MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD IN THE TOWN HALL MARCH 11, 1942

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The Board of Aldermen held its regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall on March 11, 1942, with Mayor Foushee presiding and the following Aldermen present: Messrs. G. O. Devis, R. J. M. Hobbs, R. W. Madry, F. O. Bowman, P. L. Burch, and R. B. Fitch. Also present were J. L. Caldwell, C. P. Hinshaw and E. E. Peacock.

Subject: Report from Recreation Commission.

Mr. H. D. Meyer acting chairman of the Recreation Commission appeared before the Board and informed it that a vacancy now existed on the Recreation Commission due to the expiration of the term of Mr. R. J. M. Hobbs and requested that some action be taken on the matter. The Clerk was instructed to check the minutes regarding appointment of a new member and present a report at the next regular Board meeting at which time appropriate action would be taken. Mr. Meyer also presented a general outline of the program and accomplishments of the Commission, and among other things, said a plan had been worked out with the W.P.A. to bring a trained negro boy and girl here at W.P.A. expense to supervise the recreation program of the local Negro Community Center.

Upon motion by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Bowman the Board passed a motion authorizing the Town to furnish light, heat and water to the Negro Community Center and further provided that these expenditures be charged to the Recreation Commission Fund so long as this budget item is not exceeded.

Mr. Meyer further stated that in conjunction with the establishment of the Army Camps in Durham and the establishment of the Naval Unit here at the University, a recreation area for soldiers and sailors had been established with Chapel Hill as a part and suggested that there was a need for the appointment of a Defense Recreation Council. Upon motion of Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Bowman, the Board passed a motion appointing the members of the Recreation Commission to serve as the Local Defense Recreation Commission.

Subject: Request for Suspense of Zoning Ordinance for Duration of War.

Alderman Burch presented an unsigned petition from the University requesting that the Town amend or suspend enforcement of certain portions of the zoning ordinance for the duration of the war, relating to the subleasing of residences in Zone A to student groups. After considerable discussion the Board agreed that if and when the University would secure the consent of neighbors on both sides of such proposed residences as well as the two nearest neighbors on the opposite side of the street, and if and when the University is willing to assume the responsibility for the conduct of the students occupying such residences; the Board will be willing to waive enforcement of this provision of the zoning ordinance until such time as the Board takes some permanent action on the matter.

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In this connection, Mayor Foushee appointed Alderman Davis and Alderman Madry to act as a committee to ascertain available housing facilities in town and to cooperate in any manner possible with University authorities in alleviating the housing shortage.

Subject: Auditor's Report.

Mr. Peacock called attention to the overexpenditure of the light, heat and power items in the budget report and reported minor irregularities in certain invoices supporting the vouchers issued during the month. He also reported a considerable shortage in his gas report but he promised another check to be sure the shortage was actual. Several gas tickets were not properly filled out and he suggested that in the future the gas attendants initial the gas tickets.

Subject: Speeding.

There was some discussion of speeding in town, and it was suggested that the police department undertake to enforce the speed laws more strictly. The matter was referred to Alderman Burch with the suggestion that he confer with Chief Sloan on the matter.

Subject: Request for Deferment of Taxes by Mr. Albert Coates.

The Mayor read a letter from Mr. Albert Coates asking that payment of his delinquent personal property taxes be deferred to June 30, 1942. Upon motion of Alderman Bowman, and seconded by Alderman Fitch, the Board voted to defer the payment of the delinquent personal property taxes of Mr. Albert Coates until June 30, 1942.

Subject: Insurance on Negro Community Center.

Alderman Hobbs presented a suggestion from Mr. Louis Graves that some insurance be taken out on the Negro Community Center. Upon motion of Alderman Madry and seconded by Alderman Bowman, the Board voted to take out insurance on the Negro Community Center to an amount not in excess of $5000 and further provided that the expenditure be charged to the Recreation Commission Fund.

Subject: Ordinance Relating to Building Permits.

Upon motion of Alderman Madry and seconded by Alderman Fitch, the Board voted to adopt the following ordinance:

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

Section 1. That any person, firm or corporation desiring to construct a building in the Town of Chapel Hill shall first obtain a permit therefor from the City Manager of Chapel Hill, same to be approved by the Building Inspector.

Section 2. That for buildings costing up to $500 the applicant shall pay a fee of $2.50 for the permit; that for buildings costing from $500 to $1000 the applicant shall pay a fee of $5 for the permit; that for buildings costing from $1000 to $5000 the applicant shall pay a fee of $7.50 for said permit; that for buildings costing from $5000 to $10000 the applicant shall pay a fee of $10 for the permit; that for buildings costing from $10,000 to $15000 the applicant shall pay a fee of $15 for such permit; that for buildings costing in excess of $15,000 there shall be an additional charge of $1.00 per $1,000 for each $1,000 in excess of $15,000 for the permit.

Section 3. That any person, firm or corporation constructing a building without first obtaining a permit from the City Manager and paying therefor shall forfeit and pay a penalty to the Town of Chapel Hill of $50.00.

Section 4. That all ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

This the 11th day of March, 1942.

H. M. Byrd
Town Clerk

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

H. M. Byrd
Town Clerk