

Organizational Meeting  
May 11, 1953  
Minute Book 34 - Page 490

An adjourned meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, convened at 10 o'clock a.m., on Monday, May 11, 1953, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, for the purpose of inducting into office the Mayor, City Council and two members of the Board of School Commissioners, who were elected to said offices by a vote of the people at an election held on May 5, 1953.

Mayor Victor Shaw presided, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Coddington, Dellinger and Van Every were present.

INVOCATION.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Mr. J. D. Farr, First Reader of The First Church of Christ, Scientist.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Van Every, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the Council Meeting on May 6, 1953, were approved as submitted.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS.

Mayor Shaw presented Mrs. James W. Armstrong, widow of the late James W. Armstrong, Collector of Revenue for the City; Mr. Sandy R. Jordan, Mr. G. Douglas Aitken, Mr. J. H. Daughtry and Mr. Emmett M. Wilkinson, former Councilmen who served during the Mayor's four year term of office.

SPEECH BY MAYOR SHAW.

Mayor Shaw made the following remarks:

This is hardly the time or place for an outgoing Mayor to delay the course of destiny. I do not intend to do so. Whatever my administration has accomplished has been written on the record, with the page now turning. I would be less than honest, though, if I failed to express my deep appreciation for the loyal men and women who have been associated with that administration - either as active members in official capacities - or as friends whose help and encouragement made the effort worthwhile. I shall always be grateful for their devoted assistance. But the page must turn. I look upon the last four years with a certain satisfaction, and I look to the future with absolute confidence. The City of Charlotte is in good hands.

REPORT OF THE MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS.

The following report of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections was read by Mrs. Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk:

"The Mecklenburg County Board of Elections met in the Domestic Relations Court Room of the Court House of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on the 7th day of May, 1953, in the presence of such electors as chose to attend, for the purpose of canvassing the votes cast in the City Election, May 5, 1953, for Mayor, Councilmen and Members of the School Board of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Each Registrar in the various precincts of the City of Charlotte delivered the respective returns of his or her precinct to the Said Board of Elections, and the said board opened the returns, and immediately, canvassed and judicially determined the results of the voting in such election, stating the number

of legal ballots cast in each precinct for each candidate, the name of each person voted for, and the total number of votes given to each person for each different office.

The said County Board of Elections made and signed duplicate abstracts thereof, and the Chairman of the said County Board of Elections signed an affidavit on each of said duplicate abstracts of the returns of the said municipal election that they were true and correct. On May 8, 1953, the County Board of Elections filed one set of the duplicate returns of the Registrars and Judges, and one of the duplicate abstracts of the County Board of Elections with the Clerk of the City of Charlotte. On the 9th day of May, 1953, the said County Board of Elections made and caused to be published in the Charlotte Observer, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Charlotte, once, the results of said election, and on May 9, 1953, also posted written notice of such results in the Court House of Mecklenburg County, at the place where notices are usually posted, and in the City Hall of Charlotte, North Carolina, at the place where notices are usually posted.

The results of the City Election held in the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 5, 1953, as canvassed and judicially determined by the County Board of Elections appear in duplicate abstracts made by said Board, one of which is filed with the City Clerk of Charlotte and the votes for the various offices in said election are as follows:

## FOR MAYOR

Philip L. Van Every	9,208
John McCrae, Jr.	1
Victor Shaw	1
Lonnie Sides	1

## FOR COUNCILMEN

Claude L. Albea	7,426
Kelly M. Alexander	3,738
H. H. Baxter	7,919
Basil M. Boyd	8,044
Herman A. Brown	8,188
Steve W. Dellinger	8,205
Arthur S. Grier	5,449
Willis I. Henderson	6,880
James C. McKibben	1,434
James S. Smith	8,560
W. Everett Wilkinson	8,435

## FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

Emma R. Anderson	5,221
Mrs. Emily Bellows	6,650
Everett Bierman	5,336
Ben Huntley	7,051
C. B. Capps	1

The following were declared elected:

## FOR MAYOR

Philip L. Van Every

## FOR COUNCILMEN

Claude L. Albea  
H. H. Baxter  
Basil M. Boyd  
Herman A. Brown  
Steve W. Dellinger  
James S. Smith  
W. Everett Wilkinson

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

May 11, 1953

Minute Book 34 - Page 492

## FOR MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

Mrs. Emily Bellows  
Ben Huntley

## MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

By: W. C. Davis Chairman  
E. S. DeLaney Secretary  
Wm. T. Alexander Member "

## OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MAYOR-ELECT.

Mayor Victor Shaw administered the Oath of office of Mayor to Mr. Philip L. Van Every, Mayor-elect, at 10:06 o'clock a.m., and presented him with the Mayor's Gavel.

Mr. Shaw then presented Mayor Van Every with the City of Charlotte No. I Automobile License Plate from his car.

## OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO CITY COUNCILMEN-ELECT.

The Oath of office of City Councilmen was administered by the City Clerk to Councilmen-elect Claude L. Albea, H. H. Baxter, Basil M. Boyd, Herman A. Brown, Steve W. Dellinger, James S. Smith and W. Everett Wilkinson, at 10:10 o'clock a.m.

## ELECTED MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL ARE SEATED.

Thereupon, the Mayor and members of the 1953-1955 City Council were seated.

## OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO TWO MEMBERS-ELECT OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of office of School Commissioner to Mrs. Emily Bellows and Mr. Ben Huntley, School Commissioners-elect.

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY MAYOR PHILIP L. VAN EVERY.

The following inaugural address was delivered by Mayor Philip L. Van Every:

The Honorable Council, the Irresistible and Lovable Mr. Victor Shaw, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today I have taken an Oath to represent the finest city in the world - Charlotte. In the presence of the citizens who are gathered here, I would like to say that I consider my office a sacred trust and I will consecrate myself to your service. I will engage every faculty and make every effort in the promotion of the welfare of the people of Charlotte. In the discharge of my official duty I shall be guided by the best interests of all of our citizens. I am deeply grateful to you for the vote of confidence that you have given me. I feel very humble. I will endeavor to be the kind of Mayor that you so richly deserve. On this auspicious occasion I would ask fervently for the benediction of our Almighty God on our administration, and may the Infinite Power which rules the destinies of the universe lead our Council to what is best, and give to us peace and prosperity.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

May 11, 1953

Minute Book 34 - Page 493

## INTRODUCTION OF W. I. CODDINGTON, RETIRING COUNCILMAN.

Mayor Van Every introduced Mr. W. I. Coddington, retiring Councilman, and invited him to speak.

Mr. Coddington expressed his pleasure at his association with the retiring Mayor, Councilmen, City Officials and employees during his four years term on the City Council. He wished for the incoming Mayor and Council a successful administration, and expressed the hope that all of the incompleting projects that have been labored over during the past four years will be accomplished. He expressed confidence in the new officials that theirs will be a progressive administration.

## SPEECHES BY CITY COUNCILMEN.

Mayor Van Every stated that the citizens of Charlotte have spoken by their most cherished right - the Ballot. They have chosen a great City Council team, and it is his privilege to present the members of the Council, individually, and ask them to introduce the members of their families who are present today.

He then introduced Councilman Claude L. Albea, who is associated with The Charlotte News and a member of the City Council during the past twenty years. Councilman Albea expressed his appreciation to the citizens for their support over the many years he has been a candidate for the City Council, and pledged his best efforts to the City for the next two years. He then introduced his wife.

The Mayor presented Councilman Baxter, President of Central Lumber Company, who served as Mayor of Charlotte for three terms and as Councilman for the past four years. Councilman Baxter introduced his wife and daughters, Mrs. Alan Hayes and Mrs. Paul Dulin. He expressed his pleasure at serving with Mr. Shaw as Mayor, and pledged his best service and full cooperation to Mayor Van Every. He welcomed the three new Councilmen, expressing his pleasure at having "new blood" on the Council, and deplored the lack of interest of our citizens in offering as candidates for the City Council to serve the City of Charlotte. He pledged his best efforts in the interest of the citizens during the next two years.

Councilman Basil M. Boyd, an Attorney, Councilman for the past four years, former City Attorney and former member of the State Legislature, was next introduced. Councilman Boyd presented his wife. He advised that he has promised himself and a few other people that he will let Councilman Baxter and other Councilmen promote things for the next two years and he is going to sit back and enjoy himself. He expressed his gratitude for the confidence of the people in re-electing him to the City Council, and his appreciation for their votes, and stated he will represent the great masses of the people of Charlotte fearlessly, fairly, justly, equitably but unafraid, to the best of his ability during the next two years.

Mayor Van Every then introduced Councilman Herman A. Brown, President of Brown-Shoemaker Tire Company, who is beginning his first term on the City Council. Councilman Brown introduced his wife. He stated that he stood humbly before the people today, deeply grateful for the confidence placed in him, and that he would do his dead-level best to warrant that confidence, and he hoped to serve the City well.

Councilman Steve W. Dellinger, President of Charlotte Auto Parts Company, and Councilman for the past two years, was next presented. He stated that he has derived a great deal of satisfaction from serving as a City Councilman for the past two years; that he has endeavored to give his best efforts to the job, and will continue his support of the projects now in progress, and give his full cooperation to those matters that are presented which are for the best interest of Charlotte. He expressed his appreciation to the citizens for the vote given him and stated he would not betray their trust. He then introduced his wife, and son, Bill.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

May 11, 1953

Minute Book 34 - Page 494

Councilman James S. Smith, who was next introduced, is President of Carolina Brush Company, and beginning his first term on the City Council. He presented his wife, daughter Gerrii, son Jim, Jr. and his wife, his mother Mrs. Blanche Smith, his sister Miss Laura Smith, his aunt Miss Smith of Albemarle and father-in-law Mr. F. G. Bleecker of Fayetteville. He stated that he is not only grateful, but completely 'flabbergasted' at the very fine vote accorded him by the citizens; that he will give his dead-level best to the City of Charlotte during the next two years to justify the trust placed in him.

The Mayor then introduced Councilman W. Everett Wilkinson, President of the Carolina Transfer and Storage Company, who is beginning his first term on the City Council. Councilman Wilkinson then introduced his wife. He stated that it is needless to say it is a great pleasure to be present today as a member of the City Council. That he appreciates the kindness of the people of Charlotte in placing their confidence in him, and if he can in some small way serve the people as an humble servant, and be of service in making Charlotte a finer city, then he will feel he has accomplished something of value during his term of office. He pledged his best efforts to the citizens.

## FAMILY OF MR. SHAW, RETIRING MAYOR, INTRODUCED BY MAYOR VAN EVERY.

Mayor Van Every introduced Mrs. Victor Shaw, Miss Elsie Shaw, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Shaw, Jr., and Mr. Harry Shaw, and Mr. Harry Shaw, Jr., members of the family of Mr. Victor Shaw, the retiring Mayor.

## INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY OF MAYOR VAN EVERY.

The Mayor then presented his wife, his daughters, Misses Buck, Puddin, Pokey and Bippy Van Every, his brothers Messrs. Stephen, David and William Van Every, his parents-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Mullen and sisters-in-law Miss Emily Johnson, Mrs. James Hambright and Mrs. Neely, all of Anderson, S. C.

## MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS PRESENTED.

Mayor Van Every then introduced Mrs. Emily Bellows and Mr. Ben Huntley, the two new members of the Board of School Commissioners.

## REMARKS BY AUDIENCE.

Mr. J. N. Pease, President of J. N. Pease & Company, expressed congratulations to the citizens of Charlotte on their new City executives.

Mr. D. E. Henderson, former Attorney, also congratulated Charlotte on its selection of City Officials, and wished for them a most successful administration.

Dr. J. Nathaniel Tross, Educator and Civic-leader, expressed deep interest in the voice and vote of the people in sending to the City Hall a good government. He stated he was sure he voiced the gratitude of the negro constituency of Charlotte in saying that under the leadership of the new Mayor and Council, great things may be accomplished for the good of all the citizens.

## ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE.

Councilman Baxter moved the nomination of Councilman James S. Smith as Mayor pro tempore. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

Councilman Smith expressed his appreciation for the honor, and pledged his best efforts in the fulfillment of the duties of the office.

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

May 11, 1953

Minute Book 34 - Page 495

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th, AT 4 O'CLOCK P.M. WHEN THE TIME FOR REGULAR MEETINGS WILL BE FIXED.

Councilman Baxter moved that the regular Council Meetings be held on each Wednesday, at 4 o'clock p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger.

A substitute motion was offered by Councilman Albea that the next Council Meeting be held on Wednesday, May 13th, at 4 o'clock p.m., and the time of future meetings be fixed at that time. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

ALL CITY MATTERS TO REMAIN STATUS QUO UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

Councilman Albea moved that all matters remain status quo until the next Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boyd, and unanimously carried.

NAME PLATE FROM COUNCIL TABLE PRESENTED TO MR. VICTOR SHAW.

In presenting his name plate from the Council Table to the retiring Mayor, Mr. Victor Shaw, Mayor Van Every said this Name Plate has hung here for four years, and I am particularly proud to present it because to me it represents four years of splendid service you have rendered to your fellowman. It is symbolic of your fruitful administration for the advancement of our city. You have left your mark as a great Mayor of the City of Charlotte, and in my inexperienced efforts to follow in your footsteps, I realize full well that you have left some mighty big shoes for me to fill. The citizens of Charlotte, whom you have served so faithfully and so well, are proud of you. And to me, you will always be our "Number One Citizen - Mayor Victor Shaw".

NAME PLATE FROM COUNCIL TABLE PRESENTED TO MR. W. I. CODDINGTON, RETIRING COUNCILMAN.

At the request of Mayor Van Every, the Plate from the Council Table bearing the name of Mr. W. I. Coddington, retiring Councilman, was presented to him by Councilman Boyd, who stated that he had had the honor and privilege to serve with Mr. Coddington and sit beside him for the past four years. That one of the most satisfying things he had gotten from serving on the Council has been the opportunity to make new friends. That during the four years he had learned to have the highest regard and admiration for Mr. Coddington as a man and as an Official of the City. That they had not agreed on many things, but that is as it should be - that is democracy. That he would miss him during the next two years, and the City Employees would miss him, as he had always been kind and considerate to them. That he would always remember him most pleasantly, and he asked God's blessing on him and his family.

CITY CLERK DIRECTED TO SECURE PICTURE OF FORMER MAYOR SHAW FOR COUNCIL CHAMBER.

Councilman Baxter moved that the City Clerk be directed to secure a picture of former Mayor Shaw to be hung in the Council Chamber. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

PLAQUE PRESENTED TO MR. SHAW FROM CITY COUNCIL.

Councilman Baxter presented to the retiring Mayor, Mr. Shaw, a Bronze Plaque bearing the inscription, "Presented to Mr. Victor Shaw in appreciation of his leadership and loyalty while serving as Mayor of the City of Charlotte, 1949-1953" and signed by the members of the 1951-53 City Council.

Mr. Shaw expressed his deep appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the Councilmen and for the most attractive gift and its inscription.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

City Clerk