City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes
City of Winston-Salem: 1950-1959

HIGHLIGHTS
1950 - New armory on Stadium Dr. approved; Parking meter rates increased to a nickel; Personnel Department established; James Waller named Police Chief; City hires first African-American firefighters; Packmaster garbage system purchased for bulk pickup of refuse.
1951 - Bird Sanctuary created; City Manager fired; John Gold named new City Manager; ABC Stores approved; Tanglewood Park given to city.
1952 - Preliminary plan for east-west expressway approved; Women hired in the Police traffic division; Discussion on auto races at Bowman Gray Stadium.
1953 - Change in Election Day; Runnymeade Park given to city; 9 hole golf course to be built near Salem Lake.
1954 - Bowman Gray Stadium expanded; In-Service training for city employees approved.
1955 - Hospital Commission created; City and County voter registration consolidated; Peters Creek Parkway planned; Land for a baseball stadium given to city; Social Security benefits authorized for city employees.
1956 - Courtroom in City Hall air conditioned; By-pass around Old Salem planned; First redevelopment project began; Construction began on Elledge wastewater treatment plant.
1957 - Old No. 2 Fire Station on S. Main St. expanded; Fire-Police patrol began.
1958 - Kimberly Park swimming pool approved; North-South Expressway concept approved; Shaffner Park property given to city; Yadkin River dam project approved.
1959 - New landfill opened on the south end of the airport; Neighborhood Renewal Plan approved; City gained rights to water at Kerr Scott Reservoir, if needed.

1950
Jan 6, 1950 - The Board unanimously approved an ordinance reducing the Committees to five with each Committee having four members. They were Finance, Public Works, Public Safety, General, and Education.

Jan 6, 1950 - A lease for a new armory was approved on city land located on Stadium Dr. next to the Salem Water Works. (35-8) The old armory, a former elementary school at Ninth St. and Patterson Ave., had been in use since the 1920s.

Feb 17, 1950 - New traffic laws enacted known as the “Street Traffic Laws” including one requiring reporting of an accident to police if damage exceeded $25.00. (35-105) The ordinances also included parking meter rates of one nickel for 1 hr.

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED
March 3, 1950 - A Personnel Department was established. (35-160) Pay plan and job classification plans were adopted. Employees received two weeks vacation with pay per year and one sick day for each month of service up to a maximum of ninety days.

March 17, 1950 - Board voted to work with a group for the restoration of Old Salem. (35-207)
CHIEF GOLD’S RESIGNATION
Aug 8, 1950 - John Gold resigned to accept the position of Director of Prisons for the State of North Carolina. In summing up Gold’s accomplishments as chief, a newspaper article on August 20th listed increasing the department strength by 61 men; requirements of a 48 hour rookie school and a 12-hour in-service school; mandatory firearms in-service training; reducing the work week from 49 to 44 hours; $8 pay raise for starting salary - now $200 a month; car-to-car radios with an FM radio called “virtually static free”; increasing the size of the fleet to 19 cars and six 3-wheel motorcycles.

Aug 18, 1950 - White St. renamed Ivy Ave. (35-487)

JAMES I. WALLER-POLICE CHIEF
Sept 15, 1950 - Oath of Office administered to James Waller as Chief of Police. (35-523) Waller was an FBI agent who had been a star athlete at Wake Forest College. He was only 32 when he was named chief.
Oct 9, 1950 - A Monday night 8:00 meeting was held in the municipal courtroom regarding the hiring of the first black firefighters. (35-572)

The minutes stated: “As soon as practicable, the City shall proceed with the construction of the additional quarters deemed appropriate and necessary for the Negro firemen to be employed pursuant to this action.” The motion to hire the firefighters deadlocked in a 4-4 tie with Mayor Kurfees voting in favor.

Oct 9, 1950 - The city purchased Loadpacker Garbage Collection equipment. (35-566) Assistant Public Works Director Robert Neilson was directed to investigate the feasibility of installing the Dempster-Dumpster containerized system of collection and disposal of garbage. The report recommended that the city purchase 30 of the containers and two hoisting truck units. The boxes were to be placed at city-owned buildings and if the system proved successful, private property owners would be permitted to purchase similar boxes for their use which the city would pick up and empty. At first the containers had to be picked up by the hoisting truck unit and hauled to the place of disposal, with the box then being hauled back to the place it had been picked up. A later improvement in this system involved the use of a “packmaster”, a truck equipped with a hoisting unit and packer body. This equipment picked up the container, emptied its contents into the body of the truck, compacted the waste material, and then hauled the refuse to the landfill. By 1966, the Sanitation division was already servicing over 500 of these containers.

Oct 9, 1950 - A building permit was issued for the construction of a Salvation Army Boys Club on Stadium Dr. (35-574)
1951

Jan 5, 1951 - The debate on ABC stores began. There are some colorful quotes in the verbatim debate of the Board meeting on that date. (36-8)

Jan 5, 1951 - Quiet zones designated around hospitals, making it unlawful to make unnecessary noise. (36-23)

Jan 5, 1951 - A Juvenile Detention Center for white children was proposed. (36-26) There had been a center for black children since the late 1930’s.

Feb 2, 1951 - A bird and wildlife sanctuary was created in the city and within one mile of city limits. (36-51)

Feb 2, 1951 - The construction of public restrooms on Eighth St. in the heart of the tobacco trade district was approved. (36-76) Farmers who came to town to sell their product had no public facilities prior to this.

Firefighters of Engine 4 stand beside their truck in front of the station on Dunleith Ave. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)
MUNICIPAL ELECTION JUNE 5, 1951
Mayor Marshall C. Kurfees

Aldermen
West First Ward L.L. Wall
East First Ward Charlie A. Church
West Second Ward F.D. Pepper
East Second Ward Guy R. Fulp
North Third Ward H.F. Tucker
South Third Ward William R. Crawford
North Salem Ward Carl N. Chitty
South Salem Ward Archie Elledge

Charlie A. Church was elected Mayor Pro Tem.

The Aldermen approved Mayor Kurfee’s proposal to restore a system of eight three-member committees. Each alderman would serve as chairman of one committee and vice chairman of another. The committees were Finance, Public Safety, Public Works, Education, Health and Welfare, Parks and Recreation, Library, and General. Kurfees said the system of eight committees re-established “democratic government” at City Hall. Kurfees said he believed “it was undemocratic to have more than three members on a committee from an eight-man Board of Aldermen.” The Aldermen also approved Kurfees’ recommendation that not only all board meetings but all committee meetings be open to the media and the public.

May 25, 1951 - A Redevelopment Commission was created. (36-237)

JUNE 29, 1951 SPECIAL MEETING-REMOVAL OF CITY MANAGER (36-285)
The meeting was called for “the purpose of receiving the budget for FY 51-52, considering an Ordinance making appropriation bridging the interval between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the annual appropriation ordinance, and other resolutions and other such business as may properly come before this meeting.” It was to be the “other such business” which would make this one of the most memorable meetings in City Government.

All were present except Alderman L.L. Wall. At the end of the routine business, Mayor Kurfees stated:

“At this time we have been requested to have a hearing by Mrs. Collins who was a pharmacist at the City Memorial Hospital and has been discharged. So at this time and without further ado, I will appreciate it, Mrs. Collins, if you will come around.”
“Mrs. Collins, I believe you called and requested that you have a hearing before the Board of Aldermen and I stated to you that I felt that the proper place to have this hearing was maybe before the Hospital Commission. You stated to me that due to the fact that the Administrator, and the City Manager, and also one of the doctors more or less involved were on the Hospital Commission that you would appreciate a hearing before this Body. So, as this is Democracy in action, we will be glad to hear from you at this time.”

Collins had been fired as the Chief Pharmacist at the Hospital citing a “personality conflict.” She appealed to City Manager Perkins who backed his department head. It appears that Mrs. Collins’s professional ability was not part of the controversy, and also that she had considerable support.

After Mrs. Collins concluded her statements, the Board of Aldermen went into a general discussion of the matter. The detail record of this hearing covers 18 pages of minutes. The matter was deferred until a future meeting.

Mayor Kurfees then stated:
“... as long as I am Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem everybody is going to have a fair hearing. After proper consideration if the Board of Aldermen desire to make recommendations to the City Manager, well and good; if it doesn’t desire to make any recommendations to him, that, to, is well and good. I realize that department heads have a perfect right to hire and fire in their discretion. I think that it is up to the Board of Aldermen and the City Manager whether or not the proper discretion has been used in this case. So without further ado on that, does any member of the Board have anything he would like to bring up at this time?”

Then the bomb dropped. (36-304)

**Alderman Tucker:** I would like to make a motion, Mr. Mayor. I move that Mr. C.E. Perkins be discharged as City Manager effective as now, and I further move that the City Treasurer be authorized to execute and deliver a check to him for one month’s pay.

Seconded by Alderman Chitty.

**Alderman Fulp:** He is offering that as a motion. I would like to ask the City Attorney if that could be offered in the form of a motion.
Mr. Carlyle: In answer to that question, to the Board of Aldermen I would like to say that that motion is contrary to the ordinances and the City Manager Act of the City. The charter of this City contemplates that whenever there is any opposition to action being taken that it must go to the next meeting in the absence of unanimous vote... Any officer or employee of the City appointed by the Board of Aldermen may be removed by the Board at any time, without assigning cause therefore by a vote of two-thirds of the entire Board, by resolution adopted at any regular or special meeting of the Board... My answer is that the City Manager can only be removed by a resolution adopted by two-thirds of the Board. Any negative vote on that resolution carries action upon the resolution over to the next regular meeting of the Board. The purpose of that being adopted was to prevent hasty action, and it is incorporated in the rules of every legislative body that I know of.

Alderman Fulp: May I ask this question: Would that motion made by Mr. Tucker be considered a resolution?

Mr. Carlyle: No sir. A resolution would be in writing and would require unanimous consideration before it could be acted upon at this meeting.

Alderman Fulp: It is based on the ruling of the City Attorney that proper resolution be drawn up and presented in proper form. And while we are thinking about it I would like to say a few things, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Kurfees: Go right ahead, Mr. Fulp. You have the floor.

Alderman Fulp: I think this motion is uncalled for, unfair, unjust and hasty as Mr. Carlyle said. It is very poor economy in justice to the city. Mr. Perkins has been here sometime now and I think that the Board of Aldermen will agree with me that we have been meeting here night after night for the past two weeks. Mr. Perkins has largely answered the questions of the Aldermen concerning the budget, which is a voluminous document; he has answered them very capably; he has answered the questions very clearly; we have had very little dissension. He has done a wonderful job, and I feel that these men (meaning the new Aldermen) should give more time and consideration to such a move. I would like to commend Mayor Kurfees on the fact that he has been able to hold this thing off for some time; I thought he was going to hold it off a little bit longer, so that these men might know something more of Mr. Perkins’s worth, but evidently they decided to present it tonight, which is very timely - when the room is full of people and we have had a sensational proposition here, something unusual... I am a little bit shocked; I am amazed as a matter of fact, that any such thing could be done. I would like to offer my advice to the man that offered this motion; that he take counsel with himself and speak with somebody with an open mind. I think that perhaps he has spoken to a lot of people that might have a little grudge. I am not making that as an absolute statement, but I am saying that might be so. I think that we are doing a very dangerous thing.
... The City Manager is not a Public Relations man; I mean you can’t make everybody happy. I think maybe it is a good idea to make somebody mad occasionally. I think you can get a better job done that way, and of course, he may get himself mad every once in awhile. I think that Mr. Perkins has measured up well in everything I can see that a City Manager should be. He sets stern standards for himself and expects the same standards of his subordinates. I have had an opportunity during the last two years to study the things that he has done and he has done a difficult job under trying circumstances. Two years ago when the new Board came in we heard all those rumors floating around about Mr. Perkins is a dictator; he is this, he is that; so we made a motion that we would call in all the department heads for consultation. That was done one afternoon and we didn’t find one iota of objection to Mr. Perkins. Everybody seemed to like him fine. They didn’t like his methods too well, but they did not object to him. They didn’t have any criticism of Mr. Perkins. I just want the people of Winston-Salem to know this. I want them to know just what the Aldermen are doing, and if this thing comes to pass, I want them to know who is the tearer down, rather than the builder up.

Mayor Kurfees: … There is no doubt in my mind that he has made considerable mistakes, as I have, and as almost everybody else makes if they do anything. And I am very much reluctant to do what I am doing, and I might be absolutely wrong in doing what I am doing, but in good conscience I cannot do otherwise. The Board of Aldermen of the City of Winston-Salem was elected by the people of Winston-Salem by a majority vote. Under the law adopted at Raleigh establishing the City Manager form of government it specifically states that the City Manager shall be employed at the pleasure of the Board of Aldermen. I am very reluctant to go against the advice of our City Attorney, for I have a very high regard for Mr. Carlyle and I know that he is a very eminent lawyer and he usually knows what he is talking about, but not withstanding that fact, gentlemen, I will have to adhere to this motion.

The motion to discharge the City Manager passed 5-2. Four of those voting in favor of the motion had been members of the Board about 18 days, so it is obvious that the dissatisfaction preceded the election. It appears that the Collins case merely set the stage for the actions that followed.

The minutes of this meeting consist of 26 pages. Four and one-half are devoted to the routine business of the Board; 18 pages to the Collins hearing and the final three and one-half pages to the action on the City Manager.

The true reasons for Perkins discharge may never be known. In his 1966 History of Government, retired Public Works Director Robert Neilson offers this opinion of the incident “… Neither his professional ability nor his competency as City Manager was ever questioned. Both Mayor Lentz and Mayor Kurfees publicly commended him for his good work. During his three years as City Manger his salary was raised from $12,000 to $15,000 per year, which indicated that his work was highly satisfactory.
“However it was known that some department heads and City employees did not readily adjust themselves to the procedures of the new form of government, and they particularly resented some of the methods employed by the City Manager in accomplishing his desired purposes. Mr. Perkins was direct, blunt and sometimes not very diplomatic in his dealings with these employees and he soon won their dislike and antagonism. These employees also felt that now they were separated from the heretofore protection of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The complaints of this minority group of disgruntled employees followed to grapevine and found sympathy and support among some citizens not directly associated with the City Authorities, as well as from some of the Aldermen. At least one Alderman expressed himself as not being in favor of the City Manger having the authority to hire and fire city employees. So it can be said that some of the city employees contributed to the circumstances that ultimately led to the dismissal of the first City Manager. And, perhaps it may be said that some former members of the Board of Aldermen had been somewhat reluctant to release some of their former authority to the jurisdiction of the City Manager.”

Neilson was obviously very fond of Kurfees. Under him, Neilson was promoted to Public Works Director, but there was another side. It’s told, somewhat thinly veiled, in *The Checker Board Corridor* by Rixie Hunter. It is available in the fiction section at the library. The term “checker board corridor” referred to the black and white linoleum floors in City Hall. The book details the conflict between Perkins and Kurfees with the names changed.

The real reason may have been Kurfees’ and other Board members’ fondness for former Police Chief John Gold. It’s interesting that only 7 days later, Kurfees announced to the Board that Gold, then serving as NC Director of Prisons, had accepted the position of City Manager. (36-309)

Alderman Archie Elledge, who had voted in favor of Perkins’ removal, made the motion and recommended that Gold’s salary be set at $13,000.

July 6, 1951 - Debate on the Perkins firing continued. (36-312)

**ABC STORES APPROVED**
July 14, 1951- ABC Election Held

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<th>In favor of ABC Stores</th>
<th>8411 (53.41%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Against ABC Stores</td>
<td>7336 (46.59%)</td>
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Nine of the 15 precincts voted against the proposition, including all five precincts in the Salem Ward. The heavy vote in favor of ABC Stores cast in the Second and Third Wards was sufficient to carry the proposition.

July 20, 1951 - The Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Director of Public Works to begin fluoridating the water supply. (36-377)

**CITY BUDGET 1951-1952** (36-387)
7,990,674.75 - Tax rate set at $2.30
Aug 3, 1951 - New City Manager John Gold was acknowledged at the meeting. (36-414) Gold was Director of the N.C. Prison system when he accepted the City Manager job. He had served as Winston-Salem’s Police Chief from 1943-1950.

In the long run, it was an excellent decision considering the length of service and quality of leadership Gold brought to the job which he held until his death.

Sept 7, 1951 - Resolution approved appropriating $175 for purchase of “intoximeters” by the Police Department. (36-462) Intoximeters were the forerunner of breathalyzer machines for determining alcohol amounts in the blood stream. Much of the development had been done here in Winston-Salem at Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Sept 14, 1951 - City accepted gift of Tanglewood Farm from the estate of William Neal Reynolds. (36-468)

Sept 14, 1951 - Gas fuel lines installation and construction began. (36-469)

Sept 21, 1951 - What became known as the “Rabbit and Chicken Ordinance” was passed. It regulated the keeping of rabbits and fowl within the city. (36-473) It limited the number of rabbits to six, it allowed ponies to be kept with a fence and required that chickens be kept in a fence. Guineas were exempt from the law. The number of rabbits allowed was increased to 10 by a revision on December 6. (36-587) Not quite as controversial as the hog laws, the ordinance did show up again to be revised at the January 21, 2003 meeting.

Oct 5, 1951 - Aldermanic committee appointed to investigate the possibility of converting the Old Winston Water Works into a “Negro Park.” (36-511) Resolution. (36-584)

New filtration plant on Stadium Drive named for Director of Public Works R. A. Thomas. (36-486) A dedication ceremony was set for November 1, 1951.
Nov 2, 1951 - Former Mayor George D. Lentz was elected to succeed Alderman L. L. Wall, who had resigned. (36-532) Lentz is the only one to ever serve as Alderman after having previously served as Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem. In the towns prior to consolidation, it was quite common for an ex-mayor to be elected Commissioner or Alderman. For instance Henry E. Fries, after serving several terms as Mayor of Salem, was elected to the Board of Commissioners for 18 consecutive years.

1952

Jan 18, 1952 - The Preliminary Plan for an east-west expressway was accepted. (37-21)

A newspaper article discusses the proposed east-west expressway that years later would be known as Business 40. Uniformed policemen, working on their days off for extra pay, stopped motorists and asked them to fill out cards showing the origin, destination and purpose of their trip. (WSPD Scrapbook)

March 7, 1952 - Reflecting the growth in the Ardmore area, a traffic light was approved for the intersection of Hawthorne Rd. and Miller St. (37-92)
WOMEN POLICE OFFICERS
April 18, 1952 - The Board voted approval for the employment of “six women police officers...for the purpose of patrolling the parking meter area.” (37-204) One of the first four was Lillian Bonner, Winston-Salem's first black female officer. The others were Hazel Venable, Ruth McClenny and Catherine Holland. The newspaper noted that they were "all married." Mrs. Bonner stayed with the department until her retirement in 1982.

May 16, 1952 - Regulations were approved for fishing from the banks at Winston Lake. (37-278)

City Budget 1952-1953
$8,983,669.75 - Tax rate set at $2.30. (37-391)

City Officials’ Salaries
City Manager - $14,000; Director of Hospitals - $12,000; Supt. Of Schools - $10,750; Director of Public Works - $9,372; Director of Finance - $9,372; Police Chief - $8,820; Mayor’s salary - $2,400 plus expense account of $1200.
Aug 1, 1952 - A committee was appointed to study the consolidation of the city and county school systems. (37-416)


Sept 5, 1952 - The city and county agreed to build a new dog pound at the City Yard on Stadium Dr. provided the cost did not exceed $5,500. (37-439)

Sept 5, 1952 - Contract for $20,400.99 was awarded for the installation of an air raid warning system in the city. (37-443)

AUTO RACES AT BOWMAN GRAY STADIUM

(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

Sept 5, 1952 - The Aldermen discussed whether the auto races at Bowman Gray Stadium were profitable. Mr. Bahnson Gray spoke and gave a detailed account of how racing started at the Stadium. (37-482) The account included the fact that the track was built in 1949 by Bill France and that he lost money on it the first year and while the city did better in 1950, France barely broke even according to Gray. After some discussion about the contract, Bill France spoke and discussed how his operation worked like a farm club for his winter races in Florida. (37-489)

1953

Jan 8, 1953 - The Public Works Committee recommended that street lights be left on all night. At that time 103 lights were turned off at 11:30 p.m. (38-25). The additional cost was estimated to be $51.50 per month. The Board approved the request.
CHANGE IN ELECTION DAY
Jan 15, 1953 - Board adopted a resolution requesting the Forsyth Delegation introduce a bill reading “That the Charter of the City of Winston-Salem be amended to provide that the General Election for the Election of the Mayor and members of the Board of Aldermen, held biennially, shall be held on the first Saturday in May, and that the Primary Election for the nomination of candidates should be held on a Saturday in April at least two weeks prior to the date of the General Election, and that the persons elected Mayor and members of the Board of Aldermen in the general election shall take office on the first Friday following the first Saturday in May.” (38-28)

Jan 16, 1953 - A resolution was approved honoring the memory of Fire Captain John Henry Holmes, who died on December 24, 1952. Holmes joined the Winston Volunteer Fire Department in 1894 and on February 17, 1899 became the first paid fireman. He was ultimately promoted to the position of Assistant Chief and served in that capacity until his retirement December 1, 1945, having completed more than 50 years of service from the date he answered his first fire call. (38-41)

RUNNYMEADE PARK
Feb 6, 1953 - A resolution was approved accepting gift of land bounded by Stratford Rd., Warwick Rd., Runnymede Rd. and Country Club Rd. for use as a park from the Hanes family. (38-54) Hundreds of irises were planted on the property and it was known as the “municipal iris garden.” Irises take a great deal of maintenance and azaleas were eventually planted in the area.
MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 2, 1953 (38-182)
Mayor Marshall C. Kurfees
Aldermen
West First Ward George Lentz
East First Ward Charlie A. Church
West Second Ward Thomas L. Ogburn
East Second Ward James J. Norman
North Third Ward C. W. Hutchins
South Third Ward William R. Crawford
North Salem Ward Carl N. Chitty
South Salem Ward Archie Elledge

June 18, 1953 - The Aldermen approved $75,000 to build a nine-hole golf course as part of the proposed water shed at Salem Lake. (38-249)

June 19, 1953 - A resolution was approved to sell the 51 acres not designated for the east-west expressway on Cloverdale Ave. known as the Cloverdale Hospital site. (38-266)

CITY BUDGET 1953-1954 (38-270)
$9,146,962.25 - Tax rate set at $2.00
NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
Aug 21, 1953 - Public Works Director R.A. Thomas, who had suffered a stroke while at work on June 15th retired effective October 1st. (38-398) R. W. Neilson was appointed to succeed Thomas.

Oct 2, 1953 - A contract was awarded for the construction of a Field House at Bowman Gray Stadium in the amount of $11,781. (38-440)

1954
BOWMAN GRAY STADIUM EXPANDED
May 7, 1954 - Aldermen awarded a contract to increase the seating capacity and appurtenances at the south end of Bowman Gray Stadium by 6,000 seats making the total seating capacity about 18,000. The cost was $53,213. (39-210)

SEWER BOND REFERENDUM
May 15, 1954 - A vote was taken on the issuance of $6.5 million in Sewage System Improvements Bonds. (39-235) It passed 1,445 to 197. The total number of voters registered at this election was 26,782, a turnout of 6%.

CITY BUDGET 1954-1955
$9,898,943.00 - Tax rate set at $1.95. (39-327)

July 16, 1954 - To say that there were personality clashes on this board may be an understatement. Since much of the minutes of this period were recorded verbatim, it is easy to get a sense of the friction present among some of the board members. An exchange on this date between Alderman Sam Ogburn and Alderman Archie Elledge is representative. (39-344)

Aug 20, 1954 - The first service recognition of employees is held at the opening of the Aldermen’s meeting honoring employees with 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service. (39-369) Service awards were also presented at the November 5th meeting. (39-483)

Aug 20, 1954 - A tract of land on Cloverdale Ave. was sold to the State Highway Department for $5,000 for the construction of a division headquarters building. The tract was adjacent to the proposed east-west expressway. (39-370)
Aug 20, 1954 - The position of “Solutions Technician” was added to the pay plan. (39-381)

Nov 5, 1954 - A contract was awarded for radio equipment for the Public Works department including two-way radios in certain motorized equipment along with the necessary base stations. The contract was awarded to Motorola Communications for $9,483.17. (39-497)

Nov 18, 1954 - Air tools were purchased for the Public Works department at a cost of $2,314.00. (39-559)

**EMPLOYEE TRAINING**

Dec 17, 1954 - City Manager Gold presented a memo to the Board detailing the proposed training classes for City employees. (39-588) The list includes several courses for police and fire personnel as well as IBM calculator and “accounting machine” training, and “conference leading.”

**1955**

March 7, 1955 - The Hospital Commission was created. (40-92)

March 18, 1955 - The position of “Supervisor of Inspections” was added. (40-149)

March 18, 1955 - The Aldermen approved the sale of Duke Power buses to Winston-Salem City Coach Lines, Inc. (40-157)

April 1, 1955 - A resolution was approved to consolidate the voter registration system of the city and county upon approval of the state. (40-173)

April 1, 1955 - A contract was awarded for lights for the Hanes Park Tennis Courts. (40-176)

May 6, 1955 - The Aldermen approved moving their meetings from Friday to the first and third Mondays. (40-237)

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 7, 1955 (40-247)**

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<th>Marshall Kurfees</th>
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May 16, 1955 - The Mayor recommended the usual eight standing committees of three members each. James J. Norman was elected Mayor Pro Tem. (40-255)

PETERS CREEK PARKWAY PLANNED
May 16, 1955 - The Board adopted a resolution authorizing execution of an agreement with the State Highway and Public Works Commission regarding the construction of a new north-south highway generally parallel to Peters Creek. The city would pay one-third of the right of way cost within the City Limits. (40-257)

May 16, 1955 - The Children’s Home donated the land on Reynolda Rd. across from the Children’s Home and abutting the R.J. Reynolds High School property to the city for use as a park. (40-257)

June 6, 1955 - Garbage and refuse was to be collected by city crews in the central business district between 5 PM and 7 AM every night except Sunday.

June 28, 1955 - At the budget meeting there was a lengthy discussion on appropriating $25,000 for the upkeep of Tanglewood Park. The discussion centered for the first time on the fact that the park was given for use by the “white race.” (40-325) The Aldermen voted to remove the money from the budget appropriation, but reinstated it at the July 5 meeting with the stipulation that the funds come from revenue and not from tax funds. (40-365)

CITY BUDGET 1955-56 (40-337)
$11,604,493.75 - Tax rate set at $1.95

LAND GIVEN FOR BASEBALL PARK
July 5, 1955 - The Board accepted a gift of land on the Cherry St. extension for the construction of a “modern baseball park” from Charles Babcock. (40-367) The gift was officially accepted on November 7th. (40-580)
BLUE LAW REVISIONS
July 5, 1955 - An ordinance to permit sports events to be held on Sundays was presented and tabled. (40-371) It was addressed again on November 7th and the motion was denied. (40-572) The Sunday blue laws were relaxed a bit in September when grocery stores were allowed to be open from 7-9 AM, from 1:30-5:45 PM and from 9-11 PM. (40-499)

Aug 1, 1955 - The Board approved leasing to Tanglewood Park “...for display purposes as a museum piece one 1918-Model American La France Ladder Service Truck owned by the city which is obsolete and not needed for fire fighting purposes for a period of five years at a rental of $1.00 per year.” (40-416) Many children played on the old truck until it became unsafe and was reportedly buried on the grounds.

Sept 25, 1955 - Ordinance approved extending the city zoning regulations to three miles outside the corporate limits. (40-527)

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES
Dec 5, 1955 - The Board authorized a contract to provide Social Security benefits for city employees retroactive to January 1, 1955. (40-657)
1956

COURTROOM IN CITY HALL AIR CONDITIONED
Feb 6, 1956 - Bids were opened and approved to air condition the courtroom in City Hall at a cost of $11,327.00. (41-73)

ANNEXATION VOTE
Feb 27, 1956 - A public hearing was held regarding previous resolutions of intent to annex certain areas adjacent to the City Limit. (41-101) On June 18th, the Board adopted a resolution defining and describing the territory and requesting that the Board of Elections hold a vote of annexation by the people residing within the areas to be annexed. There were eight separate areas proposed with a total area of approximately 10.5 square miles. (41-390) The vote was held on September 15th. (41-615) The vote was 4,050 for annexation and 2,213 against.

SALEM BY-PASS
Feb 23, 1956 - A public hearing was held by the Public Works and Public Safety Committees on the proposed Salem By-Pass. It had been announced at the December 19, 1955 meeting that $400,000 had been appropriated form Sate Highway Funds for the Project. (40-660) On March 5, 1956, the Board approved $150,000 for the project. (41-106)

March 5, 1956 - The Minutes noted that $1.6 million in state highway funds had been approved for the eastern extension of the East-West Expressway from Main St. to the eastern City Limits. (41-115)
ERNIE SHORE BASEBALL PARK
April 16, 1956 - Funds were approved for operating expenses for the new Ernie Shore Baseball Park. (41-211) The next item called for the name of the Winston-Salem Baseball Park to be changed to the Ernie Shore Baseball Park. (41-212) This was followed by the execution of an agreement with the Winston-Salem Twins Baseball Club to lease Ernie Shore Baseball Park. (41-213)

On May 7, the Board accepted from the Winston-Salem Foundation a gift of funds and land for the construction of the new Ernie Shore Baseball Park. The gift was $44,893.21 in cash together with a deed to a tract of land conveyed to the Foundation by R.J. Reynolds for which funds and the net proceeds from the sale of such land were to be applied toward the construction of the new baseball park. (41-255)

FIRST REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
June 18, 1956 - Mason E. Swearingen, Executive Director of the Housing Authority, reported that they were developing a housing project on a site bounded by Eighth St., Chicago St., Eleventh St., Coleman St., and an alley east of Cleveland Ave. (41-386)

CITY BUDGET 1955-1957
$13,799,551.25 - Tax rate set at $1.95. (41-476)

ARCHIE ELLEDGE TREATMENT PLANT
Aug 6, 1956 - Contracts were awarded for the construction of a new sewage treatment plant on Salem Creek off Clemmonsville Rd. totaling $3,629,481.00. (41-509)

On October 6, 1958 the new plant was named for Alderman Archie Elledge for his work as chairman of the Public Works Committee and his work in influencing voters regarding the necessity of the sewer improved bonds. (45-385)
FIRE STATION ON REYNOLDA RD.
Dec 17, 1956 - Property was purchased for a new fire station on the east side of Reynolda Rd. near the entrance to Wake Forest. The purchase price was $8,500. (41-780)

1957
Jan 18, 1957 - City Manager Gold reported that the Finance Committee had recommended that the Board seek legislation authorizing an increase in the General Fund Tax to a maximum of $1.60 rather than the present maximum of $1.50. (42-104) Currently the budget included $1.50 for the General Fund, $0.10 for Debt Service and $0.35 for the school operating fund.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 4, 1957 (41-355)
Mayor
Marshall C. Kurfees 5824 (Elected)
William E. Morrow 5290

Aldermen
West First Ward George Lentz
East First Ward Charlie A. Church
West Second Ward Thomas L. Ogburn
East Second Ward Paul O. Pegram
North Third Ward Carroll E. Poplin
South Third Ward William R. Crawford
North Salem Ward Carl N. Chitty
South Salem Ward Archie Elledge

May 6, 1957 - The Board adopted a resolution asking the Forsyth County Delegation to introduce a bill raising the Mayor’s salary from $2,400 to $6,000 annually. (41-385) This obviously did not pass since a request for a smaller amount was made two years later. The Board also asked the delegation to divide the municipal court into two divisions. (41-385)
June 3, 1957 - A contract was awarded for a station wagon to be used by the proposed Fire-Police Patrol. (41-477)

The red and white Fire-Police station wagons were purchased since the officers had to carry both police gear and fire fighting equipment.  
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

CITY BUDGET 1957-58 (43-41)
$13,368,384 - Tax rate fixed at $1.95

July 12, 1957 - Street lights were approved for the first section of the “interstate expressway,” that area from Cloverdale Ave. to just east of Main St. (43-46)

EXPANSION OF FIRE STATION NO. 2
July 15, 1957 - Property was acquired for an addition to Fire Station #2 on S. Main St. (43-69)
Construction bids, in the amount of just over $66,000 were approved for the construction of an “annex” on March 3, 1958. (44-195)

Oct 7, 1957 - A resolution was approved calling for the preparation of a general neighborhood renewal plan and the filing of an application for federal advance of funds. (43-265) This was the first step in a massive project that would ultimately change the face of much of downtown and even more of the residential areas of East Winston.

THE ROCK AND ROLL ERA MEETS CITY HALL
Nov 4, 1957 - An ordinance was approved making it illegal to operate a “disc jockey show” at any restaurant or café operating as a non-conforming use in a residential area. (43-415)

On April 8, 1958 the Board passed an ordinance making it illegal to operate a “coin-operated music machine or any turn-table or phonograph where a fee is charged ...which a crowd of people is invited or permitted to congregate for dances or other purposes on Sunday or on weekdays between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM except on Saturday when the hours would be from 12:00 midnight with a permit from the city...” (44-342)
1958

March 3, 1958 - Plans were approved for the Kimberly Park Swimming Pool. (44-203)

THE HOSPITAL QUESTION... AGAIN
April 4, 1958 - The Finance Committee reported on the need for additional hospital facilities in a detailed report that stated the city and county should share in the costs of health care equally and that the current facilities should be modernized. (44-273)

On August 4, 1958, the County Commissioners responded saying they had no interest in getting into the hospital business and the associated tax burden to operate the hospital. (45-139)

NORTH-SOUTH EXPRESSWAY
April 6, 1958 - The city received a letter of general approval for “the concept of a north-south expressway at some future date” from the Highway Commission. (44-343) The city was already in the process of buying right-of-way for the expressway.

April 21, 1958 - The piece of the Cloverdale property known as “Cloverdale Hill” was offered for sale. (44-393) A Ford dealership moved out of downtown and built on the site. It was eventually torn down and a division of Baptist Hospital erected on the site.

BOND REFERENDUM MAY 6, 1958 (44-516)
$1,500,000 Recreation bonds were defeated with 1,368 for and 4,345 against
$1,350,000 Water System Improvements bonds were approved 4,213 to 2,413
$650,000 Sewer System Improvements bonds were approved 3,194 to 2,418
$1,000,000 Street Improvements bonds were approved 2,889 to 2,700
A $0.03 to $0.10 tax levy for maintaining a supervised recreation system was soundly defeated with 1,291 in favor and 4,380 against.

FIRE POLICE PATROL
May 19, 1958 - The City Manager submitted a letter regarding the success of the Fire-Police Patrol. Fire-Police, which operated in residential low-crime/low-fire areas of the west and northwest of the city, was a forerunner to the Public Safety concept that would be embraced some 15 years later. (44-472)

AIR CONDITIONING FOR CITY HALL
June 2, 1958 - A contract was awarded in the amount of $203,700 for a new heating and air conditioning system for City Hall. Prior to this, only the courtroom had been air conditioned. (44-536) City employees talked about having to shake the tobacco dust off official correspondence before mailing. The dust from the surrounding factories came flying in through the open windows of City Hall.

June 2, 1958 - An ordinance was approved allowing bowling alleys to stay open until 3 AM Monday through Saturday.
June 2, 1958 - The city received a gift of property along Silas Creek from the Shaffner heirs for use for recreational purposes. (44-603) On June 16th, the park was officially named Carrie Fries Shaffner Park. (44-635)

CITY BUDGET 1958-1959
$13,937,738.34 - Tax rate set at $1.90. (45-119)

Oct 20, 1958 - The Board approved expansion of the Fire-Police Patrol program. (45-443)

Nov 2, 1958 - The Board approved the Yadkin River Dam Project and authorized use of funds to insure adequate water from the dam for the city’s use. (45-527)

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION OUT OF CITY HALL
Dec 1, 1958 - The School Administration moved its offices out of City Hall. (45-582) Administration Offices were moved to the old Granville School Building at the corner of Granville Dr. and Academy St.

March 2, 1959 - A resolution was approved authorizing $4,000 for the renovation of the basement of City Hall in space vacated by the City School Board. (46-150)

LIFE INSURANCE FOR CITY EMPLOYEES
Dec 15, 1958 - A resolution was approved to provide group life insurance premiums for city employees to be paid by the city. (45-636)

Dec 15, 1958 - Christian Missionary and Alliance Church in a letter to the Board offered to sell the property at the corner of First St. and Church St. to the city for $55,000. The offer was originally made in February 1958 and brought before the board in December. The city said thanks, but no thanks. (45-649)

1959
AIRPORT LANDFILL SITE
Jan 5, 1959 - $6,000 approved for the opening of a new landfill at “the southern end of the airport property.” (46-27) The money was to be used for an access road and fencing at the site. A resolution on April 6th approved an agreement with the Winston-Salem Foundation for use of 28.91 acres for use as a landfill. (46-350)

Jan 19, 1959 - An ordinance was approved requiring property owners to keep grass cut to less than one foot in height in the city. (46-49)

Feb 16, 1959 - In a motion straight out of a Dave Barry column, the Board approved a group of private citizens to be on the “Committee to Name Anything That Is To Be Named.” (46-85)

March 2, 1959 - The Aldermen approved changes in the bus routes of City Coach Lines and Safe Bus Company. The entry includes not only the routes for the buses but the time schedule for service as well. (46-172-214)
March 5, 1959 - A fire at 11:15 PM gutted the City Market at Sixth St. and Cherry St. A dozen vehicles parked inside were destroyed as were tons of produce and food stuffs. Damage was estimated between $250,000 and $500,000. One person received minor injuries. The market was cleaned up, rebuilt and reopened.

March 25, 1959 - The Mayor’s salary increased to $3,600 annually with an office allowance of $200 per month. (46-304) Aldermen’s salary was set at $2,400 annually with a $100 monthly expense allowance.

April 6, 1959 - Parking regulations for the 11 spaces in the courtyard of City Hall were approved – 5 for elected officials and 6 for the general public with a 30 minute limit. (46-351)

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 5, 1959 (46-456)**

**Mayor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marshall C. Kurfees</th>
<th>6205 Votes (Elected)</th>
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<tr>
<td>William E. Morrow</td>
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**Aldermen**

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<tr>
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<td>George D. Lentz</td>
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<td>South Salem Ward</td>
<td>Archie Elledge</td>
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The new Board of Aldermen was sworn in on May 9, 1959. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)
May 18, 1959 - A contract was awarded to Forsyth Roofing Company for $7,600 for a new roof for City Hall. (46-511)

NEW HANES HOSIERY PLANT
May 18, 1959 - Hanes Hosiery Mills presented a letter to the Board regarding their plan to purchase the county farm as the site of a new plant that will employ 4,000 persons. (46-525) This plant, on Hanes Mill Rd. north of the city, would eventually be the largest facility owned by the Hanes Corporation.

CITY BUDGET 1959-1960
$14,916,946.50 - Tax rate set at $1.80-$1.47 for General Fund and $0.33 for the school operating fund.

NORTH-SOUTH EXPRESSWAY
Sept 8, 1959 - A resolution was approved regarding a municipal agreement between the city and the State Highway Commission for the first section of the North-South Expressway from Diggs Blvd. to Third St. (47-245)

Sept 21, 1959 - A resolution was approved regarding a “General Neighborhood Renewal Plan.” (47-277) This was followed by a resolution calling for federal funds and the undertaking of surveys and plans for the project.

Sept 21, 1959 - The Original Slater Industrial School Building at the corner of Stadium Dr. and Atkins St. sat in the right-of-way of the North-South Expressway. The building was donated to Winston-Salem State University to be moved to the WSSU campus. (47-203)

ANNEXATION BY ORDINANCE
An Annexation Study Committee was appointed to study areas adjacent to the corporate limits and to report on areas recommended for annexation. This report was to include descriptions and maps of the areas suggested for annexation, estimated population, estimated cost of required city services, tax valuation of property, estimated revenue and other pertinent information. It was proposed to make this annexation under the provisions of Chapter 1009 of the 1959 Session Law, referred to as Annexation by Ordinance, without a vote by the people affected.

Under the law, the areas had to meet certain requirements such as population density, land usage, percentage of boundary continuous to existing corporate boundary, and need of City Services.

On November 16, 1959, the Board adopted a resolution stating intent to annex and fixing December 18th as the date of a public hearing. (47-411) At the public hearing, about 26 people spoke against the proposed annexation. (47-559)

On December 3rd, the Board adopted ordinances authorizing the issuance of bonds to provide services to the areas to be annexed. (47-489) $8.7 million for water extensions; $4.7 million for sewer extensions; $100,000 for Fire Stations and equipment; $300,000 for fire engines and other equipment; $600,000 for street improvements and $600,000 for water storage in the Wilkesboro reservoir, for a total of $15 million.
On January 13, 1960 the Board approved an ordinance to annex five selected areas, subject to the approval of the necessary bonds.

The Bond Election was held on March 1, 1960. All propositions except the water storage were defeated. The Bond Election was, in effect, a vote for or against annexation, since it was necessary to get approval of the voters for the issuance of the bonds to provide the funds necessary to provide services in the annexed areas.

Since the people in the areas proposed for annexation could not vote on the bonds, it was the voters within the corporate limits who defeated the five propositions. Obviously there were many city voters who sympathized with the “no vote” complaint of those in the areas to be annexed. Another factor was the fear of a possible tax increase on account of the expenditures associated with the annexation. So the first attempt at Annexation by Ordinance failed. Never would bond referendum and annexation be uttered in the same breath again.

**WATER FROM KERR SCOTT RESERVOIR**
Dec 21, 1959 - A resolution was approved regarding an agreement that gives the City of Winston-Salem rights to the top eight feet of water in the new Kerr Scott Reservoir, then under construction in Wilkes County. (47-561) Cost to the city was $1 million, payable annually between 1973 and 2022 at a rate of $36,600 per year. As of 2005 this reserve has never been used.

The Memorial Coliseum, owned by the Winston-Salem Foundation opened in 1959. It was given to the city in 1969. (J.R. Snider Postcard Collection)