

May 17, 1971
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 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m., on Monday, May 17, 1971, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, pursuant to Section 3.21 of the Charter of the City of Charlotte, for the purpose of inducting into office the Mayor and members of the City Council, elected at large by the qualified voters of Charlotte in the General Municipal Election held on Friday, May 7, 1971. Mayor John M. Belk presided and Councilmen Fred D. Alexander, Sandy R. Jordan, Milton Short, John H. Thrower, Joe D. Withrow and James B. Whittington were present.

ABSENT: Councilman Jerry Tuttle.

* * * * *

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Reverend Charles L. Kirby, Minister of Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Whittington, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the last meeting, on May 10, 1971, were approved as submitted.

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF JOHN D. SHAW.

Councilman Jordan presented the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, it was with profound sorrow that the City Council learned of the death of John D. Shaw on May 15, 1971; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shaw was a highly respected member of the legal profession and an influential community leader, having been elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1929; and

WHEREAS, in 1945 he became City Attorney for the City of Charlotte and served in that capacity for over sixteen years, with an unusual dedication to public service carrying out his duties and responsibilities in such a manner that his talents were clearly reflected in the growth and progress of Charlotte.

WHEREAS, he was Past Potentate of Oasis Temple and served on the Board of Governors of the Shrine Bowl and as Master of Ceremonies at the Annual Shrine Bowl Game; and

WHEREAS, he was also an active member of the Myers Park United Methodist Church, and had been a member of its Administrative Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Charlotte, in regular session assembled, this 17th day of May, 1971, that this Council does hereby declare its deepest regret at the death of John D. Shaw and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family as a testimonial of sincere appreciation for his public service to the citizens of the City of Charlotte; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the family and that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting."

After the reading of the resolution everyone stood in a moment of silent prayer in memory of Mr. Shaw.

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REPORT OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE
 GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1971.

The City Clerk read the following report of the Mecklenburg County Board
 of Elections of the results of the General Municipal Election held on
 Friday, May 7, 1971:

"The Mecklenburg County Board of Elections met in the County Commissioner's
 Board Room in the County Office Building in Mecklenburg County, North
 Carolina, at 10 o'clock a.m. on the 10th day of May, 1971, in the presence
 of such electors as chose to attend, for the purpose of canvassing the
 votes cast in the City Election on May 7, 1971, for Mayor and members of
 the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The results of said City Election, as canvassed and judicially determined
 by the said Mecklenburg County Board of Elections appear in Duplicate
 Abstracts made by said Board, one of which is filed with the City Clerk of
 the City of Charlotte, and the votes for various offices in said election
 as follows:

FOR MAYOR

John M. Belk	20,534
Albert T. Pearson	7,950

FOR COUNCILMEN

Fred D. Alexander	17,094
Patrick N. Calhoun	15,039
Sandy R. Jordan	12,537
Lyn King	6,291
Horace E. Lutz	4,526
Arthur Lynch, Jr.	7,222
James D. (Jim) McDuffie	15,915
Jimmie W. Patton	5,621
John Robbins	12,007
Milton Short	13,972
Jerry Tuttle	11,761
Alan Wells	11,963
James B. (Jim) Whittington	16,781
Joe D. Withrow	13,349

The following were declared elected:

FOR MAYOR

John M. Belk

FOR COUNCILMEN

Fred D. Alexander
 Patrick N. Calhoun
 Sandy R. Jordan
 James D. (Jim) McDuffie
 Milton Short
 James B. (Jim) Whittington
 Joe D. Withrow

(continued)

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Write-in Votes are as follows:

FOR MAYOR

George Abernathy	4
Charles Davis	1
Ron DePaolis	1
Herbert Heichenbleikner	1
Eniel Helms	1
Dot Jackson	17
Fred Johnson	1
James H. B. Kenyon	1
Carlos Kumpke	1
George Leak	1
Judy Leonard	2
James McDoa	1
Jim McDuffie	1
Jesse Riley	1
Richard E. Robinson	2
Gib Smith	11
John Tate	1
Clyde Weddle	1
Jim Whittington	3
William Poe	2

FOR COUNCILMEN

George Abernathy	1
Cy Bahakel	1
Martha Bradwell	1
James M. Dal	1
James M. Day	1
John Doe	1
Elo Henderson	1
Curtis Horthy	1
Dot Jackson	1
Fred R. Jordan	5
Rick Robinson	1
Rudy Torrence	1

MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Elizabeth G. Hair Chairman

Robert W. Bradshaw, Jr. Secretary

W. B. Nivens Member

Filed with the City Clerk of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, this the 10th day of May, 1971.

William B.A. Culp, Jr.
 Executive Secretary
 Mecklenburg County Board of Elections"

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REMARKS BY RETIRING COUNCILMAN JOHN H. THROWER.

Councilman Thrower stated he has asked the Clerk to prepare a list of accomplishments this Council has made over the past two years, and he has distributed copies to the Council. He asked that the press be given a copy of this.

He stated he would like to thank his constituents; that he would like to thank the public for allowing him to serve them this past few years.

Councilman Thrower stated "May the Council have the good grace and the Good Lord with them in their deliberations and their decisions".

Mayor Belk stated Councilman Thrower's dedication in serving the City is appreciated; that he will be missed. That his great sense of humor will be missed. He stated he personally has enjoyed being with him these two years and in getting to know him much better.

Mayor Belk presented Councilman Thrower with a plaque containing his name plate from the Council Chamber.

Mayor Belk stated retiring Councilman Jerry Tuttle is out of the City today, and will not be with us. Last week he did make some comments to the Councilmembers and to the public.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED MAYOR ELECT JOHN M. BELK.

The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-elect John M. Belk at 10:10 o'clock a.m.

OATHS OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

Mayor John M. Belk administered the Oaths of Office to the members-elect of the City Council, at 10:12 o'clock a.m., i.e., Fred D. Alexander, Patrick N. Calhoun, Sandy R. Jordan, James D. McDuffie, Milton Short, James B. Whittington and Joe D. Withrow.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE.

Councilman Whittington moved that Mr. Fred Alexander be elected Mayor pro tem of the City of Charlotte. The motion was seconded by Councilman Short, and carried unanimously.

SELECTION OF DAY AND HOUR OF COUNCIL MEETING.

Councilman Short moved that the regular Council Meeting be held at 3:00 o'clock p.m., each Monday afternoon, except on the third Mondays and other zoning days as set by the City Manager, and that time be at 2:00 o'clock p.m., on Mondays. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington, and carried unanimously.

REMARKS BY MAYOR BELK.

Mayor Belk congratulated each Councilman for not only being elected, but being willing to serve as a Council Member of this great city. That this is an added responsibility. He stated they never realized the position there were in until they put their name down to accept the responsibility, and after they were elected they realize from then on they are in the hands of friends.

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Mayor Belk stated he would like to thank the people of Charlotte for electing these Councilmembers to this honor.

He stated he would like to recognize Mr. David Burkhalter, the new City Manager. That he appreciates Mr. Burkhalter coming in with this new Council. That big things are expected from him.

Mayor Belk stated he would also like to recognize Mr. Paul Bobo, Mr. Bill Carstarphen, Mr. Jerry Wones, Mr. Wiley Williams, Mrs. Ann Adams, Mrs. Paulette Purgason and Mrs. Belinda Crowell. He stated they are the fine personnel of the City Manager and Mayor's staff; and they are at the beck and call of the public. He stated he would like to thank each one of them for the services they have rendered to the City.

Mayor Belk thanked the City Clerk, Miss Ruth Armstrong and the City Attorney, Mr. Henry Underhill.

He stated there are some very fine department heads in the City and without them we would not be able to give the people the services in the community; that there are 2,800 employees in the City; and he appreciates the services these people are rendering.

Mayor Belk stated there have been a lot of dedicated people such as Mr. John Shaw, who passed away this weekend; that Mr. Shaw was City Attorney for sixteen and a half years.

He stated the City has been fortunate in getting along with its Country Cousins across the street. That he would like to recognize Chairman Jim Martin, Commissioners Pete Peterson, Gus Campbell, Bill Harris and Charlie Lowe. He stated he and Council are also glad to serve at any time with the School Board; also there is a lot of contact with the State Officials and the Federal Officials.

He stated Charlotte has been very fortunate in the news media. That Council is always represented here by the newspapers, the radio stations and television stations. He thanked them for the fine job they are doing. That he does not know of any other city that has the backing of the news media as we have had here. He stated one of the chief things that has happened in the past two years is the bond package that was passed. If it had not been for the news media, it would never have passed. He thanked each of them for the service they have rendered to the people.

Mayor Belk stated Charlotte has services here for the people for about everything-carrying patients to the hospital, prevention and control of fire, care of animals, the picking up of trash and garbage and the maintaining of streets. That a lot of times people do not appreciate the services this city renders until they come in contact with them personally. Every day something is done by the City for the benefit of its citizens. He stated we want to continue to make this better and hope that the citizens will let the Mayor and Council know how this can be improved upon.

He stated about two months ago, he was in New York City and Mayor Lindsay was saying that his City will be from \$250 million to \$300 million in debt. Mayor Belk stated in his opinion, that is broke. Detroit cut its city budget 20% this year, and that is broke. Washington had to let a thousand people go, and this was before the Veterans took over. He stated Charlotte has been fortunate in the past in that all the bonds issued are under the rate of the market, and he is proud of the financial position that the people have served for the City in the past and will continue to serve because Charlotte is not broke. We have a fine City and we are tops in any city as far as the financial picture. That we will have to continue to stay this way in order to give the people the services. Charlotte will have to continue to be the leader of the South.

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Mayor Belk stated in another two years at the end of 1972, Charlotte will have one of the finest traffic signal setups in any place, and no city will be in competition with us when this long plan expansion is completed. He stated the people in the past have been willing to serve and show the plans. That this proves what the people have done to make the city a better place in which to live. The most important thing is to plan for the future; that he would like to congratulate the people on the planning job they have done. We will have to continue to plan in order to make a better city.

Mayor Belk stated he would like to thank the people for allowing him the privilege of serving for the past two years. That he thinks he is a little better qualified than he was then. He stated we are bound to make some errors but they will all be honest errors, and we are looking forward to anything that will be for the improvement of Charlotte. He stated personally, he loves this City.

Mayor Belk then introduced his wife, Mrs. Claudia Watkins Belk.

He stated the following statement was made by Teddy Roosevelt when he was Police Commissioner of New York City:

"It is not the critic who counts. It is not the man who points out how strong men stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the ring, whose face is marred by dust, sweat and blood. Who strives valiantly; who errors and comes short again and again. Who knows the great enthusiasms; the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause. Who, at best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement. And who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly."

Mayor Belk stated he thinks this is the City Council that has been elected. He asked all to get into the arena, and then we will have a better city in the next two years.

REMARKS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilman Fred Alexander stated there appears a time in the lives of each of us where the English language does not produce words to adequately express the sentiments we feel. That this is such a time for him. It is difficult and extremely so to express to the people his deep sense of appreciation, recognizing the awesome feeling of responsibility which follows the recent expression of all of the citizens of Charlotte at the polls. He stated he is grateful to the citizens and to all his brother Councilmen. No city in the entire Southland can match Charlotte in its present growth attainments and its bright potentials. This City is truly a city set upon a hill. And its people are capable of the highest levels of democratic citizenship and of industrial and commercial leadership. All segments of its population are united in a common desire to make Charlotte the spearhead of the new south, and truly so - in every facet of its activities - political, economic and social progress. Charlotte is the centerpiece of the Piedmont-Crescent which embraces some two and a half million citizens of tremendous economic and social directives. Equity and social progress here are synonymous. Synonymous with business advancement, productivity and community stability. The record of this City speaks clearly of this truth, and serves as a warm invitation to business and industrial enterprises from all the world. The responsibility placed on him by all the voters of Charlotte is therefore accepted with an earnest determination to see that our community obtains a pattern of growth which is sound, progressive and of benefit to all. To this he dedicates his two years of service.

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Councilman Alexander then introduced his wife, Mrs. Mauvene Alexander; his daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. John Rayford Witherspoon; his aunt, Mrs. G. W. Watkins; his sister-in-law, Mrs. Kelly Alexander; his nephew and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Alexander; and his nephews, Kelly Miller Alexander, Jr. and Alfred Alexander.

Councilman Patrick Calhoun stated he is proud to be a member of this City Council, and would like to publicly express his deep appreciation to all the voters who put him in the seat he is occupying. That he will do his very best to be worthy of their continued support.

Councilman Sandy Jordan thanked all the nice people who are present today and for the support that put the Council here. He stated he would continue to serve the people to the best of his ability for the next two years. That he is sorry that Mr. Tuttle and Mr. Thrower will not be with us; that it has been a privilege to have served with them. He stated we have two newcomers taking their place, Mr. Calhoun and Mr. McDuffie, and he welcomes them to this Council and a successful term. He stated we also have a new City Manager, Mr. Burkhalter, and he welcomes him to City Hall. Councilman Jordan stated he would like to thank all the staff and employees of City Hall for their fine work and the cooperation they have given to Council, and their devotion to the citizens and their job. It has helped make the job of Councilman worthwhile.

Councilman Jordan introduced his wife, Mrs. Margaret Jordan; his sister, Mrs. McSwain and his secretary, Mrs. Doris Alford.

Councilman James McDuffie stated he would like to propose some of the things he talked about in the election. One of them first, because later on, he might wish we had not, and that is to expand the Council Room; that a lot of his supporters are out in the hall.

Councilman McDuffie stated his children like election time as they get to miss school. He then introduced his wife, Mrs. Pat McDuffie; his children, David, Mark and Tricia, his mother, and his wife's father, Mr. J. T. Sears.

He stated he tried to have a bi-partisan campaign by using two good republicans, Dave and Madeline Jordan. He asked them to stand and be recognized. He also recognized Mr. Ed Scruggs, Mr. Howard Whittington, Mrs. Mary Jane Bobbitt and Mrs. Barbara Gwen. He stated to these people he owes a lot of thanks. He stated many voters gave him a directive and he hopes his fellow Councilmen will bear in mind what the voters have said to him and have continued to say. He stated one campaign promise was that he would be available one afternoon a week, and he will work this out later on to be here in the Council Chamber or some other room for a couple of hours each week so that folks can get to him for any comments or suggestions. Councilman McDuffie stated in the past week the people have said they have heard him talk and now they would like to see him work.

Councilman Milton Short stated there is a satisfaction to being a part of this city council because here in council a person's community interest and vocation flow together. Every business, as well as every home, has to have as a part of its facilities, the streets, the services, the protection, and the water and airport, and the parks, and the zoning that are provided by city government. That the principal part of the job basically is to provide these vital public facilities and to blend them with the private needs and private business of the community. He stated he is proud indeed, and it is a matter of satisfaction and a reward to be a part of this.

Councilman Short introduced his wife, Mrs. Veegee Short, his mother, Mrs. H. M. Short; his mother-in-law, Mrs. G. G. Slaughter; his son, Hal Short. He stated he would also like to mention several people who have been particular supporters for him and for some others in this Council. Mrs. Ray King, Mr. & Mrs. James Benton, Mr. Carlton Fleming, Mr. Pat Butler, Mr. James Ross, Mr. James Polk and he is particularly delighted to see that Mr. John Robbins is with us.

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Councilman James Whittington stated the vote he received on April 26 and May 7 is one that he is appreciative of and very, very thankful for. It is a great challenge to live up to the confidence and the trust that people place in an elected official in this city. He stated he will do his best in the future to continue to merit that trust.

Councilman Whittington stated this is, indeed, a troubled time; one to try men and institutions; the difficulties besetting our city and its government require the best of this Council and the Mayor and the folks at City Hall. These problems also require the patience and mutual trust of our citizens. We move together in this city as a team, not always agreeing but always working together for the same cause, Charlotte and its people. To the citizens of Charlotte and to the Mayor and Members of this Council, he stated he is at their service twenty-four hours a day to do all that he can to make Charlotte a better place to live and to work and to play.

Councilman Whittington introduced his wife, Mrs. Janet Whittington. He stated also in the audience is a young man who has been with his company since he finished high school, and he introduced Mr. Walter Sloop. He introduced his partners, Mr. Irvin Hankins, and Mrs. Evelyn Hankins, and stated no one could serve on the City Council without the understanding of his family and certainly the understanding and patience of his business associates. He stated he would like to say thanks to Evelyn and Hank. He stated there are many others he would like to recognize and among them were Mr. John Black, Mr. Walter Black, Mr. Bob Hopson, Mr. Jack Bullard, Mr. Herman Hoose, Mr. Willie Stratford, and Mr. W. B. A. Culp, Jr., the Executive Secretary of the Mecklenburg County Board of Elections. Councilman Whittington also recognized Mr. Jim Steinhouse and Mr. Bill Allan. So that he would not have missed anyone, he asked all the people in the audience to stand and be recognized.

Councilman Joe Withrow stated he would like to thank the people who cast their vote for him. That he was hoping Mr. Whittington would leave off the last remark as he was going to ask all those who had not been recognized to stand and be recognized. He stated sometimes it is a privilege to be last as you can always tell the people to hit the last button on the voting machines.

Councilman Withrow stated during the election some things might have been said by different individuals that should be forgotten. We should forget our feelings of each other and come together in unity as a Council because he is sure that each one here is wanting the best for our City. We want our City to go forward and we should leave our own personal feelings out; and maybe some of our own promises out of this Council of some of the things that we know cannot be fulfilled. If we do not get our desires, we should not get mad but should work for the betterment of this city. That he is sure in working for the betterment and working together that we will have a better city.

Councilman Withrow introduced his wife, Mrs. Florence Withrow and his son, Mr. David Withrow.

MATTER OF CATV FRANCHISE TRANSFER TO BE TREATED AS A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 31, 1971.

Councilman Short stated apparently Council will have on the agenda on the 24th and 31st of May, a matter concerning a CATV Franchise.

Councilman Short moved that this matter be treated as a public hearing on the 31st of May, 1971 and that the staff contact those who might be interested in this matter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Alexander.

Councilman Short suggested to Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, that this be couched on the agenda as a public hearing so that any local people or any people who might have an interest in this franchise can come to Council and have the floor to speak on the 31st.

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

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CITY MANAGER REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE REPORT OF POLICE BRUTALITY IN ARREST AT COLISEUM AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL.

Mr. George Daly, Attorney, stated he is present on behalf of a client whose name is Joseph Thompson; that Mr. Thompson is now in jail. He stated he is here at the request of Mr. Thompson's family, who are here in the audience.

Mr. Daly stated he would like to relate to Council the facts as Mr. Thompson and his family have given them to him. He stated he does not know what the facts are as this is a very recent matter; but the family feels extremely strong about it, and he knows they have communicated with a couple of city councilmen about this, and they very much wanted him to come to Council and tell their view of what went on.

Mr. Daly stated Mr. Thompson is currently in the jail, and he has seen him, and has seen the marks about his body; he has seen the cuts and bruises on his face and his head. He stated as he understands it, he was arrested at the Coliseum on Saturday night; and, as he understands it, there is no question but what he was intoxicated; that he does not think anybody would deny that. After his arrest, he was arrested for public drunk, and he was supposedly arrested for assaulting a policeman; the story he gets is that he was grabbed up right forcefully and dragged out of the coliseum. Mr. Daly stated his experience has been in that initial stage that the facts are very cloudy. Maybe there was some resistance and maybe there was some assault. But what should concern Council is what happened after the arrest was made. His family followed him; his family was stone cold sober; they were out there to watch the show at the coliseum; they got down to the bottom door at the coliseum and there were about twenty policemen, and security guards taking this man outside, and arresting one drunk, and his family had the door slammed in their face; they said "you cannot come outside". So they took the fellow they were arresting outside and there were no witnesses there for about five minutes. During this time, his family had to walk up to the second floor and down to the other end of the coliseum and out and around. As they came back down, they were able to look over to the area where their brother and their son was, and they observed several policemen kicking him while he lay on the concrete out there. They then went on down to the hedge and tried to get in and were blocked from coming in. One of the sisters was arrested at that time, and she was charged with assault. She was then down in the magistrate's office with her brother, and as he has it, the following occurred. The brother was in there and he was probably a little bit loud; he was drunk and he had been beat on. But he kept asking if he could speak to the magistrate, and he was told to turn around and shut up. The magistrate was back there behind the bars, typing out the warrant. They then took this man, the police took this man, and beat on him, hit him in the head, kicked him, choked him, and forcibly threw him into a cell block. Then the magistrate comes around - he is still insisting that he wants to see the magistrate because he hadn't done anything. He says "you can take me down and arrest me if you think I'm drunk, but I haven't done anything; I haven't assaulted anybody". He was maintaining this story pretty loudly, he gathers. So, then the magistrate comes around to the cellblock and says "shut up, you are telling a lie". That he supposes by that he meant the man was telling a lie that the policemen had been beating him right there in the presence of the court. And the man in jail, his client, says "I'm not telling a lie". And in just about eighth grade spitting match fashion, as he has it, the magistrate says "I didn't see anything. And if you say I did see something, then you are calling me a liar, and I'm going to give you 30 days." Mr. Daly stated his client says "Well, they've certainly been beating on me, so I guess you are a liar". With that he gives him 30 days; with that the policemen go back in there, and beat on him again. He stated those are the facts as he has them; they have not been established in any court of law. But they are tremendously serious.

Mr. Daly stated he just wants to start off this Council term with this as a good objective for us to go after. He stated let's get to the bottom of this.

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Mr. Daly stated his theory is that what triggered these confrontations is usually, that he is not talking about this case particularly, when someone is being lawfully arrested for a fairly petty crime, loitering or drunk, or something, and of course drunks are always sort of obnoxious, and this person engages in some verbal resistance to authority, says "Hell, no, you ain't taking me to no damn jail", or something like that. You can imagine exactly what it is like. At that point, it seems to him what the policeman should be trained to do is to hold his temper far more than an ordinary citizen would hold his temper. Because that is their job - to arrest people who are unruly in public. The unfortunate facts of what happens a lot of times as far as he has been able to read is that is taken as a person who does not believe in law and order, and is an insult to authority. All too often they then proceed to teach the person a lesson. This seems to be a classic case of that. He stated assume there was a proper arrest made at the Coliseum. If a man is pretty badly drunk at the Coliseum, he probably should be gotten out of there. But after that, the taking him outside and teaching him a lesson is the pattern these things always seem to have followed. It is not only the pattern in Charlotte; it has become a nationwide pattern. The tremendously sad thing about it is that what you have is quite often the spectacle of the police breaking the law, and they are the people who are sworn to uphold the law. How can you possibly have respect for law and order if the very people who are sworn to uphold it, over-react in that matter and teach people a lesson. Their function is to arrest people with minimum force possible. You should never, almost never, except under the most extreme circumstances, have anybody brought into the jail with any cuts and bruises about him. They have mace; they have handcuffs; they have 20 to one, or 30 to one numerical superiority; they have a helicopter. How is it then, that these people keep coming into the jail, and he has seen many, many of them, with cuts and bruises all about them. There are just not that many people who can fall down a flight of stairs accidentally in one night.

Mr. Daly stated he thinks this is a problem this Council should deal with, and he recommends that this particular case serve as a focus for it, and that Council look into the matter.

Mayor Belk requested Mr. Burkhalter, City Manager, to check into this and give Council a report.

QUESTION OF AMENDING CHARTER TO INCREASE NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON CIVIL SERVICE BOARD TO BE PLACED ON AGENDA FOR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

Councilman Alexander moved that the local representatives in the State Legislature be requested to initiate immediately steps to increase our Civil Service Board from three members to five members. The motion was seconded by Councilman Withrow.

Councilman McDuffie requested that this be considered by Council at its next meeting so that it can be on the agenda, and people can come and speak for or against the change. He stated he is very much in favor of it, but one of the things he discussed before was changes in the Charter without an opportunity for the people to speak.

Councilman McDuffie made a substitute motion that this be placed on the agenda for next week so that people can come and speak on it. The motion was seconded by Councilman Whittington.

Councilman Short stated even if this were enabled by the legislature, Council does not have to do it. All he is asking is to get it in order where we might conceivably discuss this and do it later.

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Councilman McDuffie stated the question seems to be that we are changing the City Charter and he does not think it is too much to ask that it be on the agenda so that the people can come and speak to it.

Councilman Whittington stated he is not opposed to what Mr. Alexander is suggesting. But he was informed there would be no new business here today. That he does not know any reason for increasing this to five members; no one has made this suggestion to him. That he would want to know the feelings of the City Attorney, the members of the present Civil Service Board, and the two department that are affected by Civil Service - Fire and Police. He stated all of this would be important, and should be considered before we ask the legislature to do anything. For that reason, he cannot vote for Mr. Alexander's motion today.

Councilman Calhoun stated he thinks it is a reasonable request to pursue it from this angle and to be prepared next Monday to vote on it. That in the meantime, he thinks a hearing in light of what Mr. McDuffie recommended would be in order.

The vote was taken on the substitute motion and carried by the following vote:

YEAS: Councilmen McDuffie, Whittington, Calhoun, Jordan, Short and Withrow.
NAYS: Councilman Alexander.

ADJOURNMENT.

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


Ruth Armstrong, City Clerk