REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 1941, IN THE TOWN HALL

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The Board of Aldermen held its regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall on December 10, 1941, with Mayor Foushee presiding and the following Aldermen present: Messrs. P. L. Burch, G. O. Davis, F. O. Bowman, R. B. Fitch, R. W. Madry, R. J. M. Hobbs and also present were J. L. Caldwell and E. E. Peacock.

Subject: Public Hearing on Proposal to amend the zoning ordinance.

The Mayor announced that this was the time appointed to hold a public hearing on the proposal to amend the zoning ordinance to permit service stations nearer than 200 feet to a church provided the application for the erection of said service station is approved by the Board of Aldermen, the Zoning Committee, a majority of the congregation of the church, and the unanimous approval of the governing body of the said church.

Dr. Bullitt, Colonel Pratt, member of Chapel Hill Planning Board, Charlie Craig, member of the Rock Hill Baptist Church, and L. J. Phipps spoke in opposition to the proposed amendment. The Mayor read a letter from Reverend J. R. Stanford, pastor of the Rock Hill Baptist Church, colored, stating that the church voted unanimously against the amendment.

After considerable discussion, the Board of Aldermen, upon motion by Alderman Bowman and seconded by Alderman Burch, moved that the proposed amendment not be adopted.

Subject: Complaint by Mr. June Harris.

Mr. Harris complained to the Board that cars were being parked on the sidewalks in front of the filling stations on Franklin Street and that a considerable number of negroes were standing on the sidewalk on Franklin Street and blocking pedestrian traffic.

Subject: Auditor's Report.

Mr. Peacock reported that all vouchers for the month of November were in order except one to Hazzard Motor Company and one to Ruben Cole which were not supported by invoices. The gasoline report revealed an overage for the last two months. The budget was 2% underspent in total, although several items were overspent to date and two items were overspent for the total year. An unforseen motor breakdown at the sewer plant necessitated the overexpenditure for repairs in the sewer department. The Board of Aldermen asked that the University be requested to pay for one-half the cost of these repairs.

Subject: Rule in regard to overspending budget.

The Board discussed the policy in regard to signing checks when the expenditure would exceed the budget for that particular item. It was suggested that the accountant should not sign checks when the expenditure

would exceed the budget for that particular item, but Mr. Caldwell stated that the present policy and rule established by the Board of Aldermen several years ago allows one item to be exceeded so long as the total for the department is not exceeded. The Board of Aldermen asked the City Manager to find the present rule in the minutes and present it at the next meeting.

Subject: Discussion in regard to Board changing decisions.

Mr. Burch brought to the attention of the Board the fact that it might be a dangerous procedure for the Board of Aldermen to reopen some business which had already been passed. He stated that this procedure, if practiced, might bring criticism and would not be a wise policy to reopen decisions, which had already been adopted at a regular meeting, at a special meeting called for another purpose.

The Mayor stated that in the letting of bids for the trucks, additional information was presented which influenced the Board to change its decision at the special meeting.

Subject: Windshield stickers for Safety Campaign.

The Clerk read an ordinance proposed by the Safety League which would, if adopted, make it compulsary for automobile owners in Chapel Hill to display on their windshields a sticker pledging their cooperation in observing all driving laws. The Board of Aldermen did not adopt the ordinance.

Subject: Historical Markers.

The Mayor read a letter from the Chairman of the Executive Committee on Historical Markers of the N. C. Historical Commission stating that the committee would like to erect a marker for the University, but that opposition by some of the residents of the Town had influenced the committee to postpone any action. The letter was written to the Vice-President of the Student Body of the University in response to a request by the Student Body and the Golden Fleece and Order of the Grail. The Board of Aldermen discussed the question of placing markers in the plot at the intersection of the Pittsboro and Raleigh Highways, and also on East Franklin Street near Graham Memorial.

Upon motion by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Fitch, the Board of Aldermen authorized the Town Clerk to write Dr. Coker, Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, stating that the N. C. Historical Commission has reopened the matter of placing historical markers, designating the University of North Carolina, in Chapel Hill, at the request of the Order of the Grail and the Golden Fleece, and the Town Board of Aldermen looks with favor upon the matter and approves their being placed in the plot at the intersection of the Pittsboro and Raleigh Highways and on Franklin Street near Graham Memorial.

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Subject: Report of Work of the Chapel Hill Recreation Commission.

Colonel Joseph Hyde Pratt, Chairman of the Recreation Commission, presented a written report of the work of the Chapel Hill Recreation Commission for the year 1940-41.

Subject: Report by Mayor on Local Civilian Defense Work.

The Mayor reported that an organization for civilian defense in Chapel Hill had already gotten underway. Material was sent by the Federal Government outlining the necessary committees and directors. The different committees and their chairmen have already been appointed, and they are organizing and making the necessary provisions for the necessary precautions to be taken during air raids. The water works, dam and airport are already being guarded.

Subject: Fire Truck.

The Board of Aldermen asked the Mayor to write the University urging them of the necessity for a new fire truck as quickly as possible.

Subject: Travel Fund for fire and police departments.

Upon motion by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Fitch, the Board of Aldermen appropriated out of the contingency fund $15.00 each to the fire and police department for a travel fund.

Subject: Report by Finance Committee.

Alderman Hobbs stated that the finance committee met on Monday night and went over the list of delinquent personal property taxes and instructed the City Manager to write letters to all delinquents stating that if their personal property taxes were not paid by a certain date that they would either be garnisheed or levied for their unpaid taxes.

Subject: Sunday Movies.

The Board of Aldermen discussed the ordinance relating to the granting of permission to the theatre to operate the theatres on Sunday. Upon motion by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Fitch, the Board of Aldermen instructed the City Manager to writethe Theatre in regard to their monthly donation to the Health Department for venereal disease clinic and to send a copy of the ordinances granting permission to the theatres to operate on Sunday.

Subject: Authorizing payment of bills for street work.

Mr. Caldwell stated that the street work had been finished and that Mr. J. M. Gregory, Contractor, had rendered a bill in the amount of $15,810.40 and that he and Mr. Hollett, Engineer for the Project, had

approved the invoices. Mr. Caldwell stated that Mr. Hollett had acted as engineer on the project and thought that the Town should pay him $150.00 for his services. Mr. Hollett has agreed to the amount.

Upon motion by Alderman Bowman, seconded by Alderman Hobbs, the Board of Aldermen authorized the City Manager to pay Mr. J. M. Gregory the amount of his invoice, $15,810.40, Mr. A. R. Hollett $150.00 for engineering services and all the incidental bills pertaining to the bond issue.

Subject: Request by Theatre to grade sidewalk on Columbia Street.

Mr. Caldwell stated that the North Carolina Theatres, Incorporated, wanted the Town to grade the sidewalk in front of their property on Columbia Street down to the level of their property and to remove the two large oak trees which are on the sidewalk. The theatre people stated that they would leave a small alley behind their building.

The Board of Aldermen agreed to meet at the theatre property on Thursday morning at eleven o'clock to decide on the matter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Town Clerk