

A regular meeting of the City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Wednesday, October 24, 1951, at 4 o'clock p.m., with Mayor pro tem Van Every presiding, and Councilmen Albea, Baxter, Boyd, Dellinger, and Jordan present.

Absent: Mayor Shaw and Councilman Coddington.

INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

MINUTES APPROVED.

Upon motion of Councilman Jordan, seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried, the minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.

SCROLL OF HONOR PRESENTED WHITEY LOCKMAN, DISTINGUISHED BASEBALL PLAYER.

A Scroll of Honor was presented to Mr. Whitey Lockman, distinguished athlete, member of the New York Giants Baseball Club, native of Mecklenburg County and resident of Charlotte. In making the presentation, Mayor pro tem Van Every declared that the citizens of Charlotte are proud to welcome Mr. Lockman home; that his success is an example of the opportunity offered in this free land of ours and is an inspiration to the youth of this community.

ORDINANCE (NO. 133) AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE ZONING ON LOT 16 OF SHUMAN AVENUE ADOPTED.

The hearing continued from the meeting on October 17th was held in connection with the requested amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to change the Building Zone Map from R-2 to B-1 on Lot 16 in Block 3 of Shuman Avenue. Councilman Van Every, Chairman of the Real Estate Committee advised that he had looked over the property and as it is located in a business area, he saw no reason why the rezoning is not practical. Mr. Ray Bradley, Attorney representing Mr. Warren Porter, the property owner, stated there were a number of residents of the area present who favored the zoning change, and he urged that it be approved by Council. Councilman Jordan moved the adoption of the Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance as requested, which was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried. The Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book 11, at Page 219.

DUKE POWER COMPANY UNWILLING TO PROVIDE REQUESTED BUS SERVICE VIA PROVIDENCE ROAD TO MYERS PARK HIGH SCHOOL, AND ADVISE THAT BUS SYSTEM FOR SALE.

Mr. W. S. O'B. Robinson, Attorney for Duke Power Company was spokesman for a delegation of officials of the Power Company who appeared before Council at their request relative to the requested inauguration of a bus route via the Providence Road area to Myers Park High School.

Mr. Robinson advised that they attempted to operate the bus system in a manner that will provide the best possible service to all citizens of Charlotte, and had, in fact, recently revised the routing of the entire system at the request of the City Council; however, continued requests for route extensions cannot be made. He termed the request for the inauguration of the Providence Road route as ridiculous in that it is only so that these high school students will not have to make a transfer from one bus to another. That the Mayor and City Manager themselves did not insist upon the extension of the route at the recent conference with the Power Company officials, that they realized it was not a reasonable request. He stated that before the Myers Park High School was opened the Power Company officials conferred with the Board of Education and together worked out a plan for bus service to the School which was, and still is satisfactory to the School officials.

Mr. Robinson stated that Duke Power Company is in the mass transportation business and not operating a taxi service, and instead of obtaining the goodwill of the people they receive complaints from the citizens and requests from the City Council for more and more route extensions. He termed the service provided in Charlotte as one of the best in the United States, but because of the generosity of the Power Company officials in endeavoring to comply with all requests for service they are operating at a loss of \$600.00 per day in Charlotte and their loss for the first eight months of this year is over \$150,000.00.

He stated that in view of these facts the Power Company officials feel it is time to quit and so they wish to surrender the Bus Franchise to the City Council and they will dispose of the bus system to a responsible person or the City may purchase it. He stated further that the cost of their busses was \$1,677,192.92, and figuring the depreciation of their rolling stock, they are now worth \$935,362.16. He advised that they will sell the busses for \$435,000.00 and give the purchaser one-half million dollars. He advised that the Company purchased nine diesel busses in September 1951 at a price of \$245,467.20, and eight diesel busses during the first half of 1951 at a price of \$123,084.20 and twelve in 1950 at a price of \$160,003.16. That they are only interested in selling to a responsible buyer, who can put the system on a self-sustaining basis, which can be done if they do not fill the constant demands for deluxe service and by an increase in fares.

Councilman Boyd stated he believes the Council's request for this small additional service via Providence Road is reasonable; that the residents of the area have stated it is important that the service be provided, and as the duly elected representatives of the people it is the Council's duty to intercede for the citizens in their just requests. He urged that the bus service be provided on a trial basis for 60 days.

Councilman Baxter stated this is the first request the Council has made regarding the extension of service in some time. That it is not a question of putting on additional busses but merely transferring one of the four busses now operating to the School over the Eastover route to the Providence road route. He then requested that the service be provided on a 30 days trial basis.

Mr. Robinson asked if the bus was put on, on a trial basis, would the Council agree not to ask for another route extension or expansion for six months? Councilman Boyd stated he did not think that was a reasonable request.

Mrs. E. McA. Currie and Mrs. John Dwelle spoke to the question and their petition for the service, stating they could assure Mr. Robinson that if the bus is provided via Providence Road it will be filled and they will not realize a loss on the route.

Mr. Robinson stated that one bus would not be sufficient to carry the 117 children it is reported in need of the service and it will be necessary that two busses be placed on the route. Mrs. Currie replied that two of the Eastover route busses could be changed to the Providence Road route and the children in the immediate Eastover area still be served, and all four busses would still pick up children along the school route beyond the transfer point.

No decision was reached in the matter.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON NOV. 14th ON AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO CHANGE FROM R-2 TO B-1 THE NORTHWEST CORNER LOT OF CAMP GREENE STREET AND NEW THRIFT ROAD.

An ordinance entitled, "Ordinance No. 137 Amending the Zoning Ordinance" to change the Building Zone Map from R-2 to B-1 on the northwest corner lot of Camp Greene Street and New Thrift Road was introduced. Following the reading thereof, a Resolution providing for a public hearing in connection therewith was presented and read. Councilman Boyd moved the adoption of the ordinance, which was seconded by Councilman Albea, and unanimously adopted. The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 1, at Page 440.

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON NOV. 14TH ON AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO CHANGE FROM R-2 TO B-1 LOTS 1 THRU 12 IN THE 1900-2000 BLOCKS OF COMMONWEALTH AVENUE.

An ordinance entitled, "Ordinance No. 138 Amending the Zoning Ordinance" to change the Building Zone Map from R-2 to B-1 on Lots 1 thru 12 in the 1900-2000 blocks of Commonwealth Avenue was introduced. Following the reading thereof, a Resolution providing for a public hearing in connection therewith was presented and read, and upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Boyd, was unanimously adopted. The resolution is recorded in full in Resolutions Book 1, at Page 441.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM EMERGENCY FUND TO TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT FOR INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC LIGHT AT INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD AND ALEXANDER STREET.

Upon motion of Councilman Albea, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously adopted, the transfer of \$1,174.00 was authorized from the Emergency Fund (Code 110) to the Traffic Engineering Department, Capital Outlay Account (Code 1518) for the installation of a traffic signal at Independence Boulevard and Alexander Street.

AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY FOR MAINTENANCE OF WATER MAIN UNDER TRACKS AT GRIFFITH STATION TO SERVE REICHOLD CHEMICALS, INC.

Councilman Boyd moved that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute an Agreement with the Southern Railway Company for the maintenance by the city of a water line under their main line and spur tracks at Griffith Station, to serve the Reichhold Chemicals, Inc. Motion was seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SANITARY SEWER MAINS AUTHORIZED.

Upon motion of Councilman Boyd, seconded by Councilman Baxter, and unanimously carried, the construction of new sanitary sewer mains was authorized at the following locations:

- (a) 535 feet of 8 inch sewer main in Berryhill and New Thrift Roads, at an estimated cost of \$1,170.00 to serve 5 family units and 5 vacant lots. All cost to be borne by the City and applicant's deposit of \$170.00 to be refunded as per terms of the contract.
- (b) 236 feet of 8 inch sewer main in Lake Street, at an estimated cost of \$500.00, to serve one family unit. All cost to be borne by the City and applicant's deposit of \$300 to be refunded as per terms of the contract.
- (c) 150 feet of 8 inch sewer lateral connection in Shuman Avenue Dog Shelter, to service two toilets, at an estimated cost of \$370.00. All cost to be borne by the City.
- (d) 745 feet of 8 inch sewer main in Coxe and Bacon Avenues, at an estimated cost of \$1,610.00 to serve 7 family units and 16 vacant lots. All cost to be borne by the City. Deposit of \$150.00 to be refunded to C. L. Adams as per terms of the contract, and deposit of \$60.00 by S. M. Robinson for excess cut for his convenience not to be refunded.
- (e) 614 feet of 8 inch sewer trunk and reconditioning of 725 feet of 8 inch trunk to serve Ashley Park Elementary School, at an estimated cost of \$2,510.00. All cost to be borne by the City. This construction to take the place of that authorized on August 29, 1951 at a cost of \$1,625.00.

HOLIDAY GRANTED CITY EMPLOYEES IN OBSERVANCE OF ARMISTIC DAY.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilman Jordan, and unanimously carried, a holiday was granted city employees on Monday, November 12th, in observance of Armistic Day.

the provisions of such ordinance or that he will vote for any part of it, but he submits that this matter should be disposed of as the majority of the Council wishes to vote. The motion was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

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

Lillian R. Hayman
City Clerk