

An adjourned meeting of the City Council was held in the office of the Mayor, in joint session with the Board of Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, on Wednesday, May 27, 1953, at 2 o'clock p.m., to consider and adopt budget appropriations for the joint governmental functions of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, for the fiscal year 1953-54.

Mayor Van Every presided and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Brown, Dellinger, Smith and Wilkinson were present representing the City of Charlotte.

Commissioners S. Y. McAden, Chairman, E. K. Brown, Craig Lawing, and S. S. McNinch were present representing Mecklenburg County, with Commissioner Carl J. McEwen absent.

CHARITY HOSPITALIZATION APPROPRIATIONS FOR MEMORIAL AND GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITALS ADOPTED BY CITY AND COUNTY, AND BY CITY FOR PRESBYTERIAN AND MERCY HOSPITALS BUT DEFERRED BY COUNTY.

At the suggestion of Mayor Van Every, the requests for appropriations by the various hospitals for charity hospitalization were presented, as follows:

Mr. R. Z. Thomas, Administrator for Memorial Hospital advised they are making their requests on the same basis as last year. He presented a request for an appropriation by the City of \$70,298.50 for outpatient clinics and emergency care, and for in-patient reimbursable costs at \$16.49 per patient day (as compared with \$16.62 last year) from the County. He submitted a detailed statement of the Hospital's reimbursable cost for in-patient service, and advised that the cost has been reduced mainly due to their having had a greater patient load.

Councilman Albea moved that the City appropriate the requested \$70,298.50 for outpatient clinics and emergency care. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

Commissioner McAden moved that the County approve the requested \$16.49 reimbursable cost, less \$2.50 per patient day. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McNinch, and unanimously carried.

Mr. Ed Fry, Administrator for Good Samaritan Hospital requested an appropriation by the City of \$36,900.00 for outpatient clinics and emergency care, and a reimbursable cost of \$11.32 per patient day (as compared with \$11.39 last year) by the County. He advised that their cost has actually risen to \$12.27 per patient day but they will keep the reimbursable cost on the same basis as last year, as agreed upon; however, it will mean they will lose thousands of dollars on charity patients if their load is as heavy as this year.

Councilman Brown moved that the City appropriate \$36,900.00 as requested to Good Samaritan Hospital for outpatient clinics and emergency care, contingent upon the County appropriating the reimbursable costs on the basis requested. The motion was seconded by Councilman Smith, and unanimously carried.

Commissioner McAden moved that the County approve the requested \$11.32, less \$2.50, reimbursable cost per patient day. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously carried.

Mr. E. C. Griffith, member of the Board of Trustees of Good Samaritan Hospital, stated that last year they made an agreement that they would use the previous year as a basis for reimbursable costs, which was \$11.32. That their service has been greatly improved, and in contrast with Memorial Hospital who are asking 15 cents less per day, their costs are running .95 cents per day higher than the amount they will receive, and should they have 12,000 patient days next year and the reimbursable cost remain at \$11.32,

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the hospital will lose a considerable amount of money. He advised further that the actual cost of the outpatient department was \$4,000.00 less than was appropriated by the City; the in-patient per day is costing them \$12.27. He advised these are known figures, as they have established a bookkeeping department whose records are accurate. Mr. Griffith stated further that Charlotte now has a large colored population and few colored doctors, and the Hospital is finding it difficult to retain a Resident Physician, and they are now paying him \$500.00 per month. He complimented Mr. Fry on the wonderful job he is doing as Administrator.

The City Manager advised that no appropriation was budgeted by the City last year for Presbyterian and Mercy Hospitals, however they were paid, upon request, \$150.00 for charity emergency maternity care during the year.

Councilman Albea moved that the same amount be budgeted for these hospitals by the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Boyd, and unanimously carried.

Mr. J. P. Richardson, Administrator for Presbyterian Hospital advised they are requesting \$16.31 per patient day reimbursable cost, less the \$2.50, or \$13.81 as compared with \$13.68 last year. That the increase is reflected mainly in additional services being provided by the hospital.

Mr. Webber, representing Mercy Hospital, advised that their reimbursable cost is \$14.29, as compared with \$12.21 last year.

Commissioner McNinch moved that the County pay Presbyterian and Mercy Hospitals the same as last year.

Following the discussion, Commissioner McAden offered a substitute motion that the County defer decision as to the appropriations to these two Hospitals until a later date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously carried.

The hospital representatives withdrew from the meeting, but later in the session returned, and Mr. Griffith asked the privilege of again speaking on the subject. He advised that the Hospital Representatives are disturbed at the attitude of the County Commissioners since it was understood last year that the reimbursable cost for each year would be based on the cost for operating the hospitals per patient day for the preceding year; that Memorial Hospital's cost has decreased and Good Samaritan, by virtue of this agreement, is undertaking to improve its service at a known loss, while the costs at Mercy and Presbyterian Hospitals have increased, and now the County is putting them off, and it appears that only a decrease in cost is acceptable to the Commissioners. He stated the hospitals must know where they stand and asked for a definite statement by the Commissioners.

Commissioner McNinch stated that some of the Commissioners are rather new and are not entirely familiar with the subject of charity hospitalization and would like to study it and delay their decision until their regular meeting on next Monday.

Mr. Griffith stated the hospitals must know if they are working on the basis that their cost must not increase; that next year Good Samaritan will have a higher cost and if the Commissioners turn them down they will be in a serious predicament. That it would appear that it will be necessary to have a written contract in order to depend upon the formula agreed upon by the Commissioners.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION MADE BY COUNTY.

At the request of Mayor Van Every, Dr. Bethel, City Health Officer and Acting County Health Officer, explained that the County reimburses the City for services rendered by the City Health Department on a county-wide basis; that it is cheaper for both to jointly operate the laboratory, various clinical services and other like facilities. Commissioner McAden moved that the County appropriate \$22,180.00 for these services, together with \$43.00 for telephone provided by the City. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously carried.

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ABOLISHMENT OF REVALUATION BOARD AND APPOINTMENT OF VAUGHN HAWKINS AS ASSISTANT TAX SUPERVISOR IN CHARGE OF TAX REVALUATION, AND MESSRS. GRIER AND HAWKINS AUTHORIZED TO RECOMMEND A TAX REVALUATION APPRAISER TO JOINT BODIES.

Councilman Boyd moved that the Revaluation Board, as now set up, be abolished and Mr. Vaughn Hawkins, member of the Board, be appointed as Assistant to the Tax Supervisor at a salary of \$6,000.00 per year, and that he be in charge of tax revaluations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger.

Commissioner McAden stated he is opposed to the proposed change.

Commissioner McNinch advised that he agrees with Mr. Boyd in that the Assistant Tax Supervisor should be the Chairman of the Board; however, he would like Mr. Franklin, member of the present Board, appointed as Chief Appraiser and that he would like to amend the motion that Mr. Franklin be so appointed.

Councilman Boyd stated he could not accept the amendment. That the Council agreed in conference this morning to the change as stated in his motion, and believe it to be in the interest of increased efficiency and lower cost. He stated further that Mr. Hawkins will have the right to employ the necessary clerks, with the approval of the City and County Governing Bodies.

Commissioner McNinch advised that he had talked with Mr. Grier and Mr. Franklin, that Mr. Grier would like to see Mr. Franklin appointed as Chief Appraiser as he is a good man, trying hard to learn and he is capable and smart; that it is true he has made political enemies but he should not be crucified for that, and, in his opinion, the Board cannot function with only Mr. Hawkins.

Councilman Boyd replied that he was not trying to crucify anyone nor bring politics into the discussion; that he suggests that the motion be adopted and in addition that Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Grier be given the power and authority to recommend an Appraiser to the Commissioners and the Council and that they then decide on the matter.

Commissioner McNinch suggested that the services of Mr. Reed of Duke Power Company be secured to go into the Tax Department and streamline it.

The vote was then taken on the original motion by Councilman Boyd and the addition thereto, and carried, with the votes cast as follows:

AYE: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Brown, Dellinger, Smith and Wilkinson, and Commissioners Brown and Lawing.

NAY: Commissioners McAden and McNinch.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY POSSIBILITY OF CONSOLIDATION OF TAX DEPARTMENTS.

Commissioner McNinch moved that Mayor Van Every appoint a Committee of two members each from the County Commissioners and the City Council to study the possibility of consolidating the City and County Tax Departments, and submit their recommendations to the two bodies. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawing.

Councilman Dellinger stated he thought the study should be made by all members instead of a small Committee who would have to report their findings in detail. Councilmen Albea and Boyd expressed agreement to the suggestion. Commissioner McNinch expressed objections to the suggestion on the grounds that the matter will be forgotten if left to all the members and the study will never be made.

The vote was then taken on the motion and carried by a vote of 5 3/7 to 3 4/7, with the votes cast as follows:

AYE: Councilmen Brown and Wilkinson, and Commissioners Brown, Lawing, McNinch and McAden.

NAY: Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Dellinger and Smith.

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Mayor Van Every then appointed Commissioners McNinch and Brown, and Councilmen Brown and Smith to the Committee.

SALARY OF TAX SUPERVISOR FIXED AT \$6,100.00.

Councilman Boyd moved that the salary of Mr. Rufus A. Grier, Tax Supervisor, be fixed at \$6,100.00, as recommended by the County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

TAX LISTING DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Baxter, seconded by Commissioner Lawing, and unanimously carried, an appropriation of \$111,128.00 was adopted for the Tax Listing Department, on a basis of 35% by the City and 65% by the County.

JOINT APPROPRIATION FOR DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND JUVENILE COURTS, ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Baxter, seconded by Commissioner McAden, and unanimously carried, a joint appropriation of \$101,782.50 was adopted for the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Courts, on a basis of 50% by City and 50% by the County.

Mr. Willard I. Gatling was reappointed Judge of the Domestic Relations & Juvenile Courts for a term of 2 years, at his present salary of \$7,500.00. Mr. Hugh Lobdell was reappointed Judge pro tem for a term of 2 years during the vacation of the Judge, at a salary of \$312.50, and Mr. W. C. Benson was reappointed Counselor for a term of 2 years, at a salary of \$5,256.00.

JOINT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED FOR WEIGHTS & MEASURES BUREAU.

A joint appropriation of \$4,771.00, on a basis of 50% by the City and 50% by the County, was adopted for the operation of the Weights and Measures Bureau.

APPROPRIATION FOR OPERATION OF INDUSTRIAL HOME WITHHELD BY CITY.

Councilman Smith moved that no further appropriation be made by the City of Charlotte for the operation of Mecklenburg County Industrial Home, and if the County wishes to use the facilities of the Home that they be permitted to do so. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger.

Commissioner McNinch stated that when the Industrial Home is abolished it automatically becomes the property of Mecklenburg County.

In the discussion, the City Attorney stated the deed between the City and County contains the following provision..... "so long as said property shall be used for said purposes (that is, as a Home for Fallen Women), upon condition, nevertheless, that whenever said property shall cease to be used for the purposes hereinbefore set forth, title to said property shall revert to and revest in Mecklenburg County, subject to the equities in the City of Charlotte for its proportionate value of the betterments and buildings thereon at said time."

A vote was then taken on the motion by Councilman Smith, and carried, with the votes cast as follows by the Council:

AYE: Councilmen Baxter, Boyd, Brown, Dellinger, Smith and
Wilkinson.

NAY: Councilman Albea.

MECKLENBURG VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE JOINT BUDGET ADOPTED.

Councilman Baxter moved that \$10,000.00 be jointly appropriated for Mecklenburg Veterans Service Office, to be shared on a basis of 50% by the City and 50% by the County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lawing, and unanimously carried.

APPROPRIATIONS CONTAINING SALARY INCREASES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL CONTINGENT UPON LATER RATIFICATION BY CITY.

Commissioner McAden called attention to the fact that the County has included in the recommended appropriations a salary increase of 5% to all employees whose salaries are less than \$400.00 monthly, in joint operations. Without formal motion, the Council postponed action on these increases, leaving it contingent for ratification at a later time.

APPROPRIATION FOR FIRE PROTECTION OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS ADOPTED BY COUNTY.

Upon motion of Commissioner McAden, seconded by Commissioner McNinch, and unanimously carried, the County approved payment to the City for fire protection outside the city limits of Charlotte, on the basis of \$200.00 per month standby charge and \$50.00 per trip made by the Charlotte Fire Department.

APPROPRIATION FOR EXPENSE OF OPERATION OF ELECTION BOARD OFFICE ADOPTED.

Councilman Dellinger moved that an appropriation of \$47,793.00 be adopted for the operation of the Election Board office on a full time schedule, on a basis of 50% by the City and 50% by the County, with each paying the full amount for their separate elections. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

APPROPRIATION FOR OPERATION OF ANIMAL SHELTER ADOPTED.

Councilman Baxter moved that the operation of the Animal Shelter be continued on the present basis, and funds be appropriated on the same basis as last year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously carried.

PAUPER BURIALS APPROPRIATION ADOPTED

Upon motion of Councilman Baxter, seconded by Commissioner McAden, and unanimously carried, the present policy of the distribution of expenses of Pauper Burials was adopted.

MORRIS FIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED BY COUNTY.

Commissioner McNinch moved that the County appropriate \$6,000.00 to assist in policing Morris Field. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously carried.

APPROPRIATION FOR VITAL STATISTICS BUREAU ADOPTED BY COUNTY.

Upon motion of Commissioner McNinch, seconded by Commissioner Lawing, and unanimously carried, the present policy relative to the Vital Statistics Bureau was adopted by the County whereby the County will pay to the City 50 cents per each birth and \$40.00 per month towards the salary of the Statistician.

APPROPRIATION MADE BY CITY FOR REIMBURSING COUNTY FOR RETIREMENT PAYMENTS OF EMPLOYEES IN JOINT OPERATIONS.

Councilman Dellinger moved that the City reimburse the County its share of the retirement costs for personnel in jointly operated departments. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown, and unanimously carried.

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EXTENSION OF WATER MAINS TO SERVE RESIDENTS OUTSIDE CITY RECOMMENDED BY COMMISSIONER McNINCH.

Commissioner McNinch stated he would like to see the City run an 8-inch water main to the County Home, which the County will reconstruct. That he would, in fact, like to see the City run its water mains like a spoke in a wheel around the area outside the city so that industries, as well as residential property might be served.

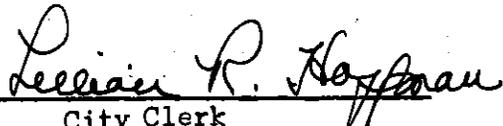
Councilman Baxter advised him that the City has several plans under which water can be secured by those desiring it outside the city if they will just apply for it.

PATROL OF CATAWBA RIVER AREA SUGGESTED BY COUNCILMAN BAXTER.

Councilman Baxter suggested that it would be a big service to residents of the County if the Commissioners would have the area surrounding the Catawba River patrolled in order to prevent drownings and other accidents.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Wilkinson, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.


City Clerk