

City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

City of Winston-Salem: 1960-1969

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1960 - Voting Machines purchased; Fire-Police Cadet Program began; East-West Expressway completed
- 1961 - Fire-Police Training Facility opened on Link Rd; John Surratt elected Mayor; Hanes Recreation Center donated to the city; Separate Traffic Court established; contracts awarded for swimming pool at Winston Lake Park
- 1962 - City Flag adopted; Rodent control program began; Police canine unit established
- 1963 - Housing Code rewritten setting basic standards; M.C. Benton elected Mayor; Department of Public Safety established; City began using garbage trains for refuse pickup
- 1964 - Vehicles purchased for Fire-Police; Forsyth Hospital opened; Special election held to expand recreation facilities
- 1965 - Libraries now a county function; Time clocks purchased; Law to protect historic buildings enacted; City won All-America City award; \$15 million bond referendum passed
- 1966 - Construction of jail on Church St. began; some city departments moved out of City Hall; 3 municipal swimming pools opened; first urban renewal project completed;
- 1967 - Hospitals transferred to county control; Downtown utilities put underground; position of City Attorney added to payroll; 14th St. Recreation Center built; Transit Authority created; Construction began on a new Reynolds Memorial Hospital; Civil unrest in November; Traffic Engineering Department formed
- 1968 - Housing Foundation established; Convention Center opened; Model City Commission created; Zoning Ordinances revised; Overhead signs prohibited downtown; Court system no longer part of city government
- 1969 - City garage and shops division reorganized; \$30 million downtown renewal program approved; First woman department head named; Hanes Knitting complex given to city; Elledge treatment plant expanded; explosion at Armory/Police facility kills 3; Residential brush collection policy enacted; Fairgrounds property given to city

1960

BUILDING CODE REWRITTEN

Jan 4, 1960 - The Building Code, originally adopted in 1954, was updated and rewritten. (48-55)

VOTING MACHINES

Jan 20, 1960 - A resolution was adopted authorizing the city to participate with Forsyth County in the purchase of not less than 100 or more than 130 voting machines. (48-145) This had been requested by the League of Women Voters when they appeared before the Board on May 18, 1959.

The cost of the purchase and the upkeep was to be divided between the city and the county in the ratio that the total number of voters in the city bore to the combined total number of voters in Forsyth County and the city. At that time, 39% of all voters resided in the city and 61% resided in the county.

Ten more machines were purchased in September for a total of 140 machines. (49-275) The purchase eliminated the laborious and time consuming task of separating, counting and tallying paper ballots by hand, a duty preformed by the precinct officials and volunteers.

FISHING BOATS FOR SALEM LAKE

Feb 1, 1960 - A resolution was approved authorizing an appropriation of \$1,422 for the purchase of 10 14-foot fishing boats for Salem Lake (48-201)

Mar 7, 1960 - A contract was approved authorizing City Building Inspectors to serve as County Building Inspectors as well. The inspection fees were to cover the cost of the program. (48-245)

CITY BUDGET 1960-61 (49-75)

\$15,659,273.50 - Tax rate set at \$1.80.

BOND REFERENDUM

March 1, 1960 - A Bond referendum was held for \$15 million in Bonds.

Streets	\$6,000,000
Fire Equipment	\$300,000
Fire Buildings	\$100,000
Expansion of Sewage System	\$4,700,000
Expansion of Water System	\$8,700,000
Storage Capacity in Wilkes Reservoir	\$600,000

Only the Wilkes Reservoir proposition passed. (48-281)

PAY INCREASES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

June 6, 1960 - A resolution was approved regarding a new pay scale and ranges proposed by City Manager Gold. (48-553). The first step in implementing the program was to raise the starting pay of policemen to \$315 per month and firemen to \$288 per month. (48-554) A complete listing of the new pay classifications and their rate is on (49-82). On October 3rd, an ordinance was approved adding the position of "Public Safety" to the budget at a starting pay rate \$35 per month higher than regular police officers. (49-322)

SALEM LAKE FISHING PIER

June 6, 1960 - A resolution was approved authorizing the advancement of \$15,000 for the construction of a fishing pier at Salem Lake. (48-555) The lowest bid was \$16,760, which was approved on October 3rd. (49-299)

FIRE-POLICE CADET PROGRAM

Aug 1, 1960 - In an effort to recruit for the fire and police departments, a program for young men 18-21 was approved. (49-95) In the Police Department, the cadets would assist in the Records Division; work in Communications; assist the jailer; assist the Traffic Division with clerical duties and other duties. In the Fire Department, cadets would assist in the Fire Prevention Bureau; assist the Fire Alarm Supervisor and the Fire Equipment Mechanic and work in Communications. They would also receive classroom and in-service training. Starting pay was \$240 per month. Several men who started as cadets continued with the Department until retirement. The program was phased out in the early 70s and revised with very similar guidelines in 2000.

WATER BONDS APPROVED

Aug 1, 1960 - An ordinance was adopted authorizing the issuance of \$6 million in bonds to finance the extension, enlargement and improvement of the city's water supply system. (49-132) The improvements included a new water treatment plant near Clemmons, a booster pumping station, a 2 million gallon water storage tank and the necessary transmission water mains. The election was set for September 27. The vote of 4,012 For and only 836 Against overwhelmingly approved the projects, coming only months after the rejection of bond proposals in the spring. (49-378)

On October 16, 1961, the water treatment plant was named for Public Works Director Robert W. Neilson (51-336)

Oct 3, 1960 - A resolution of congratulations was approved for the "lovely and talented" Miss Ann Farrington Herring, for her third place showing at the Miss America Pageant. (49-279)

URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

Oct 3, 1960 - The Board adopted a resolution requesting reservation of Capital Grant Funds, and approving the undertaking of surveys and plans for an urban renewal project and filing of an application. (49-287) The resolution approving the plan and defining the limits of what came to be known as Urban Renewal Project No.1 are defined at the April 4, 1961 meeting. (50-206) Much of this project was the property on either side of the first phase of the North-South expressway corridor.



Preliminary grading is complete on this section of the expressway. Stratford Road is at the left as it passes by the new Thruway Shopping Center. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

Nov 18, 1960 - The first controlled access expressway through the city was completed. The section from Main St. to Cloverdale Ave. was completed in 1958. A second section, to the western city limit at Knollwood St., was completed in 1960.

Dec 5, 1960 - A report was presented regarding the use of improved recording devices for the Board meetings. A test had been done on October 3, 1960 and from that the City Manager was not willing to make a recommendation. The problems of too many people talking at once, rustling of papers or being turned away from the microphone were listed as problems, much the same as they are today. (49-465)



Inside City Hall, Main Floor, North Wing about 1960. (City of W-S Photo)

1961

Jan 16, 1961 - The “Women for Survival” appeared before the Board to suggest two community fallout shelters be built: one on Stadium Drive near Bowman Gray Stadium and the other next to Memorial Coliseum. This was approved by the Board. (50-27)

PLANS FOR SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

March 6, 1961 - The Joint Committee for Consolidation for the Winston-Salem City Board of Education and the Forsyth County Board of Education presented a proposed draft saying the Board of Aldermen and County Commissioners should “...endorse and support the plan as proposed permissive legislation for the possible consolidation.” This occurred in July of 1963 with former City Superintendent Marvin Ward as superintendent of the combined system. The idea had been batted around for several years. The first consideration came in the form of a citizen request in 1957. (50-128)

LONGEVITY PAY PLAN

March 20, 1961 - Aldermen adopt an annual longevity pay plan for city employees based upon length of continuous service. (50-201) The plan called for paying:

- 2.5% of basic annual salary after 5 years of service
- 4.5% of basic annual salary after 10 years of service
- 6% of basic annual salary after 15 years of service
- 7.5% of basic annual salary after 20 years of service

This program was phased out beginning in 1999, with those who were already receiving the bonus to continue, while those who had not been eligible would not. In 2003, the rate of those receiving it at that time was frozen at its current level.

FIRE-POLICE TRAINING FACILITY

April 17, 1961 - A resolution was approved delivering a deed to the state for a tract of land on Link Rd. for a National Guard Armory and for fire and police training purposes. (50-261)

On Nov 6, 1961, the Public Safety Committee requested that 4.31 acres of land off Silas Creek Parkway at the Incinerator be set aside to construct a fire training tower. The old abattoir building was to be used as a training building. (51-403)

On Nov 2, 1964, bids were awarded for construction of a Fire Training Tower. (57-485)



Police training at the new Academy on Link Road in May of 1963. (WS Journal photo from Police Scrapbook)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 2, 1961 (50-328)

Mayor

John Surratt (d)	8,961 votes (Elected)
David W. Darr (r)	8,339 votes

Aldermen

West First Ward	Floyd S. Burge, Jr.
East First Ward	James J. Booker
West Second Ward	Thomas L. Ogburn
East Second Ward	Rossie S. Shore
North Third Ward	Carroll E. Poplin
South Third Ward	Carl H. Russell
North Salem Ward	Carl N. Chitty
South Salem Ward	Archie Elledge

John Surratt was an Assistant Judge of the Municipal Court. The election was the first time three Republicans – Burge, Booker and Shore – were chosen for the Board in the same election.

Mayor Kurfees chose not to be a candidate for re-election. Having served 12 years, he was the longest serving Mayor for the City of Winston-Salem. Oscar Eaton had served 11 years as the Mayor of Winston and then 4 years as the first Mayor of the combined towns for a total of 15 years.

City employees presented the outgoing Mayor Kurfees with a new Buick.

The last meeting of the outgoing Board contains some rather poignant statements, especially those of East First Ward Alderman Luther Hodges who was the only Aldermen who chose to run for re-election and was defeated by 33 votes. (50-335)

OPENING MEETINGS WITH PRAYER

For many years, one of the Aldermen was asked to open the meeting with a prayer. During a term, it was usually the same Alderman. Obviously a “good pray-er” was hard to find. Beginning with the administration of Mayor Surratt, various ministers were called upon to open the meetings. They came from a wide variety of local Protestant, Jewish and Catholic congregations both White and African-American.

June 5, 1961 - A resolution was passed approving a 50 year lease for \$1.00 on the Armory property on Stadium Dr. for use by the U.S. Army Reserve Corps. (50-402)

CITY BUDGET 1961-62 (51-76)

\$16,634,86.50 - Tax rate set at \$1.80 with a \$1.00 poll tax.

Aug 21, 1961- Mayor’s Office received \$4,700 for “renovation and refurnishing.” (51-173)

HANES HOSIERY RECREATION CENTER

Oct 2, 1961 - The Board accepted the donation from Hanes Hosiery Mills of 7.84 acres at the intersection of Akron Dr. and Indiana Ave. for use as a recreation facility. (51-311) The facility was in need of repair and repainting and on October 16, \$6,070 was appropriated for this. (51-324)

The original Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center was demolished in 2003 and a new recreation center built on the site opened in 2004.

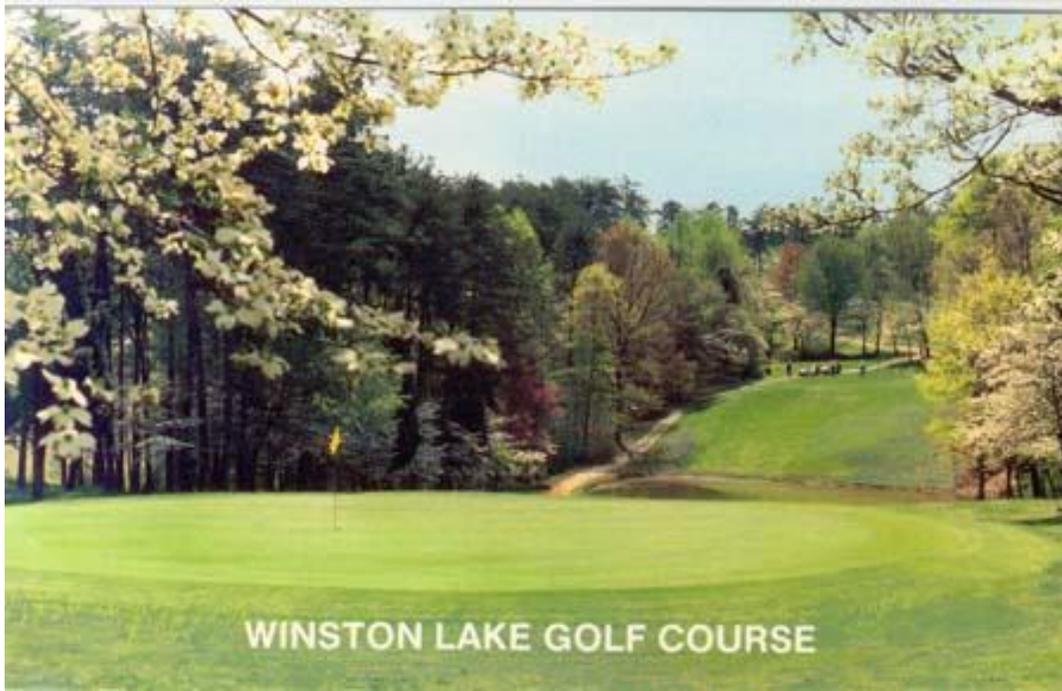


An aerial view of Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center about the time it was given to the city. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

TRAFFIC COURT

Oct 16, 1961 - The Mayor's Combined Committee on Traffic Court presented to the Board a report approving the establishment of a Traffic Court. The Committee suggested that an architect be employed to make preliminary surveys "which would include an estimate of cost, floor plans and the amount of space that would be provided by filling in the back court of City Hall from the second floor up." The Committee also suggested that the architect take a look at the property south of City Hall. (51-323) On November 6th, the Board approved the lease of Christian and Missionary Alliance Church building at the southwest corner of Church St. and Main St. for use as the Traffic Court. The rent was \$150.00 per month. (51-371) \$2,500 was approved for renovations. On November 20th, a report was read into the Aldermen's minutes detailing how the Traffic Court would operate and its staffing requirements. (51-453) It was hoped that the Court could begin operation by January 2, 1962.

Nov 6, 1961 - Agreement authorized with golf course architect Ellis Maples for designing an additional 9 holes at Winston Lake Golf Course. (51-378)



A postcard shows the rolling terrain and beautiful dogwoods of Winston Lake (J.R. Snider Postcard Collection)

Nov 6, 1961 - An ordinance directing the Superintendent of Inspections to declare a dwelling “unfit for human habitation” and directing its demolition was enacted. (51-396) It was immediately used to declare three houses in the Urban Renewal area unfit.

Nov 6, 1961 - Engineering work was approved to extend the North-South expressway from Diggs Blvd. south to the city limits. (51-404)

Nov 20, 1961 - Contracts were awarded for the construction of concrete tennis courts at Granville Park, Skyland Park and Forest Park. (51-477) The total bid was \$23,198.

Dec 18, 1961 - A contract was awarded for a “swimming pool and amusement area” at Winston Lake Park. (51-591)

1962

Jan 2, 1962 - A contract was awarded for eleven 2-door Ford Police cars at \$2,108.36 each. (52-14)



The Board often used the Municipal Courtroom in City Hall when meetings brought a crowd as this one did in 1962. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

March 19, 1962 - An official flag for the city was adopted. (52-171) The resolution described in detail how the official flag should look.

CITY BUDGET 1962-1963 (53-64)

\$17,623, 213.00 - Tax rate set at \$1.73.



The new Forsyth Memorial Hospital is still under construction in 1962. Silas Creek Parkway is at lower right. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

RODENT CONTROL PROGRAM

Aug 20, 1962 - A \$9,600 contract was awarded to Wilson Exterminating Company for a one year Rodent Control Program. The program involved the carefully supervised placing of poison bait in the sanitary sewer manholes to destroy rats and was considered very successful.

POLICE CANINE UNIT

Aug 20, 1962 - A resolution was approved establishing a Canine Unit in the Police Department. (53-192) \$10,000 was appropriated as the costs of buying, housing and feeding the two dogs and training the handlers.

Oct 15, 1962 - A resolution was approved stating that candidates for boards and commissions be submitted to the Board members at least 36 hours before they are to be voted upon. Their qualifications for serving on the proposed Board or Commission were to be included. (53-348)



(WSPD scrapbook photo)

1963

MAYOR ADVOCATES PAVING DIRT STREETS (54-31)

Jan 21, 1963 - Mayor Surratt recommended a program for paving all currently unpaved streets in the city. The Mayor stated there were approximately 50 miles of unpaved streets in the present city limits. The cost of paving them all would be \$4,250,000 and one-third of that or \$1,425,000 would be city cost, the balance being assessable against the property owners. (55-206)

The Public Works Department prepared a list of over 400 streets and parts of streets which were unpaved. Priorities were given to the list indicating the order in which the paving would be accomplished. It was estimated that it would take about ten years to complete the program.

Jan 21, 1963 - A color photo printing lab was approved for the Police Department at a cost of \$4,230. It was installed on the second floor north wing of City Hall. (54-43)

SCHOOL PROPERTIES TO COUNTY

Feb 4, 1963 - A resolution was adopted designating and defining City School properties to be conveyed to the Winston-Salem-Forsyth County Board of Education upon consolidation of the two school systems. (54-67)

Feb 4, 1963 - A motion was approved allowing use of part of Smith Reynolds Airport property as a sanitary landfill. (54-73)

Feb 4, 1963 - Prices set for burial sites at Woodland and New Evergreen cemeteries; Woodland: \$15 - \$60 per site. (54-72)

March 4, 1963 - Aldermen approved "Central Winston-Salem Plan" regarding rezoning, traffic and street changes. (54-145)

March 18 1963 - A rewritten Plumbing Code for the city was approved. (54-224)

April 1, 1963 - The Housing Code was rewritten and approved setting basic standards for houses considered fit for human habitation. (54-273)

CARL CHITTY PUMPING STATION

Carl N. Chitty, who had served as Alderman from the North Salem Ward for many years, died suddenly on April 5, 1963. On April 16th, the Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution naming the Atwood Pumping Station on Atwood Rd. at S. Stratford Rd. *The Carl N. Chitty Station of the Winston-Salem Water System.* (55-323)

May 6, 1963 - Ralph L. Dixon, whose titles included Director of Public Accounts and Finance and City Secretary since Feb 14, 1936, retired on May 1, 1963. (55-364)

May 6, 1963 - A contract was awarded for a 75 ft. snorkel truck for the Fire Department. Total cost: \$54,036 (55-370).



A marker showing the dividing line between Winston and Salem was placed on First Street in May of 1963. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

PRIMARY ELECTION

In the Democratic Primary held on Tuesday April 23rd, M.C. Benton, Jr. was the unopposed nominee for Mayor. Incumbent Alderman James J. Booker was the unopposed nominee in the Republican Primary.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 7, 1963

Mayor M.C. Benton, Jr.

Aldermen

West First Ward	Floyd S. Burge, Jr. (R)
East First Ward	George W. Chandler (D)
West Second Ward	Doug Elam (D)
East Second Ward	Franklin R. Shirley (D)
North Third Ward	Carroll E. Poplin (D)
South Third Ward	Carl H. Russell (D)
North Salem Ward	W.N. Shultz (D)
South Salem Ward	Archie Elledge (D)

The new board met for the first time on May 10th. (55-408)

June 3, 1963 - City Manager salary set at \$20,000. (55-523) Aldermen approved increase in their pay from \$1,200 annually to \$1,800. (55-524)



The intersection of Third St. and Patterson Ave. shows a thriving business district for the African-American community with theaters, restaurants, grocers and shoe shop. This block would be cleared less than 10 years later as part of urban renewal. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

June 1, 1963 - A Department of Public Safety was established under a Director of Public Safety. (55-541) An ordinance regarding his powers was enacted on July 1st. (55-22) It stated that the Director would “coordinate the activities of the Police and Fire Departments, recommend and promote economies in the operation of said departments...and shall promote and direct safety programs within the city.” His duties were later enlarged to include workmen’s compensation claims and litigations for damages against the city totaling less than \$500. (55-371)



Public Safety Director Jim Waller left and Police Chief Justus Tucker
(WS Police Scrapbook photo from W-S Journal article)

James Waller was elevated to the position of Director of Public Safety. Captain Justus Tucker replaced him as Police Chief. Waller was suffering from cancer and the move was attributed as much to his health as to anything. Tucker had limited street experience but his administrative ability more than made up for it. Under Tucker, the department would see a push toward better training, better equipped and better educated police officers than ever before. He would carry the department through the turbulent racial unrest years of the 60s and early 70s.

CITY BUDGET 1963-1964 (55-71)

\$16,191,456.00 - The tax rate set at \$1.37.

The reduced tax rate from \$1.75 to \$1.37 was due to the transfer of the \$0.38 School Tax to the Forsyth County tax rate, paid by both city and county taxpayers.

City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1960-1969

July 15, 1963 - The city offered for sale one Wurlitzer Duplex Tracker Merry-Go-Round Organ that it had declared surplus. (55-49) This had been part of the amusement rides at Reynolds Park.

Aug 5, 1963 - A contract was awarded for seven trucks to be used with garbage trailer trains, 15 trailer trains and several packer bodies and trucks. (55-88) When the train containers were filled by the collectors, the trailer unit was picked up by a Packmaster truck, its contents emptied into the load packer, and the trailer train continued with the collection in its assigned territory.



An Aldermen's meeting in 1963. This Aldermen's Chamber in City Hall is now the Council Committee Room. (Photo courtesy of Lewis Cutwright)

ANNEXATION

Immediately after the election, Mayor Benton began to promote another annexation program. The plan included much of the same areas which had been in the 1959 plan that failed in the bond election of 1960. This would be the first annexation not associated with an election after the failure in 1960. (55-276)

The Board of Aldermen accepted the annexation plan from the General Committee and on September 16 fixed the date of October 21, 1963 for a public hearing in the Municipal Courtroom at City Hall. (55-309)

A bond referendum was set for November 5th. (55-377) The proposed issuance of bonds, subject to voter approval were for: \$5,690,000 in Sewer Bonds; \$3,580,000 in Water Bonds; \$770,000 in Street/Drainage projects; \$160,000 for a new fire station and \$300,000 in capital equipment.

The Special Bond Election was held on November 5, 1963. All passed by 3-1 margins.

On November 18, 1963 the Board of Aldermen adopted an ordinance extending the corporate lines by about 13.728 square miles effective June 1, 1964. (55-399)

1964

Feb 3, 1964 - Two passenger cars and one station wagon, red with white tops, were purchased for use by Fire-Police for \$2,51.02 each. (56-111)



When Forsyth Memorial Hospital opened in April 1964, an open house was held to view the new facility. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

CITY BUDGET 1964-65 (57-72)

\$16,108, 496.00 - The tax rate set at \$1.37.

Aug 3, 1964 - Funds were appropriated to pave Kirklees Rd. from Chester Rd. to Silas Creek Parkway. (57-157)

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR RECREATION FUNDS (57-174)

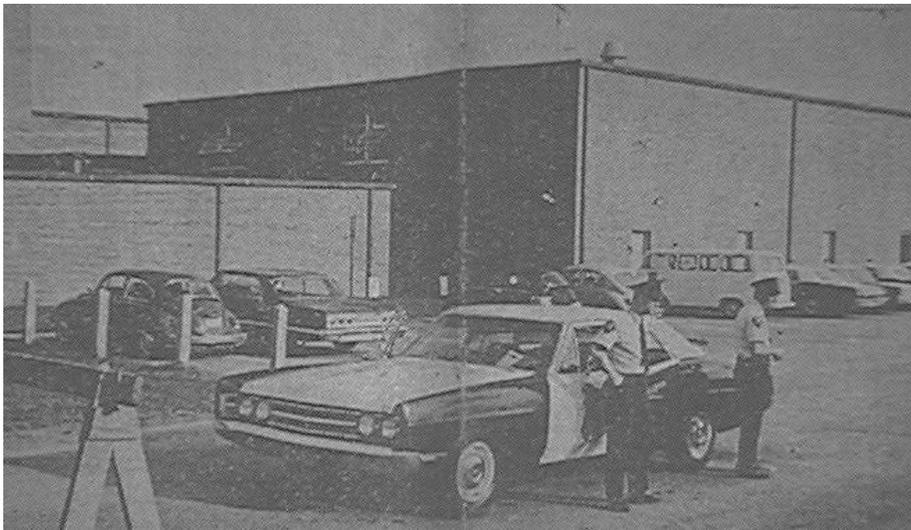
The Board of Aldermen adopted an ordinance calling for a special election for the purpose of voting on (1) the expenditure of funds appropriated for recreation for the current fiscal year and the future levy of an annual tax of not less than \$0.03 and not more than \$0.10 and (2) the expenditure, from tax and non-tax funds on hand up to \$1 million for the purpose of acquiring land form parks, construction and equipping facilities, including family and group picnic shelters, playgrounds, swimming pools and otherwise improving the recreation facilities of the city.

The special election to vote on the two propositions was held on September 22nd. Both passed by more than 2-1 margins. (57-426)

Oct 5, 1964 - A contract with renowned golf course designer Ellis Maples to redesign the front 9 holes at Reynolds Park Golf Course was approved. (57-386)

Oct 20, 1964 - The property was acquired west of Bolton St. for a public park and playground. (57-461)

Oct 20, 1964 - Bids were approved for \$69,094, directing payment to the NC Armory Commission for an addition to the Police Academy. (57-464)



Police officers outside the Academy and Training Facility on Link Rd. (W-S Journal Photo from WSPD scrapbook)

Dec 21, 1964 - A resolution was approved paving London Ln. in the British Woods subdivision. (57-643)

NEILSON RETIRED, BERRIER PROMOTED

On December 21, 1964, Director of Public Works R. W. Neilson retired. He was replaced by Joe H. Berrier, Assistant Director of Public Works and former Superintendent of Streets.



The Neilson Water Treatment Plant, named for former Public Works Director and City Historian Robert Neilson opened in 1964. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

1965

PUBLIC LIBRARIES NOW A COUNTY FUNCTION

On January 4, 1965, the Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution endorsing a county-wide tax referendum for support of public libraries. The resolution stated that if the referendum should carry, the city's public library facilities and properties would be transferred to the county. (58-31) Libraries were turned over to the county on July 1st. (58-504)

Police cars were purchased from J.C. Parker Dodge low bidder - Twelve 1965 Dodges at \$1,941.21 each. (58-28)

CITY WARDS CHANGED

Jan 18, 1965 - The Board adopted a resolution requesting that the Forsyth County delegation in the General Assembly consider, approve, support and work for a bill entitled “A Bill to be Entitled An Act to Amend the Charter of the City of Winston by Defining the Corporate Limits of the City to Include Areas Annexed Prior to January 1, 1965, and Redesignating and Fixing the Boundary Lines of the Eight Wards of the City.” (58-76) Under this Act, the boundary lines of the eight wards were defined and fixed, with the wards being designated as North Ward, Northeast Ward, East Ward, Southeast Ward, South Ward, Southwest Ward, West Ward, and Northwest Ward.

On February 1, 1965, the Board of Aldermen, upon recommendation of the General Committee, requested the Forsyth delegation to introduce a bill entitled “An Act Amending the Charter of the City of Winston-Salem and Other Applicable Laws, As They Relate to Elections in the City of Winston-Salem.” (58-172)

The bill provided for biennial election of the Mayor and Aldermen on the first Tuesday in May. It was the first major change in the names of the wards and the election procedures since consolidation. Although eight wards instead of four were created, there was no increase in the total number of Aldermen elected.

Feb 1, 1965 - Seven time clocks were purchased for \$3,500. They were to be installed at Water and Sewer Headquarters, Buildings and Grounds Headquarters, Sanitation Headquarters, Streets Headquarters, Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Recreation Warehouse and Traffic Maintenance. (58-86)

March 8, 1965 - A special meeting was held in the courtroom and broadcast live on WSJS radio. This was a public hearing on the “Church Street Urban Renewal Area.” (58-221) This area was on Church St. between Third St. and Fourth St.

LAW TO PROTECT HISTORIC BUILDINGS

April 21, 1965 - The Board adopted a resolution approving continuation of Old Salem and Bethabara Historic Area Zoning and upon recommendation of Old Salem, Inc. approved a bill to be forwarded to the General Assembly authorizing municipalities to designate and protect historic buildings and districts. (58-311)

Miss Winston-Salem, Jane Carter, presented to the Board and the Mayor read a resolution commending her for “representing the city with beauty, grace, and charm – and with queenly dignity....” (58-366)

ALL-AMERICA CITY 1965 (58-381)

The city won its second “All-America City” designation in six years on the basis of a two-day \$1 million telephone campaign to finance the North Carolina School of the Arts; the campaign to raise \$250,000 to help finance the Governor’s School; establishment of the North Carolina Advancement School; consolidating the City-County schools; raising \$1.75 million for the Salem College Fine Arts Center; pledging \$7 million for the Baptist Hospital, Bowman Gray School of Medicine Medical Center; raising \$240,000 for a new Goodwill Industrial Rehabilitation Center dormitory; founding the Nature Science Center at Reynolda; establishing the city’s Youth Work Corps; planning and executing the city’s annexation program and “advancement in racial relations.”

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 4, 1965 (58-409)

Mayor M.C. Benton, Jr.

Aldermen

North Ward	Rabron L. Wiggins
Northeast Ward	Carl H. Russell
East Ward	C.C. Ross
Southeast Ward	Donald F. Holcomb
South Ward	Archie Elledge
Southwest Ward	Floyd S. Burge, Jr.
West Ward	George W. Chandler
Northwest Ward	Franklin R. Shirley

Bids were approved for the purchase of 2 dump trucks with 4-5 cubic yard capacity from International Harvester for \$3,845.00 each. (58-445)

June 7, 1965 - A resolution was approved directing acquisition of property on Stratford Rd. between Knollwood St. and Silas Creek Parkway for the widening of the street. (58-540)

CITY BUDGET 1965-66 (59-62)

\$14,117,717.00 - Tax rate decreased to \$1.35.

The total assessed valuation of property in Winston-Salem was \$475 million.

CITY-COUNTY FIRE TRAINING SITE

July 6, 1965 - The Board voted for approval of a joint city-county fire training site on land owned by Vulcan Materials off Clemmons Rd. This was used for oil and tanker fire training that could not be conducted within the city limits. (59-23)

BENTON’S “BONDS FOR PROGRESS”

The Board of Aldermen adopted an ordinance authorizing a \$15 million referendum to be held on March 1, 1966. The bonds were for: \$4.3 million in highway and street improvements, \$1.5 million for parks and recreation improvements, \$1.7 million for slum clearance and redevelopment, \$3.5 million for the construction of a convention center and \$4 million for the construction of a new hospital. All the bonds passed.

Aug 16, 1965 - The city and county agreed to buy the old Wachovia Building on the south side of Third St. at Main St. jointly for \$70,000 payable over 10 years at 4% interest. (59-287) It would be renamed the “Government Center” and be home to departments that had outgrown available space in City Hall and the Courthouse.

By the end of 1965, redevelopment was well underway in several areas of Winston-Salem. A rezoning case at Fourth St. and Woodland on the edge of one redevelopment area states that not everyone was pleased with the changes (59-595):

“Mr. Hampton Haith, a Planning Board member stated that people in East Winston were demoralized because of the confusion created by the redevelopment there. He further stated that here as been a lot of destruction and little redevelopment. It was his opinion that Negro businesses forced to relocated by urban renewal were having problems deciding where to go because they didn’t know what the area would be like later.”

1966

Aldermen paid \$50,000 to the county to help in construction of a new jail located on Church St. behind City Hall. (60-112) All jail operations became the county responsibility on July 1, 1966.



This is the only known picture of the jail on the third floor of the north wing of City Hall. The picture was taken looking toward the front of the building. The woman is Kate Wuriskie who served as the Chief's Secretary and Police Personnel Department until the early 1950's. The two men are police detectives. When the jail moved, this floor became police administration. (City of Winston-Salem Collection)

DEPARTMENTS OUTGROW CITY HALL

March 7, 1966 - The city's Planning Director and Industrial Engineer presented a proposal to use space in the Government Center purchased the previous April for the Water Billing and Revenue Departments. The Fourth Floor would be used by the city's Inspections and Recreation departments. Since the city and county jointly owned the property, space was rented at the rate of \$2.00 per square ft. per year. (60-282)

April 4, 1966 - Alderman approved revamping of city employee salary structure and set the City Manager's salary at \$1,837 per month. (60-406) The Personnel Committee came back in September and said that some of the adjustments were insufficient. They recommended that all employees receive a 5% raise immediately, that professional nurses receive 15% and police receive 10%. The proposal was unanimously approved.

June 20, 1966 - The Redevelopment Commission requested permission to close 30 streets and alleys. (61-257)

CITY BUDGET 1966-1967 (61-330)

\$11,126,581.00 - Tax rate set at \$1.35 on \$100 valuation.

THREE MUNICIPAL POOLS OPEN

Bolton, Mineral Springs, and Kimberly Park Pools were built with money from the 1964 bond referendum. At the time of completion, the Bolton recreation area was outside the city. A proposal to annex the area was presented in August.

June 20, 1966 - With the move of some departments to the Government Center and the construction of a new county jail, a proposal was presented to renovate the ground and third floors of City Hall at a cost of \$25,170. The renovated space would be used by Police in the north wing, the Planning Board and Public Works in the south wing. (62-279)

Alderman Archie Elledge died August 29. Alton F. Pfaff was appointed to fill the unexpired term. Carl Russell was named the first black Mayor Pro Tempore.

ALDERMANIC COMMITTEES

Oct 3, 1966 - The Board approved Mayor Benton's proposal to revise the committee system. The number of committees was reduced to four with four members on each committee. They were Finance, Public Works, Public Safety, and General. (62-218) Benton said the purpose of the change was to eliminate committees whose functions are now performed by other bodies and to bring about a more equitable distribution of committee assignments.

URBAN RENEWAL

The redevelopment commission announced the completion of the city's first redeployment project on November 7, 1966. (62-351) The project eliminated 719 slum dwellings and relocated 460 families. The right-of-way for the north-south expressway from Third St. to Liberty St. was acquired. Sites were also acquired for the Forsyth County Health and Welfare Building and the new Kennedy Junior High School. The project came in \$24,100.07 less than anticipated. The total cost had been just over \$2,500,000 in federal funds and a 1/3 match by the city of \$1,384,819.00.

Nov 7, 1966 - The city awarded a contract for 20 new Ford Police Cars at \$1,977.58 each. (62-427)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOV 6, 1966

Mayor M.C. Benton, Jr.

Aldermen

North Ward	Carroll O. Poplin
Northeast Ward	Carl H. Russell
East Ward	C.C. Ross
Southeast Ward	Russell T. Brown
Southwest Ward	Floyd S. Burge, Jr.
West Ward	George W. Chandler
Northwest Ward	Franklin R. Shirley

With this election, Aldermen and Mayor's terms are four years.

Dec 19, 1966 - Bids were awarded to Otis Elevator for the modernization of the two elevators in City Hall. The \$20,964 allowed for automatic operation. (62-532) Prior to this, the elevators were operated by either a trustee for the one on the north side that went to the jail or by an elevator operator for the one on the south side.

1967

The Fire Department received a new snorkel unit at a cost of \$64,176. (63-71)

HOSPITALS NOW THE COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Jan 16, 1967 - It was noted that old city hospital had been closed with the opening of the Forsyth Memorial Hospital. (63-132) The city now wished to convey the Kate Biting Reynolds Memorial Hospital to the county. This move was contingent on the city building a new Reynolds Memorial Hospital, a 250 bed unit which would then be given to the county.

A complete report by the hospital committee of the County Commissioners, containing a review of the events from the hospital bond referendum on March 14, 1959 to 1967 was received by the Board at the March 6th meeting. (63-349) This is followed by lengthy debate about the hospital question including the proposal of one county-wide hospital as opposed to one on the west side and one on the east side. The issue is discussed further at the March 20th meeting. (63-445)

On July 17, 1967, contracts were awarded for the construction of the Reynolds Memorial Hospital - Total cost \$5,232,026.

ALL DOWNTOWN UTILITES UNDERGROUND

Feb 6, 1967 - Agreement with Duke Power was approved for the installation of an underground conduit system in downtown. (63-164)

March 6, 1967 - Swimming pools were completed at Bolton St., Sprague St, Mineral Springs and Kimberly Park. (63-315)

April 3, 1967 - In an effort to streamline the purchasing process, a resolution was approved allowing the Purchasing Department to buy items up to \$3,000 in cost without formal bids. (63-495)

CONSOLIDATION OF GOVERNMENTS

At the April 3rd meeting, a resolution was passed recommending the establishment of a committee to study consolidation of city-county governments in Forsyth County. The committee would include representatives from Winston-Salem, Forsyth County and Kernersville governments. (63-524)

April 17, 1967 - Funding was approved for the air conditioning of seven fire stations. (63-583)

April 17, 1967 - Construction of the North-South Expressway ran through the edge of the old Happy Hill Cemetery. Thirty graves were disinterred and removed to New Evergreen Cemetery. (63-586) Part of the cemetery remains today just to the west of US 52.

April 17, 1967 - Bids were let for three new recreation centers at Miller Park, Sprague Park and 14th Street.

DUAL LANES FOR SILAS CREEK PARKWAY

May 1, 1967 - A resolution was passed urging the State Highway Commission to expedite dual lanes for Silas Creek Parkway from Bolton to Peters Creek Parkway. The resolution stated, "The present vehicular traffic on Silas Creek Parkway is extremely heavy and is becoming more congested and more hazardous all the time. This construction project is essential to alleviate this very bad situation which is constantly growing worse." (64-13)

CITY ATTORNEY POSITION CREATED

May 1, 1967 - The position of City Attorney was created. (64-34) Although there had been an individual called a "City Attorney" before. This was the first time he was a salaried city employee. Prior to this, local law firms had served as City Attorney under an annual contract. Annual salary was \$6,000. Carmon J. Stuart, a retired FBI agent, was then named City Attorney. Stuart had been Chief Solicitor under the old Municipal Courts system since January 1, 1965. Stuart retired in December 1970. He died in 2004.

14TH ST RECREATION CENTER

May 1, 1967 - HUD funds in the amount of \$213,324 were approved for the construction of the 14th Street Recreation Center. (64-41)

REYNOLDS PARK NO LONGER AN AMUSEMENT PARK

In August 1966, Alderman declared as surplus:

- Big Eli Ferris Wheel #5
- Allan Herschell "Sky Fighter"
- Kiddie Ride
- Ticket Booth
- Allan Herschell Roller Coaster - 52'x102' - 3 car
- Herschell-Spillman Merry-Go-Round
- "Rifle Sport" Shooting Gallery
- "Batter Up" baseball Batting Range

Bids were rejected in October; the matter was referred to the Recreation Committee. (62-248)

On May 1, 1967 the Board voted to sell the items at public auction. (64-46)

On June 5, bids were received on the merry-go-round cover and parts for a total of \$150. There were no bids on the other items. (64-185) The items had all been purchased second hand in 1949 so their value by this time was probably equal to the bids. The rest of the items were evidently junked.

PROPERTY PURCHASED FOR CONVENTION CENTER

May 15, 1967 - The Aldermen approved the purchase of two lots for \$70,000 and one lot for \$46,400 as the site for the proposed Convention Center on Fifth St. (64-126)

July 5, 1967 - Another lot was purchased for \$91,300. (64-320)

Aug 21, 1967 - The last piece of the proposed property was put together with the purchase of a lot for \$135,000. (64-504)

May 15, 1967 - The film *To Build A City* was shown at the Board Meeting. (64-129) The film, produced by R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company for the city and the Chamber of Commerce, is currently in the archives of the city's TV-13. It has been converted to a digital format.

CITY AND COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENTS TO WORK TOGETHER

June 5, 1967 - A resolution was adopted calling for the City and County Purchasing Departments to work together in making joint purchases. (64-176) This was the first step in the eventual merging of the two departments.

WINSTON-SALEM TRANSIT AUTHORITY CREATED

July 5, 1967 - Winston-Salem Transit Authority was created to oversee the operation of Safe Bus Company and City Transit Bus Company. (64-304)

On March 11, 1968, a special meeting was called to enact an ordinance creating the Winston-Salem Transit Authority. (66-281)

REYNOLDS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

July 17, 1967 - Contracts totaling \$5,232,026 were awarded for the construction of the new Reynolds Memorial Hospital. (64-338)

CITY BUDGET 1967-68

\$12,258,794 - Tax rate to remain at \$1.35. (64-341)

City Manager salary set at \$2,025 per month, Fire Chief \$1,320 per month, Police Chief \$1,375 per month, Planning Director \$1,550 per month, and Personnel Director \$1,165. All effective January 1, 1968.

Aug 7, 1967 - Bids were received to demolish the old service station building at the southeast corner of 1st St. and Main St. The low bid of \$3,000 was approved. (64-405) The area was to be used as a surface parking lot for city employees. By 2004, City Hall South would occupy the space.

APPOINTMENT OF RELATIVES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Nepotism had always been a part of City Government. Police Chief J.A. Thomas was the Mayor's son-in-law when he was first appointed to the police department. In Sept 1967, an ordinance was enacted stating that "no person shall be appointed or elected by the Board of Aldermen or the city manager to any office or position in any department of the City who shall be related by blood within the fourth degree or marriage within the third degree to the mayor, a member of the board of aldermen or the city manager." (65-158)

Sept 18, 1967 - An ordinance was enacted defining state of emergency and imposing a curfew. It's ironic that the Mayor would be forced to use it less than 3 months later. (65-160)

Oct 2, 1967 - Gordon Hanes gave a building to the city for recreational use in exchange for \$1.00. Hanes called it “the poorest real estate transaction P.H. Hanes (company) ever made.” (65-167) The area is the one block of park in Hanestown off S. Stratford Rd.

Oct 2, 1967 - Space was leased on top of the Wachovia Building for up to three police transmitters for \$50 each per year, or a maximum of \$150.

CIVIL UNREST

Nov 3, 1967 - The Mayor called a special meeting to deal with the first night of civil disturbances and to map a plan to quell future disturbances. (65-314) The unrest came after the death of a black man while in police custody. The unrest began the night after his funeral.

The National Guard was called in. Sixty people were arrested the first night. The fire department answered over 100 fire calls. Eight policemen received minor injuries from rocks and bottles. The city was under curfew November 3-5. This curfew caused events after the Wake football game to be cancelled.

Mayor Benton stated “....the closing of the ABC stores, and the ban on the sale of beer and wine had the effect, at least in my church, of increasing the attendance of about 25% Sunday. We had more people in Sunday school class and church services, both services, than we have had in quite some time. So we might want to consider making that a weekend practice.” (65-469) Alderman said only one fourth of one percent of citizens were involved in the disturbance.

Stores were burned and looted, to the tune of \$1,700,000. A total of 192 people were arrested and 47 people were injured.



Before “Cherry-Pickers”, a pickup bed mounted scaffold was used to change burned out traffic lights at 4th and Marshall in 1938. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A separate Traffic Engineering Department was formed with responsibilities formerly held by Streets and the Police Department including signal maintenance, pavement marking, signs, buses, thoroughfare planning, parking decks, and taxis. It became the Department of Transportation in 1991.

On October 6, 1969, the position of Traffic Engineer was added to the budget at a top pay of \$1445 per month. (71-229)

Nov 20, 1967 - Alderman approved the purchase of Bethabara Park land for \$124,300. (65-479)

FIRE CHIEF PAUL CRIMM

Fire Chief L.C. Williams retired. He joined the fire department in 1925 and had been Chief since 1962. (66-41) Williams was replaced by Paul Crimm.

V.C. Whicker, Chief Water Plant Operator retired with 46 years of service, the longest service record of any Winston-Salem city employee at that time. (66-42)

CABLE TELEVISION

Nov 6, 1967 - Alderman passed a resolution providing for the granting of franchises for the operation and maintenance of a cable television system. (65-457) Triangle Broadcasting was granted a franchise on January 2, 1968. (66-14)

On January 15, the city and Aldermen were served with a restraining order from Cablevision of Winston-Salem regarding the recent awarding of cable contract (66-41) The contract was finally passed on February 3, 1968 with two cable companies receiving approval – Triangle Broadcasting and Crescent Cablevision. (69-134)

A progress report from Triangle Broadcasting on September 1969 (71-97) says that construction of the system would begin within the next sixty days. Sections of Ardmore, Southside, East Winston and Weston would be the first completed. The suit by Cablevision was settled in the city's favor and Cablevision was forced to pay the city \$5,000 to cover legal fees. (71-326) Crescent Cablevision did not accept the franchise proposal from the city.

1968

March 18, 1968 - A proposal authorizing the establishment of a Housing Foundation was approved. (66-331)

M.C. BENTON CONVENTION CENTER

April 1, 1968 - An ordinance was approved authorizing the creation of an Auditorium-Convention Center Commission. (66-406) The groundbreaking of the new facility was held April 29. (66-485) It opened on February 3, 1969. It was financed through \$3,500,000 in bond money. Rates were set at \$400 per day to rent the Main Hall. The whole building rented for \$650 per day. (69-455)

BOND REFERENDUM MAY 4, 1968 (67-83)

Item	Amount	For	Against
Improving sewer system	\$6,000,000	9,427	5,538
New Sewer Lines	\$2,000,000	9,141	5,416
Extending water system	\$1,000,000	9,163	5,553

Number of registered voters 57,302

May 20, 1968 - A public hearing was held to discuss the proposal to establish an off-street public parking facility near Baptist Hospital on a lot bounded by Everette St, Queen St, Hawthorne Rd. and Lockland Ave. The discussion covers some 25 pages in the official records before passing unanimously. (66-193 - 220)

It came back at least twice more before passing 4-3 on December 2, 1968. (68-572)

June 3, 1968 - The Board voted to approve the creation of the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (66-231)

MODEL CITY COMMISSION

June 3, 1968 - The Model City Commission was created with James S. Wilson as Director. (66-260)

Winston-Salem was named one of 75 cities to receive a Model City Planning Grant from the federal government. The following year, it received the first of five grants totaling over \$35,000,000 for innovative programs dealing with education, transportation, youth employment, and housing improvements. The original area just north of downtown was expanded in 1972 to be city-wide as a "laboratory for revenue sharing" as part of a program called Model Cities Planned Variations.

June 14, 1968 - A special meeting was held to adopt a plan for a county water system agreement with Forsyth County. (67-221) The agreement was approved at the July 1 meeting. (67-372)

CITY BUDGET 1968-1969

\$2,953,217 - Tax rate set at \$1.45.

June 17, 1968 - The Aldermen appropriated \$40,000 as a one-third share of building an animal shelter to be run by the county. (67-330) The city animal shelter or dog pound was located at City Yard on the side of the vehicle maintenance building.

June 17, 1968 - A bus loading zone was created on Liberty St. between Third St. and Fourth St. This was approved after numerous complaints by merchants around courthouse square about would-be bus riders clogging up the front of their stores and hurting business. (67-356)



The bus loading zone on the Liberty St. side of the Court House. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

Sept 16, 1968 - The Aldermen adopted a revised comprehensive zoning ordinance for the city. (68-116) Part of this ordinance dealt with overhead signs. All overhead signs were removed from the central business district and power lines relocated underground.

Nov 18, 1968 - There was a recommendation that the landfill on the south side of Silas Creek Parkway between Lockland Ave. and Miller St. be closed within the next six months.

Municipal Court ceased to exist and Municipal Judges were no longer on the city payroll as of the first Monday in December 1968. All courts were under state jurisdiction. (68-508) The courtroom furniture, 25 benches, three tables, a chair, and miscellaneous items including a blackboard were sold to Forsyth County for \$400.

Work began in December 1968 on renovations of the existing courtroom in City Hall into a council chamber. (68-588)

Dec 2, 1968 - City employees became part of the State Employees Retirement System. (68-596)

1969

Jan 7, 1969 - A contract was awarded for the demolition and removal of a church building on the southwest corner of Church and First Streets. The building was owned by the city and had been used for traffic court and was know in city records as the Traffic Court Building. Appropriation for paving and landscaping were also approved. (69-340)

The City Garage and Shops Division was reorganized with the addition of the position of service manager and the transfer of the current superintendent to Public Safety to oversee abandoned cars and employee safety programs. (69-48)

Jan 20, 1969 - Smith "Mule" Cable retired from the police department with 41 years service. He joined the department in 1928 and had been a detective Sergeant since August 1, 1930. He was the last member of the Spider Gang to retire.

Jan 20, 1969 - Downtown renewal program was approved at a cost of \$30,000,000. (69-52)

Frank Ratliff was appointed City-County Civil Defense Director replacing the retiring Hamilton W. Howe. Howe, a retired admiral, was the city's first director, appointed October 1, 1956. (69-82)

Feb 3, 1969 - The Aldermen requested the General Assembly to change the City Charter to allow the City Manager to execute contracts, deeds, bonds and other legal instruments in the name of the city. (69-159)

HISTORIC BETHABARA PARK FUNDED

Feb 3, 1969 - The Babcock Foundation provided \$23,000 for the first year's operation cost of Historic Bethabara Park.

Feb 3, 1969 - The City Manager named the first woman department head, Nancy Wolf, to the Office of Public Relations.

April 21, 1969 - The Aldermen approved the demolition of the City Market building at Sixth St. and Cherry St. The lot was to be used for surface parking. (69-512) At the July 7 meeting, Twin City Packing, a long term resident and business in the basement of the Market, entered into a long term lease and acquired the property to the north of the market (the former site of the W.G. White Building). That property would then be leased to the city for surface parking. (70-274) At the August 4 meeting, a 10 year lease was signed. (70-397) Twin City Packing would stay in the basement of the old City Market, saving it from demolition until it was refurbished in 1988.

RACIAL TENSION

April 30, 1969 - Civil unrest caused a curfew to be imposed from 10 PM April 29 to 6 AM April 30 following the shooting of an escaped prisoner by a police officer. There was some minor looting and fires but the city was much better prepared than it had been previously.

On October 20, the Mayor called a curfew for October 20 and 21 following the acquittal of a deputy for assaulting a black youth. There were reports of roving bands of youths in north and east Winston but damage was minimal. (71-263)

May 19, 1969 - Huber Hanes gave the city a gift of the Hanes knitting complex consisting of several buildings in the area of Sixth, Main, Seventh and Chestnut Streets. Mayor Benton paid Hanes \$1.00. (70-41)

June 2, 1969 - A maintenance agreement was signed with the State Highway Commission regarding the installation and maintenance of traffic signals in Winston-Salem on the state highway system. (70-125)

NOT IN MY BACK YARD

July 7, 1969 - Discussions began on rezoning property for the Overdale landfill. (70-225) Over 100 residents showed up at the July 21 meeting in opposition. At the August 4 meeting, the purchase of the property was approved by a split vote (70-249) and the resolution authorizing payment of \$211,640 in five annual payments was made on August 18. (70-486) A resolution regarding the landfill was approved on April 20, 1970. (72-596)

Sept 2, 1969 - The Aldermen approved a resolution authorizing acquisition of additional land for expansion of the Elledge treatment plant. (71-53) The discussion centered on possible use of part of the property as a landfill.

CITY BUDGET 1969-1970

\$3,780,837 - Tax rate set at \$1.55 per \$100. (70-296)

Sept 15, 1969 - A resolution was approved authorizing the establishment of a Triad Law Enforcement Agency. (71-123) Police Chief Justus Tucker was appointed to serve on the planning agency. The agency adopted a Triad communications system which the Aldermen approved on October 20 at a cost of \$75,000 payable over 5 years.

EXPLOSION ROCKS ARMORY/POLICE ACADMEY

Sept 2, 1969 - An explosion at the National Guard Armory killed 3 guardsmen and severely burned others. The explosion was caused by a buildup of methane gas from the nearby landfill. On a damp foggy Saturday morning, the investigation determined that the methane gas had settled near the floor of a room where several guardsmen had gathered for a weekend drill. A spark, possibly from a lighter, ignited the gas. The city settled lawsuits with the victims for a total of \$800,000 in August 1973. (82-506)

On November 3, the Aldermen approved the lease of the abandoned Stewart Buick showroom just north of City Hall for use by the Police Department. The Stewart Buick location was to be temporary. "Temporary" turned out to be seven years. (71-317)

Oct 6, 1969 - Aldermen adopted a residential brush collection policy. (71-161)

Oct 6, 1969 - The Aldermen approved the purchase of a videotape recorder and accessories from Kirkman Electronics for \$3,995.00 to be used by the Police Department. This equipment was to replace 16mm film equipment that had been bought by the Department in 1960. The equipment was used for surveillance and to record drunk driving suspects. (71-178)

Oct 6, 1969 - The Aldermen approved a motion supporting a \$0.01 local option sales tax bill in the State Legislature and guaranteed a minimum \$0.10 reduction in the property tax the following year, if approved. (71-194)

Nov 10, 1969 - Aldermen agreed to contracts with several volunteer fire companies to provide fire service in outlying areas of the city in cooperation with city units as the city limits expanded through annexation. (71-298)

Nov 17, 1969 - Aldermen approved the establishment of a Police Reserve program. (71-324)

Nov 17, 1969 - The Mayor's salary increased to \$5,600 per year, Aldermen's to \$3,600. (71-516)

CITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

A new Blue Cross and Blue Shield Insurance plan was presented to city employees in November to take effect on January 1, 1970. The Options Plan included a semi-private room paid in full for up to 70 days, normal hospital extras such as drugs, radiation, nursery, intensive care paid in full, and extended stay benefits of up to 730 days. The cost was \$1.59 per month for an employee, \$9.26 per month for employee-child and \$15.32 per month for employee family. The basic plan cost an individual employee nothing.

Nov 17, 1969 - An estimate of \$73,000 was received to renovate the municipal courtroom as a council chamber. (71-524) Bids were approved March 16, 1970 for \$76,408. Work was completed in January 1971. (75-88)



The remodeled municipal courtroom in City Hall became the Aldermen's Chambers. The ceiling was lowered some 7 feet and the walls were covered. Theater style seating was installed. The former judge's chamber at the left rear was used for closed sessions by the Board. (Forsyth County Library Photo Collection)

BROWN'S WAREHOUSE FIRE NOVEMBER 17, 1969

A huge fire destroyed Brown's warehouse. Three firemen were injured. A Fire ladder truck was damaged to the tune of \$12,776.56. At that time it was one of the biggest fires in the city's history. Firefighters who were there wore their participation as a badge of courage for many years.

DIXIE CLASSIC FAIR

At a special meeting of the Board on November 25, 1969, the fairgrounds property and \$75,000 in accumulated funds were given to the city by the Winston-Salem Foundation. The Fair and Coliseum Commission were also created. (71-285)

The fair was started in the 1880s by Mrs. Henry Fries as the "Wheat Fair" in Browns Warehouse on Trade St. R. J. Reynolds and the other tobacco manufacturers wanted tobacco added in the 1890s.



An aerial view of the Piedmont Park Fair (Forsyth County Library Photo Collection)

The fair moved to Piedmont Park (Liberty St. at 28th St.) in 1908 and stayed there until 1950. Piedmont Park became the site of a low-income housing project.

The Dixie Classic Fair has been at its present location since 1951.

Neil Bolton became manager in 1956 and continued until his death in the fair office during a Fair Commission meeting on August 2, 1972. Bill Austin became manager in September 1972 until his retirement in 1993. Bill Austin had been Assistant Manager to Bolton for one year in 1958 when he left to become Secretary to the NC Cattlemen's Association.

David Sparks was Assistant to the Fair Director from 1988 until 1993 when he became Fair Director.

There were other fair managers prior to Bolton including Frank Kingman, Tom S. Blum and James A Graham who served for many years as NC Commissioner of Agriculture.

The Dixie Classic Fair was normally followed by the Western Carolina Fair at both Piedmont Park and at the present location which was for African-Americans from Forsyth, Stokes, Davie, Davidson, Surry and Yadkin counties. When the Dixie Classic Fair was integrated in 1963, attendance at the "Carolina Fair" began to decline. It was last held in 1968.