

MINUTESBoard of AldermenTown of Chapel Hill

The Board of Aldermen met at a regular meeting at 4:00 P.M., August 17, 1970 with the following members present: Mayor Lee, Aldermen Smith, Welsh, Nassif, Coxhead and Bernholz. Alderman Scroggs was absent. Also present were Town Manager Peck, Town Clerk Robert and Town Attorney Denny.

MINUTES

Alderman Welsh moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 10, 1970 as corrected. This was carried 4 to 0. (Alderman Bernholz was absent at this time)

DRAINAGE

Mayor Lee read a letter from Mr. Byrd complaining about drainage at 404 Elliott Road. It was pointed out that the Street Committee had investigated this complaint before and decided that nothing should be done. Alderman Nassif moved, seconded by Alderman Smith a letter should be written to Mr. Byrd telling him this but that the Street Committee would be asked to check it again. This was carried by 4 to 0.

McMASTERS STREET

Mrs. Callie Norwood, 338 McMasters Street, told the Board that the street by her house was not being maintained and objected to an empty house nearby which was a fire hazard. She told the Board that she had been promised paving on that section. Alderman Smith explained to her the paving policy of the Town. Alderman Nassif moved, seconded by Alderman Welsh to receive the petition, and refer the street to the Street Committee, and ask that the building inspector to check the house complained of. This was carried by 4 to 0.

DOG CONTROL

Mrs. Shaner, Hickory Drive, told the Board that she represented 19 neighbors requesting revision of the dog ordinance as she felt they were unsanitary, a nuisance and dangerous. She read a letter from Lindsay Olive and Louis Roberts also requesting dog control. Mr. Trammel on Ferrell Road also requested stronger dog control. Mrs. Riggsbee spoke in favor of stricter control. Mayor Lee said he had letters from Billy Barnes and one anonymous person supporting dog control. Alderman Nassif said he was sympathetic to these requests but he felt there should be more discussion. At a later hearing, raise the question of zoning for kennels, and control of kennels. He asked for a report on the services provided by Vine's and asked how dogs could be controlled on the campus. He asked that a check be made on complaints reported to the police. Alderman Coxhead asked the persons wanting dog control what type of ordinance they had in mind? Mrs. Shaner said that in Miami that dogs had to be kept in cages or fenced in or on a leash and had to be kept in at night. She presented a copy of the Miami ordinance. Mr. Trammel suggested that dogs be muzzled at night to reduce barking. Alderman Welsh asked if this was approved by the SPCA, Mr. Trammel said that it was for some types of dogs. Alderman Coxhead asked about the cost of a dog license? It is limited to one and two dollars by the state. Mrs. Doak asked that a check be made of the number of dog bites reported at the hospital. Alderman Nassif said that a strict ordinance would need a dog warden and a pound, that it was not a job for the police department. Mrs. Riggsbee asked if the police couldn't put pressure on the owner when dogs barked? Much of this problem is knowing whose dog is barking. Alderman Welsh suggested that other towns be checked on their dog ordinances. Mayor Lee suggested another meeting be held in September to discuss this matter. Alderman Nassif agreed but wanted a report on the other questions raised by that time. Mayor Lee said that Charlotte had a 7:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. curfew and that all females in heat must be kept up. Alderman Nassif asked what the cost would be to operate a dog pound. A hearing on dogs is set for the meeting of September 14, 1970.

CROSSWALK-WEST FRANKLIN STREET

Mayor Lee read an ordinance which would eliminate the crosswalk on West Franklin Street near Kenan Street and said that he had received one letter opposing this action. Alderman Nassif said that he would like to have a report on the proposed new location for a crosswalk and that he felt that pedestrians were not receiving sufficient attention. Alderman Welsh said that the Street Committee was to investigate but the report was not complete. She said she felt there should be some empirical data on which crosswalks could be located. Alderman Nassif said that he felt that this was much too sophisticated and that the data was not available. Alderman Nassif moved, seconded by Alderman Welsh to adopt the ordinance to remove this crosswalk and replace it at a later time at the best suitable location. Alderman Smith suggested holding up on removing the old crosswalk until the new site had been selected. He said that a strict enforcement program for crosswalks should be initiated. Alderman Nassif said he felt that the crosswalk in question was dangerous and should be removed. Alderman Smith suggested eliminating parking near the crosswalks to improve vision. Alderman Welsh suggested additional painting to make the crosswalks more visible and strict enforcement and high fines for violation. The motion carried by a vote of three (3) to two (2) with Aldermen Smith and Bernholz opposing. Attorney Denny ruled that this vote was inadequate for passage at the meeting in which it was introduced so it was carried over to the meeting of August 24, 1970. Alderman Nassif suggested that a new crosswalk be placed near University Square at a different location and asked that the lines from the old crosswalk be erased. He said blinking lights would help make the crosswalks more visible. He said he felt the whole traffic situation at University Square needed to be improved and that he felt that a traffic light was needed at Church Street. Alderman Welsh said that she felt that all traffic ought to stop at the crosswalks at all times and that the speed limit should be lowered on Franklin Street. Alderman Welsh moved, seconded by Alderman Smith to refer all of these problems to the Street Committee. This was unanimously carried.

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC AT MARKED CROSSWALKS WITH STOP SIGNS

WHEREAS on March 11, 1968 the Board of Aldermen adopted an ordinance relating to the vehicular traffic at marked crosswalks, and

WHEREAS a portion of said ordinance provided that the Town Manager shall cause to be marked on West Franklin Street between Kenan Street and Roberson Street, specifically approximately 54 feet West of Kenan Street across a crosswalk for pedestrian traffic, and

WHEREAS said crosswalk is no longer necessary or desirable.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL:

SECTION I

That that portion of the ordinance relating to vehicular traffic at marked crosswalks adopted March 11, 1968 with respect to the crosswalk to be marked on West Franklin Street between Kenan Street and Roberson Street specifically approximately 54 feet West of Kenan Street be and the same is hereby repealed.

This the 24th day of August, 1970.

DEATH BENEFITS

Mayor Lee read an agreement with the N. C. Retirement System providing for continuance of the death benefits under which we now operate. This was agreed to by the Board.

SIDEWALKS

Alderman Nassif said that he felt that there should be a paved sidewalk access on all main roads leading to schools and suggested the following priority: 1) Merritt Mill Road 2) Estes Drive 3) US-54 4) Airport Road 5) Franklin Street 6) Ephesus Church Road. He suggested a program of paving be adopted which would accomplish all of these over a period of years. He asked that cost estimates be made for each section. Alderman Welsh then read a statement re-

garding walking and bicycling and suggested that a bicycle program be encouraged and bicycle paths be provided as a means of reducing traffic and air pollution. She suggested that bicycle paths be marked with special signs. Alderman Smith questioned the riding of bicycles on sidewalks and supported paved sidewalks near the schools particularly Merritt Mill Road. Alderman Welsh said that she felt that walking and bicycling on the same sidewalk were compatible if the sidewalk were at least five feet in width. Alderman Nassif moved, seconded by Alderman Bernholz to request the Manager to get estimates on this program. This was unanimously carried. A very quick estimate from the Town Manager was \$250,000 for the total program as outlined, but he agreed to get more detail estimates, section by section.

TRAFFIC LIGHT-MERRITT MILL ROAD

Mayor Lee asked that a letter be written to the Highway Commission asking when the approved light at Merritt Mill Road and Franklin Street would be installed.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Mayor Lee told the Board that he had had an inquiry from H. L. Gupton, Jr. offering to provide consultant services in designing an ambulance system.

LEGISLATION

Alderman Nassif asked if it was agreed by the Board that special acts should be prepared which would allow the Town to require open space from subdividers and to pave without petition. It was agreed by the Board that this was correct.

SIDEWALKS

Alderman Nassif told the Board he felt that the fence between the Dairy Bar and the Presbyterian Church on East Franklin was in the sidewalk right-of-way and had been there for a long period of time and that the owner should be made to move it. He asked that this be checked out and reported on.

GARBAGE CANS

Alderman Nassif said there was a garbage can being placed on the sidewalk on East Franklin Street and left there much of the day. He asked that this be checked on and stopped. Alderman Welsh suggested that more litter boxes be provided.

DILAPIDATED HOUSES

Alderman Smith asked that steps be taken to eliminate the partially burned house on School Lane and the old house across from it.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Alderman Smith asked that plans be made to employ some high school students next summer.

LABOR DAY

The Board agreed that there would be no meeting of the Board of Aldermen on Labor Day.

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 P.M.

Mayor

David Roberts
Town Clerk, David Roberts