

# City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

## City of Winston-Salem: 1940-1949

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1940 - \$75,000 received for addition to Reynolds Hospital; Vending Stand operated by Commission for the Blind approved for City Hall lobby; Recreation centers constructed at Happy Hill, 14<sup>th</sup> St School and Kimberley Park
- 1941 - Land donated for Miller Park; Master traffic signal controller installed; Richard Reynolds elected Mayor; Resolution approved favoring beltline around the city; Housing Authority created; Parking meters proposed.
- 1942 - Blackouts and air raid sirens approved; City ordinances consolidated and codified; Reynolds resigns to join the Navy; Wilbur Crews named acting Mayor; J.A.Thomas named temporary Police Chief
- 1943 - George Coan elected Mayor; Calvin Graves named first City Attorney; Sick leave and vacation time proposed for city employees; Union representation for city workers discussed.
- 1944 - City takes over New Evergreen Cemetery; One-way streets downtown suggested; bond referendum passes to build a new hospital; Blum Park given to City; John Gold named Chief of Police; City hires first African-American police officers.
- 1945 - Mayor proposes forgiving taxes of those in the armed forces; George Lentz elected Mayor; Health Departments consolidated; Committee of 100 formed to study city government efficiency.
- 1946 - Aldermen support proposal to move Wake Forest College here; Blue laws discussed; Planning consultant hired; improvements made to city water supply; first aerial map of the city made.
- 1947 - Wards divided into precincts; City Manager form of government proposed; Special election approves enlargement of water supply and city manager form of government.
- 1948 - Fishing approved a Salem Lake; City-County Planning Commission appointed; C.E. Perkins appointed first City Manager; Street paving program resumed; Walk/Don't Walk lights purchased; right of way costs for arterial highway through the city discussed; Central warehouse created; Property on 5th St donated for new library; First zoning ordinances presented.
- 1949 - Fire Station on Country Club Rd approved; ABC Stores considered; Marshall Kurfees elected Mayor; Job classification plan proposed; Aldermen vote to participate in an east-west expressway project; Fire Prevention Bureau created.



Merchants clear the sidewalks on 4<sup>th</sup> Street after a snowfall about 1940. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

## 1940

March 1, 1940 - A Group from Ardmore appeared requesting a playground and swimming pool be established in that section. (27-398) They presented a petition with 1,731 names. This was referred to the Public Works, Finance and Recreation Committees.

March 29, 1940 - The hours of the City Market were set at 7:30 AM-6 PM and on Saturday from 7:30 AM-9 PM (27-421)

April 26, 1940 - A gift of \$75,000 received from Mr. W. N. Reynolds for the construction of an addition to the Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital. (27-459)

June 14, 1940 - The chauffeur's license (taxicab) of Marvin Phillips was revoked since he was found guilty of intimidating a federal witness and was serving time in the federal prison in Petersburg, VA. (28-6)

June 28, 1940 - The Aldermen approve "as heretofore" giving women employees one-half day off a week between July 8 and the end of August. (28-45)

July 12, 1940 - James A. Gray gives the city a gift of \$20,000 to be used for a W.P.A. project "to provide for the development of playground and recreational facilities for Negro citizens." (28-46)

**CITY BUDGET** (28-64) The budget was approved on July 22  
\$3,019,443.87 - Tax rate set at \$1.50 (28-75)

Aug 26, 1940 - The City Juvenile Court was discontinued and consolidated with the Juvenile Court of Forsyth County. (28-149)

July 22, 1940 - The Aldermen approved a vending stand in the lobby of City Hall on the left side of the staircase operated by NC State Commission for The Blind. (28-66) This stand would operate in a couple of different locations in the building until replaced by vending machines in the 1980's.

Sept 6, 1940 - City Department Heads elected (appointed by the Aldermen for one year terms)- Commissioners of Public Works, Commissioners of Public Accounts and Finance, Fire Chief, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, Tax Assessor, City Health Officer, Building Inspector, Chief of Police, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Clerk of the Municipal Court. (28-158)

Sept 13, 1940 - An adjustable traffic signal was approved for the intersection of Eighth, Liberty and Main Streets. (28-161)

Sept 13, 1940 - Stone was delivered to the Cloverdale Ave Extension project at a cost of 25 cents per ton. (28-170)

Oct 25, 1940 - A Certificate of Convenience was issued to Eastern Airline permitting a stop at the Winston-Salem Airport. (28-187)

### **KIMBERLEY PARK**

Nov 15, 1940- A.L. Butner deeded to the city 13.5 acres of land for a community recreation center- the present Kimberley Park Property. Butner also made a cash donation of \$1,500 for the installation of water and sewer mains in the proposed park area. (29-217)

### **THREE RECREATION CENTERS CONSTRUCTED**

As a result of the Gray and Butner gifts and the cooperation of the WPA, centers were constructed at Happy Hill, Fourteenth St School and Kimberley Park. The acceptance and dedication ceremonies were held at Kimberley Park on Jan 17, 1942. C. C. McGinnis, State WPA Administrator, presented the centers to the City, and Mayor Richard J. Reynolds presided over the ceremonies and accepted on behalf of the City. James A. Gray, donor of the sponsor's share of the project delivered the featured address saying,

"Our Negro population has made marked progress in developing a quality of civic pride and responsibility. You have taken your place in the industrial and commercial life of the City, rendering valuable service, and providing for your children, in the majority of cases, a far better living, richer in opportunities, than their parents or grandparents ever dreamed might be possible. We are Americans. It is our way of life that is being challenged. It is our children who will suffer from any lowering of social and economic standards. It is our obligation to weld ourselves into a solid, impregnable citizenry, immune to any form of dissention from within and on constant guard against danger from the outside."

Jack Atkins expressed the appreciation of the African-American citizens for the new centers.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Dec 6, 1940- The Aldermen approved \$150 for Christmas decoration on Main St between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> (28-241)

Mayor Fain said it was his understanding that the County Government would close 2 ½ days...from Tuesday noon until Friday morning for the Christmas Holidays. Alderman Shaffner made a motion that City Hall be closed for the same period. The motion was unanimously carried.

# 1941

## MILLER PARK

Jan 3, 1941- Clint Miller donated 30.2 acres on the west side for a city park (28-309), subject to the City donating 8.2 acres of adjoining land. The offer was accepted with the understanding that at least \$11,260 would be raised by popular subscription, this being the amount necessary for the sponsor's contribution to support the project application to the WPA for the construction of a park on the land.

On April 17, 1942, the Board passed a resolution naming the new recreation center "Miller Park" in recognition of the generous gift. (30-29)

Jan 31, 1941 - Space was leased in City Hall for Draft Board Offices. (28-310)

March 14, 1941 - A master traffic controller was purchased for all lights on Main, Liberty, Fourth and Fifth. (28-357)

## SANITARY REPORT

March 28, 1941 - A report from the Heath Committee was received saying they had made a "...comprehensive study of the sanitary conditions prevailing in the City and has endeavored, among other things, to eliminate the cause of complaints concerning trash and unsanitary conditions, particularly in the downtown business area. (28-379)



**The trail in Miller Park. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

"We find that the unsanitary condition of streets and alleys in the business district arise principally from: litter blown from alleys; litter blown from trucks; trash not placed in legal type containers; unswept sidewalks; trash thrown into streets by pedestrians; trash swept into streets by adjacent property owners; use of alleys as public toilets."

The report went on to list the unsanitary conditions in residential districts are caused mainly by "...throwing garbage from apartment windows, failure to use legal-type containers for garbage, use of outside toilets of the so-called Vogler type".

The report listed several recommendations including defining which are public or private alleys, requiring garbage trucks to be covered, and arresting those who steal trash containers. Each part of the report was referred to the proper committee for action.

## DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY APRIL 21, 1941

Originally six men announced their candidacies for Mayor...the incumbent Mayor James R. Fain, Lawrence G. Pfefferkorn, George W. Coan, Jr. Marshall C. Kurfees, John H. Cranfill and Richard J. Reynolds. When Reynolds announced his candidacy, all the other candidates withdrew.

In announcing his withdrawal, Mr. Coan stated: "I do not oppose Mr. Reynolds' constructive objectives for our City, but, as a matter of fact, am in accord with the letter and spirit of his platform and am glad such an outstanding citizen has volunteered his services and is willing to assume the duties and responsibilities of the office of Mayor."

Marshall Kurfees, in withdrawing his candidacy stated, "...It is with a great deal of pleasure that I ask you to mark mine, the last name, from the ballot to give Mr. Reynolds a clear field, which will automatically insure his election to the high office of Mayor of Winston-Salem."

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**City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1940-1949**

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Reynolds, in announcing his candidacy on March 31 stated that his platform included two “main planks”—annexation of more territory to the City of Winston-Salem and slum clearance—but these were but two of many improvements he would seek to make if nominated and elected. His statement says in part:

“I believe people residing just outside the city limits who gain their livelihood by working inside the City should bear their share of the burden of City administration. Especially do I think that those with money who have built large estates outside the city limits should be brought into the City. This will add a considerable sum to property valuation and thus would serve to decrease our tax rate.

“This would mean little additional expense to the City in comparison with the amount of taxes that would be collected each year and it would be a means of evening up the tax load now so bravely born by the smaller property owner living inside the City.

“As for slum clearance I am heartily sold on the idea. Winston Salem has had its share of slums for many years and now we have the privilege of clearing out these slums and providing in their place clean, well built houses at reasonable rentage I most certainly think we should take advantage of this opportunity.

“Slum clearance would not only provide decent places for the City’s poor to live but it would make a healthier place, would add greatly to the appearance of the city and would serve to make of these people better citizens.”

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 6**

Mayor Richard J. Reynolds (unopposed) George Coan received one vote in the west precinct of the second ward

Aldermen

First Ward	Richard R. Hensel Emory E. James
Second Ward	Ralph M. Stockton Tom O. Pepper
Third Ward	J.A. Renn E. J. Tuloch
Salem Ward	J. Wilbur Crews Wm. F. Shaffner, Jr.

May 12, 1941 - The New Board was sworn in (29-2) The Mayor appointed, and the Board approved the members of the sixteen Standing Committees:  
Finance (2), Fire & Building (2), Public Works (2), Ordinance (2), Police (2), Parks (2), Traffic (3), Stadium (2), Hospital (2), Light (2), Real Estate (2), Health (3), School (2), Recreation (2), Market (2), Library (2)

The number in parenthesis represents the board members on each Committee. On May 16, 1941, the Board increased the members to three on the Finance and Police Committees and on May 25, 1943, three members were put on the Public Works Committee. (30-297)

Mayor Reynolds thanked the citizens for the honor bestowed upon him in electing him Mayor and urged that everyone work together to make Winston-Salem one of the greatest cities of the South. (29-2)

**RESOLUTION FAVORING BELTLINE (29-28)**

May 26, 1941- The Aldermen approved a resolution stating:

“Whereas, the congestion resulting from heavy traffic conditions within the City of Winston-Salem is such as to demand immediate and urgent relief;

Whereas, it has been proposed that a belt line be constructed around the city of Winston-Salem for the purpose of detouring heavy and through traffic, and relieving some of the congestion in the downtown business and other sections of the City of Winston-Salem.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the City of Winston-Salem that it does hereby go on record as heartily endorsing such movement and that it does earnestly recommend that such belt line be constructed by the State Highway Commission as soon as practicable.”

The beltline, though much discussed was not completed until 50 years later. The City opted for a controlled access highway right through the middle of town. That project, now known as Business 40, was completed in 1960.

June 18, 1941- Mayor Reynolds suggested that a committee be appointed to consider consolidation of the City and County Tax Departments. (29-56)



**Trade Street in the 40's was a busy place during tobacco market time.  
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

### **HOUSING AUTHORITY APPROVED**

The Board received a petition signed by more than 25 citizens pursuant to Chapter 456, Public Laws of North Carolina, 1935 referred to as the "Housing Authority Law", stating the need for an Authority to function in the City and asking that a public hearing be held regarding the following questions:

- (1) Whether unsanitary or unsafe inhabited dwelling accommodations exist in the City of Winston-Salem, and or
- (2) Whether there is a lack of safe or sanitary dwelling accommodations in the City of Winston-Salem available for all the inhabitants thereof.

On June 27, following a public hearing with speakers both for and against the concept presenting, this resolution was unanimously adopted:

1. Insanitary (sic) and unsafe inhabited dwelling accommodations exist in the City of Winston-Salem and
2. There is a lack of safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, avoidable of all the inhabitants thereof and
3. There is a need for a Housing Authority to function in the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

This was the first time the Board had acknowledged that there were slums in Winston-Salem. During the administration of Mayor W. T. Wilson, on August 9, 1935, the Board of Aldermen voted a unanimous "No" on the same proposition. (24-108)

On September 1, the Board adopted a resolution approving and authorizing the execution of a cooperation agreement between the City of Winston-Salem and the Housing Authority of the City of Winston-Salem (29-297), followed by an amended agreement on October 17, 1941. (29-338)

### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

July 18, 1941 - A resolution was adopted establishing daylight saving time and directing that all activities of the City be conducted in accordance with such plan and that all time pieces of the City be moved forward in conformity therewith. (29-94)

**CITY BUDGET 1941-42**

\$3,152,519.88.

For the first time the minutes of the Board show the Budget appropriations broken down under specific departments and functions such as General Government, Police, Health Department, Sanitation, Streets, Schools, etc.(29-97) The tax rate remained at \$1.50 per hundred.

**PARKING METERS PROPOSED**

July 28, 1941 - A Public Hearing was held relating to traffic control and authorizing the installation of parking meters. (29-103) Representatives from the Winston-Salem Automobile Club, Retail Coal Dealers, merchants, automobile dealers, Forsyth County Grange and others spoke against the ordinance. The ordinance passed 5-2 and was carried over to the next meeting.

On August 1, Alderman Hensel of the Traffic Committee recommended that parking meters be tried for six months and if not satisfactory they would be done away with. Mayor Reynolds then threw the meeting open for discussion. (29-186)

Judge Roy Deal, representing a group of merchants who opposed the installation of parking meters, questioned the legality of the proposed ordinance.

Secretary Ralph L. Dixon read a letter from the Retail Merchants Association showing a telegraphic poll of the members of the Association with 124 opposed, 44 in favor, 24 neutral and 25 who did not answer.

The vote was taken again with the same 5-2 vote. Bids were authorized on August 25 and received on Sept 30.

On Oct 31, the Board approved the awarding of a contract for 500 meters for \$31,375.

A permanent restraining order against the installation of parking meters was asked in a Superior Court action on December 1 1941 by 22 Winston-Salem merchants, taxpayers and business firms. There was also some question as to whether or not the meters and posts could be obtained, due to restrictions on the use of critical materials, incidental to National Defense regulations.

On January 12, 1942, the Secretary read the following from the traffic committee:

“We...have considered very carefully our parking meter installation and in view of the restrictions placed on motor vehicles, tires, tubes and equipment are of the opinion that it would not be advisable but patriotic to postpone the installation until the use of automobiles are again creating the traffic situation for which we believe meter control is advisable.

The need for war materials had brought to a halt what neither the courts nor merchants could bring about. It was only temporary. Over 600 parking meters were purchased and installed in 1946. (32-323) There were 2 cent and 1 cent meters. A report on April 1, 1947 stated that the meters were averaging 331/3 cents per day per meter and”...in general they were working all right.” (32-568)



**This picture of 4th St at Christmas in 1941 shows paved over street car tracks and no parking meters (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**



**The Carolina Theater, now the Stevens Center, was the finest theater in the city at this time. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

**SUNDAY MOVIES APPROVED TO HELP WAR EFFORT**

Sept 29, 1941- Aldermen approved lifting a ban on Sunday movies for the benefit of soldiers in the city as a result of military maneuvers. The ordinance passes but not before opposition to it is heard from the Men’s Bible Class of the Fourth Street Church of Christ; Friends Church; Central Terrace Methodist Church; Burkehead Methodist Church; Calvary Moravian Church; George W. Lee Memorial Presbyterian Church; First Evangelical and Reformed Church; North Winston Baptist Church(29-327)

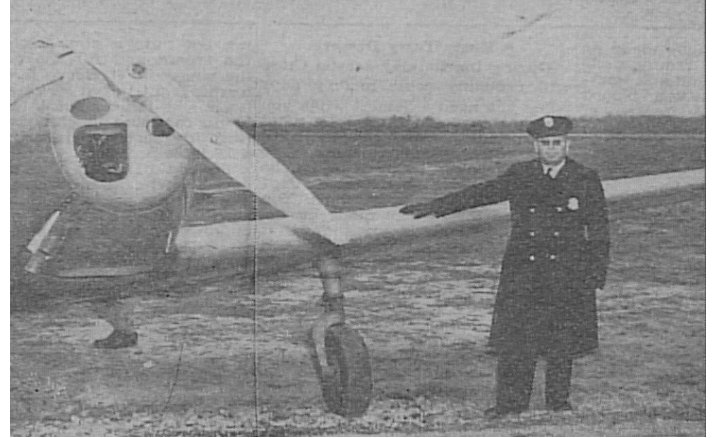
**1942**

**OUTSIDE AGENCIES IN CITY HALL**

Jan 12, 1942- State Driver’s License Bureau and the Federal Tire Allotment Board were given space in City Hall (29-407) There was a request that these allocations be rescinded on January 30 so that rooms in the basement could be used by the Local Defense Council. (29-418)

**MAYOR AUTHORIZES BLACKOUTS**

Jan 30, 1942- The ordinance was drawn at the insistence of Mayor Reynolds in order to make it mandatory for every person to fulfill his duty in case air raids were made on this City. (29-416)



More evidence of the war footing was the posting of an around the clock police guard at the airport. This continued for several months. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

**AIR RAID SIRENS APPROVED**

Feb 13, 1942- A plan was presented to establish air raid sirens and communications with seven sirens and at least 14 additional trunk lines to be installed in the control center to be established. (29-427) The sirens were approved at a joint Aldermen-County Commissioners Meeting on Feb 16. They were placed upon the roofs of schools and other public and private buildings in widely separated areas of the City. A Civilian Defense Control Center was set up in the basement of City Hall.

**CITY ORDINANCES**

March 6, 1942-The Board adopted an ordinance to consolidate, codify and set forth the general and permanent ordinances of the City. These ordinances consisted of 27 chapters. There is also a complete index of the public-Local and Private Laws of the City of Winston-Salem and the old City of Winston from 1851 to 1939, and also the old laws of the Town of Salem from 1843 to 1913 The Ordinances and Index of laws are printed in full. (29 435-760)

**ALDERMAN SHAFFNER DRAFTED**

April 7, 1942- Alderman Shaffner resigned stating that he has received orders from the Navy Department to report to active duty. (30-25) On April 10, Ernest L. Pfohl was elected to fill the vacancy. (30-27)

**MAYOR REYNOLDS’ RESIGNATION**

April 17, 1942-Ten days later Mayor Reynolds resigned to join the Navy. “...I feel that my place as Mayor can be taken to the complete satisfaction of our citizens by my close friend and associate, our Mayor Pro tem, J. Wilbur Crews. As a member of the Board of Aldermen with the longest tenure of office, he has had opportunity to serve the City in numerous important capacities and to become intimate with every detail of municipal administration.”



Miller Field was renamed Smith Reynolds Airport in 1942. This postcard dates from the early 1950’s. (J. R. Snider postcard collection)

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## City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1940-1949

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The Board adopted a resolution expressing appreciation for the services rendered by Mayor Reynolds and granting him a leave of absence for the duration of his service in the Navy and not to extend beyond his present term of office, and without payment of the usual compensation. (30-30)

The Board then elected J. Wilbur Crews, Mayor Pro tem, to serve as Acting Mayor during the leave of absence of Mayor Reynolds. Crews were superintendent of the City Water Plant before becoming a member of the Board of Aldermen and a 6 term Alderman when tapped as Acting Mayor. Charles L. Creech, Sr., was elected Aldermen to fill Crew's seat from the South Salem Ward. J.A. Renn was appointed Mayor Pro Tem.

### **TAX COLLECTOR, MR. CASH, RESIGNS**

May 1, 1942 -City Tax Collector since 1939, Hugh P. Cash, tendered his resignation having accepted a position in the Federal Office of Price Administration. (30-38) The position of City Tax Collector was never filled thereafter.

May 8, 1942- Alderman Hensel suggested that the Traffic Committee consider the adoption of an ordinance regulating bicycle traffic, especially the use of bicycles by two simultaneous riders. (30-61)



**The Union Bus Terminal on Cherry between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> opened in 1942. It was torn down to make way for a city parking deck in the 1970's. (J.R. Snider postcard collection)**

June 19, 1942 - Alderman Tulloch resigned after moving his residence. N.M. Lancaster was elected to fill out his term. (30-76)

### **CITY BUDGET 1942-1943**

\$3,106,439.77 (30-92) Tax rate set at \$1.50.

Aug 14, 1942 - The Alderman approved the sale of all street car rails for the war effort (30-101) It was eventually decided that it was too much trouble to dig the rails out of the pavement and the project was abandoned.

The idea was considered again in 2002 when the 4<sup>th</sup> St. project was being considered but again it was considered expensive so the rails remain under several layers of asphalt.

Sept 4, 1942 - Space in the old West End School on Fourth St was rented to the War Price Rationing Board. (30-113)

### **CITY OFFICIALS APPOINTED IN SEPTEMBER**

These were the same as appointed the previous year with the exception of the position of Tax Collector. (30-113)

**CHIEF ANDERSON RESIGNED**

Sept 18, 1942- Police Chief Walter F. Anderson resigned effective Sept 30. Anderson had been Police Chief since Feb 1, 1935. (30-122) He had been appointed Chief of the Charlotte Department.

At the next meeting (Sept 21), former Chief J. A. Thomas was appointed Chief “temporarily.” (30-124)

**THE IRON LUNG**

An iron lung, an early emergency breathing apparatus some 6 ft in length, had been donated to the city. On Sept. 25, 1942, Dr. J. B. Whittington, Superintendent of the City Memorial Hospital, recommended that it be made a mobile unit, so that it might be available for use at Baptist Hospital, the City Memorial Hospital or wherever.

The City did not have a truck available for this purpose, however two citizens, Alderman T.O. Pepper and his brother Francis Pepper, gave the city a dual-tired 1 ½ ton Chevrolet truck to be used for the iron lung. This truck was lettered *Iron Lung-Property of the City of Winston-Salem* and was kept at the Fire Station on South Main Street. A driver and operator were kept on duty with the unit at all times. (30-127)

**CITY SPONSORED HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION CANCELED**

October 16, 1942 - The Annual City Halloween celebration was called off “...having to do with civilian defense, rationing of tires and gasoline, and the regulation of transportation.” (30-136) “...this action not to interfere with the celebration of Halloween in the homes and local neighborhoods throughout the residential sections of the City.”

October 16, 1942 -The Junior Chamber of Commerce was granted permission to hold Dog Races in the City on October 29-30 (30-149) Money raised would go toward “War Projects”.

**1943**

**VICTORY GARDENS**

Jan 8, 1943 - The Aldermen approved the use of city owned lots for “Victory Gardens” again this year. (30-204)

On April 23, a part time position of “Home Canning Demonstrator” was added to the City Budget at the request of the Garden Council. Salary was \$400 for 3 months. A Home Canning Center was also set up. (30-252)

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY (30-266)**

In the Democratic Primary, Acting Mayor J. Wilbur Crews was defeated by George Coan 2,218 to 1,438. Traditionally, the Democratic primary determined the next Mayor and most of the Aldermanic seats and most people didn’t vote in the General Election. This is emphasized by the fact the Coan only received 655 votes in the General election.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 4, 1943**

Mayor	George Coan, Jr.
<u>Aldermen</u>	
First Ward	Ralph S. Church, Emory E. James
Second Ward	Tom O. Pepper, Ralph M. Stockton
Third Ward	M.N. Lancaster, J.A. Renn
Salem Ward	E.L. Pfohl, Charles L. Creech (30-277)

The new Board met for the first time on May 10. The usual 16 Committees were appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Board. The Mayor suggested that the Board consider change the time of the Board meetings from night meetings to afternoon meetings during the summer months. Alderman Stockton moved that the meetings be changed from 7:30 on Friday evenings to 4:30 on the second and fourth Tuesday. This was unanimously carried. (30-286)

At the May 25 meeting, a resolution was passed changing the meeting time to 4:30 through December 1943. (30-294)

On January 11, 1944, the resolution was extended through December 1944. (31-1) On January 9, 1945, it was extended through May, 1945. (31-298)

**CALVIN GRAVES-FIRST CITY ATTORNEY**

May 25, 1943 - The Aldermen appointed Calvin Graves City attorney at a salary of \$5,000 per year. (30-299) This was the first time that an individual, rather than a firm had served as City Attorney since 1913. At the time of Graves' appointment, the firm of Womble, Carlyle, Martin and Sandridge were City Attorneys.

June 8, 1943 - An Ordinance was passed prohibiting the showing of motion pictures between midnight and 8 AM. (30-309)

**CITY BUDGET 1943-1944**

\$3,279,834.47 - Tax Rate set at \$1.50.

July 26, 1943 - An Ordinance was passed prohibiting the sale of beer and/or wine from 11:30 PM on Saturday until 7 a.m. the following Monday. (30-350)

**BENEFITS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES**

Aug 10, 1943 - (30-356) The Mayor proposed vacation and sick leaves for city employees. The resolution provided that each city employee paid on an hourly or weekly basis and who had been continuously employed by the City for as much as two years, would be granted an annual vacation of one week with pay.

Any employee paid on a semi-monthly or monthly basis would be granted two week with pay.

Sick leave was granted to employees who were paid semi-monthly or monthly and who had been continuously employed by the City for as much as two years as follows:

- a) As much as 15 days if approved by the employees department head
- b) As much as 30 days if approved by the department head and the Aldermanic Committee under whom the employee works
- c) No sick leaves with pay in excess of 30 days allowed except with Board approval
- d) Any loss of time in excess of 3 days due to sickness must be supported by a doctor's certificate or other evidence of sickness satisfactory to the department head.

**CITY OFFICIALS APPOINTED IN SEPTEMBER**

These were the same as the previous year except for J. A. Thomas, who was appointed Police Chief, but only after some opposition by at least one member of the Police Committee. (30-389)

There followed a discussion regarding Thomas' full power as Police Chief resulting in a motion that the Board "...expects him to exercise the full authority of his office, unhampered by direction or interference from any person, or private citizen, understanding that under the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Winston-Salem he is answerable only to the Board of Aldermen."

**UNION REPRESENTATION**

Oct 12, 1943 - The Board receives a report from the Finance and Public Works Committees regarding a letter from the Congress of Industrials Organizations. The Board responded that "...there is no requirement that the City of Winston-Salem recognize any labor organization as a bargaining agency or otherwise...It is in the best interest of the City of Winston-Salem that no labor organization ever be recognized as a bargaining agency or representation of any employees of the City of Winston-Salem. The Finance and Public Works Committees recommend that the City of Winston-Salem refuse to recognize any labor union or labor organization as a bargaining agency or representative of any employees of the City of Winston-Salem." (30-398)

At the October 26 meeting, Mayor Coan made a statement regarding the Oct 12 resolution saying there had been "right much in the papers" recently and reaffirming that while no labor union would be recognized, City employees may talk to City Authorities at any time and be "received in a friendly spirit." (30-414)

Nov 23, 1943 - Two Dodge cars purchased for the Police Department at \$1,500 each.

Work began on painting and repairs to City Hall that was approved in the 1943-44 budget. It was also noted that the fire hose in City Hall was worn out and should be replaced (30-430)

**PAY INCREASES**

Dec 21, 1943 - Aldermen appropriated \$29,350 from the contingent fund to give employees in the lower pay ranges a raise. They also increased the pay of police and firemen. Mayor Coan stated "...This schedule of increases.....will put Winston-Salem's Police and Fire Departments on a basis comparable to the salary scale of other Cities in the state."



**Chief Thomas, the entire police force and the three members of the Police Commission in the center pose in front of City Hall about 1943. (Police Dept. Photograph)**

## 1944

Jan 11, 1944- City Attorney Calvin Graves requested a leave of absence to join the US Marine Corps (31-9) On Feb 1; the firm of Womble, Carlyle, Martin and Sandridge was elected to serve as City Attorneys during Graves' absence. (30-19)

### **THE RETURN OF "SUNNYSIDE"**

Feb 1, 1944- Rev Douglas L. Rights presented a petition stating that residents of the area of south Winston-Salem located between the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway and the western limits have its original name.

E.A. Vogler's plantation, located in the neighborhood of the present Unique Furniture Company (east of South Main near Arcadia) was called "Sunnyside", and the name continued as homes were built in the community. The land company that developed the section in the early 1900's applied this name to one of the leading thoroughfares. A 1918 map shows the area as "Sunnyside" Development.

"In this area are subdivisions Centerville (the area around the NC School of the Arts on Waughtown), Central Terrace, South Park and Washington Park Place, without definite boundaries.

Residents of the area requested that consideration be given to application of the name "Sunnyside" to the area described, and that the name appear on city maps, designating this location." (31-19) This was approved at the Feb 29th meeting. (31-27)

### **NEW EVERGREEN CEMETERY**

Feb 29, 1944 - The Mayor reported that the Finance and Public Works Committee had held a joint meeting and had conferred with Charles E. Norfleet, representing the Winston-Salem Foundation, with respect to the City taking over New Evergreen Cemetery on Walkerton Rd, adjacent to the city limits. (31-30)

The old "Evergreen Cemetery" was on property acquired for the lengthening of the runway of Smith Reynolds Airport and it was necessary to remove the bodies to a new location. The new airport was being constructed through a WPA project and the removal of the bodies was included as part of the project

The Mayor stated that the Winston-Salem Foundation had spent approximately \$15,000 in the establishment of the cemetery and there was still some grading and surfacing to be done. The capacity of the cemetery was approximately 16,000 grave sites. 700 bodies had already been moved from Evergreen Cemetery, and about 300 or 400 were still to be moved at Foundation expense.

Rules and regulations concerning New Evergreen and Woodland Cemeteries were proposed December 12 1944. (31-283)

### **TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

April 11, 1944 - Chief Thomas appeared before the Board stating that the Police Department was doing all it could in regard to the traffic congestion, particularly at Fifth and Liberty, but that a shortage of men due to the war greatly handicapped them in handling traffic. He stated that 3 police officers would be drafted on April 12. (31-66)

**LAST MULES SOLD**

April 25, 1944- The Board authorized the Commissioner of Public Works to advertise and sell “3 mules, harness and miscellaneous equipment no longer needed by the Public Works Department.”(31-70)

June 13, 1944 - Piedmont Leaf Tobacco Company received approval to erect a bridge between their properties on East 4<sup>th</sup> near Vine St (31-93) The bridge was still there in 2004 and used as a connector for Piedmont Lofts.

June 27, 1944 - The Selective Service Board requested renewal of rent in City Hall for another year. The Board rented 3,398 feet for \$75 per month. (31-138)

**CITY BUDGET 1944-1945**

\$3,641,688.16 - Tax Rate set at \$1.70. (31-150)

July 24, 1944 - Firemen were required to have a home telephone but the cost of it would be included in their salary. (31-163)

**ONE WAY STREETS SUGGESTED**

July 24, 1944-The Aldermen discussed a unique plan of four one way streets, north and south, east and west that would require minor changes in street construction work. Alderman Renn stated that Wilmington, Delaware had a similar difficulty with traffic and they established one way streets for a 90 day trial period (31-172). No decision made by the Board.

**BOND ELECTION FOR HOSPITAL STARTS BALL ROLLING TO NOWHERE**

Aug 8, 1944 - Board authorized issuance of 1.5 million in bonds for the erection and equipment of a public hospital subject to an election on Oct 7. (31-177) The plan was for an additional \$750,000 to be provided by Forsyth County and \$500,000 from private subscriptions. The Mayor stated that indications are that it will not be difficult to raise \$500,000 by subscription.

There were 2701 votes cast in favor and only 200 against. (31-231)

A hospital building committee including Mrs. R.J. Reynolds and James G. Hanes, Chairman of the Board of County commissioners and Mayor Coan was appointed on November 14. (31-266) They were to select a hospital site and also architects to plan the hospital. On March 27, 1945,(31-383) this Committee recommended that the new hospital be located on the west side of Broad St, starting at Brookstown Ave and running north 725 feet and extending west to Brookstown Ave, including a portion of Green St which was to be closed. The Committee also recommended that the land west of Brookstown Ave adjoining the Old Twin City Hospital property be secured for the purpose of building a nurses’ home, power and laundry plants and for recreation and parking facilities. This lot would include 700 feet on Brookstown Ave, 200 feet on Green St and extend west to Fayette Street. The whole site would be about 11 ½ acres.

The Board of Aldermen approved the recommendation of the Building Committee subject to final action after a determination of the cost of the land.

It appears that a majority of the local doctors favored this location since it would be closer to their downtown offices. During their study, the Committee also gave some consideration to the old West End School property across the street. However, the Board took no final action on a hospital site.

March 27- Hospital Committee recommends that the Hospital be built on property bounded by Broad, Fourth, Brookstown, Fayette and Green St. (31-383) At the April 10 meeting, it was recommended that the decision be continued pending discussion with the county since they were responsible for part of the funding (31-411)

The new 1945-1947 administration consisted of a new Mayor and four new aldermen. Three of the re-elected Aldermen were members of the Hospital Building Committee. The new board held joint meetings with the County Commissioners on August 6 (31-562) and August 24, 1945 relative to the Hospital Matter. At the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting (31-586), the two Boards agreed to authorize City Attorney Irving Carlyle and County Attorney Nat Crews, to investigate and report back at a joint session of the two Boards, a list of Hospital Planning Experts who were in a position to make an immediate survey of the Hospital needs of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, and to recommend the best site for the proposed City-County Hospital.

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## City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1940-1949

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At a joint meeting on October 2, 1945, (32-26) Carlyle and Crews reported that they had found 18 or 19 persons or firms they thought were qualified to make the desired survey, but they had reduced the list to five qualified persons who were immediately available. After a full discussion, the two Boards agreed to select Dr. Robin C. Buerki of Philadelphia, PA. A contract between the City, County and Dr Buerki for a City-County Hospital survey was let on Oct 16, 1945. The cost of \$3,000 was to be borne equally by the City and County.

Mayor Lentz announced at a joint meeting on December 28, 1945 that 20 copies of Dr. Buerki's report were available. Excerpts were read and the Aldermen decided to study the report until the next meeting. (32-98)

A Special Joint meeting was held on January 8, 1946 to discuss the report. (32-100) Speaking as a "representative of the Doctors and laymen who prefer the Board Street site", Attorney Fred Hutchins gave a lengthy and eloquent speech, reviewing the history of the hospital situation from the erection of the City Memorial Hospital to the recent change in City Administration.

"Now we come to the employing of an expert. You can get an expert to do anything he thinks the majority of you will listen to. I do not mean to question the motives of the expert or anyone. We are in a free country today and have the right to say what is in our minds. Now then, Dr. Buerki came here with a \$3000 I.O.U. in his pocket and proceeded upon his duties. I take it all of you gentlemen have read that report. I have read it with a sympathetic and critical eye. I read it trying to do justice to him, to everybody and to the people he represented."

Mr. Hutchins then went on to name the various possible hospital sites Dr. Buerki had inspected including the Bowman Gray estate (Graylyn) and Select Dairies( which would become Thruway Shopping Center) then stated Dr. Buerki had finally said, I think Cloverdale St best, when you consider everything." Continuing, Hutchins stated: "I am told that when he first looked at Cloverdale he said it was no fit place for a hospital and he was told that they didn't care if he selected the site or not, but he had to look at it and include it in his report. I am told that he told one or two people here, privately and frankly, that the Cloverdale site was out of the question."

The matter was fully discussed by other individuals and by members of the two Boards. The aldermen then approved a motion rescinding the report of the Hospital Building Committee recommending the Broad Street site and accepting the recommendation of the Cloverdale site on a 4-3 vote. The Commissions then approved the resolution 2-1.

On February 19, 1946, a resolution was adopted authorizing the purchase of the tract of land containing approximately 43 acres lying between the northwest side of Cloverdale Ave. and the right of way of the Southern Railway Company at a price of \$1500 per acres. The deed was made to the City on May 21, 1946 and called for 51.90 acres, with the purchase price amounting to \$77,850. (32-266)

Although this property was never used for a hospital site...many thought it was too close to Baptist Hospital...this purchase was probably the most profitable land acquisition ever made by the City of Winston-Salem. The property ultimately provided right of way for the east-west expressway and the extension of Miller St and the remnants of the property were sold for about \$471,250.

On January 12, 1948, the Board and County Commissioners held a joint meeting regarding their contract with the architect to build the hospital. (33-247) Apparently, there had been several meetings and the architect continued to come back with plans far in excess of available funds. The Boards offered to pay the architects \$18,000 even though they had nothing usable to show for it.

Up to this point, \$3,000 had been spent on an expert to select a site that they didn't use and \$18,000 for worthless architectural drawings. Thankfully, the Cloverdale site ended up making money.

Ultimately, major additions and renovations were made to City Memorial and the building of a City-County Hospital was postponed several more years. (33-348)

### **BLUM PARK**

Aug 22, 1944 - A discussion is held regarding a park in North Winston on land already owned by the City and under the direction of a North Winston Park Commission (31-198) It was reported that the North Winston Men's Civic Club had already raised \$7,000 for the project.

At the Sept 12 meeting, the George W. Blum Park Commission was established and \$6,000 in city money appropriated to by 7 acres known as "Tise Grove" for the park (31-213)

### **JOHN GOLD, CHIEF OF POLICE**

Sept 12, 1944 - Chief Thomas asked that his name be placed back on the retired list. (31-215) Alderman Creech gives a warm and

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honorable series of remarks for the Chief. The Board then appointed John M. Gold as Chief. Gold was an FBI agent assigned to Winston-Salem at the time. His name is listed in the appointments of Department Heads and City Officials for the next year. (31-217)

### **GERMAN P.O.W.'S HERE**

Oct 18, 1944 - The Aldermen approved the use of the Armory at Ninth and Patterson by U.S. Government for holding Prisoners of War. (31-239) The prisoners were to be used by R.J. Reynolds due to the manpower shortage.

On July 14, 1946, control of the Armory was returned to the city "...as all prisoners of war housed there have been sent home." (32-301)

Oct 24, 1944 - The City offered for sale the "Abattoir Property" on Link Rd next to the City Incinerator. (31-46)

### **BLACK POLICE OFFICERS DISCUSSED**

December 12, 1944 - The Aldermen discussed employing black police officers. (31-296) The Mayor stated that for some time the city had employed in the plainclothes division "...one or sometimes two Negroes". The Mayor pointed out that if and when these Negro police officers are employed, they will be assigned to the plain clothes division until their period of training has been completed and that at all time they will work exclusively in the Negro sections of the City, and their authority to do police work will be exclusively in the Negro section."

He further stated that Negro police officers are employed in Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham and other North Carolina cities and that Winston-Salem needed the services of competent Negro Police Officers...Chief Gold stated that he thought employing Negro police officers now would solve some of the post-war problems which will face the City and its citizens.

The first two Black officers were John Joyce who had operated the detention center for African-American boys since 1933 and George Dillahunt, a former jitney owner. Joyce had been on the police payroll for some time as a paid informant.

Mayor Coan said that Joyce and other black officers that were to be hired would be assigned to the African-American sections of the city and he was quoted in the *Journal* as saying "...and their authority will be restricted to those sections." Black officers were not allowed to arrest white persons except for a capital offense or felony. Even in these instances they were requested to summon a white officer when practical. Black officers were provided separate facilities at City Hall.



**John Joyce (Police Dept Photo)**

## **1945**

Feb 13, 1945 - The Board requested the Legislature to amend the City Charter to raise the Ad Val Orem tax limit for general purposes from \$1.00 to \$1.35 per \$100 assessed value. For the 1944-45 budget, the Aldermen had levied a 98.6 cents tax for \$100 assessed valuation for General Purpose Funds (31-340.A)

### **THE COAN PLAN**

On Feb 13 1945, Alderman Stockton blasted Mayor Coan for issuing a statement to the newspaper proposing The Coan Plan for forgiving taxes of the men and women in the armed forces. He estimated this would result in 34 to 68 thousand dollars in lost taxes each year for three years. Stockton called the plan political and said "it does appear that in a matter of this kind when so much money is involved that the Mayor would take the matter up with the Finance Committee or the Board of Aldermen. For almost two years members of this Board have talked with Mayor Coan and tried to get him to take up such matters with this Board before breaking out in the newspapers with them. The Mayor's position has been that since he was elected by all the people he was elected to run the city government and the Aldermen should bow to his will. Our City Charter set up no such one-man government, and until it is changed to do so I feel that we should operate under the Aldermanic System as set up." (31-341)

"When Mayor Coan took office he stated that one of the reasons he ran for Mayor was to get his name on the front page of the newspapers. If the Mayor has to use such methods as the Coan Plan to keep his name on the front page I believe it would be advisable to miss one issue."

Stockton then blasted the Mayor for the confusion that exists on site selection for the new hospital and discussed the two proposed sites...one at 4<sup>th</sup> and Broad and the other, the so called 30 acre site in the area of Miller St south of W. First.

Mayor Coan responded saying he didn't feel like talking and would give an answer to every statement at the next meeting but went on to refute some of Alderman Stockton charges.

However at the next meeting, Mayor Coan distributed copies of two issues of the *Winston-Salem Journal*, February 13 and 15 where he responded to the charges. (31-373)

#### **EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT FUND APPROVED**

April 10, 1945 - An Employee Retirement Fund was approved as of May 1. (31-286) This had been under study by the Board since August 22, 1944. (31-197)



**By 1945, postal service had expanded to Ardmore with a branch office on Hawthorne Rd. This building had been built in 1943 as the Ardmore Movie Theater (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

#### **MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 6 (31-435)**

Mayor George Lentz

Lentz defeated incumbent Mayor George Coan in the April Primary 4,602 to 3,139. (31-433)

#### Aldermen

First Ward- Brantley C. Booe, Ralph S. Church

Second Ward- Archie Gray Allen, William B. Simpson

Third Ward- N.M. Lancaster, J.A. Renn

Salem Ward-J.F. Shaffner, E. L. Pfohl

May 22, 1945 - The Alderman agreed to hold their meetings at 4 PM on the first and third Tuesdays through May 1947 "...in the interest of public convenience and in keeping with the restrictions imposed upon the use of automobiles....." (31-453)

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENTS CONSOLIDATED**

June 5, 1945 - A Resolution was adopted agreeing to consolidate the City and County Health Departments (31-466) On June 11, Dr. R. L. Carlton was nominated to be City-County Health Officer (31-472)

#### **CITY BUDGET 1945-1946**

\$3,970,126.53 - Tax Rate set at \$1.85.

#### **THE COMMITTEE OF 100**

A body of some one hundred representative citizens was organized at a joint meeting of the town's civic clubs. It was established to study problems of local municipal government and make recommendations to the public and to the Board of Aldermen. Its goal was to bridge the gap between the public and City Hall. The Committee of 100 was similar to later city approved efficiency review programs in 1973 and 2001.

### **BIRTH OF SUMMIT SCHOOL**

Sept 18, 1945 - The Board approved the rental of 4 rooms of the old West End School on West 4<sup>th</sup> St to Summit School for \$50 per month. "...The space is to be rented as is." (32-5)

Nov 6, 1945 - A report was read regarding repairs to the Kate B. Reynolds Hospital- Total cost \$12,000. (32-60)

Dec 4, 1945 - The Hospital Commission report requests that "...in regard to the operation of Kate Biting Reynolds Memorial Hospital by Negro Personnel...it was the donor's desire that this division of the City Hospital be operated by Negro personnel when suitable and competent help could be secured..." Eugene H. Bradley of the Lincoln Hospital of Durham was recommended as administrative head and "...that the city set up a budget entirely separate from the white division". Bradley's salary was set at \$3,120 per year. (32-82)

Prior to this all the administration and many of the doctors were white.

## **1946**

March 5, 1946 - Aldermen J.A. Renn resigned since he moved out of the city. (32-174) John Kirby was elected on March 8 to fill his seat. (32-176)

April 2, 1946 - The Aldermen approved bids for a 1,000 gallon triple combination pumper engine for the Fire Department- \$11,466. (32-208)



(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

A referendum was authorized for January 18, 1947. (32-436) However, no city funds were to be used. Citizen groups raised the necessary \$600 so the referendum could be held. The canvassing committee reported on February 4 that the referendum to amend the blue laws passed 4526 to 4255. (32-477)

May 7, 1947 - City ordinances were amended to permit sale of soft drinks, ice cream, candy, cakes and tobacco on Sundays at garages and filling stations and at sporting events. (32-589)

### **WAKE FOREST COLLEGE**

April 16, 1946 - The Board adopted a resolution supporting the proposal to move Wake Forest College to Winston Salem from its current home in Wake Forest North Carolina outside Raleigh. (32-234)

### **CITY BUDGET (32-303)**

\$4,868,218.37 - The tax rate was fixed at \$2.15.

This increase, to pay off the bond indebtedness, was proposed by the Committee of 100.

### **BLUE LAWS REVISITED**

Oct 8, 1946 - A discussion was held on permitting Sunday movies and athletic contests during hours which do not conflict with customary church hours. Spokesman E. L. Frazier in presenting the case stated "...Sunday, three weeks ago, as an indication of public sentiment, there were approximately 70,000 people of this locality who paid to see an Air Show at the Municipal Airport. Either those 70,000 people were seeking Sunday entertainment or either they were practicing hypocrisy." (32-362) The hearing covers 23 pages in the minutes book and the request was then referred to committee. The Aldermen voted on the proposed change on October 15 and it failed 7-1. (32-390) Alderman Church then moved that the issue be put on the ballot for a straw vote of the citizens. (32-391) This passed unanimously.

### **PLANNING CONSULTANT HIRED**

Nov 19, 1946 -The City hired Planning Consultant Russell Van Nest Black of New Hope Penn. for preparation of city plan and zoning ordinance for the City and County at a sum not to exceed \$34,000, the city's part to be \$17,000. (32-415)

An ordinance to establish City-County Planning was passed on Feb 17, 1947. (32-508)

### **VOTE AT LARGE PROPOSED**

December 3, 1946 - Members of the Democratic Executive Committee submitted a petition recommending that the Board consider amending the City Charter to provide that Aldermen be residents of the Ward from which they are chosen, and shall be elected by the voters at large, rather than voters of such wards respectively. The Committee also recommended that the number of voting precincts be increased. (32-422)

The Board referred the proposal to the Ordinance Committee.

The Board voted "unfavorable" on the at-large question and "favorable" on the residency. (32-458)

### **IMPROVEMENTS TO WATER SUPPLY**

Dec 3, 1946 - The Aldermen approved improvements to the water supply including raising the spillway at Salem Lake Dam 3 feet to provide approximately 300 million gallons storage, or an additional 30 days supply of raw water and updating items at the Thomas Water Plant which included the 30" wood stave raw water gravity main from the reservoir to the Thomas Plant which had been in service for about 27 years. The cost of the improvements was estimated at \$70,000, not including the replacement of the 30" stave gravity line. (32-425)

### **AERIAL MAP AUTHORIZED**

Dec 17, 1946 - The Board authorized a contract for aerial mapping of 90 square miles of Forsyth County including the area of the City of Winston-Salem. The cost of the survey was \$2,475, plus \$85 for one additional of each of the two mosaics. The City and County split the cost 50-50. (32-446)

Dec 17, 1946 - The Aldermen approved the lease of the site of the old Twin City Hospital on Brookstown Ave as a site for a Naval Reserve Center. (32-443) The Naval Reserve had requested part of the old West End School grounds be made available, but this was denied.. The lease, at \$1.00 per year, was approved on January 7, 1947. (32-457)

## **1947**

### **CHANGES IN VOTING PRECINCTS**

Feb 4, 1947 - A discussion of changes in ward and precinct lines followed the resignation of Alderman R.S. Church. (32-489)

On February 17, the Board amended Chapter 5 of the City Ordinances providing for additional voting precincts, and calling for new registration prior to the April 22 Primary. (32-492) Prior to this, there had been just two precincts in each ward.

The ordinance provided for:

First Ward	4 Precincts
Second Ward	2 Precincts
Third Ward	4 Precincts
Salem Ward	5 Precincts

March 4, 1947-Another suggestion from the Committee of 100 called for a study to broaden the tax base, to amend the City Charter to permit annexation through a vote of both the residents of the city and the citizens of areas to be annexed, and to explore the feasibility of the City Manager form of government. (32-520)

### **CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT PROPOSED**

March 11, 1947 - A special meeting was called to consider two amendments to the City Charter, one providing for City Manager form of government and the other for the extension of City Limits.

The Board also approved submitting a bill to the General Assembly authorizing the City to call for an election on the question of adopting the city manager form of government. (32-528) One Aldermen hoped that the City Manager form of government would make their jobs "less arduous."

## City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1940-1949

The majority of the debate at this meeting involves the annexation question. The same arguments regarding people who live outside the city paying their part and the rebuttal that those people chose to live outside the city were heard then, as have been heard at every annexation hearing since.

March 18, 1947 - "A request to fish in the city reservoir (Salem Lake) was denied since there are no fish in the reservoir." (32-550)

April 15, 1947 - Safe Bus Company petitioned for a fare increase from 6 to 7 cents. (32-570)

### APRIL 22, 1947 PRIMARY

Incumbent Mayor George Lentz received 5,108 votes and was nominated. Marshall Kurfees, who had withdrawn his name after R.J. Reynolds announced his candidacy at the 1941 election, came in third with 1,507 votes.

There were four candidates in the First Ward, six in the Third Ward, and four in the Salem Ward. Only two candidates filed in the Second Ward. Rev. Kenneth R. Williams led the ticket in the Third Ward, with 2169 votes with overwhelming wins in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> precincts. (32-603)

### MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 6, 1947

For the first time, the Republican Party fielded a candidate for Mayor. Buford T. Henderson lost to incumbent Mayor Lentz by more than 2-1. Only Lentz and one incumbent Alderman, N. M Lancaster, were re-elected. Four Aldermen had chosen not to run again. Third Ward Alderman Kirby received only one vote in the realigned Third Ward. W.F. Shaffner, Jr., who had resigned in 1942 to enter the Naval Reserve, was again elected. Rev Kenneth R. Williams became the first African-American elected since 1900. However seven African Americans had served on the Boards of the City of Winston between 1881 and 1900.

Mayor	George D. Lentz
<u>Aldermen</u>	
First Ward	H. Penn Thomas, Charles F. Bauserman
Second Ward	Francis D. Pepper, Bahnson Gray
Third Ward	Kenneth R. Williams, N. M. Lancaster
Salem Ward	Fred C. Denny, William F. Shaffner

Three Aldermen served on each of the now 16 standing committees. Meetings were held on the first and Third Tuesdays at 4 p.m. (32-611)



**Rev. Kenneth Williams and other Aldermen in 1947.**

(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

May 20, 1947- H.R. Starbuck resigned from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. (32-624) Starbuck served from 1930-1939 at which time he was appointed Chairman. Starbuck's father was one of the original property owners in Winston. The Starbuck home place at the corner of First and Main was sold to the City as the site of the City Hall.

May 20, 1947- A Petition was received from strikers requesting that the Board lend a hand in settling the strike between R.J. Reynolds and its employees. (32-626) A statement regarding the Board's position on labor organizations in City Government was read into the minutes. (32-625)

### WEST END SCHOOL PROPERTY SOLD

June 18, 1947- The Board approved the sale of the old West End Sears, Roebuck and Company announced plans to build a store on the

The City Recreation Department and the School Superintendent's Office "Arts and Crafts" and the Little Theater were in West End School at the time. The Boy Scouts and the Red Cross had offices in City Hall. The Aldermen decided to move Recreation and the School Superintendent's Office to City Hall moving the Boys Scouts and Red Cross out. The discussion also covers the need for water billing and the police needing more space in City Hall and of a space study to be undertaken.

Although, City Hall was only 20 years old, these would be the first of many changes, alterations and space studies during the next 50 years.

### FIRST CITY HEALTH OFFICER RETIRED

July 1, 1947 - City County Health Officer Dr. R. L. Carlton retired. He was first named City Health Officer on May 25, 1917, "temporarily for 30 days". When the City established three departments head by Commissioners, Dr. Carlton became the first Commissioner of Public Safety. He served that position until Sept 1919 when D. Hidden Ramsey was appointed Commissioners of Public Safety, with Dr. Carlton continuing as Health Officer and also as City Physician.

When the City and County Health Departments were consolidated in June 1945, Dr. Carlton was appointed City-County Health Officer and held this position until his retirement.



**The West End School property sold in 1949 is outlined in this photograph looking south. Board St. is at left, 4<sup>th</sup> St is the top line in front of the Modern Chevrolet building. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

### CITY BUDGET 1947-1948 (33-47)

\$5,628,526.82 This was the first City budget to pass 5 million. Tax rate fixed at \$2.15

### WATER SHORTAGE

Sept 2, 1947 - The Board adopted an emergency ordinance for the conservation and regulation of water furnished by the City. (33-100) The ordinance prohibited the filling of private and public swimming pools, the use of City water in display fountains, the sprinkling of gardens and lawns, the washing of car, flushing of street and other such water usage. The Mayor reported that the water in Salem Lake was 112 inches below the spillway of the dam, and that the citizens must save at least four million gallons of water a day. The emergency order was rescinded on September 25.

October 21, 1947 - A Resolution passed restricting the issuance of building permits for 90 days covering new buildings in the historical part of Salem. (33-179) The resolution also set up a committee to study the possibility of setting up a historic district in the area.

### SPECIAL ELECTION NOV 4 (33-193)

\$4,000,000 in bonds to finance the enlargement, extension and improvement of the water supply. 3,367 voted for and 1,040 voted against the bonds.

On the question of Adopting the City Manager Form of Government, 2,266 voted in favor and 2,010 voted against.

Just over 21 % of the registered voters cast a ballot in this election.

A *Winston-Salem Journal* editorial on Election Day said, "The forces favoring a city manager are convinced that the election of such an executive will result in a greatly improved government and, in the long run, a big saving to taxpayers through more efficient administration. The *Journal* endorsed the city manager form of government to "...put this city in step with over 700 progressive cities in the United States and with all of the major cities in North Carolina." The *Journal* noted "...the city manager plan has been spreading rapidly in recent years" and that 49 American cities had adopted the plan so far in 1947.

# 1948

## **FISHING FINALLY APPROVED**

January 20, 1948 - Board approved fishing in Salem Lake (33-256) The Wildlife Club appeared before the Board on March 2 and requested permission to begin building a dock (33-309) An application to permit fishing from the State Board of Health was approved on March 18. (33-327) A Salem Lake Commission was set up and rules and regulations for fishing were approved on April 26. (33-369)

Feb 13, 1948 - A Joint City-County Planning Commission was appointed. (33-279)

March 18, 1948 - The Committee on the Restoration of Historic Salem requested that the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway use diesels instead of the coal burning engines for its switching operations on the Tar Branch Line in the historic area. (33-313) A resolution was approved on April 6. (33-340)

April 20, 1948 - The Aldermen approved a \$9,000 contract with Motorola for new radio equipment for the Police and Fire Departments. (33-374)

## **SPECIAL ELECTION MAY 11, 1948 (33-395)**

The election was held to increase the maximum levy in the tax rate from 20 cents to 35 cents on \$100 valuation to supplement the funds for the public school system.

The vote was 2,498 for and 302 against.

## **FIRST CITY MANAGER APPOINTED**

May 14, 1948 - The Finance Committee recommended the hiring of C.E. Perkins, currently of Kansas City Missouri be employed as City Manager at a salary of \$1,000 per month. (33-389)

## **RESUMPTION OF PAVING PROGRAM**

The intensive street paving program carried on during the 1920's came to an abrupt halt during the financial crisis in 1929 and the depression years which followed. Since the work was done under the assessment plan with ten years to pay the cost, many owners found themselves unable to pay the assessments.

The City extended time for payment and reduced assessments to an amount not more than the taxable value of the property. Ultimately, the City did foreclose on hundreds of lots due to non-payment of assessed paving cost. Many of the lots taken into the city contained rough terrain or had drainage problems. Over the years, the City disposed of these lots by public auction and at very low prices.

Experiences such as this caused property owners to be reluctant to petition for street improvements. With the exception of Cloverdale Ave and the so-called "Ardmore Bottleneck at 1<sup>st</sup> and Hawthorne, no major street improvements were made from the early 1930's until 1948.

On May 4 1948, a petition was received for the paving of Druid Hills Drive from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> and was signed by 14 property owners. (33-58) Concrete sidewalks were approved on September 7. (33-521) The paving was the same type done in the 1920's, bituminous wearing surface on concrete base, and the owners were assessed at a rate of \$9.03 per property front foot.

On October 5, a paving petition was received for Urban St between Waughtown St and Devonshire. (33-556) A number of residents protested the petition saying they could not afford it. Alderman W.F. Shaffner asked for a continuance so that the Public Works Department could figure a tar and gravel pavement for this street, since the traffic was not particularly heavy.

At the December 7 meeting, the Board approved the paving with "Bituminous surface (tar) on 5 inch crushed stone base" at about \$6.80 per frontage foot (33-630). During much of 1949, most meetings contain at least one request for paving action as homeowners were now able to afford paved streets.



**City Manager C. E. Perkins**  
(City of Winston-Salem Photograph)

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**City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1940-1949**

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May 18, 1948 - A resolution was approved authorizing city to participate in right-of-way costs for a proposed arterial highway through Winston-Salem. (33-401)

June 15, 1948 - Walk/Don't Walk Lights were first purchased for downtown intersections with \$6,312 from the Parking Meter Fund. (33-438)

**CITY BUDGET 1948-1949** (33-469)

\$6,315,798.25 - Tax rate set at \$2.15 plus .15 for additional School Tax-\$2.30

This budget was approved in a Special meeting held on Saturday Morning July 24 at 10 AM. While it was common for the budget to be approved sometime during the month of July with a interim budget approved usually in June, I found no other reference for a Saturday meeting.

**ANNEXATION**

July 6, 1948 - A Resolution was adopted regarding five areas adjacent to the city limits and requesting the Board of Elections conduct an election on the annexation of the areas, amounting to 3.69 square miles. (33-459)

The election was held on Sept. 21 with separate votes cast in each area to be annex. The vote was in favor of annexation in each of the five sections. The total vote being 8,920 for and 1,308 against. (33-570)

**TRANSITION TO CITY MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

July 6, 1948 - The Mayor presented a report outlining the procedures pertaining to the transition. The report set forth in general terms the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager still carried out today. (33-464)

**CENTRAL WAREHOUSE**

July 24, 1948 - A resolution was adopted for the establishment of a Central Warehouse, and set up a revolving fund for the construction, equipment and operation of the Warehouse. The Warehouse was built at the City Yard on Stadium Drive. (33-472) The proposal was one of the very first actions from City Manger Perkins.



**(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)**

Nov 16, 1948 - A Resolution passed approving the purchase of one "Good Roads Champion" Leaf Collector for \$3,516. (33-612)

Dec 21, 1948 - Dick Reynolds was thanked for giving the City property on W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street as the site of a new public library. (33-661) The site was being used as a parking lot for Centenary United Methodist Church but had been the site of R.J. Reynolds home before the construction of Reynolda House.

Dec 21, 1948 - Zoning Ordinances were presented to the Board by the New Planning Board. (33-662)



**The Planning Board in 1948 (City of Winston-Salem Photograph)**

## 1949

### **WARD ALIGNMENT**

Jan 4, 1949 - The Democratic Committee issued a report and recommendations to the Board regarding changes in the ward alignment to "...give voters more and direct representation on the Board of Aldermen..." (34-3) Under the system currently in place, the Salem Ward had two representatives but was the old boundaries of the Town of Salem and represented much fewer citizens than did some of the other Wards. There is a great deal of discussion on the proposals including the statements of Dr. Kenneth Williams concerning the fact that no African-Americans had been consulted and that the proposal would limit them to only one representative on the Board while they made up 46% of the population. It is the first time that racial numbers have been mentioned in Board minutes. The Aldermen approve the report and send it to the Legislature asking that it be approved as part of the amendments to the City Charter. The proposal is again discussed on Feb 1. (34-64)

Jan 4, 1949 - An Ordinance regulating the emission of smoke and the pollution of air in the City was adopted and authorized the appointment of a Direction of Smoke and Air Pollution Control. (34-25)

Rules and regulations for the Smoke and Air Pollution Control Department were approved on June 9, 1949. (35-320)

Feb 1, 1949 - A Resolution was approved condemning lands, easements and rights-of-way in connection with a proposed water pipe line from Yadkin River to the City of Winston-Salem. (34-55) This was a result of the water bonds passed in November 1947.

### **STANDING COMMITTEES REDUCED**

Feb 1, 1949 - City Manager Perkins proposed consolidations and reduction in the number of Standing Alderman Committees. (34-59)

The existing 16 committees would be reduced to 4:

- Finance with 3 members
- Public Works with 5 members
- Public Safety with 5 members
- General Committee with 3 members

This was adopted on March 1. (34-99)

**ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES**

Feb 15, 1949 - The Aldermen approve a bill to limit the salary of the Mayor to \$1,000 per annum and the Board Members to \$5 per meeting (34-84) Marshall Kurfees spoke saying he "...wasn't sure we want the type of men we can get for \$2.50 a week. I feel like the members of the Board should be paid at least \$25 per week...I feel like if the Mayor's job is going to be an honorary job, I'll be perfectly willing to take it for \$1.00 a year. I've always wanted to be a dollar-a-year-man, anyway."

**BUSHGROWERS LEAGUE**

The year 1949 was the Centennial for Forsyth County and several big events were held including a time capsule on the Grounds of the County Courthouse, a pageant at Reynolds Auditorium, a Parade and a train trip to Wilmington and Carolina Beach in costume. At the end of the March 1 Aldermen's Meeting, Alderman Gray challenged the Aldermen to all grow ..."some type of beard on their face. So I move that all eight Aldermen be required, by ordinance, if necessary, to start a beard and evidence be shown by the next meeting on March 15 and that non-compliance will be subject to a fine of \$5.00 to be given to the Cancer Fund." The motion was carried unanimously. (34-118) Most businessmen participated in the "bush growing" ...as long as their wives could stand it. Even police officers and firemen who had departmental regulations regarding facial hair, grew whiskers. Between March and May, a "jail" was set up on Courthouse Square to "arrest" those who shaved and fine them. On May 3, \$194 was appropriated to decorate City Hall for the events. (34-226)

**FIRE STATION APPROVED**

March 15, 1949 - Resolution were approved authorizing the erection of a Fire Station at the corner of Arbor Rd and West 1<sup>st</sup> St. (Country Club Rd) (34-127)

**ABC STORES CONSIDERED**

March 15, 1949 - The Committee of 100 asked the Aldermen to ask the State Legislators to pass a bill entitled "The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act for Forsyth County and City of Winston-Salem." Mayor Lentz proposed that the decision be made by a vote of the people. (34-146) On April 27, the Aldermen were advised that the legislation had been introduced. (34-216)

**HOSPITAL RENOVATIONS**

April 5, 1949 - Over \$500,000 in additions and renovations were approved for City Memorial Hospital. Bids were also let for an addition to the nurses' home at Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital. (34-173)

**PRIMARY ELECTION**

At a Special meeting on March 29, the Aldermen accepted most of the Democratic Committees proposals for changes in the ward and precinct structure of the City. The Aldermen were to be elected by specific precincts instead of the top two vote getters in each ward being election. The Salem ward was divided into North Salem and South Salem, First Ward into East First and West First, Second Ward into East Second and West Second, Third Ward into North Third and South Third. (34-148)

The Democratic Primary, formerly held in April was held on Tuesday May 17. (34-267)

Marshall C. Kurfees, who had run for the Mayor's seat twice before, defeated incumbent George Lentz 4721 to 3279. Only two incumbent Aldermen, Kenneth R. Williams and M.L. Lancaster won their primaries.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION JUNE 7**

The general biennial Municipal Election was held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June, this falling on June 7. There was a Republican candidate for Mayor and the Republicans fielded candidates in seven of the eight wards. None of the races were close. (34-293)

Those elected were:

Mayor Marshall C. Kurfees

Aldermen

West First Ward	M.L. Lancaster
East First Ward	Charlie A. Church
West Second Ward	Francis D. Pepper
East Second Ward	Guy R. Fulp
North Third Ward	John H. Kirby
South Third Ward	Kenneth R. Williams
North Salem Ward	O.R. Peddycord
South Salem Ward	Jack Shaffner

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## City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1940-1949

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June 13, 1949 - At the final meeting of the 1947-49 Board, outgoing Mayor Lentz gave a detailed report of the accomplishments of his administration. (34-332) The Mayor was then presented with an inscribed silver plate and an inscribed silver bowl and goblets from the City employees. (34-338)

After the new Board was sworn in and Alderman Francis Pepper elected Mayor Pro Tem, the Board adopted an ordinance increasing the number of Committees from four to eight. These being Finance, Public Works, Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Education, Library, Recreation and Parks and General Committee. (34-342) Three Aldermen were to serve on each committee.

The Twin City Sentinel gave three possible reasons for the change:

1. "Wider distribution of aldermanic responsibility. With eight committee chairmen instead of four, individual aldermen may have greater responsibility for study and direction of their specific areas of city affairs and policy recommendations to the full board.
2. More executive authority for the mayor, at least in the right to call committees into session, although not any more authority in voting or other board meeting procedure.
3. Possible lessening of the authority of the city manager."

### MEETINGS MOVED TO EVENINGS

June 17, 1949 - The Mayor moved that meetings be held on the first and third Friday nights. One of his campaign statements was that City Hall would be an open house and he felt that night meetings would permit better attendance by the public. (34-346) This was approved at the June 21 meeting. (34-351) The first meeting held at night since during WW II was held on July 1, 1949. (34-378) The time was changed to 8 PM on Friday nights on Sept 2, 1949. (34-498)

### JOB CLASSIFICATION PLAN PROPOSED

City Manger Perkins proposed that a salary classification and personnel administration plan be implemented. (34-389) On July 15, 1949, the Aldermen approved employment of Public Administration Service for a Salary Classification plan and for assisting with the establishment of a Personnel Department. (34-412) Perkins recommend that the present director of Real Estate, C. S. Kimel be made part time Personnel Director for his knowledge of the City organization. He also recommended the creation of the part time position of Assistant Director of Personnel at a salary of \$300 per month. The rest of this individual's time would be spent as an administrative aide to the City Manager. (34-413)

The salary plan was presented on Nov 22, 1949. (34-624) There was a great deal of discussion, even an attempt to defeat the plan by Aldermen Peddycord who stated, "I never have believed that you as City Manager should have authority over the 1,200 employees of the City of Winston-Salem, and I know that some of there people here that make a complaint today just might as well get ready to go." The plan passed as presented. The City Manager now had the authority to appoint and remove all employees of the City, including department heads.

The Mayor then recommended that the City Manager's salary be increased from \$12,000 to \$14,000 per year. (34-634)

### EAST-WEST EXPRESSWAY

July 12, 1949 - The Aldermen voted to participate in the construction of an east-west expressway. The Federal Government to pay 1/3 of the cost, the State 1/3, and the City 1/3 of the cost of right-of-way through the City. The Federal and State Governments would then pay all the cost of road construction. (34-415)

### CITY BUDGET 1949-1950 (34-420)

\$6,560,830.25 - Tax rate remains at \$2.30.

City Manager Perkins suggested streamlining future budgets with the use capital improvements programs and presenting a budget in the future that is "much more analytical and comparative in its preparation..." (34-425)

### FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU CREATED

Aug 5, 1949 - The Aldermen approved the creation of a Fire Prevention and Inspections Bureau as suggested by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. (34-433) The position of "Sergeant" in each Engine Company was created. (34-449)



**In 1949, the Water Billing Department began using a computer.  
(City of Winston-Salem Photograph)**

#### **SECOND STREET BETWEEN MAIN AND LIBERTY TO BE WIDENED**

There was a great deal of discussion at the August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1949 meeting about what was called “the narrowest street in Winston-Salem.” Alderman Lancaster stated that the reason this block of Second had not been widened as other downtown streets had was that “years ago the Mayor lived on Second and he objected very seriously”. He further stated “... I understand that the Police Department has authorized that this street be widened, and it is a very dangerous proposition. You take some of these ABC advocates out all Saturday night coming down there Sunday Morning meeting somebody going to church, it might cause an accident and get somebody killed. There has been a person killed on Second Street. By the way, it was a Superintendent of a Sunday School that killed him.” Mayor Kurfees: “He evidently wasn’t coming from an ABC store.”(34-459)

The widening, and \$20,000 in bond money was finally approved on August 19. (34-472)

Oct 7, 1949 - Application was made for the expansion of Stevens Trailer Camp on Knollwood St at S. Stratford Rd. It was approved with the understanding that this property might be needed for a thoroughfare in the future. (34-537)

Oct 21, 1949 - The Aldermen enacted an ordinance prohibiting the sale of gasoline in any commercial garage or gasoline station by “...means of any coin operated device, or any other self dispensing device.” The fine was \$50. (34-566)

Oct 26, 1949 - A cash register was purchased for the Revenue Department at a cost of \$3,190.00. (34-570)

Nov 4, 1949 - The Board approved a resolution asking for a Federal Loan through the Housing Authority to build 1,200 low-rent public housing units. (34-595)

Nov. 22, 1949 - A Resolution was approved appropriating \$45.50 from the contingent fund for Christmas decorations in front of City Hall.

Dec. 16, 1949 - Aldermen Pepper proposed reducing the number of standing committees from eight back to four. (34-678) The Mayor took the proposal personally. What followed was one of the most caustic exchanges between the Mayor and the Board and Members of the Board among themselves. The Mayor called it “very presumptuous...I feel like, gentlemen, that it will be a slap in the face of your Mayor, and I hope that you won’t even consider this proposition....”

After much debate, the decision was put off to the next meeting.

A large headline on the *Sentinel* front page the next day said “Two City Hall Factions Wage Battle for Power.” The subhead read, “Move begun to Clip Wings of the Mayor.” The article began, “The long-smoldering embers in Winston-Salem’s city government blazed last night. Alderman Francis D. Pepper proposed a plan to overthrow Mayor Marshall C. Kurfees’ aldermanic committee setup and establish one of his own. The Pepper plan would concentrate most of the city’s governmental matters with three five-man committees, with Kurfees supporters outvoted on all three. The plan also would tend to strengthen the position of the city manager and of the five aldermen who had given him consistent support. Conversely, it would tend to weaken the dissenting aldermen. It would tend to shift more of the city business behind the scenes and possibly speed it up because the committees usually deliberate in private, and unanimous agreement of a five-man committee would assure a majority vote at the public meeting of the Board of Aldermen.”