

City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

Town of Winston-Salem: 1970-1979

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1970 - Bethabara Park given to city; end of the hospital ownership saga; bond referendum; Trade Street closed to create downtown mall; Franklin Shirley elected Mayor
- 1971 - Recreation and Parks Commission created; Mary Sloan Jones; Ernestine Wilson-First female Alderman
- 1972 - Public Safety concept implemented; Death of City Manager Gold; Orville Powell named new City Manager; City takes over Safe Bus Company; new City Garage approved
- 1973 - Alderman Holcomb resigns after bribery conviction; ice rink approved for Coliseum; Sunday blue laws repealed
- 1974 - Combined fire-police training facility approved; Municipal ice rink downtown approved; Franklin Shirley re-elected Mayor in municipal election
- 1975 - Sports Commission created; City efficiency study conducted; leash law enacted; Historic Properties Commission created
- 1976 - Consent Agenda implemented; major bond referendum defeated; Carolina Theater's future debated and decided;
- 1977 - City purchases television production equipment; Wayne Corpening elected Mayor;
- 1978 - L.A. Powell named Police Chief; Human Relations Commission and Community Development Department created;
- 1979 - Water Bonds Approved; Liquor by the drink approved; City Manager Powell resigns under pressure Bryce Stuart named 4th City Manager

1970

Redevelopment Commission submits its report to the Board. (72-94)

James Gray, on behalf of the Babcock Foundation, gave Bethabara Park to the City as well as half a million dollars over the next ten years for improvements. (72-100)

Aldermen enacted an ordinance regarding discharge of industrial wastes into creeks and sewers. (72-126)

Feb 16, 1970-Coliseum Convention Center Commission renamed (72-235)

March 1, 1970- Sanitation Equipment Operator Richard Mabry retired with 47 years of service.

WHO WANTS A HOSPITAL?

April 6, 1970- A resolution was approved that offered to transfer Reynolds Hospital to Forsyth County. (72-544) The County wasn't interested and on May 4, a resolution was proposed offering the hospital to the Forsyth County Hospital Authority. (73-1)

On July 6, 1970, ownership and responsibility for Reynolds Hospital was transferred to the Winston-Salem Hospital Authority, Inc. (73-367) On April 5, 1971, that was transferred to the Forsyth County Hospital Authority. (75-328, 75-340)

Bond Referendum (73-170)

\$5,400,000	water system expansion
\$6,662,000	roads
\$600,000	traffic control system
\$200,000	landfill expansion
\$660,000	new fire stations
\$290,000	new fire engines
\$412,000	new fire police communications system
\$980,000	land for off street parking
\$1,200,000	for Redevelopment Commission land acquisition
\$370,000	land for parks

All bonds passed in an August 6th special election. Some by as much as 78-1 margins. (74-64)

CITY BUDGET 1970-1971

\$4,373,196 - Tax rate set at \$1.55 per hundred. (73-447)

POLICE ATTORNEY

Police Department hired a full time attorney with the title of "Police Attorney". The first was a local lawyer, George Cleland, who was introduced to the Board at the Oct 19 meeting. (74-303)

July 20, 1970-Trade Street was ordered closed for a Downtown Mall. (73-471)



July 20, 1970- The Recreation Department was given the responsibility for the upkeep of Historic Bethabara Park. (73-498)

Channelization of Silas Creek Parkway at Yorkshire was completed. Sherrill Construction Company was paid \$1,012.04. (73-541) In 2003, this same area would be returned to its natural state through a federal stormwater grant.

Aug 3, 1970- The City applied for Moody's Municipal Bond rating. (73-557)

Sept 21, 1970-A contract was let for domes for the Elledge Treatment Plant- \$677,449. (74-100) When the plant was originally constructed it was surrounded by farmland. Creeping residential development in the area resulted in numerous complaints to the Board members about odor. The domes were an effort to clean up the smell of the treatment plant.

Oct 1, 1970- Council approved \$900 for "Welcome to Winston-Salem" signs to be placed on the primary arteries into the city. (74-266)

A contract for renovations to City Market was awarded in the amount of \$36,303. (74-296)

The Trade Street Mall project was completed by 1971. This view from 4th St. shows the mall the way it was most of the time-empty.

(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

Municipal Election Nov 3 (74-520)

Mayor

Franklin R. Shirley

Aldermen

North Ward Richard N. Davis

NE Ward Carl N. Russell

East Ward C.C. Ross

SE Ward Donald F. Holcomb

South Ward D. Fleate Chiddie

SW Ward Floyd S. Burge

West Ward Ed Green

NW Ward Albert Coleman

Nov 16, 1970- City Manager's salary set at \$2,232 per month. (74-499)

Dec 14, 1970- Winston-Salem Convention Center renamed for outgoing Mayor M.C. "Red" Benton. (74-523)

1971

January 18, 1971- Police Information Network approved for Police Department. (75-81)

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION CREATED

Feb 1, 1971- The Public Recreation Commission, Bowman Gray Memorial Stadium Commission, and Salem Lake Fishing Commission were combined into the Winston-Salem Recreation and Parks Commission. (75-131)

Feb 15, 1971-Fire Chief Crimm presented a comprehensive report on the Fire Department to the Board of Aldermen. (75-214)

March 1, 1971- Parking fines downtown were increased from \$1.00 to \$5.00. (75-322)

March 1, 1971-A \$150,000 gift from the Chamber of Commerce allowed for the construction of an upstream oxidation basin on the Yadkin as part of the pre-treatment for the Elledge Plant. This was in response to several fish kills on the river the summer before. (75-330)



1971 renovations in the basement of City Hall for a new fire-police communications center (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

June 7, 1971- Revised Fire Prevention Code for City was adopted. (77-179)

MARY SLOAN JONES

No one citizen spoke at Alderman meeting more often than Mrs. Mary Sloan Jones. During the 1960's and early 70's, she appears in the minutes of almost every Alderman Meeting; and until her health began to fail in the late 1990's she was a fixture at most of the Alderman's meetings. She was a champion of the poor and elderly. Mayor Benton referred to her as the "ninth alderman" At the end of a meeting when the Mayor (beginning with Benton) would say "is there anything else before we adjourn?", it would usually evoke a comment from Mrs. Jones. Here are some of the notations in the Alderman's minutes when she wished to speak:

July 17, 1953- Requests that something be done about smoking on buses. (38-328)

Town of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1970-1979

Oct 3, 1957- Reports she had been mistreated by the police. (40-549) A report presented to the Board on November 5, giving details of the incident and exonerating the police officers involved. (40-576)

Aug 1, 1960-Requests a traffic light at NW Blvd and Underwood Ave to assist children crossing the street for Carver Crest School. (49-247)

Nov 6, 1961-Presented a petition for sidewalk improvements on Thurmond St from Gillette St to 25th St. (51-447)

July 1, 1963- Something needs to be done about the noise and loitering late at night on the corner of Glenn and Oak St. (55-35)

May 4, 1964- Complaints about the way cars park at Miss Myers store on Cherry St

November 2, 1964-Something should be done to protect the children crossing the Street at North Elementary School at Trade St and Glenn Ave during the school hours. Complained about Halloween and said something should be done about the misbehavior of the older children. She also complained about the city failing to pick up leaves on Lime Ave.

Aug 1-Requests a traffic light at NW Blvd and Underwood Ave to assist children crossing the street for Carver Crest School. (49-247)

January 1965- She complained about children skating in the streets. (58-33). She spoke out for handicapped ramps, a security guard at Sunrise towers and to complain about the length of the cross walk light at 9th and Highland..."they's too old to be running across the street" (76-188), and an explanation of the new pedestrian crossing signs...."It looks like a man pushing a child into the street."

Aug 21, 1967-She protested the speeders on the parking lot or playground on Derry St.

One rather lengthy meeting in 1971 ends with Mrs. Jones telling the Mayor "Let's adjourn."

Aug 2, 1971-She was chided by Police Chief Tucker and the Mayor for her disagreeing with them regarding preachers on Trade Street Mall. "I think you all are making a big mistake." (76-422)

There was an exchange at the Sept 7th 1971 meeting when she upbraided the Aldermen for the ordinances regarding street preachers and as much as calls them heathens (77-14) and her request for an explanation at the next meeting. (77-150)

In 1975, she appeared to request that a woman be appointed to the Housing Authority. (87-125).

March 1, 1975-To complain about the beggars uptown.... saying she had to get a permit when she wanted to solicit for her church why didn't they? (88-181)

November 1976, she appeared to complain about the way people sit with their feet up at the bus stop. It prevents other from sitting down. (89-412)

At the Feb 7, 1977 meeting Mayor Shirley opening the meeting presenting Mrs. Jones a certificate naming her as a delegate to the NC Conference of the White House Conference for Handicapped citizens in Washington, DC. (90-67)

Oct 3, 1977- Subject of banning smoking on city buses was discussed. Mrs. Jones had long wanted such a ban and saw the vote was not going in favor and told the Board "you got your head swelled and chickened out...." on implementing the ban. (91-194)

Oct 4, 1983 -On affirmative action and support of City Manager Stuart - to the Aldermen "... you do your little thing and let him do what he want to do. It's going to be a whole lot of mess down here after a while—you'll run him away just like you did Mr. Powell."(101-316)

March 23, 1987- Says school children are running through the Reynolds Health Center.

Jan 19, 1988 -Appears with concerns about on-street parking, no decent laundry in government housing and even the peepholes in the doors can't be used by the elderly and handicapped. (112-98)

Sept 4 1990- Protests littering at the Bus stop and requests a no littering sign be erected.

On July 1, 1991, she spoke of a need for more police patrols at Holland Homes and concerns about neighborhood watch signs.

On Nov 4, 1991 she expressed concern about the recent dismissal of a city employee and displayed a sign of protest. She stated she planned to send a letter to the legislature to encourage action to limit terms of members of the Board of Aldermen. (119-312)

On April 6, 1992, she said she is concerned about the Housing Authority asking elderly people about their incomes.

Aug 15, 1995- Talked about enforcement of speed limits around the Reynolds Health Center and that the no parking zones and loading zones are not enforced. It was also noted that a banquet to honor her would be held on August 18. (125-117)

March 24-1997-Alderman Johnson stated that Mrs. Jones “because of her persistence, share a vision and commitment that many people lack.” (221)

She died in 2004. No single citizen took the Aldermen to task more often.

A local option one cent sales tax was first approved by the State Legislature in 1971. On June 21, 1971 the Aldermen recommended a 5 cent property tax decrease if the commissioners levy the 1 cent tax. (6-202)

CITY BUDGET 1971-1972

\$4,374,829 - Tax rate \$1.55 on the hundred. (76-275)

July 6, 1971- Office of Electrical Inspector was created. (76-284)

July 6, 1971- A new sound system for the Council Chamber by Southeastern Sight and Sound approved- \$13,200. (76-305)

July 19, 1971- Winston-Salem Beautification Commission was formed. (76-351)

Aug 16, 1971- The Balsam Rd Landfill site was purchased for \$112,500. The site consisted of 176.317 acres. (76-480)

Sept 7, 1971- There is a lively discussion of an ordinance regarding blocking sidewalks by street preachers. It covers some 18 pages of Minutes books. (77-1-18) It was approved effective Sept 21. (77-82) (Also see Mary Sloan Jones feature above)

Sept 7, 1971-The 22.44 acre Police Pistol Range in Clemmons was owned by the Police Pistol Club until purchased by the city for \$15,000. (77-49)

Oct 4, 1971-A Resolution was approved regarding intent to create community development Commission to assume responsibilities of the Model City Commission. (77-164) The ordinance was passed on October 18. (77-266)

FIRST FEMALE ALDERMAN ERNESTINE WILSON

South Ward Alderman Fleate Chiddie died on Sept 30, a special meeting was called on October 13, 1971 (77-225) and Clifton Brendle was appointed to fill the seat. At the October 18 regular meeting, Brendle declined the appointment. After much political maneuvering, a special election to decide his successor was called in the South Ward. The winner was Mrs. Ernestine Wilson. She was sworn in at a special meeting on December 7, 1971, the first female Alderman.



Ernestine Wilson South Ward Alderman (City of W-S photo)

1972

Feb 7, 1972-The property at 1508 North Liberty St., site of the old #3 fire station, was declared surplus property to be sold at auction. (78-161)

Feb 7, 1972-Cable TV was given approval to broadcast a police scanner. (78-181) This was done on a channel that ran the Associated Press news wire. It was discontinued after a few months when the channel was taken over by full time programming. The scanner would return when the City Government Channel came on the air in July 1989.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Feb 7, 1971- The Public Safety Officer program was approved by the Board citing an 80% increase in major crimes over the last 10 years, a need to cut firefighters work hours and to decrease fire call response time. (78-137)

An outgrowth of the Fire-Police concept that called for cross-trained personnel in low crime/low fire call areas of the city, Public Safety was implemented on a large scale. Regular Policemen and Firemen were offered a pay raise to join Public Safety. The cross-training of new recruits took almost a year.

The concept was being used in several other cities of the approximate size of Winston-Salem with varying degrees of success. The two most notable examples were Durham, NC and San Mateo, California.

On Nov 5, 1979, the Aldermen discussed limiting the extent of the six year old Public Safety Program. (95-384) This action would ultimately increase the number of full time firefighters in certain stations based on calls.

Almost since its beginning, Public Safety was beset with detractors. Its promoters were management who saw it a way to save money with less men in fire stations awaiting a fire call, and in theory, more men on the street to fight crime. Firefighters were used to working as a team and when one or two team members changed constantly, it added to the stress. Police resented the fact that after a fire, firefighters could go to the station and rest while they must return to patrol.

By the mid-eighties, almost all the other cities in the country that had experimented with some form of the concept had returned to traditional fire and police roles.

On Feb 17, 1986, the Aldermen debated the public safety concept and asked for a report on its effectiveness. (108-173)

On November 17, the Board voted to phase out the Public Safety program beginning with the 87-88 budget. (109-368)

By February 1987, the plan to hire enough firefighters to give the stations full compliments of manpower was in place. Upon the graduation of these firefighters from basic fire school in November 1987, public safety ended.

On Oct 19, 1987, personnel resolutions were approved adding the positions of Senior Police Officer and Police Officer Trainee. (111-362)

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

March 20, 1971-Public Safety Communications was reorganized using civilians instead of sworn Police and Firemen. (78-404) Virginia Payne, was the first female operator under the reorganization, although using female operators had been experimented with during the manpower shortage of World War II.

March 20, 1971-A curfew was declared on Sunday Morning between 4-10 AM March 26 for the demolition of the Robert E. Lee Hotel at the corner of Cherry and 5th St. (78-419)

A hotel owned by the Hyatt Corporation was built on the site.

March 20, 1971-Citizens appeared concerning the fate of Reynolds Hospital. The concern was that there would be no hospital on the east side of the City. (78-456)

April 4, 1971-Aldermen approved the concept of new parking deck with skating rink on the site of the old bus station on Cherry between 4th and 5th. (78-477)

April 17, 1971- A Community Services Unit Training for Police authorized through an agreement with Salem College and appropriation of \$9,700. (78-521)

May 1, 1971-The Housing Enforcement Section of the Inspections Division was reorganized with the new position of Housing Codes Administrator established. (79-29)

May 1, 1971-The Recreation Department reorganized with four assistant directors instead of one. (79-30)

June 19, 1971-Aldermen approved a bond call for \$500,000 to construct a new city hall. (79-258)

CITY BUDGET 1972-73

\$26,630,283 (79-325)

July 29, 1971- Bond Referendum Special Election-\$7.6 million for off street parking facilities and acquisition of Safe Bus Company by the Winston-Salem Transit Authority. (79-490)

	For	Against	
1.3 Million for WSTA	7,293	2,562	
Special Tax Levy to operate bus system	6,876	2,837	
Off-Street Parking	6,644	3,031	
Total registered voters			66,018

July 17, 1971-Memorial Day was added to the list of City Employee holidays. (78-380)

October 2, 1971- Reynolds Hospital was given to Forsyth County under the concept that it be used for family health services and long term care instead of as a general hospital. (80-190)

Oct 16, 1971- The Housing Code was updated and amended. (80-289)

GOLD DIED, ORVILLE POWELL NAMED CITY'S THIRD CITY MANAGER

John Gold died of a heart attack on October 29, 1972. Assistant City Manager Orville Powell was appointed City Manager on Nov 6. (80-335)

Dec 18, 1971- A resolution was passed approving a project to acquire property and construct new city garage. (80-605) The location was just west of the old facility on the City Yard property.

1973

January 5, 1973-The Reynolds Hospital usage/ownership question was finally put to bed in a special session of the Board of Aldermen. (81-49)

January 15, 1973-Aldermen voted to limit presentations before the Board to 15 minutes per side with 3 minutes rebuttal. (81-59)

Feb 5, 1973-The position of Public Safety Director was revived and the position of Assistant City Manager- Operations was removed. (81-212) The Public Safety Director position was given to Police Chief Justus Tucker. Police Major Tom Surratt was named Police Chief. The Fire Chief and the Police Chief reported to Tucker under the Public Safety Concept.

Feb 19, 1973- An Ordinance regarding zoning in flood plains and fringe flood planes was enacted. (81-270)

February 19, 1973-Marshall St and Cherry St north of 13th St was renamed *University Parkway*.

March 19, 1973-Human Relations Commissioner position proposed. (81-367)

March 19, 1973-A contract was awarded for swimming pool at Blum Park -\$78,000. (81-383)

March 19, 1973-Garbage "trains" replaced with packer trucks. (81-408)

April 2, 1973- The Downtown Farmers Market, which had been at the City Market Building since it was built was moved to Dixie Classic Fairgrounds.

May 7, 1973-Approval was given to tear down the old Armory at Ninth and Patterson. (82-43) The armory had served as a storage facility for several years after the National Guard moved out. It had been used as a prison for German POW's during World War II.

May 21, 1973- An Erosion Control Ordinance was adopted. (82-92)

July 2, 1973-A contract awarded for the construction of an Ice Hockey Rink in Memorial Coliseum -\$292,000.

CITY BUDGET 1973-1974 (82-303)

\$5,399,200 - Tax rate \$1.55 per \$100

Aug 20, 1973- Aldermen approved Sunday beer sales to comply with new state law. (82-456)

Sept 4, 1973- Aldermen received a pay raise to \$5,100 per annum. (83-85)

Sept 17, 1973- Special Use Districts within zoning districts approved. (83-95)

Sept 17, 1973-A 10% water and sewer rate increase approved. (83-135)

ALDERMAN HOLCOMB RESIGNED

Oct 22, 1973- A special meeting was held to elect a representative from the Southeast Ward. Although the reason for Donald F. Holcomb's resignation is not stated in the minutes, newspaper accounts carry his conviction of bribery in detail. Eugene Groce was appointed by the Board to fill the unexpired term. (83-371)

Nov 19, 1973- A resolution was approved to lease space for city departments in the new NCNB Plaza Office Building and moving out of the Government Center. (83-483)

Nov 19, 1973-A discussion began regarding the proposed repeal of Sunday Blue Laws. (83-501) It was enacted Jan 21, 1974. (84-52)

Dec 18, 1973-The lot at the corner of Main and First, the site of an Exxon Service Station was purchased. (83-538) The City now owned the entire block south of City Hall. It was paved and used as an employee parking lot.

1974

Ron Seeber named as City Attorney. (84-57)

Feb 18, 1974- A Public Safety Career Development Center was set up for training firemen and policemen and cross-training under the new Public Safety Officer concept. (84-125) Initially classes were held at Forsyth Tech.

July 15, 1974- Police begin registering all bicycles in the city in an attempt to reduce theft. (85-49) One policeman and one or two police cadets were assigned to the task full time that summer and part of the fall.

CITY BUDGET 1974-1975

\$22,119,287 - Tax Rate .90 per \$100

Sept 3, 1974- \$160,000 in bonds were issued for constructing and equipping a new fire station. (85-141)

BENEATH THE ELMS

Oct 7, 1974- The area of proposed commercial shops located beneath the new parking deck on Cherry between 4th and 5th was officially named "Beneath the Elms" (85-281) There were some elm trees planted in large pots at street level. An ABC store was on the street level for a while, then a hair salon and a short-lived restaurant.

Funds were appropriated on Oct 6, 1975 to use 4,500 sq ft of the facility behind the skating rink for the Public Safety Career Development Center. (87-380) There had not been a demand for the rest of commercial space. It was somewhat off the beaten path and the businesses had no service entrances. The CDC would maintain the space for training until the Public Safety Center opened. The space was then used by the Special Populations Unit of the Recreation and Parks Department.

On April 21, 1997, the Board approved transfer of Beneath the Elms to the Winston Plaza Hotel project for conversion to a large meeting space for the hotel. (255) The final agreement was made on November 17, 1997. (209)

Nov 6, 1974- Employee cost of living pay increase proposed for January 1 was moved up to November 1. (85-344)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Mayor Franklin R. Shirley

Aldermen

NW Ward	John Palmer
East Ward	C.C. Ross
South Ward	Ernestine Wilson
West Ward	Bahnson C. Hall
Southwest Ward	Floyd Burge
Northeast Ward	Carl Russell
North Ward	Richard Davis
Southeast Ward	Eugene Groce

Nov 18, 1974- Triangle Broadcasting notified Board it has changed it name to Summit Communications. D/b/A Summit Cable Services. (85-373) Summit would later be bought by Time-Warner Cable.

1975

Jan 20, 1975- The Winston-Salem Sports Commission approved by Board and forwarded to Legislative delegation (86-71). Enacted by Board of Aldermen in July (87-171)

January 20, 1975-A contract was awarded for the construction of a new communications building for public works at City Yard (87-249)

TEAM POLICING

January 20, 1975- The Police Department applied for and received a \$179,000 federal grant to implement “Neighborhood Team Policing Concept.” (87-350) At that same meeting the Alderman approved renovations to the Harris Home Center on Cassell St. for use by the Police as part of the Team Policing Concept (86-87)

On March 22, 1976, the Hanes Corporation Ivy Ave building was leased for Neighborhood Team Policing use. (88-209)

The team policing concept was expanded in 1978 to “District Policing” with the city divided geographically. A building on Patterson Ave near Indiana was chosen but it was owned by Alderman Davis. The lease could not be let until after his term expired in December 1977. This building replaced the Hanes Ivy Ave location. On April 13, 1978, a request for lease of a portion of the old Sears building at 4th and Board was brought to the Board. (92-312)

It just didn’t work. Detectives did not share information from team to team and internal communications were so disjointed that parts of the city didn’t know what other parts were doing. And none of the policemen were happy being part time firemen under the public safety concept.

CITY EFFICIENCY STUDY

An efficiency study was enacted during May and June. About 60 local volunteers were served. It looked at both city and county governments. It called for the merging of the purchasing departments, printing departments, data processing, fleet facility, parks and recreation. There were a multitude of internal changes suggested...many of which were implemented including a central warehouse for recreation Here's some that were not: Combine credit unions, combine City Attorney with Public Safety Legal advisor, decrease number of take home cars in police, place fairgrounds under Coliseum-Convention Center.

CITY BUDGET 1975-76

\$25,439,900 - Tax rate .90 (87-53)

June 16, 1975-The Hanes Mall property was annexed into the city. (87-58)

June 16, 1975-City’s interest in the armory on Silas Creek Parkway, including the gas barrier and venting system was sold to the State for \$137,115. (87-103)

July 21, 1975-A city wide leash law was enacted. (87-131)

Sept 2, 1975 –A contract was awarded for the construction of a new Central Fire Station on Marshall St between 6th and 7th. (87-277)

Oct 6, 1975- Aldermen approved a 6 per cent cost of living increase for all city employees. (87-360)

Nov 3, 1975- A Soil, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance enacted. (87-427)

OFFICIAL CITY CONSOLIDATION DATE

Dec 8, 1975- A Resolution was approved determining that the official date of consolidation of Winston and Salem be listed as May 9, 1913. (87-523) Robert Neilson, retired Public Works Director spoke before the Board regarding the erroneous use of May 13 as the official date of consolidation and gave his explanation that May 9 should be the official date. Neilson said that this resolution would correct an error of 63 years standing in the official and legal date of the consolidation.

May 13 was the day after the first Board of Aldermen of the combined cities met following the consolidation vote.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION

Dec 8, 1975-The Historic Properties Commission was created. (87-544) A joint meeting with the Commission and the Board of Aldermen was held on October 4 1976 to determine which buildings should be designated as Historic Properties. 31 properties were approved. (89-311) This list was then approved by the Board at their regular meeting on Oct 4. (89-315)

December 8, 1975- The City switched to bi-weekly instead of semi-monthly paydays for city employees.

1976

CONSENT AGENDA IMPLEMENTED

Feb 2, 1976- Board began using consent agenda for items considered routine. (88-72)

The March 1 meeting began using the heading “General Business Agenda” for those items not listed on Consent Agenda. (88-131)

Feb 16, 1976- The position of Deputy City Manager was added as a result of a classification/pay plan study as were the Positions of Assistant City Manager Public Works and Assistant City Manger Public Safety. These two replace the positions of Deputy Public Works Director and Public Safety Director. (88-90)

Feb 16, 1976-The Recreation Department recommended charging rental of Santa Suits- \$2.00. (88-116)



JACK BOND

On February 16, 1976, Jack Bond was named the first Deputy City Manager, the first African American to hold such a position in North Carolina. He had come with the city in the Concentrated Employment Project in 1969. He was named as special assistant to the Mayor in 1971, later that year the title was changed to Asst. City Manager for Community Development. Jack Bond died in Durham in Aug 2001.

March 1, 1976- Fourth St Bus Stop in front of the Pepper building relocated to the north side of the County Courthouse. There had been a number of complaints from merchants about people waiting on buses clogging up the entrances to their businesses. (88-150)

April 5, 1976- Orders issued for bonds. (88-247) Results of June 22 (89-11)

\$17,500. 00 Coliseum Bonds	For 3,762	Against 5,470
\$1,000,000 Fire Facilities	For 4,874	Against 4,320
\$16,000,000 Public Building Bonds	For 4,068	Against 5,112

May 17, 1976-The Board approved the gift of “a small country store” building to be moved to South Fork Park (88-424) This was the first South Fork Community Center. It is now the Cricket’s Nest Craft Store.

Jack Bond (City of W-S photo)

CITY BUDGET 1976-1977

\$30,996,330 - Tax rate .90

May 17, 1976-Old Fire Station No. 2 building on South Main St was leased to Piedmont Craftsmen. (89-13)



Carolina Theater
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

CAROLINA THEATER

August 16, 1976- Discussion of what to do with the old Carolina Theater takes up 24 pages of Minutes Book and ends with a vote of no consideration (begins 89-104). Piedmont Publishing which owned the building offered to give it to the city in exchange for a parking lot on Fifth between Marshall and Spruce. The city would then give the building to the School of the Arts. Following much discussion on Sept 7, the Aldermen vote was split 4-4 and Mayor Shirley voted in favor. (89-211) The issue came back up at the Sept 20th meeting and another 20 pages is devoted to it. (89-247) On Jan 3, 1977, Piedmont Publishing bought the parking lot property for \$300,000. (90-9)

TRANSIT OFFICE AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Aug 16, 1976-Agreement approved for State funding for a transit maintenance and office facility. (89-143)

On May 2, 1978, the facility was named the *Hampton D. Haith Public Transportation Center*. (90-290) Haith was the last general manager of Safe Bus Company which provided transportation service in Winston-Salem from 1920 until 1972. He died in 1993.

Aug 30, 1976 Bond orders introduced (89-185)

Sewer Bonds	\$18,500.00	for	27,696	against	8,424
Water Bonds	\$1,500.00	for	26,812	against	8,642

Nov 1, 1976- Property in urban renewal area owned by the city swapped with the county. The city property was to be used as the site of a mental health facility. The swap gave the city full control of the lot bounded by First St, Second St, Main and Liberty. (89-363) This “super block” as it was called, would eventually be the site of Wachovia Bank’s third headquarters building.

Dec 6, 1976- The position of Assistant City Attorney was established. (89-432)

1977

Jan 17, 1977- The Aldermen adopted a complaint hearing procedure for Committees of the Board of Aldermen. (90-31)

March 21, 1977- A General Development Guide for Planning was adopted by the Board of Aldermen. (90-169)

April 18, 1977-The Aldermen approved a redevelopment plan for the area around WSSU. It was financed through \$653,500 in Community Development Block Grant Funds. The result would be the destruction of the Columbian Heights neighborhood for the expansion of Winston-Salem State University. Columbian Heights had been one of the premier African-American neighborhoods in the 30’s and 40’s.

TELEVISION EQUIPMENT

A grant for \$13,300 from the Governors Highway Safety Commission for video tape equipment was approved. (90-256) Bids were open on August 15 for:

1 portable camera	\$3,373
1 portable recorder	\$2,327
2 color monitors	\$1,230
1 editor/recorder	\$4,855
1 video player	\$1,134
1 character generator	\$2,500

This equipment would be used for training and crime scene documentation for the Police. It was the beginning of a video division of the city training division and was the basis for equipment and personnel for the city government television channel which came on cable channel in 1989.

June 2, 1977- Community Development Plan approved for the South Marshall Area. (90-362)

June 2, 1977-City Employees became part of state retirement plan.

CITY BUDGET 1977-1978 (90-415)

\$34,572,870 Property revaluation sets the tax rate at \$.60.

August 15, 1977- The Board approved a separate state retirement plan for sworn police officers (91-124.) A number of eligible officers, those with 30 years or more service, almost immediately retired; including Chief Thomas Surratt.

August 15, 1977- Aldermen approved the relocation of the Experiment in Self-Reliance program to the old city hospital. (91-196)

Nov 9, 1977-The Hanes complex on 7th and Chestnut, which the city had received for one dollar, was auctioned to RJR for \$60,000. (91-264)

Nov 30, 1977- Contracts were awarded for new fair eating booths and a fair administration building, fire maintenance garage, Reynolds Park Clubhouse and Recreation Maintenance facility to be built at Reynolds Park. (91-314)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION (91-337)

Mayor Wayne Corpening

Aldermen	
South Ward	Ernestine Wilson
East Ward	Virginia Newell
Northwest Ward	John Cavanagh
West Ward	Robert Northington
South Ward	Jon DeVries
Southeast Ward	Eugene Groce
North Ward	Larry D. Little
Northeast Ward	Vivian H. Burke

Corpening campaigned as a “full time” Mayor. This first meeting’s minutes contains several comments from the new Aldermen regarding bringing honesty and integrity back to the Board. Obviously honesty and integrity take some time. Minutes from their meetings show several meeting that lasted until after midnight and others that ended after 11 PM.

1978

January 3, 1978- The Forsyth Clergy Association agreed to furnish ministers to open meetings with prayer.

POLICE CHIEF L.A. POWELL

January 3, 1978-A six-month nationwide search ended when the Assistant Chief of Albuquerque, New Mexico was named Winston-Salem's ninth Police Chief. He was the first Chief with no ties Winston-Salem when he was hired. All of the other Chiefs except John Gold had come up through the ranks. Gold was the local FBI agent when he was appointed.

January 3, 1978-City Government enters the computer age when the first word processing equipment was leased from IBM. (92-11) Revenue and Water Billing had used computers since 1949 for accounting.

The 911 Emergency Systems became operational city wide

Feb 6, 1978- The Model Cities Planned Variations programs ended. (92-92)

February 6, 1978-A sewer system policy was revised and adopted. (92-92) It replaced ordinances on "Sewers and Sewer Systems."

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

February 6, 1978- The Human Relations Commission was created. (92-125) It was to have 21 members of whom eleven were to be of minority ethnic groups.

March 20, 1978- A proposal presented for eliminating the 44 miles of unpaved streets in the city (92-226) its estimated cost was just over 1.4 million dollars.

April 3, 1978- Aldermen vote to publicize vacant positions on Boards and Commissions. (92-265)

CITY BUDGET 1978-1979 (92-462)

\$30,538,040 - Tax rate 67.5 cents

June 26, 1978 - "Water System Policy" enacted to replace section of city code entitled "Water." (92-479)

June 26, 1978-Non-resident parking policy enacted for the streets around Baptist Hospital. (92-514) A sticker in the vehicle window was required. Illegal parking was such a problem around Baptist that a Parking Enforcement Officer was assigned to the area full time.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

July 17, 1978- The Community Development Department was created (93-32) to consolidate services of the Redevelopment Commission, Public Works and other city departments with emphasis on the preservation and construction of housing. The Redevelopment Commission was officially abolished Dec 31, 1978 and its personnel became part of the Community Development Department. (93-126)

Sept 18, 1978- A Resolution was adopted stating that building permits must now be approved by the Fire Prevention Office before they are issued. (93-191)

Oct 2, 1978- A "Cultural Block" was proposed by the Arts Council to be known as Winston Square in the area bounded by Fourth, Marshall, Third and Spruce. (93-226)

1979

Feb 5, 1979- 13 modems were purchased to allow computers to communicate over telephone lines- Total cost \$6,330. (94-99)

BOND REFERENDUM

March 6, 1978- A Bond Referendum was held regarding \$14 million for water system improvement costs.
For 18,376 Against 3,736 (94-255)

The big item on the ballot was the citywide Liquor by the Drink Issue which was also approved at this special election.

CITY BUDGET 1979-1980 (95-2)

\$40,004,930 - Tax rate 72.5 cents

NEW LANDFILL

July 16, 1979-Aldermen discussed the location of a new landfill. One proposal was curbside garbage pickup to save money which was not approved. (95-47)

Additional property for the Hanes Mill Landfill was purchased in October (95-358)

CONVENTION CENTER ELEVATOR

While an elevator shaft was built into the Convention Center, funds for the elevator were not approved until Sept 4, 1979. (95-230)

CITY MANAGER RESIGNS UNDER PRESSURE

Aug 14, 1979- After 18 months of conflict with the new Board of Aldermen, Orville Powell resigned effective October 1. In his letter of resignation, he stated, "While we have tried to work together, our differences have widened rather than closed. This continuing difference between us has caused many problems within the organization and among city employees. Given this situation, with little promise of improvement, I feel that it would be in the best interest of this community if I stepped aside and allowed you to appoint a new city manager."

A newspaper article that afternoon said, "Although he was not asked to resign, he said he was "Just a step away" from being asked. He said he saw no reason to put anyone through the formality of a vote because "the manager serves at the pleasure of the board."

Powell's establishment of the public safety program was what had drawn the most fire although it actually began under City Manager John Gold. The disagreements with Powell began in the November 1978 election when six new Aldermen were elected some of whom were elected to "change things at City Hall." A newspaper article, five days later, points to these new board members who "brought to aldermanic decision-making more public bickering and divisiveness than the previous board displayed."

On Sept 27, a newspaper article listed Powell's accomplishments as hiring and promoting several key people and having a role in reshaping the city government with the formation of the Community Development, Human services and Public Safety Departments. He stated that his biggest satisfactions were keeping the city sound financially and being able to improve employee fringe benefits. Powell was 41 when he resigned. He served many years afterwards as the City Manager of Durham, NC.

Oct 15, 1979- The Aldermen began discussing reopening of the downtown Trade Street Mall. (95-307) A resolution opening the Mall was approved April 8, 1980. (96-170) The mall had been an attempt to bring shoppers back to the downtown business district. It failed as many store closed completely and others relocated to Hanes Mall.

NEW CITY MANAGER BRYCE STUART

The Aldermen met in two closed sessions on Nov 16 for two hours and Nov 17 for 10 hours at the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds Administration Building to choose a new city manager. (95-386) Six candidates were interviewed.

At the Board meeting on Nov 19 1979, it was announced that Bill Stuart, assistant city manager in Charlotte was nominated as the new city manager at a salary of \$44,500. There was unanimous approval. (95-442) He was Winston-Salem's 4th City Manager.



City Manager Bill Stuart