MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL HELD FEBRUARY 12, 1941

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The Board of Aldermen of the Town of Chapel Hill held its regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall February 12, 1941, with Mayor Foushee presiding and the following Aldermen present: Messrs. P. L. Burch, G. B. Hellen, R. W. Madry, R. J. M. Hobbs and P. H. Robertson, Alderman F. O. Bowman was absent. Also present were E. E. Peacock, C. P. Hinshaw, and J. L. Caldwell.

Subject: Rock Wall in Front of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

Dr. Coker, Mr. Cobb, and Mr. Honeycutt of the School Board appeared to state their opposition to the reopening of the front driveway at the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity in view of the fact that the boys several years ago had agreed to the closing of the front driveway if given an entrance at the rear and also since it is much more dangerous for passing children when open than when closed.

Alderman Burch read his and Mr. Hollett's report on the parking and driveway facilities. In their opinion there was parking space for sixteen to eighteen cars if properly regulated, without blocking the driveway, and that an opening to the Pittsboro Road does present an element of danger to both school children and the motoring public. They recommended that in the event the driveway is opened that it be an entrance drive only, and although there is also a congestion of traffic at the rear of the fraternity, it is periodical and with slow moving traffic, which is the lesser of two evils.

Alderman Hobbs stated that it should not be opened, and since the Board had already acted once, the decision should remain unaltered.

Mr. Caldwell was asked to write Dr. Hickerson informing him of the facts set forth in Mr. Burch and Mr. Hollett's report.

Subject: Negro Housing Conditions.

The Mayor presented Mr. Leavitt, student in the Sociology Department, who had made a study and survey of the negro housing conditions in Chapel Hill at the suggestion of Dr. Brooks and Col. Pratt. Mr. Leavitt stated that of the 315 dwelling units covered, 58 were standard and 257 substandard, or 81%. The average for the state is 80 to 90% substandard. The factors considered in determining the standard are physical, occupancy and both. Of the substandard 169 were physically substandard, 6 substandard due to occupancy or overcrowded, and 79 due to both factors.

These surveys are used by Housing Agencies to determine the housing needs of a town.

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Subject: Report by City Manager.

Mr. Caldwell reported that the one hour parking signs had been ordered, that progress was being made on the community center and that over 100 trees had been set out. The University had agreed to start work at once replacing the curb and gutter on Ransom Street. The State Highway is going to make a good country road from Columbia Street to Orange Church, and would like to know if the Town would be interested in their extending the survey in Town to straighten out the bottle neck on Columbia, although their construction work would have to end at the City Limits.

The Board asked the Manager and Mayor to request the Highway Commission to continue the survey in Town and the Board would use its efforts in getting the right-of-way.

The University is ready to open up Battle Lane through to Cameron Avenue and wants the Town to take over the street. It was suggested that they grade the street and that the Town would pay one-half the cost of surfacing it.

Pedestrians must walk in the middle of McCauley Street by the new Medical Dormitory due to the parking of cars on the sidewalk. The City Manager recommends that the University be requested to restore the sidewalk along by the Medical Dormitory.

The Board of Aldermen asked Mr. Caldwell to write the University requesting that they give this situation their attention at their earliest convenience.

Mr. Madry did not agree to collect delinquent taxes for the Town.

Subject: Auditor's Report.

The Gasoline report for the last month revealed only five gallons short, which is a very close check. The Budget statement showed a savings to date of one-tenth of one per cent, and at the present rate there will probably be a savings at the end of the fiscal year. However, there were a few items that were overspent at present.

Subject: Report by Street Committee.

Mr. Robertson stated that the Street Committee thought that the Street by the Community Center was still rough, but that nothing could be done until the Community Center was completed. The heavy trucks going in and the digging for sewer and water lines would make it unadvisable to spend much money at present on improvements in that section other than just keeping the streets in passable condition.

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Subject: Traffic and Parking Ordinances.

Upon motion by Alderman Hellen, and seconded by Alderman Robertson, all the Aldermen present voting in the affirmative therefor, the following One Hour Parking Ordinance was passed and adopted:

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

Section 1. No person, firm, or corporation shall park or permit to be parked any vehicle for a period of more than one hour between the hours of eight o'clock a.m. and seven o'clock p.m. upon East Franklin Street between the intersection of said East Franklin Street with the East curb line of Columbia Street and the intersection of East Franklin Street with the West curb line of Henderson Street extended across said East Franklin Street to the South curb line thereof.

Section 2. That such parking sections as may be designated by appropriate signs erected by the Town Manager on the North side of East Franklin Street in front of the Post Office are exempted from the provisions of Section 1 of this ordinance and no person, firm or corporation shall park or permit to be parked any vehicle within such sections for a period longer than five minutes.

Section 3. That a change of position of any vehicle from one point directly to another point within the space embraced in this ordinance shall be deemed one continuous parking period.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall not apply on Sundays and other public holidays.

Section 5. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances directly in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 6. That this ordinance shall be in force and effect immediately when ratified and adopted.

Section 7. Any person, firm, or corporation violating the terms of this ordinance shall forfeit and pay a penalty of Ten Dollars.

The adoption of other ordinances in regard to loading and unloading on Franklin Street, the parking of vehicles over a certain length on Franklin Street, and the parking of cars for sale on streets was deferred until the next meeting. No action was taken on the suggestion of turning right on certain red lights.

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Mr. Caldwell was asked to request Mr. Hazzard to not park his cars on Franklin Street in front of his business as it caused a dangerous traffic situation.

Subject: Salary of Judge of Recorder's Court.

Action in regard to a proposed ordinance to raise the salary of the Recorder from $50 per month to $75 per month was referred to the finance committee for a report at the next meeting.

Subject: Report from Zoning Board.

The Mayor reported that no action was taken by the Zoning Board on the proposed filling station and the apartment house.

Subject: Hazard on Sidewalk on W. Rosemary.

The Mayor stated that Green McDade's daughter had fallen and hurt her leg when stepping from her gate into the street, and thought the Town should be responsible since the street had been lowered. A lawyer advised her that she had no case but would request the Town to correct the hazard.

The Board asked the Manager to look over the situation and correct it if not too great an expense.

Subject: The Board asked Mr. Hinshaw to see Mr. John Umstead, local representative in the Legislature, and urge him to seek the adoption of the bill providing for housing projects in cities under 5,000.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

H L Swain
Town Clerk