

Minutes of Special Meeting
Board of Aldermen - Town of Chapel Hill
January 20, 1949

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Thursday Night, January 20, 1949, in the Town Hall.

Mayor Madry presided and Aldermen present were Burch, Hobbs, Lanier and Fitch. Also present were Messrs. Ray and Hinshaw.

Mr. Lanier reported that in December two years ago the Board agreed to ask Mr. Umstead to present a bill to the legislature requesting that when a person asked for a jury trial it would automatically be sent to Hillsboro to Superior Court and later it was decided to call the decision back but now he feels that it should be renewed.

Mr. Ray stated that he thinks it would be a more practical idea to have the school tax outside the city limits levied by the County Commissioners and added to the county tax bills.

After considerable discussion Mr. Lanier moved that a special meeting of the Board be held Thursday, February 3rd to hold announced public hearing for bill automatically transferring any jury trial from Chapel Hill Recorder's Court to Superior Court in Hillsboro and for discussion of having school tax levied by County Commissioners and added to the county tax bills. Mr. Ray was asked to contact the County Commissioners to find out if they will be willing to take the responsibility of levying the school tax and having it collected. Motion seconded by Mr. Hobbs and unanimously passed.

Mr. Madry read a letter from a representative of the American Veterans Committee which stated that they would like to have a negro on the Board of Aldermen. They were advised by Mr. Madry that the Aldermen are elected by the people and not appointed. In a letter of later date from the same organization they stated they would like to express further that they want a negro appointed to serve on the Recreation Commission. *In a second letter they stated they were confused in the first letter in that what they wanted is a representative on the Recreation Commission.*

Mr. Madry also presented a letter from Mr. Powell stating that they are trying to get a portion of the six percent gross tax now levied on private utilities by the State of North Carolina. They asked that the Town of Chapel Hill pay an assessment of \$20.00 to help pay Major L.P. McLendon to represent this committee in the legislature. They asked that \$10.00 be paid now and \$10.00 at a later date. Mr. Hobbs moved that the Town send them a check for \$10.00 even though the Town of Chapel Hill will not benefit from such a move. Seconded by Mr. Burch and unanimously carried.

The proposed building code for Chapel Hill was brought out and after considerable discussion motion was made by Mr. Lanier that Article 1 Section 2 of the General Building Code be adopted as indicated in the printed book plus the addition of the following:

"It shall be within the descretion of the building inspector to issue permits for minor construction work for residential occupancy not exceeding \$5,000.00 in total cost in residence zones A, B & C provided satisfactory plans and specifications are furnished and bond as might be required by the building inspector. Seconded by Mr. Hobbs and unanimously carried.

Mr. Hobbs moved that the building code in its present form as prepared by the Planning Board be adopted including the amendments with exception of the changes made by this Board in Article 1 Section 2 and that these codes be printed in seperate pamphlets. Seconded by Mr. Fitch and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hobbs further moved that this code be adopted as effective February 1, 1949. Seconded by Mr. Burch and unanimously passed.

Mr. Lanier moved that the City Manager be authorized to secure such expert help as he may need and not to pay in excess of \$50.00 from the contingency fund, to prepare copy of this building code for the printer. Seconded by Mr. Burch and unanimously passed.

Mr. Phipps was present in behalf of Mr. Archie Gillas who has applied for license to sell beer in the former Cafe Seville. He reported that Mr. Gillas has a one year lease on the building and the business will be entirely for himself and not for anyone else. After some discussion, motion was made by Mr. Burch that this license be granted. Seconded by Mr. Lanier. Voting for the motion were Messrs. Burch, Hobbs, and Lanier. Mr. Fitch did not vote.

Mr. Ray reported that Mr. Umstead has offered to sell a tract of land for the negro cemetary 15 acres for \$4000.00 or ten acres at \$300.00 an acre.

After some discussion the following resolution was presented by Mr. Lanier:

"Whereas the Town of Chapel Hill on the Basis of the recommendation of the Negro Civic Center of Chapel Hill and upon the recommendation of the cemetary committee of the Board of Aldermen, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Chapel Hill offer Mr. John Umstead the sum of \$4000.00 for fifteen acres of the old Claytor Farm which lies east of the Southern Railroad and about one half mile north of the Town of Carrboro. Mr. Ray, Town Manager is hereby authorized to make this offer to Mr. Umstead. Seconded by Mr. Burch and unanimously carried.

Upon motion of Mr. Burch, seconded by Mr. Fitch and unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 11:10 P.M.