HIGHLIGHTS
1930 - New Incinerator purchased; Second airport proposed; Magnolia trees donated for City Hall; Zoning Commission presents report on Zoning Ordinances;
1931 - Depression causes Mayor to request budget cuts; City budget not adopted until November.
1932 - Budget reduced through salary cuts; Gas tax refund sought Salem Lake watershed expanded; Fire Chief Nissen killed in auto accident; W.G. Hobson named Fire Chief.
1933 - Fishing in city lakes proposed; Streets around Court House Square widened; Dog ordinance adopted; Wards divided into precincts; WPA projects begin; Contract for 2-way radios for police approved.
1934 - Safety Zones established around Court House Square; Employee pension plan considered; Water billing and collection; City Armory.
1935 - Relief on paving assessments; Walter Anderson named Chief of Police; W.T. Wilson elected Mayor; School tax election; Juvenile Court created; Slum clearance projected rejected; Street car lines Abandoned; Park Planning Commission established; Hall of History building constructed in Salem.
1936 - Ralph Dixon appointed City Finance Director and Secretary; Proposed hospital on West 4th St; City Emblem adopted; property for Bowman Gray Stadium donated to the City; Money donated for the construction of Reynolds Memorial Hospital
1937 - Sunday baseball opposed; Contracts awarded for construction of Reynolds Hospital; Henry Fries-First Citizen of Salem
1938 - Ordinance passed regarding fortune telling in the City; Bon Air Park created; Bond vote for new Library fails; Employee pension plan proposed; M.G. Brown appointed Fire Chief; Reynolds Park construction begins; Park Committee established; City and County tax departments consolidated.
1939 - City Tax Attorney appointed; James Fain elected Mayor; Church building moved to comply with segregation laws; Welfare and Relief agencies consolidated; Cloverdale Ave extended to relieve Ardmore bottleneck; City vehicles marked with logo

1930
NEW INCINERATOR

Feb 14, 1930- Bids were opened for a new incinerator from the Nye Odorless Incinerator Company for $226,943. (21-366)
This incinerator was used until 1949 at which time the burning of refuse was discontinued in favor of the operating of a sanitary landfill. The landfill was started immediately south of the incinerator plant.

The city incinerator was on land that is now east of Forsyth Tech south of Silas Creek Parkway. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)
A city abattoir was established off Link Rd near the incinerator. The city had been out of the business since 1921 when it sold its facility on Abattoir Street off North Trade. The city health officer had recommend the city over see the slaughter of animals and his report show that in 1932 there were 1,000 cattle, 2,00 hogs, 12,000 veals and 500 sheep and goats slaughtered. The plan was to make the city abattoir pay for itself. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

Feb 7, 1930- The Police Department was authorized to purchase a “new Ford Roadster to be used in the Traffic Division.” for $433.26. (21-354)

April 4, 1930- The Board approved changing the name of ‘Shallowford St” from Main to Brookstown to Brookstown Ave. (21-418)

July 25, 1930-The Board amended the City Ordinances to place under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works these duties: (22-53)
Reading and Maintenance of Water Meters
Keeping records and collection of Water and Sewer Charges
Maintenance of public parks and playgrounds
Plumbing and electrical inspection and street lighting

1930-31 BUDGET (22-57)
$4,109.898.29 Tax rate set at $1.30

NOISE COMPLAINT
Sept 26, 1930 “The complaint of citizens and business offices on West Fifth Street between Trade Street and Cherry with regard to the constant playing of a phonograph in the Planters Café on the north side of Fifth Street was presented. “ The complaint was referred to the Police Committee (22-119)

SECOND AIRPORT
Oct 31, 1930–“An application was presented by the Twin City Airport Incorporated (R.W. Nissen) for permit to erect an airplane hanger, gasoline storage tanks and store building on the west side of Lexington Rd between the intersection of Clemmons ville Rd and Cassell St. Application approved “(22-139) This is the only reference to this airport. Evidently it was never built.

MAGNOLIA TREES
Nov 21, 1930-“ The offer of Mr. Efird L. Hine to donate to the City a magnolia tree located on his lot just west of the City Hall building, provided the City will assume the cost of moving and placing the tree on the lawn of the City Hall, was presented.” The offer was referred to the City Hall Committee. (22-153)
ZONING COMMISSION (22-157)
Nov 21, 1930-H.E. Fries, Chairman of the Zoning commission, reported that the Commission was ready to submit its report on the proposed zoning ordinance, after having presented it at public meetings throughout the city. Ten of these meetings were held with civic and other organization groups. Eleven meetings were held with citizens and property owners in various neighborhoods, and two meetings were held at City Hall as city-wide public hearings. The Zoning Commission had been established on Oct 3, 1930 (22-129)

BOUNDARY LINE
As part of this zoning proposal, several groups appeared to request changes in the boundary lines between white and African-American residential sections of the City. There were complaints as the city grew, neighborhoods added and homes built. On Dec. 12, several groups came before the board to request changes. The minutes speak of “lengthy discussion” on the matter of the line between Cleveland Ave and Greenwood Ave extending for First St to Third St. The residents asked that the line be between Woodland and Cleveland as had been originally proposed. This was approved.

A group from Waughtown asking that the line there be moved was denied. (22-168)

There were other changes in the proposed new zoning ordinances as well before they were approved. The revised Zoning Ordinances begin on (22-173). Copies of the Zoning Ordinances were printed and sold for 50 cents (22-220)

1931
UNEMPLOYMENT
As the country spiraled into the depth of the Great Depression money and unemployment woes plagued the Board of Aldermen. On February 6, 1931, Mayor Coan talked about relieving the unemployment situation. (22-225) He reviewed the work of an employment bureau opened in November 1930. “He suggested some plan for creating public interest in repairing and renovating properties as a measure of increasing employment in the building trades. It was also suggested that Forsyth County might be requested to refrain from employing convict labor in the construction of the new highway to Donnaha and the feasibility of the operation of a municipal wood-yard might be investigated”

A strongly worded resolution was passed on April 1 asking all departments of the City to curtail all unnecessary spending (22-257)

March 20, 1931-An ordinance regulating advertising signs is enacted. (22-244)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 5 (22-284)
Mayor George W. Coan

Aldermen
First Ward M.D. Stockton, Spencer Hanes
Third Ward L.V. Scott, G.W. Blum
Salem Ward C.T. Leinbach, J.W. Crews

For the first time there were several Republican candidates and even a Republican Primary held in April. The Republicans fielded candidates in the First, Third and Salem Wards. Although they were soundly defeated by margins of at least 2-1, it marked a change in city government administration.

The job of Mayor was a tough one, made even tougher by the economic times. However a Freudian slip of the typing of the minutes of the swearing in on May 11 says “I, George W. Coan, Jr. do solemnly sweat….” (22-292)
Five and a half feet were added to the dam on Salem Lake in 1931. It was supposed to supply enough water until 1955. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

1931-32 BUDGET (22-404)
$3,095,715.74    Tax rate set at $1.25 plus poll tax $1.00
This budget was not adopted until November 13

1932
CITY SETTLES CLAIMS
Jan 15, 1932- Two claims are brought before the Board for payment. In the first, a 16 year old student at Atkins High School cut off three fingers up to the second joint while in a manual training class. His hospital bill of $45.00 was paid at the request of Mr. R. G. Hanes for whom the student's father worked as a chauffeur. The city attorney stated that the City was not liable for damages at public schools.

In the second case, Mr. George Cross has sued the city for $5,000 but settled for $300. He had stepped in a hole on Liberty Street between 5th and 6th Streets. (22-436)

REQUEST FOR MORE POLICE AND EQUIPMENT
March 4, 1932- “Mayor Coan informed the Board in regard to adjustments made in the police department to permit increased police protection during the night hours. He also cited comparative figures relating to the value of articles stolen and recovered indicating an improvement over previous years. He suggested further study of the crime problem and that the Police Committee give consideration to additional men and equipment, including broadcasting station and radio equipment for cars.” This was referred to the Police Committee (22-455)

On March 11, the Police Committee reported “…recommend the purchase of three additional cars and the employment of six additional men. We estimate that a special appropriation of $3,500 will cover the cost of this increase for the remainder of the fiscal year.

We also recommend that this Committee be authorized to go further into the matter of equipping police cars with radio, and report our findings.

We further recommend that, in view of the increase juvenile crime, especially thefts from automobiles by juveniles, that the Board of
Aldermen take up with the County Commissioners the matter of re-opening the County Reformatory for Negro boys, which was closed some time ago.” 22-457)

The Finance Committee responded on March 18 that there was no money for personnel or cars in this year’s budget (22-464)

Police Detectives, known as the “Spider Gang”. A 1931 article in the Twin City Gold Leaf weekly newspaper said “dubbed the spider gang on account of the ease with which they slipped up on gambling games and by reason of their prowess in liquor raids. The spider gang has always been a terror to the criminally inclined; particularly to auto thieves, gamblers and liquor vendors." This picture was made in 1936. (WSPD Photo)

BUDGET TO BE REDUCED THROUGH SALARY CUTS
May 20, 1932- “...all salaries of City employees up to $3000 per annum be reduced 10% on the first $3000 and 20% on that portion of salary in excess of $3000; that school employees working the full twelve months and not under contract as teacher be reduced on the same basis, all salary cut to become effective June 1, 1932. Employees to be eliminated from the City’s payroll to be released on June 15 and salaries to be paid through June 30, 1932.”(22-497)

1932-1933 BUDGET
The Aldermen approved a budget of $3,048,826.97. This was $46,000 less than the previous year. The property tax was increased by 10 cents to $1.35 in order to meet heavy bond and note maturities. This budget was not approved until Dec 16, 1932 (23-71)

CITY EMPLOYEES COMPLAIN ABOUT SALARY REDuctions
The Board was called on to address salary reductions made in light of the City indebtedness caused by the Depression. Teachers had made public statements that the decreases had weakened morale (Dec 1, 1932) and Police Officers petitioned the Board asking for a pay raise (January 12, 1934) The Board was unable to give any relief to either group.

GAS TAX REFUND SOUGHT
Aug 17, 1932- Mayor Coan reported that an effort was being made to obtain some apportionment of the state gas tax for the maintenance of streets within the city limits (23-22)

On March 8, 1935, the Board adopted a resolution requesting the General Assembly allocate One Million dollars of state highway revenues for maintenance of roads and highways within cities and towns.

On April 25, 1935, the Mayor reported the General Assembly had appropriated $500,000 annually for the purpose of maintaining city streets. He estimated that Winston-Salem’s portion of this fund would be $40,000-$50,000.
SALEM LAKE WATERSHED EXPANDED
Nov 4, 1932- Aldermen approved an agreement to buy 16.8 acres in the water shed for the expansion of Salem Lake. Purchase price-$100 per acre (23-54)

FIRE CHIEF NISSEN KILLED
Nov 28, 1932-Chief Nissen was killed responding to a fire call when his command car and a bus collided at the intersection of Cherry and Sixth streets. Nissen’s driver was also injured. He had been Fire Chief since September 1914. (23-68)

FIRE CHIEF W.G. HOBSON
Dec 8, 1932- Fire Captain W.G. Hobson was appointed as Nissen’s replacement (23-68)

1933

FISHING IN CITY LAKES PROPOSED
March 31, 1933- The Aldermen proposed the stocking of Winston and Salem Lakes. Winston Lake was to be open for fishing for a 90 day period as an experiment. Salem Lake would not be open for five years. (23-107) The rules for fishing in Winston Lake were approved in April (23-110). A half day permit to fish was 50 cents.

More than a year later on July 13, 1934- “The Health and Public Works Committees after investigating and full consideration regarding the matter of moving the fishing equipment from Winston Lake to Salem Lake report as follows:
“We do not believe the amount of fish in the lake justifies the move; we think the financial outlay would not be justified and we believe the health hazard to the City’s water supply would be increased.” (23-415)

On May 8, 1937- A letter was presented from R. H. Shelton requesting permission to fish in Salem Lake. The request was denied (25-233)

May 19, 1939-A petition was presented signed by several hundred citizens requesting permission to fish in Salem Lake. The petition states that the cities of Greensboro, High Point, Lexington, Durham and Burlington have granted similar privileges “....without any mishap or injury to the city “. (27-5) The request was referred to the Public Works, Finance and Health Committees. On June 9, those committees recommended that the request be denied. (27-44)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 3, 1933
Seven of the eight incumbent Aldermen were re-elected. Mayor Coan was unopposed. There were no republican candidates. (23-130)

Mayor
George W. Coan, Jr.

Aldermen
First Ward- M.D.Stockton, W.T. Wilson
Third Ward- G.W. Blum, L.V. Scott
Salem Ward- J.W. Crews, C.T. Leinbach

Examples of the April 8 Democratic Primary paper ballots were stapled into the Minutes book (23-109)

THE PLAZA PROJECT
July 7, 1933- A group of interested citizens and property owners organized as the “Plaza Association” petitioned the Board to promote the widening of the streets around the Court House Square. Under this petition, the property owners agreed to pay 100% of the cost. (23-188) The Public Works Department had prepared a plan for street widening under which an additional strip of concrete paving 18 feet wide with a seven foot wide concrete sidewalk would be built around the Court House Square.

A public hearing was held on August 18 and the project approved. (23-210) Bids were received on Oct 10 and the project completed by January 26, 1934. The actual cost was $5,688.68
DOG ORDINANCE ADOPTED
July 7, 1933- Aldermen approve an ordinance making it unlawful for a dog to run at large within the city and ordering the Chief of Police to set up a dog pound at the city yard. (23-190)

WARDS DIVIDED IN PRECINCTS
July 14, 1933- Following several complaints about the crowds at the polls during the April Democratic Primary, the Aldermen passed an ordinance dividing the four wards into two precincts each. (23-194)

WPA PROJECTS THOROUGH THE FEDERAL PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION
Sept 23, 1933-Although the city administration had reduced spending in almost every way possible, and exhaustive efforts had been made to provide employment, the Board decided to seek federal aid through the agencies set up to relieve nation-wide unemployment. One of the first projects was the Southside Sewer Project since this work had been under consideration for several years. At the Sept 23rd Meeting, the Mayor outlined the project, stating the city had filed a grant application for $250,000. (23-38) This was approved on Jan 12, 1934. This project would provide a sewer system for the eastern part of Waughtown extending east to where the city limits crossed Waughtown Rd at Butler Street.

Other projects were $90,000 for the straightening and deepening of the channel of Peters Creek from Reynolda to Salem Creek (23-341), and a loan and grant of $95,000 for resurfacing and repairing city streets. (23-540)

Another project was the construction of a City owned Abattoir ($55,000). (23-486) The current abattoir was privately owned and built in 1922. City Health Officer Dr. R. L. Carlton said the depreciation on that building was about 100% and he would soon have to close the place. The need for an abattoir was evidenced by figures that showed 1,000 cattle and 2,000 hogs were slaughtered there annually. At the Dec 1, 1933 meeting, Carlton said the city “will be in a bad place so far as locally produced fresh meat is concerned if we do not have any killing facilities.” He further stated that the establishment “...would very probably be self-supporting and might make some money.”(23-266)

CONTRACT FOR POLICE RADIOS
Nov 3, 1933- A contract was approved to RCA Victor Company for “... radio transmitter set and necessary receivers to equip all police cars...” for $1,920. There were seven cars at the time.
Police Communications was located on the 1st Floor North Wing of City Hall
(WSPD Scrapbook and Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

CITY BUDGET 1933-1934
$2,916,408.84; Tax rate set at $1.60
This budget was adopted on December 1, 1933

W.T. WILSON APPOINTED JUDGE
Dec 22, 1933- 1st Ward Aldermen W.T Wilson was elected to fill the term of Municipal court Judge T.W. Watson who had died. (23-277)

On January 12, 1934, Luther E. Martin was elected to fill Wilson’s term. (23-303)

1934
SAFETY ZONES
January 12, 1934- Alderman establishes “Safety Zones” consisting of six inch concrete platforms on Fourth Street, Liberty Street and Main Street in the area of the Court House. (23-282) to assist pedestrians in crossing the busy streets. A Signal tower, manned by a police officer was located on the end of the safety zone. Policemen there controlled the time of the signal lights at that particular intersection.
This view of a snowy 4th Street in 1935 clearly shows the traffic control booth and safety zone in the middle of the street at the intersection with Liberty St. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

March 2, 1934- The Public Recreation Commission was created. (23-316)

EMPLOYEE PENSION FUND CONSIDERED
Aug 10, 1934- The Mayor suggested that the Board give consideration to a pension fund providing for employees who had been with the city for 25 years. He stated that corporations and other municipalities had worked out a similar plan whereby the City would contribute to a pension fund. The Board took no action on the matter. (23-428)

WATER BILLING AND COLLECTION
Sept 7, 1934- Reading water meters, preparing water and sewer bills, cutting off water, etc. was to be performed by the Water Billing and Meter Office of the Public Works Department under the Commissioner of Public Works.

Collecting water and sewer rents and preparing contracts for water connections was placed under the Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance.

CITY BUDGET 1934-1935
$2,659,195.65   Tax rate set at $1.30 plus $1.00 poll tax. (23-486)

CITY ARMY
Dec 21, 1934-Funds appropriated to convert the old North School at Ninth and Patterson into an Armory for the Forsyth Riflemen, a unit of the National Guard. The cost was to be split between the City and County. (23-497)

1935

RELIEF ON PAVING ASSESSMENTS
Jan 4, 1935- Mayor suggested the General Assembly be requested to pass a law authorizing the Board to grant an extension of time for the payment of street paving assessments upon request of the property owners and approval of the Board. The bill was passed by the General Assembly and during most of 1935, almost every Board Meeting minutes contains a long list of property owners requesting relief.

January 27, 1935- Chief of Police Wooten died. Lieutenant Walter F. Anderson was appointed Chief on February 1. (23-519)

Feb 8, 1935- A request was sent to the State Legislature to amend the City Charter to create a separate Traffic Court as part of the Municipal Court. (23-522). The minutes of May 3rd meeting define its purpose. (23-567)

March 8, 1935- Board approved the hiring of 8 new policemen. (23-543) These were the first new positions approved since the Depression began.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY APRIL 23, 1935
Judge W. T. Wilson won every precinct over two other candidates, beating his closest competitor by more than 4,000 votes. (23-556) Wilson, a former Alderman, had been Judge of Municipal Court for two years at the time of his election. There were three candidates for Aldermen in the Second Ward; four candidates for Aldermen in the Third Ward and five candidates in the Salem Ward

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 7, 1935 (23-571)
Mayor
Judge W.T. Wilson
Aldermen
First Ward
Luther E. Martin
M.D. Stockton
Second Ward
P.S. Bailey
T.W. Blackwell
Third Ward
E.R. Linville
G.W. Blum
Salem Ward
J.W. Crews
C.T. Leinbach

May 10, 1935-The firm of Radcliff, Hudson and Ferrell was appointed as City Attorneys for a two-year term. They succeeded Parrish & Deal, who had served as City Attorney’s since June 1921.

May 16, 1935-13 Standing committees were appointed. (24-5)

SCHOOL TAX ELECTION
May 24, 1935-An election was called to obtain authority to fix a maximum rate of twenty cents on $100 assessed valuation to be used to operate the public schools on a higher standard than provided for by State support, and also to provide for an extended term beyond the required eight months. (24-10) The elections was held on June 25. Every precinct cast a majority vote in favor of the school tax levy. (24-46) Similar elections, in August 1933 for a 15 cents levy, (23-213) and in June 1934 for a 10 cents levy, had failed. (23-413)

JUVENILE COURT CREATED (24-14)
May 24, 1935- An amendment to the City Ordinances was adopted creating a Juvenile Court for the City of Winston Salem. Karl W. Davis was elected (appointed) Judge of the Juvenile Court

SLUM CLEARANCE PROJECT REJECTED-NO SLUMS
May 31, 1935- Mayor Wilson informed the Board of the status of a slum clearance project prepared during the administration of Mayor Coan. The application had been given tentative approval by the Federal Government. At the May meeting, (24-18) the Mayor reported that the Federal representative had requested a letter from the City agreeing to certain concessions:
The City to guarantee operation and maintenance of a recreation center. In the absence of this assurance the recreation facilities would not be funded.
The Government would require the closing of existing streets and would provide for new streets, unless existing streets met with the needs of the new development.
The property included in the housing area would be tax exempt and in lieu of taxes the Housing Authority proposes to pay a service charge for police and fire protection, water and sewage rents and garbage collection at cost, or not exceeding 5% of the gross revenue of the Housing Authority.
The Government requested waiving of all building and inspection fees during the construction.

At the Board meeting on June 21, the Board decided that a petition by 25 residents would cause the Board to further consider the Slum Clearance Project. (24-43)

The first public meeting was held on July 19 with representatives of both proponents and opponents speaking. (24-61) City Building Inspector R. W. Neilson presented 14 areas to be included in the project. A petition signed by 127 citizens expressed opposition to the proposed projects. One speaker stated that there were sufficient houses available in the City to take care of all its residents.

The second meeting was held on August 9th with such a crowd that the meeting was held in the Municipal Courtroom. (24-81) Most of those in attendance opposed the Slum Clearance Plan. One stated the unsanitary conditions were due to the negligence on the part of the tenants and that when such conditions were reported to the rental agents, immediate steps were generally taken to correct such conditions. After much debate, Alderman Crews moved that the matter be deferred for further consideration. This was unanimously carried.

On Sept 6, Mayor Wilson stated that before the Board could dispose of the Slum Clearance Plan it would be necessary to answer two questions involved in setting up a Housing Authority.
1. Do unsanitary and unsafe inhabited dwelling accommodations exist in the City of Winston-Salem and surrounding areas?
The Board answered the question unanimously, “No”.
2. Is there a lack of safe or sanitary dwelling accommodations in the City of Winston-Salem and said surrounding area available for all the inhabitants thereof?
The Board answered the question unanimously, “No”.

The Board then passed a resolution rejecting the petition for setting up the Housing Authority for a slum clearance project. (24-108)

Living conditions such as these were ignored by the Board of Aldermen.
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

June 7, 1935- Alderman Crews suggested that the city might consider selling gasoline at a city-owned filling station to drive the price down due to the recent increase in gas prices in the City. Alderman Martin concurred and stated that gasoline was usually two to three cents higher in Winston-Salem than in most other cities and towns in North Carolina. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee. (24-26)
BUDGET 1935-1936 (24-157)
$2,598,056.60 The tax rate was set at $1.25 and poll tax at $1.00.

WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS
July 12, 1935- A Resolution was approved authorizing the filing of an application with the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for a grant of $85,000 for the construction of an extension of the sewage system north of Waughtown St and a grant of $190,000 for elevated water storage tank and water main extensions.

STREET CAR LINE ABANDONED
Slowly, beginning in 1934, the Board authorized the ending of street car service in the City. The Southern Public Utilities Company (eventually Duke Power) was allowed to abandon the operation of its street car line from the Court House Square to Hospital Street (23-283)

On July 12, 1935- A Resolution was approved authorizing the ending of street car service in the City. The Southern Public Utilities Company (eventually Duke Power) was allowed to abandon the operation of its street car line from the Court House Square to Hospital Street (23-283)

On July 12, Duke Power was allowed to abandon the operation of its street car line on West Fourth Street, Glade St and Hawthorne Rd to Reynolds High School, and to establish motor bus routes on these streets. (24-55)

On July 10, 1936, a petition was presented asking that the street cars be removed from South Main Street and that they be replaced by gasoline driven busses. The petition was signed by 2,106 persons.

On Sept 4, 1936, the Board authorized abandonment of all street car service in the City for a payment by Duke Power of $20,000. (24-436)

Duke Power buses replaced street cars completely by 1935. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

MUNICIPAL PARK PLANNING
Aug 2, 1935- A Park Planning Commission was established “...whose duty it shall be to study the advisability and need for establishing several neighborhood parks and one or more municipality owned and operated community wide recreation parks.”(24-69)

On August 30, the Parks Commission proposed applying for a federal grant of $250,000 to establish the parks.(24-102)

HALL OF HISTORY BUILDING
Sept 3, 1935- (24-104) A proposition was made by the Wachovia Historical Society in regard to deeding a museum to the City on condition that the City lease the property to the present owners for a nominal sum and that the City seek a WPA grant to aid in the construction of a new building to be used as a “Hall of History”. The estimated cost of the project would be $30,000.

On December 18, a resolution approved to acquire a site on South Main St near the intersection with Academy for a “Hall of History.” The site was a lot behind the old Salem Boy’s school. The cost was $7,100 (25-10). A contract was let for construction of the building for $34,332. (25-37) This was another WPA project.

The Board Minutes of July 9, 1937 record that the project was complete.
On Oct 15, 1937, the building was leased to the Wachovia Historical Society. (25-433)

Many thousands of school children learned about history by touring the museum which was entered through the Salem Boys School. The property was returned to the Salem Congregation on Sept 16, 1985. The items in it were stored and the building torn down.

1936

Jan 24, 1936- The assistant Secretary was authorized to sign the minutes of the Board of Aldermen not signed by the Secretary; the Mayor and/or Assistant Purchasing Agent were authorized to purchase supplies for and make contracts for the City. (24-238)

RALPH DIXON APPOINTED

Ralph L. Dixon joined the City in 1929 as Accountant in the Public Works Department. On February 14, he was elected by the Board as Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance and Secretary to the Board of Aldermen. It is Dixon whose name appears at the end of the minutes of the Board of Aldermen Meetings for many years after.

As the city grew west, old homes such as this one owned by R.J. Reynolds on Fifth Street were torn down. It served as a parking lot from 1936 until 1952 when the land was donated as the site for a new public library. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

PROPOSED HOSPITAL ON WEST FOURTH ST

April 17, 1936- Mayor Wilson spoke in regards to gifts of W.N. Reynolds of $200,000 and the Duke Foundation of $125,000 to build “a hospital for white patients on City property located on the north side of West Fourth Street and commonly known as West End Graded School Property.” These gifts were made with the understanding that this site was available. The board then appointed a Building Committee to look after the details. (24-304)

CITY EMBLEM ADOPTED

May 1, 1936- The President of the Chamber of Commerce presented the entry of Richard Port which had been decided upon by a Chamber of Commerce contest as the most suitable City Seal. The Mayor appointed and Committee and on May 15 recommended adoption as the official City Emblem. This was unanimously approved by the Board. (24-330)

May 22, 1936- A Resolution was adopted requiring “....that no monthly or yearly salary of any official or employee of the City of Winston-Salem be increased with the matter of increasing such salary first being submitted to and approved by the Board of Aldermen.” (24-346)
The starting pay for Policemen was set at $105 per month and for Firemen at $100 per month. (24-346)

A series of Police Department pictures was made in 1936 in front of City Hall. This one shows the traffic squad. (WSPD photo)

This is Police Administration with Chief Walt Anderson at the rear center. To his right is J.J. Cofer who had joined the Winston Department in the 1890’s. The woman is Kate Wureskie, the Chief’s Secretary and Police personnel department. She retired in the 1940’s with the rank of Lieutenant. A rank she reportedly awarded herself and had Chief Thomas approve. (WSPD photo)

ORDINANCE CONTROLLING THE PLAYING OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
June 19, 1936- The playing of a musical instrument in a residential district or a business district where a crowd of people is invited to congregate for dancing on Sunday, or on weekdays between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Saturday was declared a nuisance. (24-371)

**1936-1937 BUDGET (24-451)**
$2,623,597.35 - The tax rate was set at $1.25 and the poll tax at $1.00.

**POLICY ON RELEASING INFORMATION ADOPTED**
August 7, 1936- “No statement or statements are to be issued or given out by any head of a City Department or city employee with relation to a policy, occurrence or transaction where City Officer, the City Administration, a City Department Head or employee is involved, without first submitting such proposed statement or statements to the Board of Aldermen, and the authorization of such statement by said Board of Aldermen”. (24-416)

**BOWMAN GRAY STADIUM**
Nov 13, 1936-Mayor Wilson stated that Mrs. Bowman Gray had offered to donate $30,000 to obtain a Stadium for the City and that the Board should go on record by expressing its appreciation. (25-83)

The Public Works Department was instructed to propose an application for a $100,000 WPA project to construct a stadium. The Gray donation repressed the necessary 30% of cost to be proved by the City as a sponsor of the project.

The site chosen was part of the J.C. Spach estate which the Board authorized purchase on January 29, 1937. The main tract contained 42.15 acres with an additional 1.27 acre strip along Claremont (later Stadium Dr, later Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive) for street widening purposes.

The property in part lay in a natural bowl-shaped depression, ideal for the construction of a Stadium.

On April 2, 1937, the Board named the stadium Bowman Gray Memorial Stadium. (25-146)

On Sept 17, 1937, The Bowman Gray Stadium Committee was created. The City Public Works Department maintained the Stadium property.

**REYNOLDS DONATION FOR COLORED HOSPITAL**
Nov 25, 1936- Mayor Wilson read a letter from W.N. Reynolds that enclosed a check from him for $75,000 and from his wife for $40,000 “…as contributions toward the erection and equipment of a hospital for colored people.” The hospital project was to commence as soon as sufficient funds were assured for the completion of the project.

The City Memorial Hospital Commission and the Building Committee unanimously approved the plans drawn by the firm of Northrup and O’Brien, with the understanding that the Board of Aldermen would authorize the colored clinic, then housed in the City Memorial Hospital, to be moved to the Old East Winston School Building, a part of which was then occupied by the Venereal Disease Clinic, thus making available space and service for out-patient work at the new hospital.

**1937**
Jan 29, 1937- Alderman M.D. Stockton resigned (25-61) and S.C. Ogburn was elected to fill the unexpired term.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY APRIL 20, 1937 (25-153)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incumbent Mayor W.T. Wilson</td>
<td>3,597 votes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Wilson</td>
<td>1,500 votes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There were four candidates in the First Ward and three in the Third Ward. There was no contest in the Second and Salem Wards

**General Election May 4, 1937 (25-188)**
Mayor  W.T. Wilson
Aldermen
First Ward  R.S. Church
L.E. Martin
Second Ward  R.W. Gorrell
T.W. Blackwell
Third Ward  G. W. Blum
E.R. Linville
Salem Ward  J. W. Crews
C.T. Leinbach

This Board was sworn in on May 10 and 14 standing committees were appointed: Finance, Health, Fire and Building, Public Works, Police, Light, Market, Ordinance, Real Estate Library, School, Hospital, Recreation and Traffic. There were two members of the Board on each committee with the exception of the Traffic and Health Committees, which had three members.

**SUNDAY BASEBALL OPPOSED**
May 21, 1937-The owner of the Winston-Salem Baseball Club known as “The Twins,” submitted a petition regarding allowing profession baseball to be played in the city between 1:30 and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. (25-218)

A special meeting was held on May 25 at which resolutions against Sunday baseball was submitted by the Ministers Association, First Presbyterian Church, Southside Baptist Church and the W.C.T.U. (25-220)

Bishop Pfhol, speaking as a representative of the Ministers and Churches stated they were not opposing baseball, but opposing commercialized Sunday sports. He also stated that if Sunday baseball was allowed, then the next step would be the opening of the moving pictures, pool rooms and bowling alleys.

The petition was withdrawn.

On January 19, 1939, a petition was presented requesting Sunday baseball between 2 and 5:30 PM. A protest from the Granville Parent-Teachers Association was then read. (26-455). The subject was to be discussed at the January 27 meeting. The crowd was so large that the meeting was moved to the Municipal Court Room (26-477) 11 people spoke against the ordinance. A telegram from W. N. Reynolds in favor of the change was also read. Mayor Wilson then asked for a standing vote of the audience and approximately 90% voted against the change. The Aldermen then voted 7-1 that “No favorable action be taken in the matter.” Thus another defeat for Sunday Sports

May 25, 1937-The Name of North High School was changed to “John W. Hanes High School”. (25-225)

**NEW HOSPITAL**
June 24, 1937- Contracts were awarded for the “new colored hospital” for $158,169. (25-284)

Plans and specifications for the Nurses Home were accepted on July 16, 1937. (25-308)

On August 9, a resolution was passed naming the facility “Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital.”(25-349) The architectural firm of Northrup and O’Brien, who designed many buildings in the city, including City Hall, was commissioned to design the hospital. (25-351)

**1937-1938 BUDGET** (25-404)
$2,738,244.96 - The tax rate was $1.40.

Aug 23, 1937- The Board changed the name of Holton Street to Konnoak Drive. (25-313)

**HENRY FRIES-FIRST CITIZEN OF SALEM**
Oct 1, 1937- Henry E. Fries was appointed Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a three year term. (25-420) Fries was, as are many successful businessmen, a true public servant. He had served as Mayor of Salem for three years and a Salem Town Commissioner for 19 years prior to consolidation. He was President of the Fries Mfg. and Power Company and president of the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway Company. It was Fries who made several trips to Washington to meet with the U.S. Postmaster to convince him not to drop “Salem” from the postmark and to continue to maintain a full service post office in Salem. Fries is responsible for keeping the “dash” in Winston-Salem.

October 29, 1937 - An ordinance regulating the erection of signs was enacted. (25-447)

December 10, 1937 - The name of Clemmons Rd. was changed from West First Street to the City Limits to “South Stratford Rd. (25-489) The name of Claremont Ave from Waughtown St to Bruce St; Slater St from Bruce to Atkins; Vargrave from Atkins to Park Ave was renamed “Stadium Drive”. (25-490)

1938

TWO ALDERMENS RESIGN
April 11, 1938-Prompted by a strict technical interpretation of the city ordinance prohibiting the City from doing business with any company with which an Alderman was associated, Clarence Leinbach, who worked for Wachovia Bank and Robert W. Gorrell who worked for Security Life and Trust Company both resigned (38-6).

Leinbach had been an Alderman since 1927, was Mayor Pro Tem and Chairman of the Finance Committee. Gorrell was elected in 1937.

William F. Shaffner, Jr. was elected to fill Leinbach’s seat and Charles E. Elberson was elected to succeed Gorrell.

FORTUE TELLERS, PALMISTS AND CLAIRVOYANCE
March 25, 1938-The Aldermen agreed to refund $100 of the $200 license of Madame Tuba if “....she and all of her associates would leave the City of Winston-Salem by 10:00 AM on Thursday March 24, 1938”. (26-24)

This was followed by the enacting of an ordinance prohibiting the telling of fortunes, the practicing of Palmistry, Clairvoyance or other crafts of similar kind for payment. (26-25)

BON AIR PARK
April 15, 1938- The Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment suggested that the City acquire property in East Winston to create a park to act as a stop gap between the white and colored zones. (26-67) At the May 13th meeting, an exchange for property on Greenwood Ave was authorized to create the buffer.(26-96) On August 12, the area bounded by 27th, Gilmer Ave, 28th and Greenway was declared a public park. (26-217). Later references in the minutes for funding for this project refer to it as the “new Bon Air Park.”

April 29, 1938-The area of Bowman Gray Stadium was rezoned from a colored district to a white district. (26-79)

HOSPITAL X-RAY EQUIPMENT REPLACED
Alderman Shaffner, the Chairman of the Hospital Committee stated that it had been brought to the Committee’s attention that the present X-Ray equipment at City Memorial Hospital was becoming dangerous. In recent weeks, two interns have been knocked out by coming in contact with uninsulated parts of this equipment. He stated that the unusually high voltage was necessary to operate the equipment is sufficient to kill a person, and that in its present condition is endangering the lives of persons operating same. (26-79) The Aldermen authorized the purchase of new X-Ray equipment.
FAILED BOND ELECTION FOR LIBRARY
May 17, 1938-An election was held on the issuance of Bonds for a Library Building and for a Maintenance tax. The results were:

- Total number of registered voters: 4002
- Votes cast for the bond issue: 1389
- Votes cast against the bond issue: 452
- Votes cast for the maintenance tax: 1292
- Votes cast against the maintenance tax: 463

Total number of votes cast: 1884
Number of qualified voters who failed to vote: 2118

In the somewhat confusing way that bonds were voted on at that time, both the propositions failed carry since they failed to receive a majority of the qualified votes, not just a majority of those who voted. Not voting at all constituted a no vote. (26-100)

CITY EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN PROPOSED
June 3, 1938- Mayor Wilson presented a petition of salaried employees requesting that a pension fund be set up. (26-120) This was referred to the Finance Committee.

In March 1939, the Aldermen urged the State Legislature to pass a bill allowing the city to establish by ordinance a retirement or pension fund for employees (26-529)

1938-1939 BUDGET
$2,963,675.53  Tax rate set at $1.60 with $1.00 Poll Tax (26-186)

FIRE CHIEF M.G. BROWN
Sept 23, 1938- M.G. Brown was appointed Fire Chief replacing W.G. Hobson who died on Sept 15. Hobson had been Chief since December 1932. (26-272)
REYNOLDS PARK
Oct 14, 1938 - The construction of a park on the east side of the city was approved. (26-296) The resolution stated that the approximately 186 acres will be donated, that the Chamber of Commerce will provide sponsor contribution for labor, superintendency, materials, equipment and other direct costs in the amount of $37,190; that the WPA will provide funds for labor, superintendency, materials, equipment and other direct cost in the amount of $219,636 and that the project will be constructed without any cost to the City of Winston-Salem.

On May 29, 1940, just completed the park was named “Reynolds Park” (27-483)

On January 6, 1948, the Aldermen approved purchase of one merry-go-round, one Ferris wheel, one kidee auto ride (all used) for $15,000 for use at Reynolds Park (33-241)

The park continued to grow. On April 4, 1952, a contract was approved with the Junior Chamber of Commerce for the operation of a miniature train at Reynolds Park. (37-163)

PARK COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED
Nov 4, 1938- A Park Committee was added to the long list of standing committees of the Board of Aldermen (26-328). This was followed by the establishment of a Building and Improvements Committee on January 19, 1939 (26-462) to oversee the work at Reynolds Park.

Dec 2, 1938- $125 was appropriated from the contingent fund to move the Health Department from City Hall to the Medical Center. (26-411)

CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND COUNTY TAX DEPARTMENTS
Dec 16, 1938- The Board appropriated $150, provided that the County would appropriate a like amount, to send a representative to investigate and report on the operations of the consolidated City and County Tax Departments in Asheville and Wilmington. (26-437)

On Feb 28, 1941, Alderman Elberson called the Board’s attention to the bill authorizing the consolidation of the tax departments that was now before the State Legislature. The consolidation was discussed for several months until November 1941 when the merger was recommended with a savings of about $15,000 per year.

The merger was authorized on February 6, 1942 with Aldermen Crews and Hensel opposed. Aldermen Shaffner and James were among the leading boosters of the merger. After the passage, Alderman Crews stated, “I want to congratulate my friends Mr. Shaffner and Mr. James for putting over one of the biggest and largest real estate deals ever put over in Winston-Salem since Winston and Salem were consolidated.”

1939
WPA ENGINEER MOVED TO CITY HALL
Jan 6, 1939- With the numerous WPA projects going on in the City, the WPA Resident Engineer presented a request for office space in City Hall. This was approved but only for the life of the City WPA projects (26-453)

Feb 6, 1939- $711 was appropriated for purchase of a truck to be used by the Recreation Department. (26-481)
CITY TAX ATTORNEY
Feb 17, 1939- Ransom S Everett, a practicing attorney with the firm of Ratcliff, Hudson and Ferrell was appointed City Tax Attorney. While with the law firm, he had specialized in tax and paving assessments, sales and foreclosures. (26-502) Everett resigned June 30. (27-57)

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
April 4, 1939
Candidates for Mayor
James R. Fain 4428 votes
Marshall C. Kurfees 2454 votes
J. H. Cranfill 64 votes

There were five candidates in the First Ward, Four in the Second ward, Five in the Third Ward and four in the Salem Ward. The two candidates in each ward who received the highest number of votes were the candidates for the general election. (26-557)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 2, 1939 (26-589)
Mayor
James R. Fain (D) 3129

Aldermen
First Ward Emory E. James, Richard R. Hensel
Second Ward Charles E. Elberson, Thomas W. Blackwell
Third Ward J.A. Renn, George W. Blum
Salem Ward J. Wilbur Crews, Wm F. Shaffner

NEW BOARD MEETS (27-2)
May 8, 1939- Mayor Fain named these standing committees: Finance, Police, Traffic, Stadium, Ordinance, Recreation, Fire & Building, Library, Public Works, Hospital, School, Real Estate, Light, Market, Health, Park.

SEGREGATION CAUSES CHURCH BUILDING TO BE MOVED
Report of the Public Works and Finance Committee was read into the minutes regarding new zoning ordinances. (27-8) It had been agreed that a “Colored Church” would be moved into a zone from its current “zone for white people” into a “colored zone”. The City determined that there were real estate problems both with the current location and the proposed location in the colored zone. Therefore, the Aldermen decided to give the congregation the amount they had invested in the building, $550, to relocated the church to another building.

WELFARE AND RELIEF AGENCIES CONSOLIDATED
May 25, 1939, at a special meeting, B.S. Womble spoke in regard to consolidating the Welfare and Relief agencies of the city. He stated there was confusion and overlapping in the work and these matters should be gone into thoroughly. (27-19)

A Committee of citizens, Aldermen and County Commissioners was appointed to study the activities of the City and County Welfare Departments, City and County Juvenile Courts, City Detention Home and Associated Charities.

On June 14, the committee recommended the City and County Welfare and relief activities be coordinated as of July 1, 1940; that funds appropriated by the City for welfare and relief be administered by the County welfare department; that relief cases now administered by Associated Charities be transferred to the County Welfare Department and that all applications for relief be referred to that department; operation of the City Detention Home be transferred to the County welfare Department; that the City Juvenile Court be discontinued and cases that would normally come before it will automatically pass to the jurisdiction of the County Juvenile Court; that the City lease to the County, for $1.00 per year, space on the Medical Center lot sufficient for the erection, by the county of a Welfare Building as a central location for needy individuals to obtain health and sustenance service.

On June 14, 1939, the City Welfare Department was discontinued and merged with the County Welfare Department. (28-6)
ARDMORE “BOTTLE NECK” (27-31)
Until about 1940, the only entrance to the already well populated and rapidly growing Ardmore Section was by way of Hawthorne Rd (formerly Ardmore Ave.) from West First Street. The area was referred to as the Ardmore “Bottle Neck.” On June 2, 1939, the Finance and Public Works Committee recommended extending Cloverdale Ave southwest from 1st St to Magnolia and intersecting this street by extending Miller and Melrose Streets.

July 1, 1939-Manley, Hendrix and Womble again appointed City Attorneys. Nat Crews was employed on a full-time basis to protect the City’s interest in delinquent tax and special assessment matters (27-57)

CITY VEHICLES MARKED WITH LOGO
July 14, 1939- Authorization given for city emblems to be places on all city owned cars and trucks. (27-106)

1939-1940 CITY BUDGET (27-112)
$2,930,109 - City Tax rate set at $1.55.

STREET FLUSHER PURCHASED (27-143)
Sept 1. 1939 - Bids were received on a 1500 gallon cab-over Street Flusher with air brakes at a price of $5,160.

ALDERMAN BLACKWELL RESIGNED
Oct 6, 1939 - Second Ward Alderman T.W. Blackwell resigned to devote more time to his business. He had been an Alderman for 10 years. (27-251). Nicholas Mitchell was elected to fill the unexpired term. (27-263)

FIRE TRUCK PURCHASED
Nov 24, 1939 - Aldermen authorized the purchase of a 100 Gallon Triple Combination Pumping Engine for the Fire Department at a cost of $10,781. Options of air brakes and an enclosed cab were quoted but not included in the contract. (27-278)

Nov 24, 1939 - The Aldermen approved $25 for Christmas decorations at the city market. (27-307)