

April 5 1929

There was a call meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Chapel Hill at 7:30 p. m., Mayor Council presiding, with the following Aldermen present, to-wit: Messrs. Burch, Eubanks, Hogan and Thompson. Mr. Sawyer, the Town Attorney, was present. Also Mr. Hinshaw, Mr. Giles, Mr. Harris, Mr. Sloan and Mr. Phipps.

The Mayor stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider whether the Board of Aldermen should call an election for the citizens to vote on the establishment of a Recorder's Court in the Town of Chapel Hill, the election to be held with the regular municipal election.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the last Legislature has made it possible for Towns in Orange County to establish recorder's courts, and that Chapel Hill should establish a recorder's court by referring the question to a vote of the people. Mr. Sawyer compared the jurisdiction of the present Mayor's Court with the jurisdiction of a recorder's court. He also pointed out the time lost and expense incurred by Chapel Hill citizens who attend court in Hillsboro as witnesses, at each term of Superior Court.

The Manager discussed the financial side of the recorder's court. The court costs for typical cases before the recorder were given. It was estimated that a total of 500 cases would be tried during a year - at an average court cost of \$6.00, producing a revenue of \$3,000.00. The expense of the Court was figured at \$1200.00 a year.

Mr. J. T. Harris spoke against the establishment of a recorder's court, stating that he felt the present Mayor's court to be adequate. Mr. Harris asked if the country people would have an opportunity to vote on the issue.

Mr. J. A. Giles, of the local bar, made a very forcible speech in favor of the recorder's court. Mr. Giles referred to a case in the Smithfield Recorder's Court in which he appeared, stating that the court costs amounted to \$11.00, without a fee being added for the prosecuting attorney. Mr. Giles felt that the citizens of Chapel Hill would be greatly benefited by the establishment of the Recorder's Court, saving them many trips to Hillsboro, and increasing the revenue to the Town.

There was much general discussion, and upon motion of Alderman Hogan, seconded by Alderman Eubanks, the following resolution was adopted, all of the Aldermen present voting in the affirmative therefor:

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A VOTE ON A RECORDER'S COURT:

Section 1. That in order to promote the best interests of the Citizens of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and by authority of Chapter 27, Sub-Chapter 4, Article 23 of the Consolidated Statutes, that an election be held for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters the question of establishing a Recorder's Court in the Town of Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Section 2. That said election be held at the same time and at the same place as the regular Municipal Election, viz., May 7, 1929, at the Chapel Hill Graded School Building.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Board of Aldermen adjourned at 9:30 o'clock.

ZEB P. COUNCIL, MAYOR

Reily Ross, CLERK.