smith reports and Topics report together with what Mr. McIntyre has reported and what the Coordinating Committee comes forth with, then that will be the time for the appointment of this Committee.

Councilman Thrower stated you cannot build the building and then have someone come in and say that is it; that he thinks these people should get in on the ground work.

Mayor Belk stated he does not think the Chamber of Commerce is aware of how much work has been done on this, and the only thing this Committee will do is work in conjunction with them and show unity in the whole area; that he feels this will eventually go into the Metrolina area and not just within the City.

Councilman Short asked who will appoint the committee and how many will serve on the committee? Councilman Thrower replied this is not known at this time. Councilman Tuttle stated he has great respect for the work done by the Chamber and he has great respect for their concern, but he cringes at the thought of appointing a committee just to be appointing one, and he would rather tell the Chamber by resolution that Council is concerned. That until these reports come in he does not believe a Committee could function.

Councilman Whittington stated the idea of the Urban Affairs Committee was to coordinate all these agencies; that this would be sort of going into the back door; that the Urban Affairs Committee is doing all that the City and County has asked it to do, and then this would be getting another committee to work on the very thing these people are working on. That it should all be coordinated under the Urban Affairs Committee. Councilman Thrower stated he has no objection to that.

After further discussion, Councilman Thrower withdrew his motion.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REQUESTED TO GIVE PROGRESS REPORT ON INVESTIGATION BEING MADE ON NIP PROGRAM FOR BELMONT-VILLA HEIGHTS AREA.

Councilman Alexander requested that the Redevelopment Commission come to the next formal Council Session and give Council a progress report on what steps have been taken or what progress is being made on the investigation of the NIP Program.

CLARIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE EMPLOYEE-EMPLOYER RELATIONS POLICY, ADOPTED.

The City Manager stated Council has received a report suggesting some clarification amendments to the Employee-Employer Relations Policy of the City. One is a policy statement for Council to consider and the other an amendment to the policy as it relates to strikes and work stoppages. He stated both of these are recommended for Council's approval.

March 31, 1970
Minute Book 53 - Page 299

Councilman Whittington moved approval of a Statement of Council Policy With Respect to Certain Requests Received from Employee Groups Pursuant to the Provisions of the City's Employee-Employer Relations Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and carried unanimously.

The statement is attached and made a part of the minutes.
(See Attachment #2)

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, ADOPTED.

Councilman Whittington moved the adoption of a resolution amending the personnel rules and regulations of the City of Charlotte to be effective March 31, 1970. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tuttle, and carried unanimously.

The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 7, at Page 67.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no other business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk