

October 25, 1958
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 Special Council Meeting

A Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, was held in the Council Chamber, in the City Hall, on Saturday, October 25, 1958, at 10 o'clock a.m., due notice having been given the members of the City Council by the Mayor in accordance with the provisions of Section 26 of the City Charter. Mayor Smith presided, and Council members Albea, Baxter, Brown, Dellinger, Evans and Foard were present.

ABSENT: Councilman Wilkinson.

Also present were Mr. Merl C. Morrow, Vice-President, Charlotte City Coach Lines, Inc., Mr. A.H. Caze, General Superintendent, Charlotte City Coach Lines, Mr. D. Yates Heafner, Federal Mediator, Mr. D.A. Cilley, N.C. State Mediator, Mr. W. F. Lester, Deputy President, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Mr. F.O. Sing, Chairman of Committee of Bus Strikers of the Charlotte City Coach Lines, Inc. Union Local 1038 and Committee members Mr. C. R. Skidmore, Mr. G.S. Jordan and Mr. S.J. Hager. Mr. Thomas L. Robinson, Chairman of the Citizens Emergency Advisory Committee, appointed by Mayor Smith, was also present.

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INVOCATION.

The invocation was given by Councilman Claude L. Albea.

PURPOSE OF MEETING.

Mayor Smith announced that the meeting was called for the purpose of further discussion pertaining to the present strike of the bus drivers of the Charlotte City Coach Lines, Inc., to see how far we have gotten in the Strike and where we are going from here and whatever action the Council desires.

END OF BUS STRIKE ANNOUNCED.

Mayor Smith invited Mr. Thomas L. Robinson, Chairman of the Mayor's Citizens Emergency Advisory Committee to make a statement.

Mr. Robinson asked that Mr. D. Yates Heafner, Federal Mediator, report to the Council on bringing about an agreement in the Bus Strike.

Mr. Heafner stated his remarks are made in behalf of both Mr. D.A. Cilley, State Mediator and himself, who are most happy to report that the Bus Strike is now over. He stated further that the keen interest from the very start of the strike of Mayor Smith and the Council has been of inestimable value in giving them fortitude when the chips were on the table. That this interest gave the Union to understand that the City Officials were not passive but added their pressure and prestige to restoring bus service to the citizens. Mr. Heafner stated that Mr. Robinson, as Chairman of the Mayor's Committee, and as President of the Chamber of Commerce, through his interest, guidance and association has given them solace at all times. That on behalf of the Coach Company and the Union, they are the ones who had to agree; that as Mediators he and Mr. Cilley could only extend their help to arrive at a conclusion. He stated that Mr. Morrow and Mr. Caze of the Coach Lines, and Mr. Lester Deputy President of the Brotherhood have been most cooperative and with-

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out this cooperation the strike could have gone longer. To the members of the Press, Mr. Heafner remarked that they have been most cooperative in not interfering with the progress of the negotiations. That it is this kind of thoughtfulness, kindness and cooperation from everyone that makes Charlotte the best city he knows.

Mr. Robinson, then asked Mr. Morrow, Vice-President of the Charlotte City Coach Lines, Inc., to speak, and Mr. Morrow stated that he is most happy that his people have agreed to go back to work, and the Buses will start running at 4:50 Monday morning, with the same service, same fare and same structure as was in effect when the strike began on October 1st. He stated further that he does not know just what the operational function will show, that it is up to the Auditors; that he wants to give first class bus service in Charlotte at the lowest possible fare. He remarked that he has done the best he could for the men. Mr. Morrow expressed his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their splendid cooperation and stated he has never known better.

Mr. Robinson then presented Mr. W. F. Lester, Deputy President, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, who stated he has just come from a meeting of the entire membership of Local 1038 and the vote was large that carried the issue. That they have no animosity toward anyone, and the men are ready to return to work; that they are men of high character and the service they give the Company will be the same as at they time they went on strike.

Mr. Robinson expressed his appreciation, and that of the members of the Committee, for having had the opportunity of being of service to the Mayor and Council and to the citizens of Charlotte. He stated that they will support any resolution the Council wishes to pass at this meeting.

The members of the Citizens Emergency Advisory Committee, appointed by the Mayor are:

Mr. Thomas L. Robinson, President, Chamber of Commerce
 Mr. Cecil Prince, The Charlotte News
 Mr. Dick Young, Jr., The Charlotte News
 Mr. Pete McKnight, The Charlotte Observer
 Mr. Earl Hefner, The Charlotte Observer
 Mr. Southerland Brown, President, Charlotte Merchants Association
 Dr. Lawrence I. Stell, President, Ministerial Association
 Rev. Jackson Honeycutt, Pastor, Hawthorne Lane Methodist Church
 Dr. Elmer Garinger, Superintendent, Charlotte City School Board
 Dr. Rufus Patterson Perry, President, Johnson C. Smith University
 Mr. Charles Crutchfield, Jefferson Standard Broadcasting Company
 Mr. Charles Marshall, Radio Station WSOC-TV
 Mr. Ray Stanfield, Radio Station WIST
 Mr. Henry A. Yancey, City Manager
 Mr. John D. Shaw, City Attorney
 Mr. Claude L. Albea, City Councilman
 Mr. H. H. Baxter, City Councilman
 Mr. Herman A. Brown, City Councilman
 Mr. Steve W. Dellinger, City Councilman
 Mrs. Martha W. Evans, City Councilwoman
 Mr. Ernest C. Foard, City Councilman
 Mr. W. E. Wilkinson, City Councilman

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO APPLICATION OF CHARLOTTE CITY COACH LINES, INC.
 FOR ADJUSTMENT IN FARE SCHEDULE IN THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, N.C.

Councilman Brown, Mayor pro tem, remarked that as he sat in meetings negotiating the bus strike on Thursday and Friday, in lieu of Mayor Smith

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who was not able to be present because of the illness of his wife, he was amazed to see the skill with which each group went into the matter, which so vitally affected the citizens of Charlotte. That Mr. Lester, Mr. Sing, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Hager and Mr. Skidmore were all most cooperative, and he wants to commend them for he knows they are all interested in the welfare of Charlotte.

That since the Union has voted to go back to work, with all things ironed out, he wishes to present the following resolution:

RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO APPLICATION OF
CHARLOTTE CITY COACH LINES, INC. FOR
ADJUSTMENT IN FARE SCHEDULE IN THE
CITY OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, the prolonged strike of the employees of Charlotte City Coach Lines has resulted in a loss of patronage and a loss of revenues, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has urged the immediate restoration of service and the settlement of the dispute between the parties, and

WHEREAS, the work stoppage has caused an emergency which has resulted in hardships to the public, and the Council is desirous of resolving the situation in order to relieve the distress of the public, and

WHEREAS, the Company and the Union has agreed at the urging of the Council to an increase in the wage scales of the drivers and mechanics which will substantially increase the expenses of the Company, and

WHEREAS, the Company would be unable to meet the increased costs without an adjustment in its fare schedules and must therefore apply to the North Carolina Utilities Commission for an adjustment in its fare structure,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Council declares that the work stoppage on the Charlotte Transit System has resulted in a public emergency which requires immediate action to relieve the public and the Company.
2. The North Carolina Utilities Commission is hereby urged to hear and dispose of the application of the Company for an adjustment in its fare schedules at the earliest possible date and to grant such relief as the Company is entitled to with a view to producing a return to the Company after all expenses and State and Federal taxes of approximately 6% of its gross revenues.
3. That the City Manager be authorized and directed to communicate this resolution to the North Carolina Utilities Commission to appear if advisable at the hearing before the Commission and to take all steps necessary or appropriate to see that the matter is disposed of equitable, promptly and with all fairness to all concerned.

Councilman Brown moved the adoption of the resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Dellinger, and unanimously carried.

MAYOR SMITH EXPRESSES PLEASURE THAT BUS STRIKE IS OVER AND APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SETTLEMENT.

Addressing his remarks to the gentlemen of the Labor Group and Management Group, Mayor Smith stated that if it were not for the dignity of the

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meeting he would "shout for joy" that the strike is settled and bus service will be restored to the people of Charlotte. That from the endless hours spent in discussions, he has come away with a better understanding of the problem of both Labor and Management, and he is happy that the matter is now settled with no one angry at the other.

He expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Robinson and the members of the Citizens Committee for their time and splendid service to the City. He expressed particular thanks to Mr. Heafner and remarked that but for the renewed strength Mr. Heafner gave him all through the negotiations, he would have felt like giving up at times. The Mayor urged that everyone now go back to work and let this be a bad dream that we want to forget.

VICE-PRESIDENT, CHARLOTTE CITY COACH LINES STATED THEIR GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT IN CHARLOTTE HAS HIS FULL SUPPORT AND ENDORSEMENT OF WHATEVER HE TELLS THE UNION OR CITY.

Mr. Morrow remarked that probably Mr. Caze, their General Superintendent of the Charlotte City Coach Company, has put in more hours and worked harder than anyone else during the strike. That Mr. Caze has his full support and endorsement at all times whatever he tells the Union or the City.

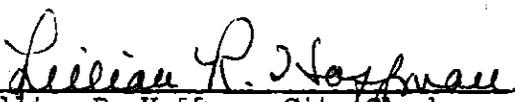
Mayor Smith remarked that his association with Mr. Caze as General Manager of the Company has always been most pleasant, and that he has cooperated with the City in doing whatever he possibly could when requested.

Councilman Foard remarked that the City Council and Special Committee may have done all manner of work on the strike, but that it is the group sitting in the meeting here who settled the strike.

Councilman Dellinger stated he is sure that the citizens will be happy that the strike is settled and he hopes they will go back to riding the buses. Councilman Brown remarked that the more citizens who ride the buses, the more men will have jobs and the better service the Company can furnish.

ADJOURNMENT.

Upon motion of Councilman Dellinger, seconded by Councilwoman Evans, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.


Lillian R. Hoffman, City Clerk