

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Aldermen, Book 4, Page 234

September 26, 1927

There was a meeting of the Board of Aldermen at 5 P. M., Mayor Council presiding and the following Aldermen present:- Messrs. P. L. Burch, G. M. Braune, M. E. Hogan, C. L. Eubanks, and B. S. Thompson.

At this time several of the property owners on West Franklin Street were present, among whom are Messrs. Eugene Andrews and M. W. Uzzell. The gentlemen stated that they were opposed to additional payment that had been authorized on West Franklin Street and desired that the improvement on this street be carried forward in accordance with the first plan of the Board which provided for the construction of a planting space down the center of the street. The gentlemen further stated that the petition which had been signed by the property owners was obtained by misrepresenting the situation and by dishonest methods, and that though that the Board should order the discontinuance of this additional paving. The charge was also made that such property owners on this street had been offered unusual consideration for their signatures on this petition. In the discussion which followed it was pointed out that the petition was received by the property owners at one meeting and discussed, but final decision on the same was held over until another meeting. That a news story was carried in the Chapel Hill Weekly of this week stating that this petition has been received and that the same was sufficient but that action on the same had been delayed, and that it was felt that all persons interested had a sufficient knowledge of the petition being presented to the Board and had had sufficient time to make objection to the same before this work was authorized. The Manager stated that he did not believe that the charges made were true, but felt that the Board should thoroughly investigate the charges and suggested that the Mayor be instructed to conduct an investigation of the same. Motioned by Alderman Hogan, seconded by Alderman Braune, the following resolution was duly adopted; all the Aldermen present voting in the affirmative therefor,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL:

SECTION 1. That the Mayor is hereby instructed to investigate thoroughly the charges made against the officials of the Town and others that the petition for the payment of the central strip on West Franklin Street had been obtained by misrepresentation and by dishonest methods.

SECTION 2. The Mayor is instructed to issue subpoenas in order to secure witnesses for his investigation should he see fit.

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The Manager reported that in accordance with the instructions of the Board of Aldermen on September 22nd he had circulated a petition among the property owners on the North Side of Franklin Street between Columbia and Henderson Streets asking that the curb along this side of the said street be moved back towards the building and that there were not sufficient signers on this petition to make the same sufficient. The Manager further stated that one or two property owners had objected to sign this petition because the Town was compelling them to construct concrete sidewalks at their own expense and that they did not think it was fair that the property owners in this block should be required to pay the entire cost of the sidewalk construction. Several members of the Board seemed to think that it would be proper for the Town to pay at least one-half the cost of the construction of the cement sidewalk, and upon motion of Alderman Braune, seconded by Alderman Hogan, it was duly adopted that the Manager should circulate a new petition among the property owners on the north side of Franklin Street between Columbia and Henderson Street asking for the construction of concrete sidewalks by the Town and that 50% of the cost of the same should be assessed against the property owners.

There being no further business the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Chapel Hill adjourned at 6:30 P. M.

Zeb P. Council, Mayor

Wm. Johnson
Clerk