

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD IN
THE TOWN HALL ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1942

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The Board of Aldermen held its regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall on September 9, 1942 with Mayor Madry presiding and the following Aldermen present: Messrs. R. J. M. Hobbs, R. B. Fitch, F. O. Bowman, P. L. Burch and G. O. Davis. Also present were J. L. Caldwell, C. P. Hinshaw and E. E. Peacock.

Subject: Rental Ceilings

Mr. Earl Newcomer and Mr. H. Lebrun of the Consumers League appeared before the Board in the interest of establishing a Defense Rental Area for Chapel Hill. They stated that they had made a somewhat hurried study of the situation and in eighteen random cases had found rental increases of from 25% to 40%. They stated that they had been to Captain Kessing of the Naval Pre-Flight unit and that he was strongly in favor of having rental ceilings placed on this area. They gave certain features of the program and cited Durham as an example. They asked the cooperation and approval of the Board in submitting a Petition to the O. P. A. or the Commandant of the Sixth Naval District requesting that this be declared a Defense Rental Area. After some discussion the Board decided that it would be best to hear all sides on the matter. The Board passed a motion made by Alderman Bowman and seconded by Alderman Burch to call a special meeting of the Board for Monday night, September 14 to hear all parties concerned with regard to having Chapel Hill declared a Defense Rental Area or a Defense Area with rent control as a part of the program.

Subject: Report of Health Department

The clerk read a report from Dr. Richardson of the Health Department activities for the month.

Subject: Auditors' Report

Mr. Peacock reported a gasoline shortage of 37 gallons for the month, and the Board instructed the Manager to have the pumps checked for accuracy. He also reported vouchers in connection with airport road right-of-ways lacked the proper support along with one voucher for the purchase of a used truck for the sprinkler.

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Subject: Police Department

Chief Sloan was present and presented a general report of the Police Department activities for the month, and answered questions relative to union activity in this secti .

Subject: Fire Department

The Board was informed that University officials had stated that money for a new fire truck would not be available except by legislative action. The Public Safety Committee was asked to contact University officials and remind them of the urgency of the situation. Alderman Davis suggested that Mr. J. S. Boone be appointed Fire Chief since most of the duties of that office were handled by him. After some discussion, the matter was referred to a committee composed of Aldermen Burch, Bowman, and Davis for further study.

Subject: Sewer Plant

Mr. Caldwell informed the Board that the sewer plant presented a serious problem due to the fact that the plant and lines were overloaded. The Board passed a motion by Alderman Hobbs and seconded by Alderman Burch to authorize Mr. Hollett to take prompt steps to take care of the trickling filter and other matters at the plant contributing to the situation with instructions to the City Manager to see that the work is done. Aldermen Bowman and Burch as well as the new Board member to be selected were appointed as a special committee to make a long range study of the Town needs as regards the sewerage disposal plant.

Subject: Mrs. Lawson's Complaint

Mrs. R. B. Lawson presented a written complaint of certain trees and hedges in Town which needed trimming. The Board instructed the City Manager to take steps to correct the situation.

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Subject: Planning Board

Action on selection of a new member of the Town Planning Board was deferred until a later meeting.

Subject: Stop Light

It was suggested that since high school students would not be using the crossing at the intersection of the Raleigh Road and S. Columbia St., the stop light there could be put on as a blinker. After some discussion, the Board instructed the City Manager to place this stop light on blinker on a trial basis.

Subject: Water Damage

The Town Attorney informed the Board that the Town was in no way liable for damage to property owners on Rosemary Street caused by water draining from buildings on Franklin Street.

Subject: Chicken Law

The Town Attorney stated after conferring with Mr. H. A. Whitfield of Records Court and others that the recently enacted Chicken Law was in his opinion unconstitutional. After some discussion the Board appointed Mr. Hinshaw to work in cooperation with the Health Committee and Dr. Richardson in drafting a new ordinance.

Subject: Bicycles on Sidewalk

Mr. Hinshaw stated that he had heard complaints relative to parking bicycles on the sidewalk of Franklin Street. After some discussion the matter was referred to the street committee for appropriate action.

Subject: Institute of Government Taxes

The Board deferred action on a request for future releases of taxes on the Institute of Government building.

Subject: Salary Raises

Action on salary raises for J. S. Boone and J. L. Caldwell was deferred to a later meeting.

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Subject: Vice Recorder

Mr. A. Clarence Pickard was unanimously selected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. John T. Manning as Vice Recorder of the Chapel Hill Recorder's Court.


Subject: Salary of Vice Recorder

Mr. Caldwell stated that Mr. John T. Manning had submitted a bill for holding recorder's Court for a part of one day for Mr. Whitfield. The Board decided this was a matter between Mr. Manning and Mr. Whitfield and instructed the City Manager to present the bill to Mr. Whitfield.

Subject: New Alderman

Mr. R. H. Wettach was unanimously selected to fill the unexpired term of Mr. R. W. Madry as a member of the Board of Aldermen.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Town Clerk

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