

An adjourned meeting of the City Council was held on Wednesday, May 7, 1952, at 2:30 o'clock p.m., in the office of the Mayor, jointly with the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, to consider and adopt budget appropriations for the joint governmental functions of the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, for the fiscal year 1952-53.

Mayor Shaw presided, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Coddington, Dellinger, Jordan and Van Every were present for the City.

Commissioners McAden, Beaty, McDonald, McEwen and Porter were present for Mecklenburg County.

POLICY ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL EXPLAINED BY MR. E. C. GRIFFITH.

Mr. E. C. Griffith, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees of Good Samaritan Hospital stated that since the number of beds were increased from 100 to 150 two years ago, the hospital has steadily lost money on its operation, and is now in a worse financial condition than it was four years ago. That their patient-day cost for the next year will be \$11.25, and they are now receiving only \$6.00 per patient-day from the County and \$1.50 from the State Health Fund. That they do not use funds from Duke Foundation for this purpose. That roughly 48% of the hospital's work is charity, leaving 52% to carry the load. He stated that since Mr. E. R. Frye has come to the hospital as Administrator, a closer check is being kept on accounts and the Board feels that conditions will greatly improve; also, that a new accounting system has been established. He advised that the Emergency Department cost for the coming year will be \$28,000.00; that \$44,000.00 was appropriated by the City and County last year for this purpose, and the surplus of \$20,000.00 was used in other charity operations.

He advised that the Board has taken the position that they must have assurance from some source that they will receive the necessary \$28,000.00 for the emergency ward and outpatient clinics. Too, that for all certified patients taken into the hospital they must receive \$9.75 per patient day, and that any patients sent down to the hospital by the Police, who are not certified, must be paid for by the City. That these are the minimum requirements and if they cannot be met, then the Diocese will have to operate the hospital as a private institution and not carry the charity load.

Mr. John White, Chairman of the Committee appointed by the City and County to study conditions at Good Samaritan Hospital, advised that the Committee has met with the Board of Trustees and appreciates their position in the matter of the lack of finances to operate the hospital. That Charlotte cannot do without the hospital, but that they can do without the City and County and operate as a private institution, and the Committee feels that something must be worked out to continue the services to the citizens. He stated further, that in his opinion, it should be set up on a basis of returnable cost.

In reply to Councilman Van Every's inquiry as to what the City's legal responsibility is towards appropriating funds for charity cases, the City Attorney advised that it is primarily the legal responsibility of the County, and the City has taken the position that it is entirely a County function.

Councilman Coddington suggested that the County assume the \$11.25 per day for charity patients and the City pay for the operation of the emergency ward and outpatient clinics.

Mayor Shaw advised that the question will be considered by the Council later in the meeting along with other joint operations.

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION FOR CHARITY CLINICS AT CHARLOTTE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PRESENTED BY MR. ZACK THOMAS, ADMINISTRATOR.

Mr. Zack Thomas, Administrator for Charlotte Memorial Hospital, requested an appropriation of \$71,851.14 for the operating of their charity ward and outpatient clinic. He advised that the cost per patient day for the coming year will be \$16.62, and they are now being paid \$8.00 per patient day by Mecklenburg County. He stated that the hospital collects 97.8% of their private bills and 78% of the Emergency Room bills, and the hospital is being forced to let the private patients help take care of the charity cases.

Mayor Shaw advised that the request will also be considered later in the meeting.

APPROPRIATION FOR DENTAL CLINIC FOR NEGROES REQUESTED BY MR. STOWE MOODY.

Mr. Stowe Moody advised that the Dental Clinic for Negroes was established on July 17, 1951, for which the City and County each appropriated \$5,000.00. That it was found there was not sufficient space for the Clinic at Good Samaritan Hospital, as had been contemplated, and it was therefore operated at Myers Street School. However, recently they had been fortunate in securing space in the McCrorey Branch of the Y.M.C.A. and the Clinic has been established there, with a resident Dentist and Dental Hygienist.

He requested that an appropriation of \$8,400.00 be made for the operation of the Clinic during the next year.

Consideration of the request was deferred until later in the meeting.

SALARY INCREASES BY COUNTY FOR PERSONNEL IN CERTAIN JOINT OPERATIONS ADOPTED
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL.

Commissioner McDonald advised that an 8% salary increase had been budgeted for employees in joint operations whose salaries are under \$4,200.00, and this is reflected in the recommended budget appropriations for consideration. He moved that all items be adopted today with the understanding that the salary increases are contingent upon the approval of the City Council when the City's budget is decided upon. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

TAX LISTING DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Commissioner McAden explained that the increase in the recommended budget for the Tax Listing Department includes the salary increases and equipment and related items for the Property Revaluation Board. Upon motion of Councilman Albee, seconded by Commissioner Porter, and unanimously carried, the recommended budget of \$113,074.00 was adopted for the Tax Listing Department, on the basis of 35% by the City with the exception of salaries of outside tax listers, and 65% by the County.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND JUVENILE COURTS APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

The increase of \$12,864.12 in the recommended budget for the Domestic Relations & Juvenile Courts was explained by Commissioner McAden as being due to the increased cost of boarding homes for juveniles.

Councilman Baxter moved that a joint appropriation of \$98,329.00 be adopted, on the basis of 50% by the City, amounting to \$49,164.50, and 50% by the County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McAden, and unanimously carried.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BUREAU APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Councilman Dellinger moved that the recommended joint appropriation of \$4,404.80 be adopted for the Weights & Measures Bureau, on the basis of 50% by the City, amounting to \$2,202.40, and 50% by the County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McAden, and unanimously carried.

MECKLENBURG VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE JOINT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Commissioner McAden advised that the recommended appropriation of \$10,000.00 for the Mecklenburg Veterans Service Office contains a salary increase of \$500.00 for the Service Officer, making his salary \$5,500.00, which was promised him at the time he was employed. Councilman Boyd moved that a joint appropriation of \$10,000.00 be adopted, on the basis of 50% by the City and 50% by the County. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

Councilman Baxter advised that it is contemplated that office space for the Veterans Service Office will be made available without cost in the Veterans Club House within the next month. It was pointed out that if this is done, the monthly rental of \$80.00 included in the budget will be eliminated.

FIRE PROTECTION OUTSIDE CITY APPROPRIATION BY COUNTY ADOPTED.

Councilman Albea moved that the County's appropriation of \$200.00 per month stand-by charge and \$50.00 per trip made by the City Fire Department outside the city limits, be accepted for the County's fire protection. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

ELECTION BOARD OFFICE EXPENSES ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Boyd, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, the present arrangement whereby the City and County equally share the expenses of maintaining the Election Board Office on a full-time schedule was approved.

ANIMAL SHELTER APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Mr. Yancey, City Manager, advised that \$2,000.00 will be required to construct cement walks and to plant grass and shrubbery around the Animal Shelter. Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Commissioner McAden, and unanimously carried, the City and County each appropriated \$1,000.00 of the cost of the walkways, grass and shrubbery, and agreed to continue the operation of the Shelter as to repairs, upkeep of premises and other operating expenses pro-rated on a dog-day basis, with the City and County each to provide its Dog-catcher and helpers.

PAUPER BURIALS APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Commissioner McAden, and unanimously carried, the present policy of the distribution of expense of Pauper Burials was approved; namely, the City to provide lots and grave openings at \$20.00 for White Adults and \$26.00 for Colored Adults, and \$15.00 for Infants, and the County to furnish coffins at \$35.00 for Adults and \$15.00 for Infants.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Councilman Albea moved that the County's appropriation of \$22,180.00 for services rendered by the City Health Department to patients outside the City be accepted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

INDUSTRIAL HOME JOINT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED FOR NINE MONTHS OPERATION, AND MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DIRECTED TO APPOINT COMMITTEE TO STUDY MATTER OF ABANDONMENT OF HOME.

Councilman Boyd moved that no funds be appropriated for the operation of the Industrial Home, with the view towards its abelishment by the proper legislative procedure. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Shaw, City Attorney, advised that the liquidation of the Home would have to be done by the State Legislature, by which body it was established. Councilman Albea expressed objections

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to the City refusing to make an appropriation to an institution established by the State Legislature. Councilman Dellinger stated he had made an investigation of the operation of the Home and did not believe its continued operation is justified. Councilman Jordan suggested that this year's appropriation be approved with the understanding that towards the end of the year no inmates be sent to the Home, with the view in mind of converting it into a Juvenile Home.

A substitute motion was offered by Councilman Van Every, that 9/12ths (\$15,033.00) of the recommended budget of \$20,044.00 be jointly appropriated on a 50-50 basis for the operation of the Home for a nine months period, and the Mayor and Chairman of the County Commissioners immediately appoint a Committee to study the matter with the thought in mind of turning the Home into a Juvenile Home. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried.

MORRIS FIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT APPROPRIATION BY COUNTY ADOPTED.

Commissioner McDonald moved that the County's contribution of \$6,000.00 to assist in policing Morris Field be accepted by the City. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

VITAL STATISTICS APPROPRIATION BY COUNTY ADOPTED.

Upon motion of Commissioner McDonald, seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried, the present policy ^{relative to the Vital Statistics Bureau,} whereby the County will pay to the City 50 cents per each birth, death and stillborn and \$45.00 per month towards the salary of the Statistician, was adopted.

RETIREMENT APPROPRIATION FOR PERSONNEL OF JOINT OPERATIONS ADOPTED.

Commissioner McDonald moved that the present policy relative to Retirement of Personnel in Joint Operations be ~~continued~~, ^{be accepted,} whereby the City reimburses the County its share of the retirement costs. The motion was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously carried.

DENTAL CLINIC FOR NEGROES JOINT APPROPRIATION ADOPTED.

Councilman Van Every moved that \$8,400.00 be jointly appropriated, on a 50-50 basis, for the operation of a Dental Clinic for Negroes, as requested by Mr. Stowe Moody. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McAden, and unanimously carried.

CHARITY HOSPITALIZATION AND MATERNITY CARE DISCUSSED, AND ACTION DEFERRED UNTIL MEETING ON FRIDAY, MAY 9th.

The moral and legal responsibility of the City and County for providing hospitalization to indigents was discussed. Commissioner McDonald suggested that if the City would assume responsibility for financing the Emergency Ward and Outpatient Clinics at Memorial and Good Samaritan Hospitals, and the County assume responsibility for all other hospital care to indigents, that a fair distribution of the charity load would result. Mr. Yancey introduced the question of what constitutes an emergency case? Does the emergency not cease when the patient either enters the hospital or is dismissed following emergency treatment? He stated further that in his opinion it would be well to employ a person on a full-time schedule to check on emergency cases.

Councilman Baxter moved that the County take care of all charity cases and the City take care of all emergency/^{room} cases within the City of Charlotte and the costs of the cases from outside the City be billed to their respective counties. The motion was seconded by Councilman Van Every, but no vote was taken. Commissioner McAden stated that counties have been billed for such cases and have replied that they have no legal responsibility in such matters.

It was the expressed opinion that additional time was needed to study the matter, and a substitute motion was offered by Councilman Van Every that action be deferred and the meeting adjourn until 4 o'clock p.m., on Friday, May 9th. The motion was seconded by Councilman Coddington, and unanimously carried.

Lucia R. Hopman
City Clerk