

Minute Book

30 January 1925

There was a meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Chapel Hill at 8:15 P.M., Mayor Roberson presiding.

The Aldermen present were Messers. G.M. Braune, J.M. Cheek, and R.D.W. Connor.

The minutes of the meetings of the Board of Aldermen on November 13th, December 19th, and December 22nd were read and approved.

The Clerk stated that there was a vacancy on the Board of Aldermen due to the death of Alderman R.P. Andrews. Upon motion of Alderman J.M. Cheek, seconded by Alderman R.D.W. Connor, Mr. C.T. Durham was elected to fill the this unexpired term.

The Manager read a letter from J.S. Bennett, Supt. of Light and Water Division of the University Consolidated Service Plants, requesting that the Town put top soil on streets after the placing of water mains by the University. Upon motion the Manager was instructed to reply to Mr. Bennett stating that the Town wished to cooperate with the University Consolidated Service Plants in all ways possible, but that at the present time funds were not available for this purpose, and that, in the meantime it would be necessary for the University Consolidated Service Plants to abide by the provisions of their franchise in regard to replacing of street surfaces after the installation of water mains.

The question of tax penalties was brought up for discussion, the Manager stating that other towns and cities in the state were charging tax penalties in accordance with local acts of the General Assembly prior to the repealing clause in the Machinery Act of 1921. The Machinery Act of 1921 provides for a maximum tax penalty of  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1% per month after March 1st and repeals all local acts providing for other tax penalties and discounts. When this act was passed the Board of Aldermen felt that it repealed the local act for Chapel Hill providing for tax penalties and discounts. Upon motion of Alderman R.D.W. Connor seconded by Alderman G.M. Braune the Manager was instructed to write the Attorney General of the State of North Carolina for his opinion in regard to this matter; and, in case the Attorney General stated that the local act for Chapel Hill was still in force, the Manager was instructed to make provisions to bring the 1924 taxes under the provisions of this act, remitting 1% penalty for January, 2% penalty for February, 1% penalty for March and 1% penalty for April, making the penalty begin with a 2% penalty on March 1st and a 3% penalty in April.

The question of Office assistants for the Manager was brought up for discussion. The Manager stated that the work in his office had increased at such a rate that it was impossible for him to carry on all the office work necessary and in addition thereto give as much attention to the outside work as it required. Upon motion of Alderman R.D.W. Connor seconded by Alderman G.M. Braune the Manager was instructed to hire office assistants provided that the weekly cost of same should not exceed \$25.00 and that sufficient funds are available during the present fiscal year.

The Manager stated that the Engineering Department of the University had made a new ruling in regard to the lending of surveying instruments

and that from this time the Town would be required to pay a rental fee of \$1.00 per day for the use of this equipment. It was brought out in the discussion that during the summer months all the surveying instruments were taken to Brevard and that during the spring and summer an instrument would be needed badly to carry on the construction work already authorized and that contemplated. The manager stated that the cost of a complete surveying outfit of the type which was needed by the town would cost about \$635.00 and would possibly last over a period of at least ten years without a great deal of depreciation. This would make it cost the town a total of about \$8.00 per month over this period of time or \$96.00 per year. Alderman G.M. Braune was appointed a special committee to investigate this condition and to make recommendations to the Board of Aldermen at the next meeting.

The question of paving the dirt portion of Franklin Street from Columbia Street to Henderson Street was brought up for discussion, and upon motion, duly passed, the Manager was instructed to use all possible effort to get a petition from the property owners for this work.

There being no further business, the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Chapel Hill adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

W.S. Roberson, Mayor

*C. M. Kunt* Clerk