

# City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

## City of Winston-Salem: 1913-1919

This continues the history of the towns of Winston and Salem from their merger in 1913. The most recent decade sections have been the hardest to filter into readable form. It is very difficult to know what will be important 20 years from now in the scope of the important history of Winston-Salem. This contains the work of Robert Neilson from his 1966 *History of Government* documents, Board minutes, some newspaper accounts and personal information as a city employee. I hope that someone will do to my work what I did to Neilson's and refresh it in light of more current events at some point in the future. Special thanks to Molly Rawls, curator of the Forsyth County Public Library Photographic Collection for her assistance with the pictures through this document.  
J.R. Snider 2005

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1913 - Consolidation and first joint meeting; Street vendors approved; Board to approve new streets; Houses not to be built on alleys; East 4<sup>th</sup> St paved; Street light proposal; Board has power to change street names; House numbers now required; First Street paved; Sewage in Salem Creek; Police Chief Thomas suspended; Sanitary Committee report; Water works upgraded; Horses purchased for Fire Dept.;
- 1914 - First sewage disposal plant; City plan proposed; New City Hospital; Bond election; First incinerator approved; Health Department proposed; Building ordinance adopted; New hospital opens; Fire ordinances approved; Community Christmas tree funded
- 1915 - New street lighting contract; Business license ordinance enacted; new Fire Engine purchased; Street flusher purchased; Employment of relatives prohibited; Public Works Department established; Motor vehicles purchased for police; Colored fire company disbanded; City buys first truck
- 1916 - New train station proposed; Street names and numbers; Epidemic; Health ordinances adopted; New City Charter ratified; Jitney ordinance passed; Property for school purchased
- 1917 - Board of Censors established; Bond election; Dance halls outlawed; Municipal election, R.W. Gorrell, Mayor; new car for fire chief; City Departments established;
- 1918 - Employee hours set; Ardmore area granted water and sewer; Pool rooms closed; Street paving; Sunday blue laws; Vacations approved; November riot; Reynolds bequest for hospitals
- 1919 - Dam and reservoir on Salem creek; Request for black police officers; Annexation disapproved; Motorcycle purchased; Hanes Park donated; Police communications system purchased; Traffic booths installed; Annexation approved; School and Municipal bond issue passes; Land Development ordinance approved; Incinerator site purchased

### CONSOLIDATION NOT FAVORED BY ALL

Not everyone was in favor of consolidating the two towns. Circulars in Salem were passed around saying the community's old Moravian traditions would be abandoned and that Winstonites "would contaminate the moral welfare of the people to the point of wreckage." Other circulars said that historical Salem and industrial Winston were so different that the resultant discord will prove to be very harmful." Another circular said, "There is a possibility of too heavy a tax demand to bring the two communities to an equal status for both." At one point, the campaign got so heated that a report circulated in Salem that the new city had plans to "dig up" Salem Cemetery after the consolidation.

### CONSOLIDATION OF WINSTON AND SALEM

Feb 1, 1913- At a special meeting, Mayor Dalton stated that the purpose was to call an election to vote on the consolidating as one municipality the City of Winston and the Town of Salem, in the name of the "City of Winston-Salem" as provided by an Act of the General Assembly on January 27. (10-156)

The Consolidation Act required the Board of Aldermen of Winston and the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Salem hold a separate election on the same day.

In reading the Consolidation Act, it appears that the City of Winston was annexing the Town of Salem, but there is one significant provision which places Salem on equal footing with Winston; this being the right to vote on the proposition of consolidation. Salem, with its much smaller number of voters, could have defeated the consolidation by casting a majority of its votes against the merger as Winston had done in a previous merger vote on April 19, 1879.

The Consolidation Act further provided that the territory of Winston would be divided into three Wards with two Aldermen to be elected in each Ward, giving the Winston area six Aldermen. All the territory in Salem would be known as Salem Ward, with two aldermen. This was an equitable distribution of representation, since the population of Winston was about three times that of Salem.

Ballots were to bear the printed words "For Consolidation" and "Against Consolidation". In the event that the majority voted "For Consolidation" in both towns, then the consolidation would become effective "on and after the first Friday after the first Monday in May, 1913". That date was May 9, 1913, making this the effective date of the consolidation.

The vote in Winston was 800 for and 260 against. In Salem, the vote was 385 for and 224 against.

May 12, 1913-The old Winston Board held its final meeting at which time Solicitor G. T Stephenson presented, on behalf of the City Officials, a beautiful ring to retiring Mayor Rufus I. Dalton "as a token of their love and esteem."(10-303)

The new Board then called its first meeting to order at which time Mayor Oscar B. Eaton submitted his list of committee appointments. Two members of the Board were former mayors: Col G. E. Webb served as Mayor and Alderman for Winston, Fred A. Fogle was the last mayor of Salem

There were 16 standing committees with two Aldermen on each: There were Streets, Sanitary, Police, Sewer, Building, Fire Limits, Library, Parks, Market, Cemetery, School, Finance, Fire, Water, Light, and Abattoir.

Col Webb made a motion that the Board support the Woman's Civic League in their move to clean up the City during the coming week. (See the last entry in Winston 1907-1913)

H.F. Shaffner made a motion that the various committees meet every Tuesday night in the Council Chamber so that those items could be brought before the Board the next week.

Judge Hastings and Prof R. H. Latham appeared before the Board regarding the appointment of a Probation and Truant Officer in accordance with an act passed by the General Assembly creating such an officer. Judge Hastings explained the duties of this officer, and also mentions the great need and relief it would be to the present police force. He suggested that the officer be appointed and that he take a school census, which would be very helpful in getting him acquainted with the work.

The Board authorized Judge Hastings to appoint a suitable person and report what salary would be required.

#### **TRAVELER'S AID AT UNION STATION**

June 2, 1913-YWCA had requested the Board to help bear the expense of a lady to be placed at Union Station to meet trains and direct traveling ladies to respectable stopping places. (10-315) The YWCA proposed to pay \$40 per month and requested that the Board pay \$35 per month to secure a competent lady for this service.

June 6, 1913- W.T. Carter asked if the Board would allow brick in building sidewalks so he would know whether to sell brick to his customers for that purpose. (10-322)

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided that concrete should be used in all instances, except where the Mayor and Street Committee thought best to use brick.



**Oscar B. Eaton was the first Mayor elected after consolidation. He had been Mayor of Winston and sworn he would never run for Mayor again. (City of W-S photo)**

**ICE CREAM AND PEANUT WAGONS**

June 6, 1913-Permission requested to operate two ice cream wagons and two peanut wagons on the outlying streets but not in the business section of town. (10-322) The permit was granted for six months, \$30 on each wagon with the understanding that the license would be revoked and payment refunded for the unexpired term if they become objectionable.

**SALEM ROUGH AND READY FIRE COMPANY**

June 6, 1913- A petition signed by 63 residents of Salem Ward, and on First Street in the First Ward, asking that the Salem Rough and Ready Fire Company be made a paid station with three men and four horses stationed there; also to dispose of the Steamer at West Salem Station, and replace it with a hose wagon and one horse and driver to sleep in the station at night. (10-324)

The petition was discussed thoroughly but the Board asked for the volunteer firemen to continue for at least thirty days and until the Board could see what they could do regarding a paid station.

Also, there was a motion approved instructing the City Firemen not to take any fire apparatus to any fire outside the city limits. (10-324)

**BOARD TO APPROVE NEW STREETS**

June 6, 1913-An Ordinance was adopted stating “No person, firm or corporation shall plot any piece of land in the corporation of the City of Winston-Salem, without making the streets through said property conform to the existing streets of Winston-Salem abutting thereon, nor shall any of the lots of said plot be sold or offered for sale until the plot for the streets has been submitted to and approved by the Board.”

**HOUSES NOT TO BE BUILT ON ALLEYS**

June 6, 1913- An Ordinance was adopted stating that “no permit shall be granted to any person, firm or corporation to erect a dwelling or tenement house fronting on any alley or in the rear of any dwelling. All dwellings and tenement houses shall front on a recognized street and be not less than 12 feet apart and located not less than six feet from the owner’s outside line.” (10-3)

**EAST FOURTH STREET PAVING**

June 6, 1913-East Fourth Street from Linden to Woodland was under contract to be paved with asphaltic concrete; however the property owners petitioned the Board to use “...a more permanent construction of Belgian Block with Mastic filler.” The Board ordered the contract changed as requested.(10-326) Belgian Block was generally known as cobblestone.

**STREET LIGHTS**

June 10, 1913- Fries Power Company proposed replacing with tungsten lamps all carbon lamps used by the City for \$300. No action was taken. (10-334)

**POWER TO CHANGE STREET NAMES**

June 24, 1913-An Ordinance was adopted that “...the Mayor and Street Committee be empowered to change the names of certain streets in Winston-Salem, when there are two streets of the same name or where the same street extended has two different names.”(10-340)

**HOUSE NUMBERS REQUIRED**

June 24, 1913-The Board adopted an ordinance adopted requiring “...owners of all business houses or dwellings within the corporation limits of Winston-Salem, shall be required to obtain from the City Engineer the number of said business house or residence and place the same above the front door, the City furnishing said number at cost.”(10-340)

**PAVING OF FIRST STREET**

July 4, 1913- The Street Committee recommended that “First Street being the former boundary line between the two cities, has remained unimproved for nearly a half century, and now since consolidation of Winston and Salem is an accomplished fact, the Street Committee recommends, whenever the City’s finances will justify it, that this street be paved with Belgian Block from Cherry Street to a point where the brick pavement now ends, between Chestnut and Church Streets; provided a majority of the abutting property owners signed the petition for said improvement.”(10-343)

### COMPLAINT ABOUT SEWAGE IN SALEM CREEK

July 4, 1913-Property owners residing or owning land on Middle Fork (Salem) Creek asked the Board to "...appoint a special committee to meet with the land owners affected by sewerage pipes emptying into said Middle Fork Creek, and to examine the conditions which are now in existence, to the end that some method be devised, by which the nuisance may be abated, and the wrong now suffered by the petitioners be righted." (10-342) (Complaints such as this are not new) Winston Aldermen hear such complaints some 10 years earlier and referred them to committee. These sewers had been built over 30 years ago with disposal at this point. With the continuing growth of the town, it was obvious that this condition was now creating a major nuisance).

**Chief Thomas and part of the combined police force. Left to right front row: L.W. Kimball, former Chief of Salem, Chief J.A. Thomas, A.C. Wall, Asst. Salem Chief. Second Row: Frank Apple who operated a meat market on the side, R.W. Bryant and Bob Young who later resigned and, as a civilian, was killed in the 1918 riot. Third row: R.L. Blackburn and J.T. Thompson already a 20 year veteran of the Winston force. Back Row: N. B. Williams and Sanitary Inspector Charles Pratt. (WSPD photo)**



### CHIEF THOMAS SUSPENDED

A special meeting of the Board was called by Mayor Eaton on Saturday night, July 26, 1913 for the purpose of an investigation of the official conduct of Chief Thomas and other officers in the arrests the night before of Charles and Frank Snipes. (10-326) The brothers were two of the sons of Frank Snipes, Sr., who lived on the east side of North Trade St north of the old brick reservoir near Eight St. Mr. Snipes had several other sons and was rather well-to-do having made his money running the slaughterhouse that was on Abattoir St. Snipes had been charged several times with violating sanitary ordinances in his business.

The story of the Chief's suspension was covered in detail by the newspaper. It began when Charles Snipes was arrested by Officer W.A. Byrd and Special Officer Everhart following a fight with two members of the Winston-Salem Twins Baseball Team. Officer Everhart was a former Salem Police Officer who had been wounded in the line of duty in 1900.

Snipes, who according to witnesses had been drinking, was upset over the local team's loss to Durham Friday afternoon at Prince Albert Park. Charles Snipes allegedly had a baseball bat under his coat and after the game had scuffled with two members of the Twins. Witnesses said the officers did not try to stop the fight after they got the bat away from Charles Snipes and the fight was finally halted by a baseball association official.

Officer Byrd then ejected Snipes from the ballpark, charged him with assault and released him on his own recognizance to appear in Municipal Court on Monday. Snipes then went home, got a Winchester rifle, at least two of his brothers and several friends and went to the Webster Hotel on Trade Street where the ball team was staying. In the lobby, Snipes and at least one member of the Twins, Tiny Stuart, the left-fielder, went at it again.

Chief Thomas and several officers responded to the hotel clerks call for help and took Snipes outside. He was again charged and sent home. Snipes and eight or ten of his friends returned to the hotel later that evening and started to fight with Stuart again. Sergeant Thompson was there this time. He arrested Snipes and put him under a \$500 appearance bond and sent him home.

At the weekly band concert on Courthouse Square the incident, and its accompanying rumors, were the hot topic. The Saturday Union-Republican compared the incident to the 1895 riot. The Aldermen called the special session to take sworn testimony as to what went on and to investigate the conduct of the police officers. The newspaper reported that some 800 citizens were on hand for the proceedings.

Thomas testified that when he went to the hotel he was unaware of what had occurred earlier at the ball park. Chief Thomas and Officer Byrd were suspended pending a complete investigation by the Police Committee. Thompson was named acting chief. The policemen were accused of being afraid and failing in their duty by not putting Snipes in jail. Officer Byrd immediately resigned. The Police Committee reported on Tuesday that Chief Thomas should be reinstated and his mistake, which he publicly admitted, condoned due to his many years of faithful service to the City. His 4-day suspension without pay was upheld.

Then the Board suspended Sgt. Thompson for five days without pay for his failure to put Snipes in jail. Meanwhile, Charles and Frank Snipes each got time on the road gang. The baseball players involved were also fined.

"Thus ended a chapter in the history of Winston-Salem", wrote the newspaper. "The matter is one that has stirred the city to its very foundation and it is thought, without criticizing anyone, that the investigation cannot but do good...the Aldermen have written the work 'finis' across the face of the matter and it will drop into the forgotten past in a few weeks."

#### **50-15 DRIVE LAUNCHED**

Almost immediately after consolidation, the Board of Trade launched a drive called "50-15"—a population of 50,000 by 1915. It was ambitious since the 1913 population was estimated at only 22,700. The drive missed, but by 1920 the city had a population of 48,395. For the first and only time, it was the largest city in North Carolina.

#### **MEAT AND MILK INSPECTOR**

Aug 1, 1913- Dr W. H. Kern was elected Meat and Milk Inspector and to act as City Veterinarian. His salary was to be \$125 per month and he had to furnish his own transportation. (10-365)

#### **POLICY ON CITY EMPLOYEES**

Sept 5, 1913-The Board approved an ordinance stating "...that the term of any officer, agent or employee of the City who holds his office or position either directly or indirectly by election or appointment from the Board of Aldermen notwithstanding the same may be for a definite or fixed period, may be terminated at the any of any month of such employment, provided the services of such officer, agent or employee are not satisfactory, and of this, the Board of Aldermen shall be the exclusive judge, and the salary of said officer, agent, or employee shall not be increased during the term of which he was elected or appointed, not shall any officer, agent or employee delegate his duties to another, except with the consent of the Board of Aldermen" (11-1)

#### **CITY OFFICERS ELECTED (11-1)**

G. H. Hastings, Judge of Municipal Court, Salary \$1000 per month  
G.T. Stephenson, Solicitor, Municipal Court, Salary \$75 per month  
O.O. Tesh Checker of Municipal Court, Salary \$80 per month  
R.R. Kinney, Tax Collector, Salary \$150 per month  
T. L. Rawley, manager Water Dept, Salary \$100 per month  
J.A. Thomas, Chief of Police, Salary \$110 per month  
J. J. Cofer, First Sergeant, Salary \$80 per month  
J.T. Thomson, Second Sergeant, Salary \$80 per month

Eight Patrolmen including future Chief J.G. Wooten at \$75 per month, one at \$70 per month and four at \$60 per month

R. L. Hopper, Fire Chief Salary \$400 per year  
F.C. Meinyun, Assist Fire Chief  
J.H. Holmes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assist. Fire Chief

### **SANITARY OFFICERS**

The Sanitary Committee submitted this report: (11-2)

“Mr. A.C. Wall having been elected Sanitary officer (\$75 per month) we recommend to the Board that he be furnished a saddle horse and that he be required to look after the men, teams and wagons together with the proper disposal of all garbage.

“That the City be lad off in sections and wagons assigned to each sections, that said officer regularly and systematically inspect the sections and see that the wagons and teams are doing their duty, property removing the garbage, making weekly reports to the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of the sanitary condition of the City and the amount of work done.

“The Committee further recommends that the assistant Sanitary Officer (J.S. Young, Salary \$50 per month) be required to make a personal inspection of the business blocks and all residences of the City as regularly as it is possible to do, devoting all his time to this work. It shall be the duty of the Assistant Sanitary Officer to report promptly all unsanitary conditions found on any citizen’s premises; he shall notify the occupants of the house or owner, or both, to abate the nuisance and if it is not done after reasonable notice, it shall be his duty to report same to the Municipal Court.

It shall be the duty of the Sanitary Officer and his assistant to report to the Mayor and Sanitary Committee all persons living along a sewer line who have not connected.

“The Sanitary Committee further recommends that the City wagons be not permitted to serve citizens who have their residences connected with the sewer and maintain open closets for their servants, and that said citizens maintaining open closets for servants be notified that they must connect to sever for their servants or discontinue the use of the open closet.”

### **WATER WORKS UPGRADE**

Sept 5, 1913-The Chairman of the Water Committee reported that they would be putting the Salem Station in good condition and “...would buy a new 2-million gallon pump for the Salem Station next Tuesday.” (11-2)

### **CIRCUS WAGONS RESTRICTED**

Sept 26, 1913-“...heavy circus wagons... have seriously damaged the brick pavement between and on the sides of the street car tracks. Be It Ordained that no circus wagons shall be permitted on any brick paving between or on the outside of any car track of the city of Winston-Salem, N.C. except at street crossings.” (11-9)

### **HORSES FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Sept 27, 1913-Fire Committee was instructed to purchase a team of horses for the fire department (11-14)

### **FIRE CHIEF REQUESTS SUPPLIES**

Oct 3, 1913-Chief Hopper asked the Board to furnish coats, boots and smoke protectors for all members of the fire department. He also requested 750 feet double jacket hose and 500 feet single jacket.

The request was referred to the Fire Committee with power to act.(11-15)

## **1914**

### **FIRST SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT**

Jan 12, 1914-The Board discussed at length the proper way to handle disposing of raw sewage now being dumped in Peters Creek. Petitions had been filed by citizens living and owning land along the creek claiming condition to be offensive and damaging to crops raised along the creek. (11-6)

H.F. Shaffner moved that the Mayor take up this matter with Col Ludlow and determine the cost of his services to design and install a sewage disposal plant.

On May 7, 1915, Shaffner reported that 1.5 acres of land had been purchased from Mrs. Emma Sink for \$300. (11-307)

Col Ludlow reported on Sept 15, 1914 that plans for the plant had been competed.

Bids were opened in June 1915 and accepted on July 2.

The plant was a septic tank about 130 ft long by 45 ft. wide. It was located about 200 ft north of Salem Creek just west of old Lockland Ave, now Silas Creek Parkway. The main drainage ditch extended westward with parallel laterals at 100 ft intervals running south to Salem Creek.

Feb 6, 1914-Alderman N.D. Dowdy, who died at his home, was replaced by J.L. Critz (11-68)

### **CITY PLAN PROPOSED**

Feb 17, 1914- Mayor was instructed to "...correspond with some City Planning Company and find out the cost of securing an expert along this line to come here and go over the situation, both as to inside and suburban property, for the purpose of legislative enactment governing the opening up of new City property."(11-71)

### **NEW CITY HOSPITAL**

March 3, 1914- The Board appointed 6 physicians to act as an advisory board of the City Hospital to aid the Hospital Commission in organizing and equipping the new city hospital. (11-73)

On Aug 14, 1914 the Chairman reported: that the plant was complete except for developing the grounds, refrigerators, screens and awnings. (11-148)The Commission presented a list of costs including:

Building site, 5 acres	\$5,000.00
Cost of Building	\$77,190.14
Improving Grounds	\$ 104.50
Furniture and Equipment	\$5,879.28
Miscellaneous items	\$91.51
Outstanding obligations (est)	<u>\$1,715.65</u>
	\$89,981.08

On October 2, 1914, the Board approved \$1000 to purchase supplies so the hospital could be opened at once. The Hospital opened on October 15.

### **HOGS IN SALEM**

March 6, 1914-"A petition was presented to the board asking that the citizens of the Salem Ward be allowed to keep and raise hogs. The petitioners were informed that the Board had decided not to allow any hogs to be raised in any section of the city." (11-74)

On Feb 5, 1915, a similar request was presented "...by colored citizens asking that they be allowed to raise hogs on Columbian Heights. The Board took no action on the petition." (11-249)

March 10, 1915- An Ordinance regarding Pool Rooms was enacted (11-77)

March 27, 1915- Aldermen G.W. Edwards resigned. He was replaced by T. P. Fulton (11-87)

### **BOND ELECTION**

April 3, 1914- Resolution passed calling for the issuance of \$710,000 in bonds including \$25,000 in funding bonds; \$50,00 for water main extensions; \$60,000 for schools; \$50,000 for a sewage disposal plant; \$50,000 for grading and curbing streets and \$250,000 for a city lighting and heating plant. (11-91)

The vote was held on June 23, preceded by a new registration of voters in each ward.

The voters approved all except the bond ... "for the establishment, ownership and maintenance by the City of a lighting or heating plant, or both, by the use of either of said plants of electricity or gas."(11-124)

### **WHITEWASHING CAMPAIGN**

May 12, 1914 Mrs. J.E. Sillo reported that the 1,000 gallons of lime purchased by the City had been distributed among the colored people of the City for whitewashing purposes had received interest beyond expectations. (11-111) She also asked the Board to try to get the property owners to build community trash bins, as it would simplify the work of cleaning the city.

### **THE FIRST INCINERATOR**

The question of purchasing an incinerator was first discussed on May 26, 1914 but it was left open until the Mayor could go to Raleigh and examine the one there. (11-114)

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On June 2, 1914 the Mayor reported he had visited Raleigh but found that the incinerator was not as great as he expected. The plant would only consume from fifteen to eighteen one-horse loads of paper per day. (11-116)

On August 7, 1914 the Sanitary Committee was empowered to select a suitable place to located the garbage incinerator.(11-145)

On March 16, 1915 they suggested that the incinerator be placed on the City property on N. Trade St near Eighth. However a group of property owners protested and the Board decided to look for another location. (11-269)

On the following day, the Committee recommend that the incinerator be located on the old stable lot on the west side of Chestnut between Fifth and Sixth. The Board liked this site since it was close in. (11-272) At a special meeting of the Board on March 18, 1915, a delegation of property owners in that area protested the installation of the incinerator at that location.

The Board then suggested locating the incinerator on the City's property near the Abattoir on the north side of Peters Creek just west of the present Underwood Ave, being part of the old water works property in the Belo's Pond area. (11-273)

On April 6, 1915 Mayor Eaton reported that the incinerator had been completed and was working fine. (11-283)

### **CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROPOSED**

June 2, 1914- A Committee was appointed to investigate establishing a full time Health Officer for the City to take charge of the Sanitary Force. (11-116)

In 1915, H.O. Jenkins of Palo Alto, California was hired at \$2,000 a year. He was to report on Feb 1, 1915. Meanwhile on Jan 19, the Aldermen received a petition from several physicians in the City endorsing the establishment of a Health Department but also stating they had been totally ignored in the movement. They also recommend that the head of the department be a graduate physician.

On March 3, 1915, Jenkins submitted a report relative to the organization of a health department and an estimate of the cost. It appears that Jenkins was a Sanitarian and not a Physician. The first project he undertook was the preparation of a large wall map using pins to show the locations of all the stables and hog pens in the city. He resigned on May 21, 1915.

On April 13, 1915, The Board adopted a Department of Health and established rules and regulations for its operation. (11-286)

On May 10, 1916, Dr. J.J. Kinyoun was elected a full time Health Officer.

### **“WHITE WAY” PROPOSED**

June 30, 1914- “Mr. Miller appeared before the Board and proposed a ‘white way’ for this City. Mr. Miller stated that he estimated that the cost of maintaining would be from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per annum or about \$35 per cluster of five lights.”(11-123) The matter was discussed again at the July 21's meeting and referred to the Light Committee (11-135)

July 14, 1914- The Fire Committee was authorized to purchase an automobile for the Fire Chief. (11-134)

### **NEW CITY MAP**

September 4, 1914- City Engineer Guy F. Hinshaw was instructed to make a city map. (11-192) A land surveyor and two rodmen were employed who ran traverse lines over the city, tying into street lines, lot corners and subdivision boundary lines encountered along the traverse line. Fixed points were established by cutting crosses in the rims of the sewer manholes. Freehand sketches of all the subdivisions were mad from the recorded subdivision plots at the office of the Register of Deeds.

The new map was completed in 1920 at which time Hal Cress was employed to trace and letter it. He also prepared the house numbering map.

### **BUILDING ORDINANCE ADOPTED**

Sept 4, 1914- The Board adopted a building ordinance establishing rules and regulations covering building construction and inspection. (11-154) This ordinance established the position of Building Inspector, to be elected by the Board each September. The Building Inspector was given the powers granted a police officer.

**OFFICERS ELECTED (11-191)**

H.E. Nissen, Fire Chief and Building Inspector	Salary \$1500
W. H. Kern, Meat and Milk Inspector	Salary \$1500
T. L. Rawley, Manager Water Dept	Salary \$1200
P.W. Mock, Manager of Abattoir	Salary \$900
A.C. Wall, Sanitary Officer	Salary \$960

J.A. Thomas Chief of Police  
J.J. Cofer 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant  
J.T. Thompson 2<sup>nd</sup> Sergeant  
16 Patrolmen

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

In the Fire Department there were 4 Engine Companies with a Captain and Lieutenant, a Hose Company, a Hook and Ladder Company and a Colored Hose Company and Colored Hook and Ladder Company.

Sept 15, 1914 -There were now nine paid men in Engine #2 and the volunteers were mustered out. (11-196)

**NEW HOSPITAL OPENED**

Oct 2, 1914 - The Hospital Commission said the hospital would open on October 15 but they needed \$1,000 for operating supplies and \$200 per month for charity patients. This was approved by the Board (11-201)

**FIRE ORDINANCES**

Oct 20, 1914-Board approved ordinances relating to the Fire Department including interfering with the Fire Department, giving a false alarm, penalty for driving over a fire hose, and fire prevention rules. It also made it illegal to drink alcoholic beverages in a fire station (11-208)



**City Hospital was constructed on land owned by R. J. Reynolds and known as “The Racetrack. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

**CITY BARN**

Nov 6, 1914- Mayor asked to “...get specifications and cost of a barn which will be suitable for stabling horses and sheltering City Wagons.”(11-216)

On January 26, 1915, the Board authorized construction of a barn to be located on the Eighth Street lot which would cost from 3-4 thousand dollars.(11-243) . This facility served as headquarters for the street and sanitary departments until the City Yard was established on Stadium Drive in the 1920’s.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE**

Dec 8, 1914- Board authorizes a donation of not more than \$300 to be used for wiring and dressing the community Christmas tree on Courthouse square (11-224)

# 1915

**STREET LIGHTING CONTRACT**

March 10, 1915-A five year contract for street lighting was signed with the Southern Public Utilities Company. The City was to pay \$49 annually for each arc lamp up to 200 or more and \$12 annually for 400 or more 80 watt tungsten lamps. The contract allowed the City to deduct 25 cents per night for each arc lamp, and 5 cents per night for each tungsten lamp, reported by any policeman to be not burning. (11-264)

**ENGINEER HINSHAW RESIGNS**

April 1, 1915- Engineer Guy Hinshaw resigned to open his own firm. The minutes of March 3 record that A. J. Mitzel was employed as City Engineer at a salary of \$125 per month effective April 1. However there is no record indicating that Mitzel ever served as City Engineer.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 4, 1915**

Mayor- O. B. Eaton

Aldermen

First Ward W. L. O'Brien and A. J. Farrell

Second Ward G.E. Webb and A.R. Lewis

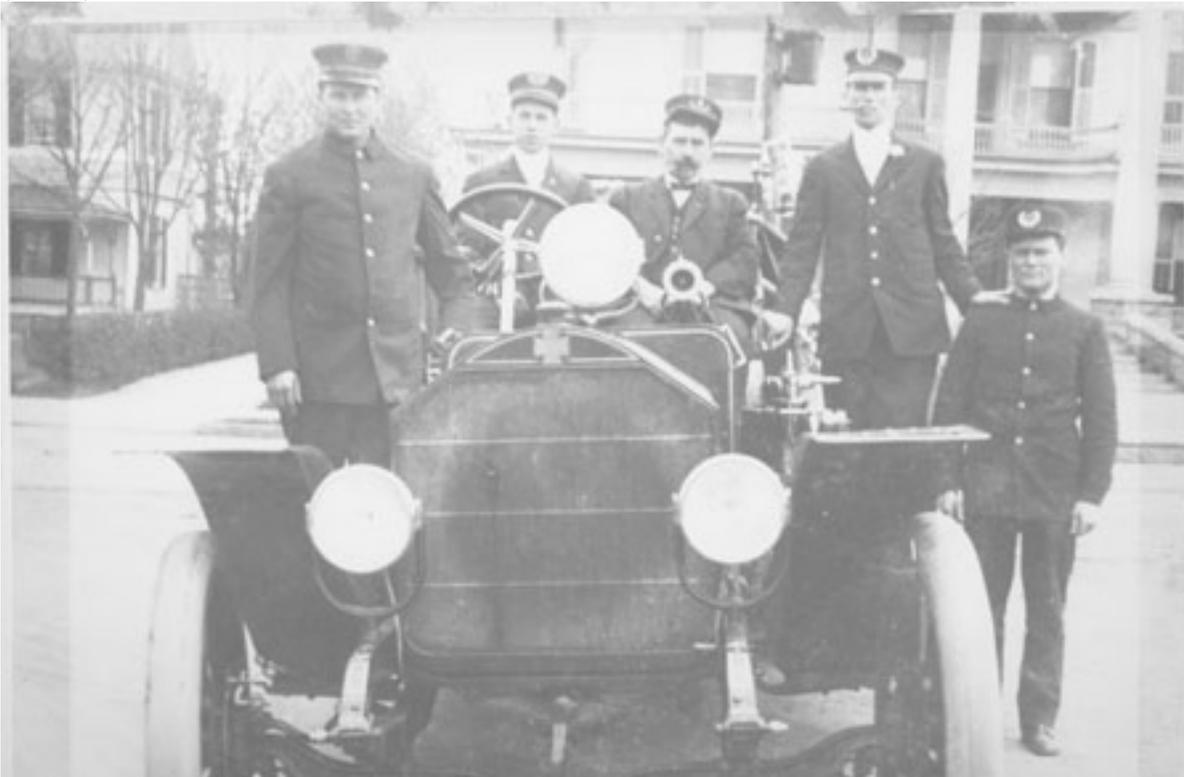
Third Ward R. H. Shelton and C. W. Snyder

Salem Ward Fred A. Fogle and L.F. Owen

At the first meeting on May 10, the Board agreed to hold regular meetings on Friday night of each week at 8 PM from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, and at 7:30 PM from October 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>.(11-315)

**BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE**

May 7, 1915-Board passes a License Ordinance to be collected annually on trades, businesses and professions operating in the City (11-307)



**Winston-Salem Firefighters pose with their new motorized engine (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

**NEW FIRE ENGINE**

May 14, 1915- Board agreed to purchase a new fire engine to be placed at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Station. The engine was an American La France type 10 triple combination motor truck, 750 gallon capacity, for \$9,000, less an allowance of \$1,000 for the old steam fire engine and to take notes of the City in payment of difference during in 1917, 1918, 1919, and 1920 for \$2,000 each. (11-318)

**STREET FLUSHER**

May 14, 1915- Board approved purchase of a street flusher from the Studebaker Corporation but just before delivery received information that these machines caused considerable deterioration to pavements. (11-318)The order was cancelled on June 11.

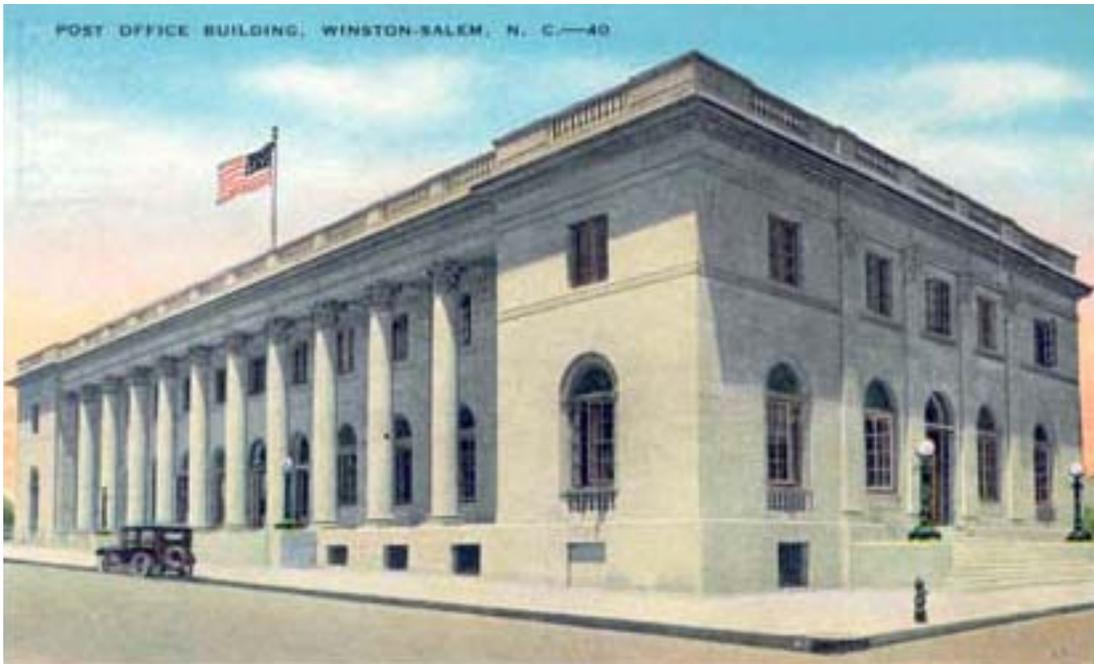
Apparently, the idea the street flushers were detrimental to pavements prevailed for several years and it was not until Feb 15, 1918 that the matter was again discussed.

At a meeting on Feb 22, 1918, a representative of the Tiffin Wagon Works of Tiffin, Ohio appeared before the Board regarding a flusher and motor driven sprinkler for \$5,700 delivered. The Board authorized the Mayor to sign a contract for the purchase of the City's first street flusher.

May 21, 1915- Mayor Eaton was appointed Judge Pro Tem of the Municipal Court and also Purchasing Agent for the City with a salary of \$2,000 per year. (11-323)

#### **EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES PROHIBITED**

June 4, 1915- "...no person shall be appointed or elected by the Board of Aldermen to an office or position in any of the Departments of the City who is related by blood or marriage to the Mayor, a member of the Board of Aldermen, or head of any of the different departments of the City."(11-336)



The Post Office Building at 5<sup>th</sup> and Liberty was completed in 1915. A 13,000 square feet addition was added in 1938. This building housed the U.S. Deputy Marshall, Federal Prohibition offices, the U.S. Navy Recruiter and federal court was held in a small courtroom on the second floor. (J.R. Snider postcard collection)

#### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED**

June 25, 1915- Ordinance enacted establishing the "Department of Public Works to be headed by the "Superintendent of Public Works." (11-346) This department would be responsible for the streets, water system, public parks and building and street lighting. The Ordinance stated that the Board of Aldermen "...has the power, at any time, to enlarge a bridge or change the work or business entrusted to the Department of Public Works, or to abolish said Department and all connected with it."

Public Works under this ordinance did not have charge of the sewer system, the collection or disposal of garbage and night soil, or street cleaning. Those came under the supervision of the Health Department. This was included in the general ordinances adopted on July 21.

The Sanitary Department was moved from Health to Public Works on December 23, 1915.

#### **W.C. JONES RESIGNS**

Jones was employed as Superintendent of Public Works on June 18, 1915 but received no mention in the minutes until September 17 when the minutes record "The resignation of W.C. Jones, as manager of Public Works, was read and accepted by the Board."

While there is no discussion in the minutes, City Historian and later director of Public Works Robert Neilson states that Jones could not tolerate the continuous interference in public works projects by Mayor O. B. Eaton. In his History of Government, Neilson states, "It was the practice of Mayor Eaton to ride around in his buggy and inspect various street construction jobs. While visiting these street projects Mayor Eaton would often be asked by a property owner to change a street grade, or raise or lower a curb in front of his property. Mayor Eaton would exercise his prerogative by instructing the street foreman to change the grade to please the property owner. Incidentally, such a grade change might not be in the best interest of the adjacent property owner or the owner on the opposite side of the street. Subsequently, when Supt. Jones made his next visit to the job site he would find that the foreman had not graded the street or installed the curbing according to the stakes set by the Engineer. The Street Foreman, of course, would tell Mr. Jones that the Mayor had ordered the grade change.

"As evident of the above practice of the Mayor, there is recorded in the Public Works Department a profile of Oak Street between Eight and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets on which two grade lines have been projected: one line is marked "Grade projected by W.C. Jones"; the other line marked "Grade established by Mayor Eaton". (Page 626)

#### **FORDS FOR POLICE**

July 9, 1915- Board approved the purchase of "...a five passenger Ford automobile to be used in connection with the Police Department." (11-352). The Police Committee had recommended a White Steamer for \$3,200 or a Cadillac for \$2,700. The Aldermen approved the purchase of the Ford for \$533.27.

#### **COLORED FIRE COMPANY DISBANDED**

July 9, 1915- The Fire Committee recommended the disbandment of the Colored Hook and Ladder and Hose Company on recommendations from the Fire Chief.(11-359)

A Committee protesting the disbandment spoke before the Board on July 16 and the Board agreed to postpone the abandonment until the Fire Chief, Fire Committee and representatives of the committee could meet. (11-360)

On August 27, the Fire Committee again recommended disbandment effective Sept 1 unless the Board decided to take other action. The Board took no action. The Board then gave permission to the Social Service to occupy the building on Vine Street, formerly occupied by the Colored Fire Department. (11-382)

July 30, 1915- Third Ward Alderman C. W. Snyder resigned. (11-368) He was replaced on Aug 6 with Charles Lowman. (11-373)

#### **CITY BUYS OLD TWIN CITY HOSPITAL PROPERTY**

Aug 27, 1915- The Twin-City Hospital Association offered to sell the City the old hospital property on Brookstown Ave for \$15,000 and out of that to erect a suitable home for the nurses at the new City Hospital. The Board accepted the offer.(11-382)

On Jan 28, 1916 it was reported that the building had been sold at public auction on January 22 for \$975.00 The School Board kept the heating plant and plumbing fixtures. (11-445)



#### **1915-1916 BUDGET**

Tax rate set at \$1.20 \$2.00 Poll tax The City Budget is not listed in the minutes.

#### **CITY BUYS TRUCK**

Sept 24, 1915- "The Mayor, Street and Water Committees are hereby authorized and instructed to make purchase of one motor truck of such size as they may select, proved the cost shall not exceed \$3,000."(11-408)

Nov 19, 1915- "The Mayor instructed the Chief of Police to enforce the ordinance in reference to merchants decorating with unsightly or obscene displays." (11-426)

**The nurses residence at City Hospital was funded by the sale of the Twin City Hospital property. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

## 1916

Jan 28, 1916- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman A.R. Lewis resigned having taken a job in Greensboro. He was replaced by H. B. Martin (11-444)

Jan 28, 1916- The Superintendent of Public Works made a detailed report on the water supply for the City and included laying a 16-inch water main from the Salem Pumping Station to the “congested district” of the City. (11-442)

### NEW TRAIN STATION

Feb 4, 1916-N&W Railway submitted plans for a new Union Station and changes they desire in streets leading to the station. (11-446) On Feb 6, the President of the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway presented plans for the station to be located near the present site of the Norfolk and Western Freight facility. (11-447) The plans were approved by the Board on Feb 11, 1917. (11-449) This station, a huge multi level affair, was never built. Copies of the original plans are in a private collection.

March 3, 1916- Plumbing Ordinances adopted (11-456)

### STREET NAMES AND NUMBERS

March 10 1916- The names of many streets were changed including Pine St to Marshall. (11-466) Also Streets on the north side of town were changed from names to Numbers from 14-28th.

The Board also approved the recommendation that street name signs be erected the entire length of 20 main streets and in the business district. The cost of these signs was given at about \$100, and the 2" galvanized iron pipe posts would be about \$450.

May 19-“The Street Committee recommend that a man be employed to canvass the City by streets and leave at each house a notice indicating the correct number of the house with instruction to have same secured and placed in a conspicuous place within a certain number of days.”(11-500)

### EPIDEMIC

April 5, 1916-City Physicians recommend that all public schools, moving pictures shows and palaces of public gatherings be closed until April 17 as a result of tonsillitis, measles and scarlet fever epidemic in the city. (11-479)

May 12, 1916- A request was approved to erect a band stand on Courthouse Square. The Board also approved “... an officer be stationed on each corner of the square dressed in white uniforms.” (11-497) The Police Department protested and the white uniforms were never purchased.

June 16, 1916- Revised City Health Ordinances were adopted including provisions for a Health Committee of the Board of Aldermen and a City Health Officer. (12-1)

The Board also authorized the Health Committee to purchase “2 wagons, 2 horses and 250 ft of fire hose to be used in connection with the Streets and Sewerage Departments.” (12-22)

### 1916-17 BUDGET

Tax rate set at \$1.20 (12-177) plus \$2.00 poll tax. (12-177) The total City Budget is not included in the minutes.

### POLICE OFFICERS ELECTED

The annual election in September included two “Plain Clothes Officers” in the Police Department as well as 17 patrolmen and a day and a night turnkey for the jail. (12-182)

### NEW CHARTER AND ORDINANCES

July 21, 1916- On March 4, 1915, a new Charter was ratified for the City by the General Assembly. Under the provisions, the City continued to elect a Mayor by a vote at large and to elect two Aldermen in each of the four wards as previously designated. The terms of office were for two years with Election Day on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May. (12-33)

The new City ordinances established these departments: Dept. of Public Works charged with streets, the water and sewer systems and street lighting; Department of Health including the City health Officer and City Physician charged with collecting garbage, night soil and other waste collection and disposal; Police and Fire.

The positions of Building Inspector, Plumbing Inspector and Electrical Inspector were established.

Under the Charter, street paving petitions had to be signed by owners of 3/4 of the abutting street frontage and the entire cost (full street width) was assessed against the property owners, exclusive of street intersections.

At the same meeting, the Board adopted a revised ordinance, "it shall be unlawful for any carriage, auto or vehicle to transport passengers within the corporate limits of the City of Winston-Salem between the hours of 1 o'clock AM and 4 o'clock AM. (12-143)

Aug 16, 1916- First Ward Alderman W. L. O'Brien resigned and was replaced by T. P. Fulton. (12-148)

### **TWO PAWN SHOPS IS TOO MANY**

Aug 25, 1916- "Mr. A. H. Eller appeared before the Board in behalf of Mr. H. Silbert and stated that he understood a license had been applied for by a party to open up another pawn shop. He did not think the size of the city justified having two pawn shops, and asked that the Board go on record as opposing any other place being open." (12-158) In spite of the protest, a license for a pawn shop was issued on Sept. 8 (12-164)

Sept 15, 1916- Ordinance to pave Main from 6<sup>th</sup> to Liberty passed. (12-166)

### **JITNEY ORDINANCE**

Sept 15, 1916- The Board passed an ordinance regulating jitney-buses in the City of Winston-Salem. (12-167) SPUCO had complained sometime earlier that illegal jitneys were hurting their streetcar business. In addition to safety, licensing and route rules, the ordinance stated "The rate of fare for service under this ordinance shall not be more than five cents per passenger."

The requests for licenses stated where each jitney was to run as in a request on June 6, 1919 "...Liberty St from the Piedmont Fair Grounds to the Courthouse Square, and return daily on a schedule most suitable for business and extending the trips on Sunday to the Woodland Cemetery and from the Courthouse Square to Southside." (13-248)



**Jitney was slang for a nickel which was what it cost to ride.**  
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)



**A crowd gathered when the Neal Hotel and the Elks Auditorium burned in 1916.**



**The Elks Auditorium on North Liberty St had been Winston-Salem's largest venue for shows and graduations.  
( Both pictures from the Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

Oct 13, 1916- The section of Cherry St between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in front of the City High School was roped off to automobile traffic on school days from 11:15-11:45 a.m. and from 12:45-1:25 p.m.. "...the children of necessity during the recess hour and on assembling before going into school use Cherry St to some extent as a playground."(12-184)

Oct 20, 1916-Ordinance adopted making it illegal to sell or use sneezing powder, itching powder or stink balls in any school room, church, theater or other place of public gathering (12-189)

Oct 23, 1916-The City bought the property on 4<sup>th</sup> Street known as the "B.F. Hanes residence lot", adjacent to the West End graded school for \$25,000 (12-191)

## 1917

### BOARD OF CENSORS

March 2, 1917-An Ordinance was approved establishing a Board of Censors of Public Amusements "to inspect and view all places of amusement or exhibitions...and to prohibit those, as their judgment, are immoral or against the public interest." (12-238)

July 13-".... the question of the power of the Advisory Board composed of ladies of the city, appointed by the Board of Censors, to prohibit or forbid any particular exhibition or part of exhibit which in their judgment is immoral or against the public's interest was discussed and Mr. J.G. Hanes and L.P. Tyree (Aldermen) were appointed a committee to consult with the City attorney in regard to same." (12-322)

In August, 1919 the Board approved an ordinance require that all movie theaters submit all films to be exhibited during the following week. It was required that these films be reviewed by the National Board of Review. If a moving picture had not passed the National Board of Review, it could not be shown until approved by the Board of Aldermen or the Board of Censors (13-315)

### BOND ELECTION

A bond election was held on March 27, 1917. It requested \$125,000 for water extensions, \$175,000 for sewer extensions and \$50,000 for school grounds and facilities. All passed by at least an 8-1 margin (12-252)

March 30, 1917- Alderman H. B. Martin resigned. Replaced by W.C. Brown (12-254)

April 2, 1917-The Streets Dept was authorized to purchase three wagons at a cost of approximately \$550.00. (12-268)

### DANCE HALLS

May 4, 1917- Ordinance approved outlawing dance halls where an admission fee is charged. (12-272) Dance halls had been licensed, under police scrutiny since 1914. On Oct 19 a request to operate a dance hall at 7<sup>th</sup> and Depot Street (Patterson) for a social once a month was approved (12-379)

### MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 8, 1917 (12-277)

Mayor- R.W. Gorrell

Aldermen

First Ward-T.P. Fulton and J.G. Hanes

Second Ward-R.E. Lasater and W.C. Brown

Third Ward-R. H. Shelton and W. J. Pascal

Salem Ward-L.F. Owen and P.E. Horton

### FIRE CHIEF GETS ROADSTER

June 15, 1917-Lindsay Fisher, President of The Motor Company offered to the City for the Fire Chief a Super-Six Hudson Roadster-complete- \$1807 less trade in on Model C-36 Buick \$450 for a net cost of \$1,357.(12-303)



**Theaters such as the Elmont would have been subject to the Board of Censors.**  
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

### **CITY DEPARTMENTS ESTABLISHED**

June 15, 1917- The Board adopted an ordinance establishing three main City Departments each headed by a "Commissioner". (12-304) They were Public Accounts and Finance, Public Works and Public Safety.

The ordinance states that the Aldermen will, at the first meeting in September of each year, elect the three commissioners to hold office for one year or "...until his successor is elected and qualified."

The Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance was to be paid \$2000 per annum, Commissioner of Public Works \$3000 and Commissioner of Public Safety \$3,000.

The ordinance further states that "...persons so selected together with the Secretary and Treasurer of the City constitute Commissioners in Council; and among other duties specifically prescribed as hereinafter set out, they shall meet in council at such time and place as they may designate at least once a week, consult as to the needs and requirements of the City and work to be done; that the Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance shall preside and the Secretary of the City act as Secretary of the Council."

#### Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance

1. Control and supervision of the finance and accounting of the City
2. Purchasing agent
3. Supervision and finances of City Schools and Hospital
4. Audit, or cause to be audited by expert accountant, the accounts of all City Officers receiving or disbursing City funds
5. Collection of taxes and water rents
6. Supervision of litigation where City is involved

#### Commissioner of Public Works

1. Construction, repair and cleansing of streets and public places
2. Erection of City Buildings and structures
3. Supervision of public service utilities
4. Control and supervision of water system
5. Control and supervision of cemeteries and incinerator
6. Charge and supervision of plumbing inspector

#### Commissioner of Public Safety

1. Police Department
2. Fire Department
3. Street Traffic
4. Building Inspector, Electrical Inspector, City Market House and Abattoir
5. Control through Health Officer under his department, of sanitation, refuse collection and disposal
6. Street Lighting System

On Sept 7, L.P. Tyree was elected Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance, Joseph Firth Commissioner of Public Works and Dr. R. L. Carlton Commissioner of Public Safety. The Office of City Health Officer and City Physician had been consolidated as of August 1. Dr. Carlton had been elected to that position at a salary of \$250 per month

### **1917-1918 BUDGET**

\$597,507.23 Tax rate set at \$1.50. Poll tax \$3.00

### **MRS. GROGAN'S CAR**

Aug 24, 1917- "...it was ordered that the City pay \$5.00 per month toward the expense of Miss Annie Grogan's charity car with the understanding that the arrangement existing with reference to the amount donated for the feed of the horse used by her be discontinued."(12-338)

Oct 5, 1917-"The request of the Police Committee that they be allowed to keep the horse used in the Police Department at Fisher Boarding Stable on Liberty Street was left with the Committee with power to act. (12-374) This horse was ridden by Chief Thomas although a motor car had been approved in 1915.

### **TEACHERS SALARIES INCREASED**

Dec 21, 1917-The School Committed recommended that teachers receiving \$42. 50 per month should receive an increase of 15%, from \$42.50 to \$47.50 10%; \$47.50 to \$55.00, 7%; \$55 to \$57.00, 3%.



**In 1913 the city opened 3 new schools; Above is the Oak Street Colored School at 1042 Oak St. J.W. Paisley was principal.**

## **1918**

### **CITY EMPLOYEE HOURS SET**

Jan 4, 1918- The Board of Aldermen fixed the work hours for city employees (12-421) Men in the Public Works and Public Safety Departments worked 7 a.m. -6 p.m.; Finance, Water and Tax Offices worked 8 a.m.- 6 p.m.. All ladies of all Departments worked 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.. The Tax and Water Departments were to arrange for those offices to be held open by one or more persons to receive taxes and payment of water bills until 6:30 p.m. from Nov 1 until April 1; and until 7 p.m. from April 1 to Nov 1.

It was suggested that Commissioners hold their meetings after 5:30 p.m. so as not to interfere with work of regular office hours.

### **POLICE SALARIES RAISED**

Jan 18, 1918- 4 men whose pay was \$88-97.50 raised \$9.50 per month  
15 men whose pay was \$82.50-\$92.50 raised \$10 per month  
3 men whose pay was \$66-\$77.50 raised \$11.50 per month

The Chief whose salary range was \$121-\$130 per month was raised \$9 per month (12-428)

### **ARDMORE AREA GROWING**

Feb 16, 1918- The Ardmore area was granted water and sewer connections with the city (12-439)

### **POOL ROOMS CLOSED**

April 19, 1918- An Ordinance was approved ordering the closing of "...all pool rooms ,billiard rooms, bowling alleys or any other place where games of a similar character are played..." effective June 1.(12-466) A vagrancy ordinance was enacted on April 24. (12-471). Both these were done in the national interest and for the duration of the war.

### **STREET PAVING**

April 29, 1918-The Atlantic Bitulithic Company quoted these prices for paving:

- Asphaltic Concrete on 4" concrete base-\$2.06 per sq yard
- Bitulithic Paving on 4" concrete base-\$2.58 per sq yard
- All extra excavation-.50 per cubic yard
- All rock excavation-\$3.00 per cubic yard

Beginning in June, petitions for paving had to be signed by a majority of the owners of land abutting the street proposed for improvement and these signers had to own a majority of the street frontage. The entire cost of the improvement, exclusive of street intersections, was assessable against the property owners. This formula, while implement in 1918, has not changed.

June 14, 1918-"The Market Committee was authorized and instructed to pay T.A.M. Stevenson the sum of \$40.000 to rid the city hall of rats." (13-13)

### **FREE CITY AUTO LICENSE TO ALDERMEN**

June 21, 1918-The City automobile license was granted free of charge to all Aldermen. (13-16)

### **CITY BUDGET 1918-1919**

\$795,796.08-Tax rate set at \$2.00

### **FIRE BELL TAPPED FOR PRAYER**

July 26, 1918- (13-33) B.S. Womble, representing a committee from the Rotary Club called the attention of the Board to the proclamation issued by the Governor calling upon all the people of North Carolina to observe one minute each day in prayer for the duration of the war, for the success of the Allies. He stated that this was not being observed in Winston-Salem. Mr. Womble suggested that 7 PM be designated as the time and that the fire bell tapped three times as a signal and that traffic be stopped during this one minute as far as possible, beginning Monday July 29. The motion was approved.

### **DEATH OF R.J. REYNOLDS**

July 29, 1918-A special call meeting in the Mayors office at 5 PM to take action in reference to paying tribute to R.J. Reynolds who passed away that day. (13-36)

A motion was made that the Board meeting be held that evening in the Courthouse at which time resolutions of respect would be adopted and the public be invited to participate in the meeting. A motion was also made requesting that all businesses in the City close for two hours during Reynolds' funeral.

### **SUNDAY BLUE LAWS**

Aug 9, 1918- For some time there had been attempts to even slightly relax the prohibiting of the sale of almost anything in the city on Sunday. The Board had disapproved a new ordinance allowing the sale of soft drinks and ice cream. The delivery of ice by ice houses was approved. There are several letters from churches printed in the minutes of this date in favor of the continued strict observance of Sunday as a day of rest.(13-43) The Mayor was to appoint a committee "...to settle the question for all time either by a vote of the citizens or otherwise and to incorporate it in the charter..."

On Sept 6, the Board voted to amend the ordinance to permit the sale of cigars, tobacco and tobacco products from 8 until 10 AM and from 2 PM until 6 PM (13-59) Ice houses and dairies selling milk and cream were to close from 11AM until 3 PM. Soft drinks still were forbidden to be sold.

### **VACATIONS APPROVED**

Aug 9, 1918-"Mr. Jas. Firth would like to have 10 days vacation or two weeks, as he had been with the City about 3 years and during that time had not taken a vacation at all. Upon motion of Mr. T.P. Fulton, seconded by Mr. Pascal, this request was unanimously granted. Mr. R.R. Kinney was also grant a vacation of 10 days."(13-48)

### **USE OF CITY VEHICLES**

Sept 6, 1918-"Be it ordained that all automobiles, trucks, wagons, tools and other property owned by the City shall be used exclusively for the benefit of the City, and it shall be unlawful for any person, whether he be an officer or employee of the City or not, to use any automobile, truck, wagon, tool or other property for his own private purpose or for that of any other person, firm or corporation other than the City. Any person violation the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined not exceeding fifty dollars."(13-57)

### **MR. GLASGOW'S CAR**

Sept 13, 1918-"Mayor Gorrell stated that Mr. Glasgow wanted to purchase the City's interest in the Sanitary Car which is now owned jointly between the City and himself, and agrees to use the same in connection with the City's interest as other individuals now are using their private cars in connection with City work. Mr. L. F. Owen made a motion that the Board allow Mr. Glasgow to purchase the City's interest in this car for \$600."(13-63)



**The Motor Company, located on Main St. just north of City Hall was the source of several city vehicles. This building, later known as the Stewart Buick Building would serve as the Police Academy during the 1970's until it was torn down. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

### **SPANISH FLU EPIDEMIC**

Oct 5, 1918- Dr. Carlton stated that the U.S. Health Service had that morning ordered the City to close all public gathering places, schools, churches, theaters, picture shows, etc on account of the epidemic of Spanish Influenza. (13-71) It was agreed that the City had no other course of action since in effect the State Board of Health had prohibited all public gatherings. Clippings from newspapers from a number of North Carolina cities were read showing that such action had already been taken in the larger cities. The matter was left in the hands of the Health Committee with power to act

### **THE NOVEMBER 18 RIOT**

On Saturday November 16, 1918, a white couple was strolling along the streets of north Winston when they were accosted by a black man who hit the man over the head with a pistol and dragged the woman down into a ravine and allegedly raped her. The sheriff was summoned to the scene and deputies began looking for a man fitting a somewhat vague description. They observed a man generally fitting the description and a pursuit began. The Sheriff joined in and the man turned and fired, hitting the Sheriff in the hand. The posse lost the assailant and the Sheriff ordered a roundup of suspects. A number of people were initially arrested. One man was taken to county jail where he was charged with rape.

On Sunday afternoon, November 17, a large group of whites gathered on Courthouse Square and rumors of lynching began. By evening, the crowd had grown to 1,000. There was a lot of drinking and some of the crowd began to break into hardware stores and steal firearms to force a jailbreak. The Mayor and other civic leaders appeared and tried to reason with the crowd...to no avail.

Eventually the Home Guard was called out, (the Forsyth Riflemen having been activated for service in World War One and were in Europe). The Home Guard was made of mostly old men and young boys; certainly not the disciplined paramilitary unit that made up the Forsyth Rifles. The Home Guard surrounded the jail and called for the fire department with the idea they could disperse the crowd using fire hoses. The hoses were aimed at the crowd and water turned on. Gunfire erupted from the direction of the crowd. Police, Sheriff's deputies and the home guard returned the fire. Several people were hit including a 13 year old girl, killed by a stray bullet while watching from a second story window; a citizen who was part of the mob; a home guardsman; and Bob Young. Young had been a member of the Winston-Salem Police in 1913. Later, he was a city fireman. At the time of the riot, he was a shoe salesman. When the fire department was called to disperse the crowd, he helped man the hose...and died in the gunfire. Police Sgt. Cofer was wounded in the hand. Officer Robert Bryan was also injured and absent from duty for three weeks

After this initial volley, the crowd broke and ran down 4th Street into the black residential section. Gunfire was heard throughout the night. Several black residents were killed for whom death certificates exist. Eyewitnesses say that many other blacks were killed as well, but their bodies were stuffed into culverts or thrown onto railroad boxcars and sent out of town.

The Mayor summoned National Guard troops from Charlotte and Greensboro. A tank was set up on the square. By daylight on Monday, while the night of gunfire and violence had ended, machine guns were set up on Fourth Street aimed toward the black residential area in anticipation of a counterattack that never came.

In the following days, a number of people were charged with inciting a riot and attempting to break into a public jail, which was then a capital offense. Sixteen white men were convicted and given sentences ranging from 6 to 14 months on the county road gang. One black man was convicted of the murder of a Southern Utilities Company worker and executed in Raleigh.

### **REYNOLDS BEQUEST FOR HOSPITALS**

Dec 17, 1918- The Chairman of the Hospital Committee reported that in his will, R. J. Reynolds had donated "\$120,000 for a hospital building for white people in Winston-Salem and \$120,000 for a hospital building for the colored people of Winston-Salem, said buildings to be constructed on the present site of the City Hospital, the exact location, plans and details to be fixed and made by Katherine S. Reynolds and W. N. Reynolds in connection with the authorities of the City."(13-92)



**Columbian Heights Colored Graded School at Wallace and Bruce St.**

## **1919**

### **TEACHER SALARIES**

Jan 10, 1919-Board discusses again raising the salary of teachers. School Superintendent R. H. Latham said "I am asking you to grant an increase in the salaries of certain teachers who cannot make ends meet at the present cost of board, room, laundry and other necessities. The average salary of these teachers is below that of the school janitor (\$70 per month.) I can get cheaper janitors. I can get some cheaper teachers, but to employ such is to simply waste your money."(13-99)

He went on to give a detailed cost of living expenses and a summary of the requests for increases. The total amount was less than 3% of the 1918-1919 budget and was approved.

**ADDITIONAL FIREMEN EMPLOYED**

Jan 10, 1919-8 men were employed to man the new fire truck that had been purchased. (13-99)

**DAM AND RESERVOIR ON SALEM CREEK**

Feb 5, 1919- Bids were received on a concrete dam across Salem Creek. The winning bid was for \$102,960.(13-173)

On March 7, bids for a 30" wood stave pipe line from the new Salem Creek Dam to the filter site were approved. The Water Committee recommended that this wood pipe be purchased as it was about 50% cheaper than cast iron pipe and had been tried in various cities and found to be satisfactory. The bid went to Stancil Brothers at \$2.20 per foot.



**Central Grade School on Church St and Bank St. in Salem (All pictures here from the Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

**RIPPLES OF THE NOVEMBER RIOT**

Feb 7, 1919- 25 Winchester Riot guns were purchased for the Police Department at \$25.25 each. (13-115)

March 14, 1919- City Treasurer was authorized to pay the City Attorney \$2,000 for “services rendered the City in connection with prosecution of rioters on the evening of Nov. 17, 1918.”

**REQUEST FOR BLACK POLICE OFFICERS**

March 7,1919- A group led by F.M. Fitch (a prominent African-American businessman) appeared before the board to suggest “...if it was possible to secure one or two colored men, of the right type, and give them authority of an officer to work among the colored people only, he felt they might be able to ferret out crime that it would be impossible for a white officer to do.(13-144) The Mayor referred the request to the Police Committee and assured the colored people that it would be given serious consideration of the committee.” No black Police Officers were hired until 1943.

April 28, 1919- A Juvenile Court was established for the city as required by the General Assembly. (13-197) It was proposed that this be a joint effort of the City and County (13-222)

**ANNEXATION-DISAPPROVED**

July 22,1919- Territory adjacent to the City roughly bounded as Salem Creek south along the Southbound Railroad to Waughtown St; then along Waughtown to the Lexington Rd; along Lexington Road to a branch; west along the branch to Fogle Rd ; north crossing Salisbury Rd to Salem Creek; then with Salem Creek to its beginning.

Only those in the territory to be annexed voted. The vote was 208 for and 210 against.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 6, 1919 (13-217)**

Mayor	R.W. Gorrell
Aldermen	
First Ward	T.P. Fulton J.G. Hanes
Second Ward	R.E. Lasater W.C. Brown
Third Ward	C.E. Hamilton Frank A. Stith
Salem Ward	L. F. Owen P.E. Horton

**FIRST MOTORCYCLE PURCHASED**

June 13, 1919- Chief of Police was authorized to secure a motorcycle to be used in connection with the Police Department (13-261) A second motorcycle was authorized to be purchased on August 29. (13-343)

June 20, 1919-A request to build a house for the Cemetery Keeper was referred to the Cemetery Committee and they were "...to proceed with the erection of a house on Woodland Cemetery property and that Mr. Boger be employed to take charge of the Cemetery at once, at \$18.00 per week until house is completed."(13-265)



**An early view of the Hanes Park tennis courts.** (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

**P.H. HANES PARK**

July 3, 1919-A special meeting was called to consider two tracts of land consisting of about 50 acres for "parks, High School and Vocational and Training School purposes located in the western part of the City; also a communication of Mrs. Katherine S. Reynolds, offering to donate \$50,000 for the purchase of high school site."(13-266)

School Superintendent Latham read a letter, printed in full in the Board Minutes, from P. H. Hanes where he states that the property "...be used forever exclusively for a public park and for high school, vocational and training school purposes, and no part of it shall ever be used for residential or businesses purposes.

"That no streetcar line, railroad or public thoroughfare, other than the main boulevard and walkways...be built on the property."

This was followed by a letter, also printed in full in the Board Minutes from the widow of R. J. Reynolds stating "...I gladly consent to allow the \$50,000, which was offered to purchase the above property for a High School site, to go for the same purpose toward purchasing and improving that beautiful knoll and surrounding land immediately beyond the P.H. Hanes park...commonly known as "Silver Hill."

Her only stipulation was that the school be named to honor her late husband R. J. Reynolds.

On July 18, the Board responded with a letter to Mrs. Reynolds which says in part "...We do not believe such a great thing has ever been done anywhere else in our fair Southland. The value and influence of this gracious gift cannot be estimated, as it will affect the future and the destiny of our children and of our children's children.

"Long after the present generation has passed away, the men and women of the future will rise up and call you blessed, and we believe you action will so stir up civic consciousness, civic duty civic pride and civic responsibility, that other will feel that they must do more for the public interest and public good."

### **POLICE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM**

July 11, 1919- The Board authorized \$24,380 for the purchase and installation of a Police telephone and telegraph system. (13-283)

### **CITY BUDGET 1919-1920**

\$1, 0225,887.48 (13-297) Tax rate \$2.00, Poll tax \$3.00

Aug 22, 1919-The Board passed a resolution requesting that all manufacturing plants and stores close their doors on Sept 1, 1919 to observe Labor Day. (13-318)



**This photo of the traffic booth was made when they were to be removed in 1942. (WSPD Scrapbook)**

### **TRAFFIC BOOTHS INSTALLED**

Aug 23, 1919- A Police Booth for Traffic Officers was placed on a 30 day trial basis on O'Hanlon's corner. (13-343) The trial was successful and on October 24<sup>th</sup>, three more were purchased for \$150 each to be placed at 4<sup>th</sup> and Liberty, 5<sup>th</sup> and Liberty and 8<sup>th</sup> and Liberty. (13-387) These booths placed police officers safely above the traffic so they could observe the flow and switch the signals as needed. They would be replaced by a fully automatic traffic signal system in 1946.

Sept 19, 1919- "A communication from J. Hampton Rich, asking the city to pay his expenses for getting Gatling guns to this city in November 1918 was presented and after due consideration Mr. J.G Hanes made a motion that the bill not be paid as the expenditure was not authorized by the Board of Aldermen (13-355)

### **ANNEXATION-APPROVED**

Sept 23, 1919- Territory in Centerville and Waughtown, and also part of Crafton Heights, Ardmore and West Highlands, an area of approximately 1.62 square miles. 228 voted in favor and 165 voted against annexation.

The new territory was officially made part of the corporate area on October 10. This was the first territory south of Salem Creek annexed by the City.

### **SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL BUILDING BOND ISSUES**

Oct 7, 1919- A Bond election for "School Purposes" was held: (13-370) \$100,000 was proposed for East Winston School; \$100,000 for North Winston and Fairview Schools; \$100,000 Salem and Granville Schools; \$100,000 for Colored Schools and \$400,000 for a High School Plant (Reynolds) for a total of \$800,000

The vote was 766 in favor and 12 against.

On the same ballot was an "Ordinance for the issuance of \$800,000 Bonds for the acquisition of a site for a new Municipal Building ." The vote was 735 for and 20 against.

### **LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

Oct 31, 1919- An Ordinance passed requiring that any person who builds within the city shall conform to grade of streets, laying out water and sewer mains and placing connections or the city would not assume maintenance of the streets or issue building permits on the lots. (13-390)

### **PROBATION OFFICER**

Nov 14, 1919-Harold Hayes was hired as the city's first probation Officer at a salary of \$125 per month. (13-405)

### **INCINERATOR SITE**

Nov 14, 1919- Four and a half acres in the "...southeastern section of the City" was purchased from Judge H. R. Starbuck for a proposed incinerator and abattoir. (13-416) A few days later the deal was closed for \$5,000

On Nov. 29, a contract was let for \$15,000 to build a bridge on the street leading to the incinerator site. This is the bridge on Stadium Drive at Bath Branch near the entrance to City Yard closest to US 52. It turned out to be a very substantial bridge. It was not replaced until 2006.

**JOSEPH FIRTH RESIGNED, REPLACED BY CAPTAIN SHANER**

Nov 4, 1919- The City's first Commissioner of Public Works, Joseph Firth resigned. Firth had accepted a public works position in Florida due to his wife's health.

On Nov 21, the Board elected Capt. Harry L. Shaner Commissioner of Public Works at a salary of \$4,500 per year.

Dec 19, 1919- "Lieutenant Merrill, who is now stationed at the Maynard Flying Field asked permission of the Board to distribute some advertising matter in the city from his air plane." (13-435) Maynard Field was located on Kernersville Rd. west of the intersection with Linville Rd. It was Winston-Salem's first airport.