

Special Meeting
Board of Aldermen--Chapel Hill, N. C.
October 20, 1952

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held in the Town Hall on October 20, 1952 at 8 o'clock p.m.

Present were Mayor Lanier, Aldermen Fitch, Burch, Davis, Cornwell, and Putnam, Town Manager Rose and Town Attorney LeGrand.

Mr. Lanier read a letter sent to the property owners on Rosemary Street between Columbia and Henderson Streets requesting their presence at an informal discussion of the matter of widening Rosemary Street. He stated that this street is now 24 feet wide from curb to curb and that the Town had a drawing showing what would be involved if 5 feet were added on each side, making the street a total of 34 feet wide. He impressed on the people present that this meeting was about the advisability of doing something about the width of the street, but, at present, the Town has no specific plan in mind.

Mr. Dale Ransom wanted to know whether the individual taxpayers or property owners would be assessed additionally for widening the street. Mr. Rose stated that the Town would have to assume all expense of moving walls, etc., and that if any private property were taken, the Town would have to pay for it. Also, the Town would have to pay for all new curb and gutter. Mr. Ransom then wanted to know what the Town would do about a sidewalk. Mr. Rose said that he would like to see a 5 foot sidewalk on each side of the street all the way. Mr. Ransom wanted to know if they widened the street and had a sidewalk area, what would the Town do about paving it. Mr. Lanier stated that there was a uniform policy in most towns that when a sidewalk is paved, it is the expense of the adjacent property owners.

Miss Minnie Pickard stated that if the people in the business district wanted to sell their property for street widening it was their business, but she did not think the Town should expect to take any of hers, and she was not willing to give them any at all. Mr. Lanier told her that the immediate problem is the traffic situation between Church and Henderson Streets and that the Town does not have enough money at present to widen Rosemary Street from end to end.

Mr. L. J. Phipps wanted to know if the street were widened, would the Town allow parking on both sides. Mr. Lanier said that he could not answer this question.

Mr. H. H. Harville pointed out that if parking were taken off of this street, it would become a racetrack. He wanted to know if the street were widened 5 feet, would the Town put sidewalks on each side. Mr. Lanier said that there would be a clear path for walking.

Miss Minnie Pickard suggested putting up a stop light at the corner of Rosemary and Boundary Streets.

Mr. E. R. Rankin stated that he had noticed that a great deal of traffic, particularly trucks, goes on Rosemary Street to avoid stop lights on Franklin Street. Mr. Lanier said that no streets have been designated as truck routes here in Chapel Hill.

A letter from Mr. Walter Creech was read in which he stated that he was opposed to the widening because the street would then become a speedway and invite increase traffic hazards. Also, he wanted to keep the trees.

A letter from Mrs. W. B. Sorrell was also read in which she opposed the widening because of the damage it would do to her property.

Mrs. S. J. Brockwell stated that she owned two lots on Rosemary Street; one on the North side and one on the South side, and she did not want to give up any part of either of them.

Mr. Ransom said that he thought it imperative that the Town have a sidewalk on the South side of Rosemary from Henderson to Columbia Streets. He said that the street needs to be widened and a sidewalk needs to be put down.

Mr. E. A. Brown wanted to know what they would do to business and residences located near the street. Mr. Lanier said that the Town would have to pay a reasonable compensation for them.

Mr. G. C. Bush suggested that the Town take off all parking on Rosemary Street.

Mrs. Brooks stated that a lot of people have students rooming in their homes and the students needed places to park their cars.

Mr. Phipps stated that he was representing two people, Mrs. S. J. Brockwell and Mr. J.B. Goldston, who were opposed to the widening. He suggested that the Town not allow all-night parking on any street in Chapel Hill. Also, he thought that the Town should spend a little bit of money to grade parking lots for people to use. He also thought that when the by-pass was completed a lot of traffic would be converted.

Mr. Paul Robertson stated that this Town was growing and he did not see how we could help but see the need for widening Rosemary Street. He said that the American Legion has passed a motion to give the Town up to 15 feet of their property for purposes of widening.

Mr. H.H. Harville stated that he was in favor of widening provided a sidewalk is put on both sides of the street.

Mrs. Burke said that no trucks should be allowed on the street unless it had business on the street.

Mr. J.S. Matthews reported that he was in favor of the widening.

Mr. Hogan stated that he could not speak officially for the Post Office Department, but he thought that if the majority of property owners wanted the street widened, the Post Office would cooperate.

Mrs. Fred Coenen stated that widening the street would not solve the traffic problem and suggested that the Town prohibit parking on the street and install stop lights.

Mr. L.R. Wilson stated that he would hate to see the street widened east of Hillsboro Street and that he thought traffic signals might tend to slow people down. Also, he suggested limiting parking on the street.

Mrs. Brooks stated that business property should have parking facilities or they shouldn't have to pay business property tax.

Mr. Harville reminded the Board that there would be a lot more traffic in the future than we have had in the past.


Mr. Fitch stated the primary thought in the beginning was to try to provide something in the business areas.

Mr. W. M. Dye said that he was in favor of letting the people living in the block in question deciding on widening, but he was not in favor of it coming all the way down the street.

Mr. John T. Manning stated that Rosemary Street was a hazard, largely due to parking and traffic on the street. He said that parking should be eliminated from Henderson to Church Streets, and maybe all the way down. He also recommended that the Board attempt to get the Highway Department to establish a Northern by-pass out of Chapel Hill.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 p.m. o'clock.

After hearing the minutes for the special meeting of October 20, 1952, read as amended on motion made by Alderman _____, seconded by Alderman _____, the minutes were approved by vote of the Board of Aldermen this the 27th day of October, 1952.



Mayor



Town Clerk