MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 11, 1940

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The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Chapel Hill held its regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall on September 11, 1940, with Mayor Foushee presiding and the following Aldermen being present: Messrs. P. L. Burch, G. B. Hellen, P. H. Robertson, R. J. M. Hobbs and R. W. Madry, Alderman F. O. Bowman being absent. Also present were J. L. Caldwell, Manager and E. E. Peacock, Auditor.

The Mayor called the meeting to order after which the Clerk read the minutes of the preceeding meeting and the Board approved.

Subject: Non-conforming Buildings in the Fire District.

The City Manager reported that the University had agreed to take down their building.

Subject: Sending Policemen to Police School.

The Mayor stated that he had talked with Chief Sloan about sending the Policemen to the school and that he agreed to send them. Mr. Albert Coats, director of the Institute of Government had not been contacted concerning the cost.

Subject: Town Map by Kent Mathiewson.

The Mayor reported that Mr. Mathiewson had to leave Town before having completed the map. The Board asked Mr. Hollett to look over the map and see whether it is worth completing and asked the Mayor to investigate and report back at the next meeting.

Subject: Officer C. L. Merritt Presents bill for Broken Glass Windows.

Mr. Merritt stated to the Board that in line of duty he shot out three plate glass windows in the business district while shooting stray dogs and thought the Town should bear the expense of repairing the damage.

Upon motion by Alderman Burch and seconded by Alderman Hobbs, the Board of Aldermen agreed to pay one-half the cost of new plate glass windows charged to Mr. Merritt since he was acting according to instructions, although the Town is not liable for the negligence acts of its officers. This expenditure was authorized to be charged to the contingency fund.

Subject: Sidewalk by High School and Sewage Treatment Plant.

Mr. Hollett, representing the University, stated that the University was anxious to know the wishes of the Board in regard to the following matters:

First, that of sidewalk and wall development toward the High School. Funds which were set aside for this project have been used on

other projects, but it is almost certain that this project could be worked up whereby all labor will be given by the WPA, and the only cost to the University and Town would be for materials. The University would like to know if the Town is interested in the project and to what extent.

Upon motion by Alderman Burch and seconded by Alderman Robertson the Board of Aldermen resolved that the Town is interested in cooperating with the University in securing a project to construct curb and gutter, sidewalk and wall on the Pittsboro Highway from McCauley Street to University Drive by the High School, and authorized the City Manager to pay one-half the cost of materials, not exceeding $200, necessary to the project.

Upon motion by Alderman Burch and seconded by Alderman Hellen, the Board of Aldermen authorized that there shall be no parking on the east side of South Columbia Street from Cameron Avenue to McCauley Street.

Second, Mr. Hollett asked the Board concerning its wishes in regard to starting the extension of the sewage treatment plant. The big question at present is what is going to happen to the WPA. The other question is whether to go ahead with the extension under WPA with the possibility of having to stop or waiting to see what is going to happen to the W.P.A.

Upon motion by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Robertson, the Board of Aldermen authorized Mr. Hollett to proceed in securing the project and to start the preliminary work.

Subject: Leaking Septic Tank on End of McCauley Street.

Alderman Robertson reported that there was a septic tank on the west end of McCauley Street leaking. The Board asked the City Manager to call this to the attention of the Health Department.

Subject: Audit Report.

Mr. Peacock handed out copies of the audit report for the fiscal year 1939-40. In summarizing the report, Mr. Peacock brought out that the financial condition of the Town was revealed in the Balance Sheet. He stated that the surplus was rather large and that it was all probably good and would be realized as a sufficient amount had been set aside for "Reserve for Doubtful Accounts". The cash position is getting better, and the tax anticipation note is gradually being reduced. Collections on tax accounts have improved, as indicated by the percent of total charges collected. The amount of current levy collected was slightly above 78%, the highest in a long time, and which puts Chapel Hill in the upper one-fourth of the Cities and Towns of the State in collecting current levies. Revenue from business licenses came above expectations and collections better than in previous years, but there is still room for improvement. It was brought out that a drive should be put on to collect 1940-41 licenses.

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Upon motion by Alderman Madry and seconded by Alderman Robertson, the Board of Aldermen set October 1 as the dead line for payment of current business licenses, and all that are not paid on that date are to be cited to court.

Mr. Peacock continued by stating that a test check had been made, of all entries and records, and that a detail audit of all vouchers and postings from the scroll had been made. A test check of the abstracts in Hillsboro revealed that about $3000 in valuation had not been picked up by the Town. The Board authorized that this be added to the scroll and charged to the four people who the Town failed to charge.

Only thirteen people out of fifty returned the tax verification letters mailed out. Mr. McCall stated that he did not owe any taxes although the tax collector reports that he does. The Board authorized that the account be turned over to Mr. Hinshaw for collection.

Mr. C. B. Sparger stated that he did not owe School District taxes as follows: 1938-75¢, 1937-81¢, 1936 - 79¢, 1935 - 79¢ and 1933 - $1.65. The Board of Alderman authorized that these charges be released.

Mr. W. W. Boger stated that the person he bought his property from had receipts showing that all his school district taxes were paid. The Board asked Mr. Peacock to write Mr. Boger to produce the receipts in evidence.

The Auditor reported that he had been asked by a member of the Board to investigate the cemetery accounts and was informed by the City Manager that the accounts were not under the jurisdiction of the Town.

After further discussion of the matter, the Board of Aldermen, upon motion by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Hellen, authorized the Mayor to investigate the status of the cemetery accounts and report back at the next meeting, and then the Board would request the cemetery committee to make a financial report to the Board each year.

The Auditor concluded his report, after which the Board of Aldermen, upon motion by Alderman Burch and seconded by Alderman Hellen, accepted the audit report for the last fiscal year.

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Subject: Tax Anticipation Note.

Upon motion by Alderman Hobbs, and seconded by Alderman Bowman, the Board of Aldermen adopted the following resolution:

Section 1. That in order to pay the outstanding revenue note in the amount of $7,500, dated July 3, 1940, maturing October 3, 1940, payable to the Bank of Chapel Hill and bearing interest at the rate of 2% per annum, it is necessary to borrow the sum of $7,500.

Section 2. That a note for $7,500 dated October 3, 1940, and maturing January 3, 1941, be sold by the Local Government Commission at Raleigh to the bidder bidding the lowest interest rate, interest payable at maturity.

Section 3. That this note is issued for necessary expenses and for the prupose of meeting appropriations made for t e current fiscal year, and that the said note is issued in anticipation of tax receipts collected from taxes of the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1941, and from the last preceding year ending June 30, 1940.

Section 4. That the said note shall be signed by the Mayor and countersignedby the Clerk under the corporate seal of the Town.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

T. K. Stevens
Town Clerk