

City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

City of Winston-Salem: 1990-1999

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1990 - General Committee renamed; Happy Hill Recreation Center named for William Simms; Aldermanic meetings televised
- 1991 - Curbside Recycling Begins; Construction begins on Fire Station 17
- 1992 - Smoke Detectors now required in all residences; Construction begins on Georgia Taylor Recreation Center
- 1993 - Citizen Police Review Board approved; Historic District Commission created; Law Enforcement Memorial approved
- 1994 - City enters into annexation agreements with other municipalities; Salem Lake watershed ordinance enacted; all Sunday blue laws repealed; Convention Center Coliseum Commission created; Major overhaul of Zoning Ordinances; Otis Cooper named Fire Chief; Elledge Treatment plant upgrade; Carmen Caruth named Assistant City Manager
- 1995 - Discussions begin on Southeast Gateway Plan; residential bulky item pickup program implemented; City begins conversion to all white vehicles; Tom Griffin appointed Assistant City Manager
- 1996 - City Hall in Hanes Mall opened; Construction and demolition landfill opened
- 1997 - Union Cross Business Park development approved; Home and Garden Building at the Dixie Classic Fair approved; Major bond referendum failed; Parking deck on 4th St near Spruce approved; Citizen Efficiency Review Committee begins study of all City departments; John Gist named new Fire Chief; Plans are approved for City Hall South; Sports Commission created
- 1998 - Downtown restaurant recruitment program funded; Linda Davis named Police Chief; Paul Norby named Planning Director; Landfill expanded; Fire Department begins handling medical calls

1990

Jan 16, 1990-Drug testing for current employees was approved as part of new employee assistance program. (116-48)

Feb 2, 1990- The Alderman's General Committee was renamed *Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee*. (116-109)

City Manager's salary set at \$94,814.72. (116-236)

CITY BUDGET 1990-1991

\$94,374,260 - Tax rate set at 60 cents.

July 2, 1990- After lengthy debate, pondering many questions not really part of the subject, the Aldermen approve rezoning for the construction of a new jail at the corner of Second and Church. (117- 8-18)

Aug 20, 1990- The Police Department received approval to begin the D.A.R.E. program in elementary schools. (117-73)

August 20, 1990- A new Recreation Center in Happy Hill Gardens was named for William Sims. Sims lived in the community and was a member of the Experiment in Self-Reliance and the Housing Authority Boards. At the time of his death in 1990, he was working with residents and the city on the new center that now bears his name. (117-77)

Sept 17, 1990- Approval was given to begin designing a new Reynolds Park Recreation Center. (117-143)

Sept 17, 1990-The Fair Housing Ordinance was amended. (117-147)

Nov 1, 1990- A resolution was approved to offer disability insurance beyond regular sick leave to city employees. (117-304)

December 17, 1990- The position of Taxicab Inspector was removed from the responsibilities of the Police Department. Police would no longer do background checks on those who wished to drive taxi cabs, that responsibility fell to the Taxicab companies. Police still offered criminal record checks on the individuals. (117-367)

1991

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA

For the most part the televising of the Alderman's meetings which had begun the previous May, had little effect. But by February 4, 1991 the members had seen the power of television and began using it as a forum. This meeting's minutes shows several statements directed to "the television audience." (118-52) This continued on March 4 when 40 sanitation workers appear with a list of vague grievances. The Aldermen requested that the proper personnel channels for grievances be followed. (118-100-103)

March 18, 1991- The Board approved the selling of the old wooden seats from the Memorial Coliseum. (118-125)

March 18, 1991-Contracts were awarded for the construction of a central warehouse building. (118-125)

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

April 15, 1991- In an effort to reduce the amount of solid waste going into the landfill, a contract was awarded for the implementation of a curbside recycling program. (118-178) The program began on July 1.

Coliseum Annex opens with a hockey team and public skating.

Customer satisfaction program for city employees begins.

CITY BUDGET 1991-1992

\$97,054,580 - Tax rate set at 62 cents.

Aldermen begin honoring businesses for their contributions to the economic growth of the community. These certificates were bestowed at the beginning of each council meeting.

Aug 19, 1991- Lee Jeans announced construction of a plant to be opened in the spring of 1992. (119-133)

Sept. 16, 1991- A contract was approved for a 1,500 GMP Fire Pumper with a 75 ft aerial tower- \$362,447. (119-156)

Sept 16, 1991-Construction began on Fire Station No. 17 at 4295 Old Greensboro Rd. (119-223)

Oct 21, 1991- Approval was given for the police department to order new automatic handguns. A contract FOR 100 S&W Model #1086 at \$467.97 each was approved. (119-230)

Oct 21, 1991-The Aldermen adopted "Guidelines for Effective Meetings and Working Relationships for Elected Officials and Management." (119-243)

Dec 9, 1991- The Alderman enacted a revision to the city code regarding urinating in public. (119-459)

1992

Feb 17, 1992- The Housing Code was amended to require smoke detectors outside the sleeping areas of each occupied dwelling. (120-95) The Fire Department had tried for voluntary compliance with smoke detectors for many years but deaths continued to occur in homes and apartments that were not smoke detector equipped.

April 20, 1992- Contracts were awarded for the construction of the Georgia Taylor Recreation Center. (120-194)

Annexation, effective June 30, brought in 1,300 new residents and 17 square miles of territory.

CITY BUDGET 1992-1993

\$98,666,650 - Tax rate set at 62 cents.

POLICE CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD

June 15, 1992- A Resolution was proposed relating to the development of a Citizen Police Review Board (120-402) After much debate, the Board split 4-4 and the Mayor voted in favor.

On Feb 1, 1993, the fate of the Citizens' Police Review Board was again discussed. (122-82) After lengthy debate, a vote was taken and Mayor Wood broke a 4-4 tie saying "The chair votes in favor so that we can feel the pain and see the promise of America as our new president called us to do when he was inaugurated."

This discussion continued on February 15. (122-424) On April 15, a request for approval of those appointed to the Police Review Board came before the Board of Aldermen. (122-242) After more debate, the Mayor's recommended list passed 5-3.

On April 18, 1994, there was more discussion on abolishing the Citizen Police Review Board. (124-273-294) This is one of the most raucous meeting in the City's history. The only reference found of individuals being removed from the meeting by the Sergeant-At-Arms. The debate is covered verbatim in the minutes. The motion to abolish the Board was approved 5-3. The second reading occurred on May 2 (124-297-314) and a motion was approved to postpone the second reading for 1 year on a split vote with the Mayor breaking the tie. On July 24, 1995, the issue returned and the proposal was defeated 6-2. (127-67) By that time, the Citizen Police Review Board had become a part of the process wherein, for the most part, police officers had been absolved of wrongdoing.

June 15, 1992-A contract was awarded for the construction of the new Reynolds Park Pool and Bath House replacing one built in the 40's.

Aug 17, 1992- The City Code was amended to require use of yard waste carts and banning yard waste from the landfill. (121-91)

Sept 21, 1992- The Aldermen approved amendments to the city code regarding new regulations for Historic and Historic Overlay Districts (121-169) and creating a Historic District Commission.

Oct 19, 1992- Contracts for 1.5 million dollars were approved for upgrades at Ernie Shore Field. (121-243)

Nov 16, 1992-A Law Enforcement Officer Memorial was authorized to be constructed in front of the Public Safety Center. (121-286) It was dedicated on Sept. 1, 1993.

1993

Jan 19, 1993- Land was purchase approved for Sedge Garden Recreation Center at a cost of \$114,825. (122-19)

Jan.19, 1993- Approval was given to use police forfeiture funds to fund at canine unit (\$38,645) and a mounted patrol. (\$46,516) (122-22) The two member canine unit had been phased out after the 1967 racial disturbance. The new unit was not used for crowd control but for criminal apprehension and drug interdiction.

ANNEXATION AGREEMENTS

As municipalities around the county grew, the amount of available unincorporated lands began to shrink. Winston-Salem planners met with representatives of the other cities and hammered out agreements as to what would be annexed by whom in the future. On December 7, 1992, the Aldermen held a special joint meeting with the Town of Kernersville to discuss an annexation boundary agreement. (121-343)

An annexation agreement with the Town of Clemmons approved was approved on March 22, 1993. (122-179) A similar agreement with the Town of Lewisville was approved on Sept 20, 1993. (123-101) An agreement with the Town of Rural Hall was finally passed out on January 16, 1996. (128-56)

April 5, 1993- The City was announced as a finalist for All-America City award. (122-193) The award was last won in 1964. This time the City was not one of the 10 cities which received the designation.

April 18, 1993- An overview plan presented for the Southeast Gateway project. (122-252)

April 23, 1993- Police Officer Bobby Beane was shot and killed during a drug raid. The Alderman honored him on June 21 (122-261) with a posthumous promotion to Sergeant.

April 23, 1993-A Salem Lake Watershed Protection Ordinance was enacted. (122-268)

BLUE LAWS

April 23, 1993-All Sunday Blue Laws were repealed. (122-448) 8 people spoke in opposition to the repeal, 10 in favor. Alderman Harpe called the laws “an anachronism and a hodge-podge of laws.” The Board voted for repeal of the laws 5-1, with one member excused. Second reading on July 6 (123-2) with the same vote.

CITY BUDGET 1993-1994

\$221,515,37 - Tax rate set at 58 cents.

June 7, 1993- The City Manager and other key staff members who had been provided with city vehicles are now provided a monthly vehicle allowance. (122-253)

June 7, 1993-The Convention Center and Coliseum Commission was created. (122-259) It also would oversee Bowman Gray Stadium and Ernie Shore Field.

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCES

Oct 25, 1993—A Public Hearing was held on the proposed Unified Development Ordinances (123-175) encompassing 25 pages of verbatim minutes. The UDO was a sweeping overhaul and simplification of the zoning designations of all land in the City and County. On Oct 3, 1994, a transition process was approved for Unified Development Ordinances which were scheduled to take effect Dec 31. (125-214)

On Nov 21, 1994, the Unified Development Ordinances Technical Code was amended. (125-349-391)

On April 1, 1995, the Unified Development Ordinances were enacted.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 2, 1993

Mayor Martha S. Wood

Aldermen

NW Ward	Nancy Pleasants
West Ward	Robert S. Northington, Jr.
Southeast Ward	Robert Nordlander
South Ward	J. Hugh Wright
Southwest Ward	Lynne Harpe
Northeast Ward	Vivian H Burke
East Ward	Joycelyn Johnson
North Ward	Nelson Malloy

Nov 15, 1993- The Comprehensive Housing and Redevelopment plan for fiscal year 1994-1998 adopted. (123-248)

Nov 15, 1993-A Renovation and expansion plan for the Convention Center was approved. (123-254)

Nov 30, 1993- F.E. “Pete” Harless retired as Fire Chief, replaced by Otis Cooper.

1994

Feb 21, 1994- Bids were awarded for the construction of a new Ernie Shore Field house. (124-116)

Feb 21, 1994- A Housing Partnership Steering Committee was established. (124-119)

Feb 21, 1994-A marked vehicle take home program for uniform police officers was implemented. (124-122)

Elledge Treatment plant completed multi-million dollar upgrade.

1st internet connections installed.

CITY BUDGET 1994-1995 (124-401)

\$103,220,630 - Tax rate set at 59 cents.

Aug 15, 1994- A pilot program was approved for a housing exterior and site beautification loan program to assist neighborhoods in the early stages of decline. (125-108)

Oct 2, 1994-The City began using wheel locks on illegally parked vehicles where owners have three or more delinquent parking tickets 90 or more days overdue. In addition to paying the tickets, the owner of the vehicle will be assessed \$50 for removal of the wheel lock. (125-228)

October 2, 1994-Carmen R. Caruth, an assistant to the public works director was named Assistant City Manager on November 28. She was the first female and second African American to hold the position. (125-408)

On May 3, 1999, she resigned to enter private business.

1995

Jan 1, 1995-Priorities were set for phases of construction of the Northern Beltway. (126-15)

Jan 17, 1995-Storm Water Management System Utility User fees were discussed. (126-24) They would not be approved until Sept 16, 1996. (129-211) The fees were mandated by the federal government and only grudgingly approved by the Board.

Jan 17, 1995-A Resolution approved regarding the Piedmont Triad Research Park Master Plan. (126-48)

SOUTHEAST GATEWAY PLAN

Discussions began in January as to a Southeast Gateway Plan at the Intersection of Waughtown, and Salem By-Pass. More than one developer who had expressed interest pulled out and it will be more than 10 years before the project was completed in 2005.

BULKY ITEM PICKUP

Bulky Item Pickup program began in May. Residents were allowed to set items too large for regular garbage pickup at the curb for pickup by city crews during a specific week each year. The program ran from May through October when every section of the city had been covered once.

May 15, 1995- Administrative Pay Plan was implemented effective July 1. (126-350)

CITY BUDGET 1995-96

220.2 million dollars. The property tax rate was set at 59 cents.

June 19, 1995- Personal computers were approved for Police cars. (126-439)

June 19, 1995- The Board approved conversion to all white vehicles. Previously public Works vehicles had been yellow. Yellow was not a standard color for vehicle manufacturers and the conversion to white vehicles resulted in a substantial savings on the cost of each new vehicle.

Oct 23, 1995- The City began a Citizen Volunteer Program with its coordinator working out of the Mayor's Office. (127-306)

Tom Griffin appointed Assistant City Manager for Public Works on Nov 3. He had been Utilities System Director since 1980. He replaced Pat Swann who retired on Nov. 30.

Convention Center completed 2.5 million dollar facelift.

Dec 18, 1995- Aldermen Burke and Nordlander engaged in one of the most caustic public exchanges in the history of the Board. (127-548) Over the years, Board members have agreed to disagree and had discussions in private. Their disagreements sometimes being borne out in votes on specific items, and sometimes, though rarely, they were recorded as part of the minutes of the meetings. Often the use of a second vote was for the purpose of showing the Aldermen in agreement after some discussion among themselves and off the record. But with the advent of televised meetings and an "attitude" change, mostly in that it was necessary to let voters know exactly how they stood on a particular issue, disagreements such as this were to become more and more frequent.

1996

CITY HALL IN THE MALL

City Hall in Hanes Mall, approved on January 16 (128-73) opened March 14. It was never fully staffed or used to its potential mainly due to budget concerns. It closed in less than two years.

May 20, 1996- Alderman Nordlander offered a motion opposing the Gay Pride Events scheduled for June 7-9, motion died for lack of a second. (128-267)

CITY BUDGET 1996-1997

\$227.8 million. Property tax rate remains at 59 cents per \$100.

July 1, 1996-The City annexed 6.36 square miles. The city now contained 106.73 square miles and a population of 167,267.

4TH ST PARKING DECK

Aug 19, 1996-The Board approved construction of a Public Parking Deck at 655 West 4th Street at a cost of 2.4 million. (129-103) On May 5, 1997, the contract for \$4,577,400 was approved for a 550 space deck was approved. (309) 180 spaces were added at the June 16th meeting. (391)

SPECIALIZED LANDFILL OPENED

Construction and Demolition Landfill, operated by the Utilities Commission, opened Sept. 23, 1996 on Old Salisbury Rd. The expected life of this landfill was 50 years.

Dec 16, 1996- The Board approved purchase of 1500 GMP Fire truck with 75' aerial ladder at a cost of \$399,784.55.

Dec. 16, 1996-City Secretary Marie Matthews retired with 38 years of service. Renee Rice was appointed to replace her. Rice became the first African-American female department head.

1997

UNION CROSS BUSINESS PARK

January 21, 1997-The Aldermen approved city participation in the development of the 400 acre Union Cross Business Park. (39)

Feb. 17, 1997- A Contract was awarded for the construction of a Home and Garden Building at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. The low bid was \$472,189. (85)

March 24, 1997- The Aldermen approved an agreement with Wachovia Bank for the development of "Triad Park West" a property located on First Street between Cherry St and the Strollway. Wachovia also agreed to construct an adjacent parking deck. The building was to have a cost of not less than 24 million dollars. (184)

CITY SERVICES FARMED OUT TO PRIVATE COMPANIES

March 24, 1997- In its continuing efforts to allow private industries take over responsibilities traditionally done by City departments, contracts were awarded for mowing services in parks and on road right-of-ways and for litter and debris pickup. (194) On June 15, 1998, the contract for cleaning of city parking decks was let to a private company as was the contract for the maintenance of street lighting, security lighting and traffic signal head re-lamping

BOND REFERENDUM

March 2, 1997- The Aldermen approved a Bond Referendum that included \$4 million for Parks and Recreation facilities; \$11 million for Housing Development Bonds; \$6 million for Economic Development Bonds; \$47 million for Street and sidewalk bonds; \$7 million for Convention Center Improvements.

A public hearing was held on April 21 and the election set for June 28. (278) At that time, all bond measures were defeated by at least a two-to-one margin.

April 21, 1997-A Resolution was adopted regarding participation of the city in an alternative fuels program for motor vehicles. A fueling station was built a city yard and vehicles purchased that would run on natural gas. (265) The contract for the fueling facility was let on April 20, 1998.

June 19, 1997- The rebuilt Ardmore Fire Station #6 was dedicated. The building cost \$689,000 and was designed to be compatible with the historical character of the surrounding neighborhood.

CITY BUDGET 1997-98

242.9 million

The property tax rate was set at 52.5 cents, a 6.5 cent reduction. 5.2 cents is attributable to the county wide re-appraisal, the 1.3 cent reduction reflect the transfer of storm water-related expenses from a property tax supported fund to a fee-based storm water utility fund. (362)

Aug 18, 1997- Bids were awarded for traffic observation cameras at Stratford Rd and Hanes Mall Blvd and Silas Creek and Peters Creek. (53)

Sept 15, 1997 – A Resolution was adopted approving a purchasing card system for city employees to purchase supplies and services thereby streamlining and speeding up the purchasing process. (117)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 4, 1997

Mayor John J, Cavanagh

Aldermen

Northwest Ward	Nelson Malloy
South Ward	Vernon Robinson
Southwest Ward	Stephen Whiton
East Ward	Joycelyn V. Johnson
Northeast Ward	Vivian H. Burke
West Ward	Robert Northington
Northwest Ward	Wanda Mershel
Southeast Ward	Fredrick N. Terry

Whiton and Cavanagh who defeated Alderman Harpe and Mayor Wood respectively, had been outspoken opponents of the defeated bond referendum. Aldermen Pleasants, Wright and Nordlander had chosen not to run for reelection.

This new Board was sworn in on December 1. (226)

Dec 15, 1997- This new Board had to hit the ground running when the question of police use of pepper spray came before the Board. This was the result of a suspect who, after being pepper sprayed had died in police custody in October 1997. An autopsy had determined that the subject had a large amount of cocaine in his body at the time. The debate on pepper spray on this date involves a statement from every Alderman and the Mayor. The debate is carried verbatim in the Minutes Book beginning on (251) and covers 13 pages. There are a number of parliamentary gaffes by the new Mayor as well. The Board voted to make no decision until the first meeting in March.

At the end of the April 20, 1998 meeting, the Board noted that after thorough discussion no action was necessary and the matter was dropped.

1998

At the date of compiling of this summary of the significant Board actions, the minutes from this point have not been annotated. I have dated the entries so that when these minutes are placed in bound volumes someone can annotate the data as I have done for the work of Robert Neilson from 1913-1966.

Feb 16, 1998- A Brush Truck was purchased for the Fire Department at a cost of \$74,145.

March 23, 1998-The city had not seen the likes of a self promoter like Mayor Cavanagh since the days of Mayor Kurfes. On this date, the Mayor proposed that framed photographs of elected officials be placed in all 110 City facilities and that the names of the Mayor and Aldermen be added to the City Hall sign at the corner of First and Main St. The resolution passed 5-3.

April 20, 1998- The Board approved \$20,890 for the purchase of a hazardous duty mobile robot system for the Police Department.

April 20, 1998- The Board approved \$56,903 for the purchase of a global position system for the Engineering Division.

May 18, 1998-A Resolution was approved establishing a Citizen Efficiency Review Committee to study city services. The committee was to be made up of citizen volunteers in seven review teams.

May 18, 1998-The City annexed 1,500 acres near the Town of Bethania. Population increased to 172,616

CITY BUDGET 1998-1999 June 1

\$258.3 million. Tax rate reduced to 51 cents per \$100

JOHN GIST FIRE CHIEF

John Gist was named Fire Chief on June 24, 1998. Chief Otis Cooper resigned to take the position of Fire Chief for the city of Durham.

YARD WASTE CARTS APPROVED

August 17, 1998- A Resolution was adopted approving the purchase of 4,000 yard waste carts to begin implementation of a curbside yard waste program to keep yard waste out of the sanitary landfill.

August 17, 1998- The property on Balsom Rd, purchased in 1971 as a potential landfill site was sold to the county for the expansion of Hill Memorial Park.

September 8, 1998- The City agreed to expand New Evergreen Cemetery by 13.3 acres. The purchase price was \$175,000.

CITY HALL SOUTH

September 21, 1998-A Resolution was approved expressing the intent of the Board to enter into an agreement to lease office space in a new building to be built just south of City Hall. The terms were a lease of 66,680 square feet at \$16.00 per square foot. The terms were for 25 years with four 10 year renewals. The land was already owned by the City, but the agreement called for it to be sold to the developer in exchange for 175 parking spaces in a new deck to be constructed.

September 21, 1998- Resolution approved authorizing a managed competition process for fleet maintenance.

Oct 26, 1998- The Board began discussion of the franchise agreement with Time-Warner Cable for cable service. The entire discussion on this date dealt with the community access channel; how it is run and who decides what will be shown. The discussion continued at the Nov 16 meeting.

Nov 2, 1998- The position of "Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator" was added to the budget. There followed some discussion as to what this position would do. Some Aldermen referred to it as a lobbyist for the City in State Government. The position was approved, but only after the Mayor broke a 4-4 tie.

Nov 16, 1998-Contracts were approved for: ornamental fencing on University Parkway from 20th St to Coliseum drive for \$184,080; restroom construction and renovation at Bowman Gray Stadium-\$229,203.

December 7, 1998-The Board approved the creation of a Greater Winston-Salem Sports Commission.

December 21, 1998-A grant of up to \$50,000 was approved to provide Alive After 5 and 4th Street Jazz Concerts in downtown during the summer of 1999.

1999

DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT RECRUITMENT

January 19, 1999- In the first steps for the revitalization of the 4th Street area, the Board approved a Downtown Restaurant Recruitment plan and authorized the preparation of design for the 4th ST. Sidewalk widening project.

The first loan under the plan was made on Oct 18 to a restaurant, Bistro 420.

January 19, 1999- Board approved the establishment of a Venture Capital program to help small and mid-sized companies with startup and expansion. The Board vote split 4-4 with the Mayor breaking the tie in favor of the program.

POLICE CHIEF LINDA DAVIS

George Sweat retired on Feb. 1, 1999. Linda Davis was named first female police chief in North Carolina. Davis had retired as an Assistant Chief the previous year. She had joined the Police Department in 1966 as a secretary for then Major Tom Surratt. 18 months later she transferred to the patrol division and completed the police basic training school. During her four years she made a number of departmental promotions; advanced the use of computer terminals in patrol vehicles and oversaw the development and implementation of a departmental strategic plan. She retired as Chief on February 28, 2004.

RESOLUTIONS OUT OF CONTROL

For a number of years the Board had used honorary resolutions and proclamations to honor achievements in the City. During the late 1990's just about anything was reason to give a proclamation. On Feb. 17, 1997, the Alderman passed a resolution honoring a couple for their 50th wedding anniversary. (83) Even minor awards could get a resolution, as could a resident's 90th birthday, a couple for their "contribution to the economic health and quality of life of Winston-Salem, a winner of the American Library Association Citation and several recently deceased ministers."

Sometimes resolutions were used to express the Boards feelings on national or international matters, even though their voice had no true significance such as resolutions opposing Apartheid in South Africa on Nov 17, 1986, (108-370) and a resolution on January 7, 1991 on the Persian Gulf Crisis. (118-1)

On April 7, 1997 a resolution was proposed opposing the appearance at the coliseum by the rock group Marilyn Manson. This received a full page of discussion in the Minutes Book (248) There was some discussion whether the city could deny the group the right to perform and the decision was that unless there were security concerns, the City could not.

"Alderman Northington stated, in his opinion, the worst thing one could do is to publicize them by talking about them in public meetings and by putting it on television. He further stated that the best way to eliminate the problem is to not buy a ticket and not giving free publicity by discussing it." (249) No action was taken by the Board.

The number of resolutions presented at meetings continued to climb. Sometimes taking up over half of the meeting. On March 22, 1999, the Board approved five resolutions. All for sports teams achievements.

There were five more on May 17th including "Bike-To-Work" Day, Group Homes of Forsyth County, Independence High School, the Parkland Basketball Team and the Principal of the Year.

One of the most frivolous was approved on April 5th when, the Board passed a resolution observing the 100th anniversary of Winston-Salem's hyphen. While it is true that the United States Post Office began using the Winston "dash" Salem postmark in 1899, it was hoped that be Board had more important things in which to concern themselves.

The record for a single meeting appears to be nine on Feb 21, 2000. Most of these were individuals, presented at this time due to African American History Month. Almost none were received by a living person at the meeting.

This prompted a resolution on March 6, 2000 regarding placing limits on ceremonial resolutions. After some discussion, the resolution was tabled. On April 17, the Board decided "...the matter could be managed without formal policy."

Afterwards, the number of awards was only one or two per meeting and the criteria for receiving the awards was generally better too.

CITY-COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR

Paul Norby named new City-County Planning Board director replacing Jim Yarbrough who retired Aug 31, 1998. Norby had been Planning Director for the City of Durham.

HANES MILL ROAD LANDFILL EXPANSION

June 7, 1999- The Board began consideration of an expansion of the Hanes Mill Rd Landfill.

It was discussed again on January 18, 2000 covering 10 pages of Minutes; on February 21 covering 34 pages. On May 15, it covers six pages.

BUDGET BATTLES

June 8, 1999-Several pages of Minutes Books are taken up with public battles on individual budget items before the budget was passed. Previous Boards had seen fit to discuss such issues among themselves and present a united image at least on the budget. This was not the case in 1999 and through 2004 as the Aldermen fought the budget battles in public though the television cameras. The discussion continued even more heatedly on June 21 before the budget was finally approved.

CITY BUDGET 1999-2000

\$273.2 million - Tax rate- 50 cents per \$100

July 1, 1999-The Fire Department began answering medical calls, in an effort to bring emergency care to individual faster. Fire Department personnel were already state certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

July 19, 1999- The Mayor offered a resolution asking for an amendment in the agreement with the City-County Utility Commission asking that the extra fees collected by the Commission be given to the City for use in Economic Development. After some debate, the motion was denied.

Aug 16, 1999-The Board discussed the policy of not allowing government officials to appear in their own program on TV-13. This came as a result of the Mayor's request to do his own "Annual Report" and a monthly show with the Mayor as the host. The Board upheld the current policy (originally adopted in 1989) that prohibited this.

Sept 20, 1999- The Aldermen approved up to one million dollars for the development of phase two of the Union Cross Business Park.

Nov 15, 1999- The Citizens' Efficiency Review Committee delivered its report containing over 300 recommendations affecting all areas of City Government. As in the 1974 study, City Staff began implementing some of the suggestions almost immediately and some were never implemented. The details of the report are not spelled out in the Minutes Books. There are references to a series of meetings of the Board to begin the implementation process and a resolution of appreciation on January 18, 2000.