

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1942

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The Board of Aldermen held a special meeting in the Town Hall on September 14, 1942 with Mayor Madry presiding and the following Aldermen present: Messrs. P. L. Burch, R. B. Fitch, R. H. Wettach, G. O. Davis, F. O. Bowman and R. J. M. Hobbs.

Subject: Rent Control

Mayor Madry stated the purpose of this special meeting was to hear from all people concerned with establishment of Chapel Hill as a Defense Rental Area.

Mr. Newcomer and Mr. Lebrun of the Consumer's League were present and repeated their request to the Board that it endorse a petition to the O.P.A. to have Chapel Hill declared a Defense Rental Area. They cited rent increases in random cases in Chapel Hill of from 25% to 40% and the success of a similar program in Durham was described in a letter from a representative of the Durham Real Estate Board.

Commander Graff of the Naval Pre-Flight Unit commented upon the limitations on the salaries of the Naval Officers and stated that his office had received complaints of rental raises of from 10% to 40%. These raises were in his opinion neither justified nor patriotic. Captain Kensing also speaking for the Pre-Flight school stated that commodity prices and rents had been unduly raised during the past three months and he felt that there was need of immediate action. He further stated that he had made a request for this area to be declared a Defense Area, which would include numerous controls other than rent. Captain Popham of the Naval R. O. T. C. Unit stated that he, as senior officer on duty here had been asked by the commandant of the Sixth Naval District on several occasions whether or not there was a need for this vicinity to be declared a Defense Area. He stated that he had made no such request as yet but felt that there was a need for such at present. He felt that the Board's endorsement of the proposal would greatly expedite its being put into effect.

Mr. Roland Parker, assistant Dean of Men, said he knew of instances where students had been taken advantage of as regards rents and that student leaders had recommended that this be declared a Defense Rental Area sometime ago. Mr. Roy Armstrong, also of the University, stated that he was in close touch with the renters and that they had been very cooperative, with student rents being about the same as during the past few years. He felt that the Naval group was partially responsible for the raises

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Complained of in that they made certain demands and were quite willing to pay for what they wanted.

Mr. McClanrock and Mr. Scott as representatives of rental agencies in town stated that they had not raised rents and expressed a desire to know the names of the offending parties.

Dr. Bullitt stated that some houses here had been rented at unreasonable figures but felt that it was the human tendency to do such. He was of the opinion that there was need of action on the part of a local group in the case a request for establishment of a Defense Rental Area became necessary.

Several townspeople spoke later, among others Mr. G. B. Phillips, Dr. Raymond Adams, Mrs. Curtis, Mr. Lear and Mr. Breckenridge, none of whom voiced opposition to declaring Chapel Hill a Defense Rental Area.

After all interested parties had been heard, the Board went into session and after some discussion decided that it would be necessary to see and hear the facts involved before any action could be taken.

The Board appointed the following committee to study the facts and make a recommendation to the Board: F. O. Bowman, Chairman, R. H. Wettach, P. L. Burch, Captain W. S. Popham, Guy B. Phillips, Roland McClanrock and Earl Newcomer.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.


Town Clerk

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NORTH CAROLINA
ORANGE COUNTY
TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

O A T H

I, R. H. Wettach, solemnly swear that I will fill the office of membership on the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Chapel Hill for the unexpired term of R. W. Madry to the best of my ability; and that I will support both the Constitution of the United States and of the State of North Carolina, so help me, God.

Robert H. Wettach
Member Board of Aldermen

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 14th day of September,
1942.

Paul H. Roberts
Justice of the Peace

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