

City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

City of Winston-Salem: 1920-1929

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1920 - New City Hall site purchased; Police Records Division established; Water plant improvements; Overhead wires prohibited downtown; Land donated for new high school and auditorium; City employees given Saturday half day off during summer months; Incinerator completed; City quits abattoir business; Proposal for Baptist Hospital approved; Charge for garbage collection proposed.
- 1921 - City Plan Commission proposed; Special training for police approved; City vehicles to be numbered; Dam at Salem Lake raised; Police training school approved; Prince Albert Park donated to City.
- 1922 - First electric traffic signal installed; White and colored districts defined; Contract approved for fire station on Dunleith Ave; Tobacco market hucksters summary; Inspections office created; Water system survey; New City Market approved.
- 1923 - Number of Aldermanic Committees reduced; Department of Health created; City-County building suggested; Contract awarded for new fire station on East Devonshire St; Fire alarm boxes purchased; Sewer tax added to water bills; Bids opened for new school on West Fourth St
- 1924 - Waughtown area annexed; Library service expanded to County; Old City Yard property on 8th St sold; Second sewage plant equipment purchased; Buena Vista section annexed; Ordinances governing operation of cafes, restaurants and hotels and privilege and license taxes enacted; Aldermen decide to meet every other Friday night instead of weekly; Construction of Wiley School approved; Fireworks prohibited
- 1925 - Building Inspector's Office created; Contract Awarded for construction of Ardmore Fire Station; Police officers fired after "Ardmore Scandal"; Employees now required to live within the city limits.
- 1926 - City ordinances revised; Office of Electrical Inspector created; Safe Bus Company incorporated; Municipal Board of Health created; Aldermen hold first meeting in new City Hall.
- 1927 - Old City Hall site sold to Reynolds Tobacco Company; Sidewalk construction expands; Construction begins on new City Yard facility; Discussions regard a new incinerator site; The Saga of Silver Hill
- 1928 - Schools bonds pass overwhelmingly; Ardmore business park plan rejected; Dead animal problem addressed; Yadkin River as city water source proposed; Zoning Commission appointed; Discussions begin on an arterial highway with the employment of a traffic engineer.
- 1929 - Rosenwald Fund gives money for an Industrial High School; City hall lettering purchased; George Coan elected Mayor; City Financial Officer commits suicide during money probe; Bowling alleys and billiard halls approved; J.G. Wooten named Chief of Police

1920

Jan 23, 1920- The Board elected Harvey Flynt Electrical Inspector at a salary of \$150 per month under the supervision of the Dept. of Public Safety. (13-462)

Feb 6, 1920- "Mr. O.O. Tesh, Clerk Municipal Court, was granted a 60 days leave of absence with full pay, with the request that he be urged to go to some hospital for a rest."(13-472)

March 5, 1920- "cost of repairing fire truck which was damaged in a collision with the street car on November 19, 1919 would cost approximately \$3,800. (13-508)



The Fire Department and their equipment, 4 pumpers and a ladder truck posed on S. Liberty St about 1920. The building behind them is now the Downtown Middle School. (W-S Fire Dept Photograph)

NEW CITY HALL SITE PURCHASED

March 26, 1920-“...H.R. Starbuck has offered to sell to the City the property located on the east side of Main Street for a Municipal Building site, for the sum of \$82,500.”

This site was originally purchased as one of the first lots in Winston by Judge Starbuck’s father. Since the founding of Winston, this lot where the present City Hall was built, has had only two owners; the Starbuck family and the City. (13-520)

POLICE RECORDS DIVISION ESTABLISHED

April 2, 1920- “The Police Committee recommend the purchase of equipment for Bertillon system, finger print system, rogues gallery, lost and stolen property index and E.M.O. and M.O system at a price not exceeding \$1,100.” (13-535) The Bertillon method was, at that time, the accepted way of positively identifying a suspect using precise measurements of the skull. It would be several years before this was dropped in favor of exclusive use of fingerprints. Early mug shots contained picture, fingerprint and Bertillon measurements.

WATER PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

April 23, 1920-The Chairman of the Water Committee recommended additional pumping facilities, filtering plant and sediment basins at the Winston and Salem water stations in order to handle the rapidly growing demand for water. The Committee recommended a 4 million gallon capacity electrical pumping unit and a 2 million gallon steam pumping unit at the Salem Pumping Station and a 2 ½ million gallon unit be installed at the Winston Station. The 4 million gallon unit cost \$4, 757. (13-557)

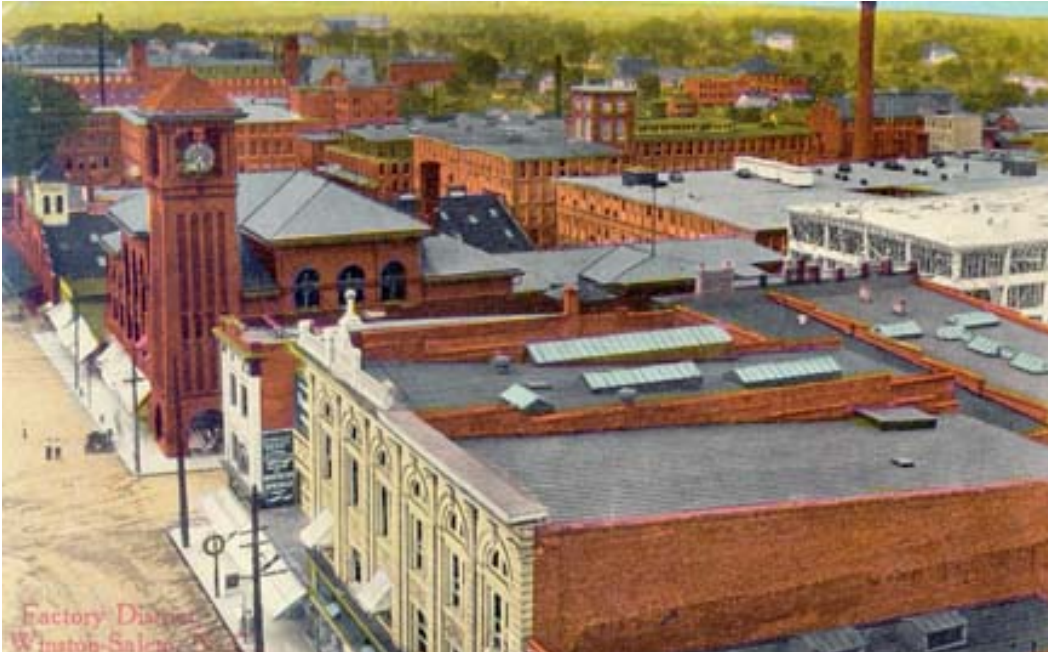


The Salem Water Plant off Stadium Drive would be renamed for Public Works Director R.A. Thomas in 1951. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

OVERHEAD WIRES PROHIBITED

May 28, 1920-An Ordinance was enacted declaring that “.....all overhead telephone, telegraph, electric light or power wires, pole and equipment, constructed and now existing and being maintained on the following streets or portions of streets, are hereby declared unsafe, an obstruction to the public and a menace to the public safety (basically the central business district):Fourth St between Chestnut and Cherry St; Fifth St between Main and Cherry St; Cherry St between Third and Fifth; Main between Second and Fifth; Liberty between Second and Fifth; Trade between Fourth and Fifth; Third St between Main and Cherry and Elm (S. Trade St) between Third and Fourth”

Owners of poles and wires were given 120 days to remove them. (13-588)



This picture, made after World War I, shows the Town Hall, Brown’s Tobacco Warehouse beyond with its white steeple and the Reynolds tobacco factories. (J.R. Snider postcard collection)

June 11, 1920- C.M. Thomas and company reported they have completed paving of 4th between Main and Church and Chestnut between Third and Fourth with durax paving blocks (14-5)

June 18, 1920- Mrs. R. J. Reynolds deeded land to build a high school and “... auditorium building as contemplated by me.” (14-12)

June 18, 1920-Alderman Lasater stated he thought that during the summer months City Hall employees should be given a half day holiday on Saturday. He suggested that the Tax and Water Department be kept open until 3 PM on Saturday. The Board approved the suggestion, leaving the matter of fixing hours on Saturday to the Commissioners. (14-14)

1920-1921 BUDGET

\$1,540,461.43 (14-25)

To comply with a new State law stating that municipalities are not allowed to levy a property tax that will increase the revenue by more than 10 percent, the budget was revised on Oct 29 to \$1,262,870.22. (14-92) The tax rate was set on December 3 at 60 cents per hundred (14-111)

July 23, 1920- D. Hidden Ramsey, who had been elected by the Aldermen as Commissioner of Public Safety in Sept 1919 He resigned Aug 1, 1920. (14-33) The position of Commissioner of Public Safety was not filled. W. W. Pegram filed an application on July 30. The application was filed and no other action taken.

July 23, 1920- “Mr. Rosenbacher (merchant) requested that the water trough located at the corner of 14th and Liberty be removed because of its obstruction to traffic and unsightliness.” (14-31)

July 30, 1920- Norfolk and Western Railway requested permission to build a concrete bridge over 16th St (14-39)

INCINERATOR COMPLETED

Aug 6, 1920-The Board was invited to visit the new incinerator plant. Mr. L.F. Owen reported that about 40 men had been cut from the payroll of the Public Works Department, apparently due to the saving in labor. (14-39) This plant was built on City property on 13th St near the old city barn and Winston water works at a cost of \$125,000.

RENT FOR BUSINESSES IN CITY HALL

It was decided that rent for the merchants on the Main Street side of Town Hall should be at least \$100. An earlier decision to increase the rents to \$200 was rescinded. (14-45). The ground floor on the Main St side of the building had been rented to merchants from the beginning. There were also stalls inside in the city market area.

Aug 6, 1920-“The Mayor stated that the services of Mr. M. H. Umbach, who was not in the employ of the city and occupying a desk in the Mayor’s office might be dispensed with after Sept 1. Mr. T. P. Fulton made a motion that Mr. Umbach be notified that on account of the financial difficulty the City would not require his services after September 1.” (14-45) It is not stated what Mr. Umbach did to warrant a desk in the Mayor’s office.



The picture was taken from the Salem Square looking north at the Main Street and Academy Street intersection. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

CITY QUILTS ABATTOIR BUSINESS

In 1912, the City of Winston purchased the old W.F. Snipes abattoir for \$25,000. The abattoir was on part of the old Winston Water Works property on Belo’s Pond, which had later been sold by the City to Mr. Snipes. The abattoir was on the north side of Peters Creek, just west of Underwood Ave. This was just west of the site of the old Belo Pond Dam.

The city continued to operate the abattoir until 1921 and due to improvements the plant represented an investment of about \$90,000. The City residential section had grown in this area particularly along Cherry St. The residents claimed the abattoir was a nuisance, their property was depreciated and the comfort of the homes seriously disturbed. At least 26 lawsuits were filed against the city. In December 1920, 16 were settled at a cost of \$6,450 with other suits pending or anticipated.

On January 14, 1921, a Special Committee appointed by the Board recommended that the City retire from the abattoir business and that the plant be closed no later than April 1, 1921. The Board accepted this recommendation. (14-133)

OFFICERS ELECTED-OCTOBER 1920 (14-86)

These included W.H. Holcomb Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance also Secretary and Treasurer, H.E. Nissen, Fire Chief and Building Inspector, J. H. Holmes, Assistant Fire Chief, W.G. Hobson and E.M. Dixon, Fire Captains; J.A. Thomas, Chief of Police; J.J. Cofer, Captain of Police; 36 policemen; Luther Brown and Ed Rothrock, Turnkeys

Oct 15, 1920- “...Police Committee gave approval to exchange the Indian Motorcycle now being used by the Police Department for a Harley Davidson. It was understood that it would cost the City approximately \$150.00 to make this exchange.” (14-86)

BAPTIST HOSPITAL

Nov 1, 1920-The Board of Aldermen goes on record as favoring the location of Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem (14-98). Its exact location “in the wilds of Ardmore” as a newspaper article stated, was cause of some concern. It was generally considered that the location was too far out of town for the benefit of most of the residents.



Today it sprawls over a large area but Baptist Hospital began as a single building in the “wilds of Ardmore.” (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

ALDEREMAN HAMILTON RESIGNS

Nov 19, 1920- Third Ward Alderman Charles E. Hamilton resigned effective immediately stating that he had been elected to the State Legislature. H.L. Stone was elected to fill his unexpired term. (14-103)

CITY BORROWS MONEY TO OPERATE

The City had for many years borrowed money from local banks to pay bills. On Nov 19, 1920, the City issued a Revenue Note to borrow \$75,000 “...for the purpose of meeting appropriations for the current fiscal year.” (14-104), another \$50,000 “tax anticipation” loan was approved on Dec 17 (14-125)

This continued annually, sometimes more than once per year and the amounts increased. In 1930, a \$250,000 “Tax Anticipation Loan” note was approved, (22-71) as was a \$100,000 note. (22-155)

CHARGE FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION PROPOSED

Nov 12, 1920- The Chairman of the Health Commission suggested charges for certain services rendered by the Sanitary Department for removing unusually large quantities of garbage from residents and businesses. Aldermen asked that an ordinance be prepared setting up a schedule of charges. (14-100)

SEWER LINE FOR ROBERT E. LEE HOTEL

Nov 19, 1920-City asked to lay a sewer line in Marshall St between 5th and 6th at a cost of approximately \$3,000 to accommodate the new Robert E. Lee Hotel building (14-102)

1921

ROOTS OF THE PLANNING BOARD

Feb 25, 1921-A proposal was presented for the establishment of a City Plan Commission. (14-151) On Sept 9, an ordinance was passed creating a “Planning Board for the City of Winston-Salem consisting of five members; the commissioner of Public Works, one

Alderman, three citizens not connected with City Administration. One citizen appointed for one year, one for two years and one for three years. The President of the Planning Board was to be one of the citizen members. The ordinance stated specifically what the Planning Board would do and the duties have changed very little since then. (14-288)

The first three citizen members were appointed on Sept 23. All were former Aldermen.

POLICE PISTOLS PURCHASED

Feb 25, 1921-An order was placed for forty .45 caliber USA Colts pistols for use by the Police Department at a price of \$8.00 each (14-146) Previously, policemen had used their own guns or confiscated weapons.

THE WHITE WAY

March 25, 1921- The Light Committee reported that a contract with Southern Public Utilities Co had been agreed to, for a total of \$35,459, to light the proposed “white way” in the business district. Under this five year agreement, SPUCO was to install an ornamental lighting system consisting of not less than 80 steel poles each with a 600 candle power lamp in the business district. (14-167)

The Utilities Company agreed to keep this “white way” lighted every night from dusk until 11:45 PM except on Sunday nights when the lights would be burning until 10:30 PM. They further agreed to keep one-fourth of the lights burning until dawn. If a light was not burning, the City had the right to deduct 25 cents per night for each lamp not lighted.

1921 BOARD

There was a hot political campaign waged in the 1921 municipal election. The opposition was led by Rev Tom P. Jamison, a candidate for mayor who promised to “clean out the City Hall-lock, stock and barrel.” From statements made at Board meetings prior to the election, Rev. Jamison’s knowledge of the affairs at City Hall appeared to be as limited as were his qualifications to serve. Mayor James G. Hanes, who had served two terms as an Alderman was the other candidate.

Only two incumbent Aldermen, First Ward’s T. P. Fulton and Salem Ward’s Dr. Phin E. Horton, were re-elected. This was the first municipal election in which the citizens south of Salem Creek had voted and they gave the candidate from their section a small majority, electing L.C. McKaughan, a Republican. Salem Ward Alderman Lewis F. Owen lost by only 4 votes. From this time on it became the practice to elect one Alderman in the Salem Ward from the Old Salem area and the other from the area south of Salem Creek (14-196)

Those elected were:

Mayor

James G. Hanes

Aldermen

First Ward- T. P. Fulton, G.W. Agee,

Second Ward-Walter Thompson,W.G. Houchins

Third Ward-L. H. Cottingham, C.B. Pointexter

Salem Ward-Dr. P .E. Horton,Luther C. McKaughan



The Robert E. Lee Hotel was opened in 1921 at a cost of 1.5 million dollars. It had 350 rooms, each with a private bath. This post card, from about 1931, shows an addition build on the south side in 1929. Its main entrance was on 5th Street. In 1971 the structure was imploded to make way for a new hotel. (J.R. Snider Postcard Collection)

STANDING COMMITTEES

May 13, 1921-Mayor Hanes recommended 12 standing committees with two members of the Board on each: Finance, Public Works, Police, Park, Real Estate, Hospital, Library, Fire & Building, Light, Market, Ordinance and School

At one time there were 15 standing committees, but when the Public Works Committee was established, the Street, Sewer, Sanitary committee was placed in this new committee. (14-201)

PAVING INSPECTION FEE

June 24, 1921)-A charge of five cents per square yard for all new pavement laid to cover inspection costs was approved.(14-225)

1921-1922 BUDGET

\$1,532,255.84 (14-229) The tax rate is not listed.

JITNEY LICENSES AND ROUTES AUTHORIZED

The Board approved a northern route for white and colored Jitneys, a Boston Cottage Route, a Granville Drive Route and Cameron Park Route. Among those who were licensed to run Jitneys in the city were the Morgan brothers who would eventually form Safe Bus Company. (14-234) There are references to both male and female jitney drivers in the minutes. Jennie Reid requested changing her route in 1924 (16-76)

POLICE APPROVED FOR SPECIAL TRAINING

July 15, 1921-Police Sergeant Dewey C. Brown was approved for training at the FBI Fingerprint School in Washington DC. His expenses were to be borne by the City. (14-251) The next year the position of "Fingerprint Expert" was added to the Police budget.

The Board also approved police training in New York City for four members of the Department. These would be the two uniform officers (there were 25), and the two plain clothes men (there were only 4), making the best record during the first three months of 1921. (14-255) They had to agree to stay with the department for two years after completing the training.

X-RAY EQUIPMENT FOR CITY HOSPITAL

July 21, 1921-The City Purchasing Agent was authorized to purchase X-Ray equipment at a cost of \$4,428.48. (14-255)

CITY CARS TO BE NUMBERED

July 21, 1921- A Resolution was passed requiring "...that all city-owned cars and vehicles be lettered showing the department to which they belong, and in case of more than one car in a department, then each car to be given a number." (14-255)

GRADED SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Superintendent of Schools, R. H. Latham submitted these statistics on graded school enrollment: (14-273)

<u>School</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>No. of Classrooms</u>
West End	1053	24
North Winston	986	16
East Winston	881	14
Granville	575	12
Southside	429	6
Fairview	397	8
Central (Salem)	<u>326</u>	7
Total White	4647	
Woodland	1030	12
Depot Street	905	11
Columbia Heights	592	9
Oak Street	<u>500</u>	8
Total Colored	3027	

Although no reference is made in the minutes, it is obvious from these numbers that the African-American schools were extremely overcrowded especially Woodland which had double the students in half the classrooms as the white West End School.

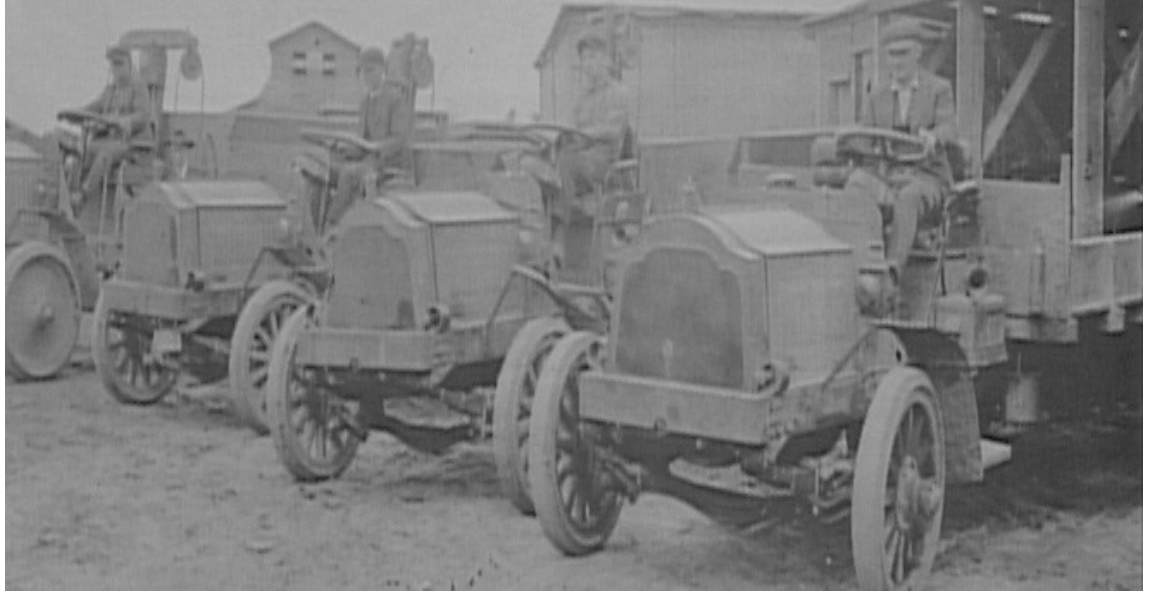
BOND REFERENDUM

A Special Election was held on October 25, 1921 regarding the issuance of almost two million dollars in bonds. Of the 1,826 registered voters, 1,408 voted in favor of the bonds (14-339) There was \$445,000 for streets, \$600,000 for water and sewer bonds. There were also positive votes for \$100,000 in playground bonds and \$50,000 for additions to the City Hospital. At the March 19, 1922 meeting, the decisions were made as to what streets would be improved through the bond referendum (14-384)

Sept 2, 1921-Alderman Walter Thompson resigned. John Whitaker was elected to fill his unexpired term. (14-285)

ADDITIONS TO SALEM LAKE

Sept 23, 1921- Bids were received for the raising of the dam on Salem Creek by five feet. The original dam was constructed only two years earlier. Commissioner of Public Works Shaner stated that in addition to the \$13,850 in construction cost, new lands would cost about \$10,000 and a new suction well and new pumps would raise the total cost to about \$50,000. (14-313)



City Streets trucks from about 1920
(City of Winston-Salem photograph)

POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL

Sept 23, 1921- The Board authorized a three months training school for the Police Department at a cost of \$1,200. Captain Auer, a member of the New York Police Department, was to start the school. (14-312) A Training Manual for the Department was produced and printed for use by all officers. (14-495)

Sept 23, 1921- W.N. Reynolds donated the property on 12th Street at Highland Ave to the City as “Prince Albert Park.” (14-312)

Oct 21, 1921- The Aldermen approved meetings to begin at 7:30 instead of 8:00 (14-370)

1922

ELECTRIC TRAFFIC SIGNAL

Jan 13, 1922- The Chairman of the Police Committee reported that an electric traffic signal had been installed at the corner of 5th and Trade Streets by the manufacturer of the signs on approval, and that the Police Committee and Chief of Police were of the opinion that the signal should be permanently installed. The Board authorized the purchase and installation of three such signals. (14-366)

Jan 17, 1922- “Police Chief allowed \$25 allowance per month for the upkeep of his car, as same is to be used in connection with City works.” (14-370)

WHITE AND COLORED DISTRICTS DEFINED

January 17, 1922-The Mayor introduced a resolution stating that the City “...had been using its efforts towards the establishment of definite lines in the City separating white and colored districts, and he felt this would be a great step toward the prevention of racial trouble in the city.” (14-466)

CITY INSPECTIONS

January 17, 1922- “The City Building Inspector is authorized to inspect all buildings where the public gathers for the purpose of determining if they are unsafe or dangerous.” (14-489)

EAST WINSTON FIRE STATION

June 30, 1922- Contract let for construction of fire station in east Winston for \$12,175.00. (15-15) This station on Dunleith Avenue eventually became Engine No. 4. It would be staffed with African American firefighters until 1950.

June 30, 1922-Patrolman Fleming suspended for five days for “...firing pistol at automobile in order to stop same.” (15-16)

CITY BUDGET 1922-1923

\$1,833,984

Tax rate set at 80 cents.

July 14, 1922- The Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance was authorized to “exchange the old Ford car now in service in the Police and Fire Departments for a new Ford with electric lights and starter.” (15-22) This “old Ford” was the first car owned by Police. It was purchased in 1915.

July 14, 1922- The Police Chief’s salary was fixed at \$2750 with allowance for gasoline and oil for his car to be procured from the city filling station (15-24)



When this picture was made outside the town hall about 1922, the police department had 8 Harley-Davidson motorcycles. (Police Dept. Photograph)

TOBACCO MARKET HUCKSTERS

Each year during the fall tobacco market, there were requests from salesmen who wanted to work the area of Trade Street during the market. Apparently there was just about anything for sale to the farmers who were often paid in cash for their crop. Police reports note a number of arrests for prostitution related charges as well. Some individuals appear year after year before the board and the requests were usually granted. Some of the unusual entries on the subject include these:

On Oct 20, 1922, Mr. Allen requests a permit to sell “liniment and medicine of his own manufacture in the city warehouses, without being required to pay an annual license of \$500.00.” This was referred to the Finance committee with power to act. (15-59)

On Oct 19 1934, “A resident of Norfolk Virginia appeared before the Board and requested permission to place on display an octopus, he having produced papers showing he was a World War Veteran. Alderman Martin made a motion that he be allowed to exhibit the octopus for a period of two weeks beginning October 22 without being required to pay the license fee. (23-469)

On October 9, 1936, Chief Red Wolf requested the Board pro rate his license tax for his medicine show for three months. (24-491)

On Nov 18, 1949, Mr. Daye appeared before the Board and asked if he would be allowed to sell a certain medicine on Trade Street by doing magic tricks in order to draw a small crowd to which he attempts to sell his product. He stated that he used no loud speakers, no music, and that he employed no one but himself, and that he had county, city and state licenses to sell the medicine (34-622). City Manager to investigate.

INSPECTIONS OFFICE CREATED

Oct 20, 1922- The Office of City License Inspector was created (15-68) as was a “Board of Chauffeur Examiners (Taxi Inspector)” (15-68)

Nov 3, 1922-The Board approved the naming of a new street “Northwest Boulevard” being made from parts of several different streets that connected (15-88)

WATER SYSTEM SURVEY

Dec 1, 1922- Public Works Commissioner Shaner submitted a bid for a survey of the water system. He stated that the water department is pumping 120 gallons per person, while other manufacturing cities only consume 60 to 80 gallons daily per person; that this excess was being lost in leaks in old mains which never came to the surface or by taps that the city was not securing a revenue on, and that the daily loss was one to one and a half million gallons. The price of the survey was \$4,200 and would take four months. The Board approved the request.

NEW CITY MARKET

Nov 17, 1922- The Aldermen approved preliminary plans for a new City Market to be built on the northeast corner of North Cherry and Sixth Streets, formerly known as the “Farmers Camp Site.” The Board looked to pattern the building after the market in Knoxville, Tenn. but with additional space for a curb market. (15-100) On June 21, bids were opened at almost 344 thousand dollars which the Market Committee rejected since it was far above what had been appropriated. (15-274)

New Bids were advertised on Nov 23, 1923 and opened on August 15, 1924 at a total cost of \$240,239. (16-121)

The building officially opened on July 4, 1925 and closed in 1969.



The City Market Building at 6th and Cherry
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

1923

March 9, 1923- A Petition was received to pave Lovers’ Lane (Stratford Rd) from Shallowford St (First St). (15-172)

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 8, 1923 (15-255)

Mayor James G. Hanes

Aldermen

First Ward-W.G. Jerome, C.A. Dobbins

Second Ward-W.C. Houcins, P.A. Gorrell

Third Ward- R. P. Rawley, W. B. Elkin

Salem Ward- L.F. Owen, C.A. Creech

The number of standing committees was reduced to eleven: They are Finance, Ordinance, Public Works, Fire and Building, Market, Light, School, Police, Health and Real Estate. (15-256)



City Hospital was expanded with two new patient wings. This north wing for African American patients was added in 1923. A south wing opened in 1930.

(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

May 18, 1923- A Health Committee was formed. It was made up of the Chairmen of Finance, Public Works and Market Committees. They were to recommend a city health officer. The Committee, City Health Officer and the City Physician were to be known as the "Department of Health"

CITY-COUNTY BUILDING SUGGESTED

May 9, 1923- A resolution from the County commissioners was received suggesting they join with the city in the erection of a Courthouse and Municipal Building combined. If the City were interested they were to reply by June 1. "As it is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners to build a new Courthouse at an early date."(15-252)

The Board responded on June 29 that the Chamber of Commerce had asked that the Board of Aldermen "...consider carefully the proposition or suggestion which has been made to them by the Board of County Commissioners for the construction of a joint Municipal and County Building." The minutes of the Board of Aldermen do not record any further action on the matter.

CITY BUDGET 1923-1924

\$2,217,465.33 Tax rate set at 95 cents.

NEW FIRE STATION

July 12, 1923- The Board awarded a contract for the construction of a fire station at 450 East Devonshire for \$14,593. These bids were for the buildings only and did not include the plumbing, heating and electrical work. (14-299) The Fire Committee also approved purchase of a 750 gal triple combination fire truck from American La France for \$12,500. (14-298)

July 12, 1923- 10 fire alarm boxes were ordered purchased. (15-300)

July 27, 1923- Railways were ordered to place a watchman at locations where city streets cross the tracks; on Third and Fourth between 6:30 AM and 11PM and at the 6th and Chestnut crossings from 7 AM-6 PM. (15-314) Warning devices were to be required at other crossings. An ordinance was then passed regulating motor vehicles at railroad crossings (15-316)

SEWER TAX ADDED TO WATER BILL

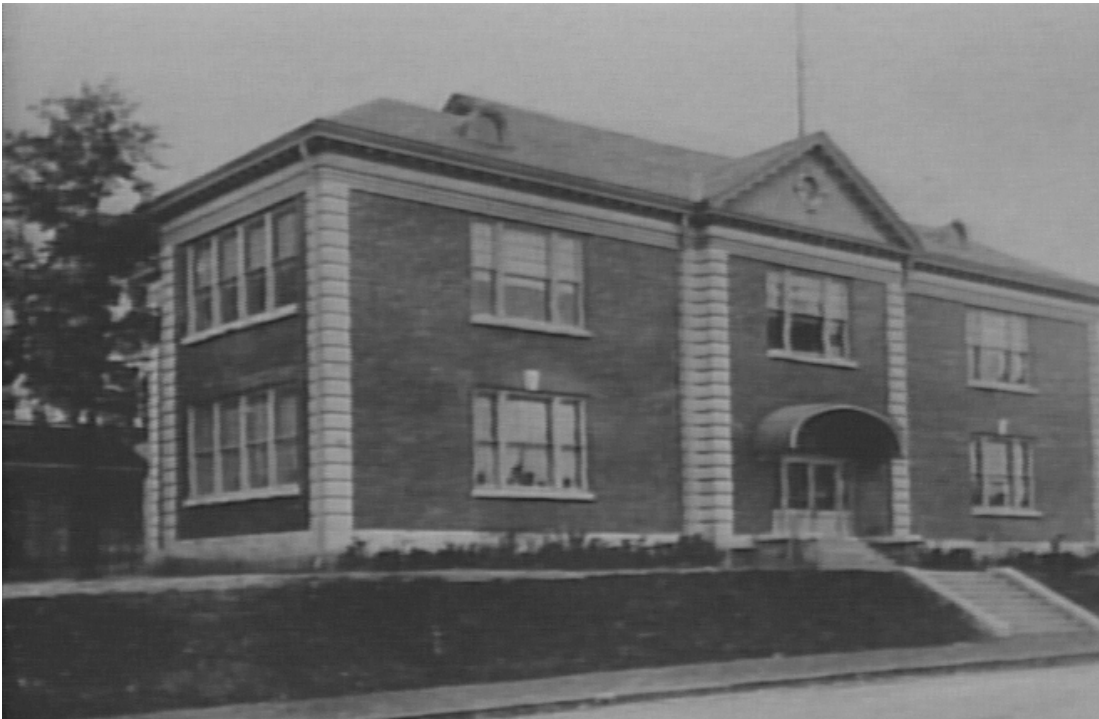
Oct 23, 1923-Ordinance placing a sewer tax on water bills "...for the purpose of compensating the City for the use of the public sewer system, and to pay the expense of maintaining and operating the same." The rate was to be "... ten percent of the charge for water rent."(15-341)



Reynolds High School, built with money donated by the widow of R.J. Reynolds, opened in 1923. It replaced the City High School destroyed by fire.
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

TOO MANY JITNEYS

Sept 14, 1923-“We respectfully petition your honorable body not to allow the issuing of any other jitney license except those now licensed on E.7th St and Woodland Ave. There are now 27 being operated at all times on the above named streets. Human life and property are in danger at all times on these streets, because there are too many jitneys.” (15-358) This request came from the residents of this area and was sent to committee.



(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

WEST END ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Nov 23, 1923- Bids were opened for a 32 room school on the north side of Fourth St just west of Broad St known as West End Elementary School. The total cost was \$250,595. (15-424)The School actually faced on Broad St.

CITY'S QUARRY SOLD

Dec 7, 1923- The property on West End Blvd between the railroad and Manley Street known as the Old Rock Quarry was sold at auction. This had been the source of much of the stone used for paving in the town of Winston. Today the rock is still visible on the south side of West End Blvd. (15-435)

On Nov 14, 1924, a motion passed approving the erection of buildings on West End Blvd opposite the old rock quarry for business use. (16-226)

NORTHWEST BOULEVARD NAMED

Dec 7, 1923- The new street running from the intersection of North Liberty Street and 13 ½ Streets to Shallowford Street (West First St.) was officially named "Northwest Boulevard".

1924

WAUGHTOWN AREA ANNEXED

Jan 8, 1924- An Election was held regarding the annexation of Waughtown. The annexation passed with 480 "for" and 186 "against". (15-453) The Sunnyside Land Company had opened up to development large areas of Southside, south of Salem Creek, in 1890. With paved streets, electricity, telephones and streetcars came people. The eastern part of Southside was incorporated in 1891 as the town of Waughtown. Five years later, when residents refused to tax themselves enough to run the place, corporation was dissolved.

HAWTHORNE RD. NAMED

Jan 11, 1924- "There is hereby established a street to be known as Hawthorne Rd, the same to include the following streets or parts of streets: Ardmore Ave, Runnymede Ave, part of Glade street, Myrtle Street and High School Drive." (15-465)

LIBRARY SERVICE EXPANDED

Jan 18, 1924- County commissioners appropriated \$1500 to the City Library with the understanding that the money be used in the extension of the library service to Forsyth County (15-469)

OLD CITY YARD SITE SOLD

January 21, 1924- A Public auction was held to sell lots on North Trade St at 8th that had been the location of the city yard. On March 4, 1927, the old brick barn located next to the original brick water reservoir site, fronting on Trade St , was put up for sale.

Jan 25, 1924- "...Commissioner of Accounts and Finance be instructed not to have the plain clothes officer's car in the Police Department marked in the same manner as other cars in the City's use are being marked, as it would detect the identity of the car." (15-488)

January 29, 1924- An election was held to annex Buena Vista section. (15-441)

Feb 1, 1924- The Forsyth Riflemen were given permission to develop a rifle range on Winston Water Works property (Winston Lake). The range was to be established below the dam. (15-497)

SECOND SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT

March 15, 1924- A contract was awarded for processing equipment at \$158,672. On December 19, a contract for \$28,672 was awarded for "...clarifier mechanism, screen unit, sludge pump and appurtenances." Sewage filters, coke compressors and appurtenance were purchased for \$18,999. On March 9, 1925, a contract for reinforced concrete work in structures and foundations was awarded for \$119,448.50.

May 20, 1924- A bond election for \$800,000 in school bonds held. There were only 34 votes out of 1,756 against the bonds (15-636)

April 11, 1924- Approval was given to pave 8th Street between Ridge Ave and Highland Ave (15-579)

April 25, 1924- A representative of the Southside Council appeared before the Board to protest a program at Granville School "...entitled 'Physical Educational Development' and among their numbers were "Dancing , Song, Human Furniture and Girls Stunts' which we think, from information received from parties present were rendered in an unbecoming and unrefined, if not in a disgraceful manner."

The group further stated that “it has a tendency toward slack morals in young men and young womanhood of future generations.” This was referred to the school committee. (15-589)

May 16, 1924- An ordinance governing operation of cafes, restaurants and hotels adopted. (15-628)

May 30, 1924- Ordinances regarding Privilege and License Taxes were enacted. (15-654)

June 20, 1924- “The request of Mr. E. T. Rodwell that he be given permission to protect his English Walnut trees from squirrels by the use of a 22-rifle was granted.” (16-16)

CITY CHANGES MEETING SCHEDULE

June 24, 1924- The Board voted to change their regular meeting to every other Friday night instead of every Friday night. (16-24) Apparently, the weekly meetings proved to be inconvenient for many Board Members. The minutes record that during the fiscal year 1920-21 at least two regular meetings in each month were adjourned due to lack of a quorum.

CITY BUDGET 1924-1925 (16-121)

\$2,867,148.55 The tax rate was set on Nov 14 at \$1.10. (16-236)

NEW CITY HALL

June 20, 1924-The Mayor was authorized to appoint a special committee to investigate the question of the erection of a new City Hall Building and to make a report. (16-21)

The City had already purchased a site for the new City Hall, a lot located on the northeast corner of Main and First Streets. The lot has a history of its own. It was originally part of the almost 100,000 acre Wachovia tract purchased by the United Brethren of the Moravian Church for about 35 cents an acre in 1753. The Forsyth County commissioners purchased it as part of the fifty-one and a quarter acres for the town of Winston at a cost of \$5.00 per acre. During the original auction of the town lots, Judge H. D. Starbuck purchased three lots on Main St for \$503.00. The lots were purchased from H.R. Starbuck in March 1920 for \$82,500.

Starbuck’s father had built a home there in what was described in contemporary accounts as “a great grove of trees.” The house was being used by the Health Department until October 1924 when the city tried to sell the house.

The public auction was held on December 10, 1924 with G.C. Hill being the lowest bidder with an offer of \$450. The City rejected the bid as inadequate and Hill increased his bid to \$700. This offer was accepted on January 2, 1925. (16-281)

Meanwhile plans were being prepared for the new building and the architectural firm of Northrup and O’Brien presented them to the Board on Nov 7, 1924. (16-226)

Bids were received on Feb 6, 1925 and contracts awarded:

General Contract	\$451,600
Jail Work	\$17,478
Heating and Ventilating	\$23,924

There was other incidental work including electrical. (16-342) The Watkins Book Store, representing General Fire Proofing Company was awarded the contract for office furniture and equipment on April 30, 1926. (17-582) Bonds in the amount of \$550,000 were issued for the new City Hall.

This is almost the same amount spent to remodel the Council Chamber alone in 2003.



An early aerial view of City Hall. Note the residences on Church Street.
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

July 11, 1924- A Resolution was approved to pave S. Broad St from Arcadia to Sprague St. (16-70)

July 1, 1924- Bids were received for the construction of Calvin Wiley Graded School (16-73)

July 28, 1924- Second Ward Alderman P.A. Gorrell died on July 22. A.C. Miller was elected to succeed him. (16-96)

Aug 15, 1924-The Board approved a request that the merchants be allowed to drill holes about 1 ½ inches in diameter and about 20 feet apart in the sidewalks for the purpose of erecting flag poles in decorating the streets. The cost would be borne by the merchants. (16-109)

STREET CAR NOISE COMPLAINT

Aug 22, 1924-“It was reported that Street Car No. 4 operating on the West End Line was still creating a nuisance in that section on account of the car’s being equipped with flat wheels. This matter was taken up with the Southern Public Utilities Company after the meeting of August 1, 1924. It seems the Company has taken no action to remedy the trouble.” (16-127)

Dec 19, 1924- An ordinance prohibiting the sale of any kind of fireworks in the City was passed. (16-272)

1925

Jan 16, 1925- 6th Street from Broad to Summit was paved. (16-298)

Jan 23, 1925- Police Chief Thomas reports to the Board “...I have this day suspended Patrolman H.S. Fox from duty for a period of five days...for conduct unbecoming an officer; leaving the city without permission and being in an automobile in company with single girls who were using indecent language in the presence of people on the public highway. I would recommend that my suspension be made permanent.” (16-306)

January 23, 1925-Trade Street between 7th and 10th was ordered paved and widened.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S OFFICE CREATED

March 20, 1925- Ordinance creating the Office of Building Inspector separate and distinct from the Fire Chief and Fire Inspector was approved. (16-395)

March 20, 1925- 16 Jitney routes are defined and approved (16-397)

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS MAY 5, 1925 (17-1)

Mayor Thomas Barber

Aldermen

First Ward-W.G. Jerome, Norman V. Stockton

Second Ward-J.W. Alspaugh, W.C. Houchins

Third Ward- R. N. Hauser, W.T. Penry

Salem Ward- L.F. Owen, C.L. Creech

At the new Board's first meeting on May 11, they agreed to hold regular meetings on Friday night of each week during the next two years. From Oct until April 1, the meeting would be held at 7:30 PM and from April 1 until Oct 1 the meetings would be held at 8 PM (17-2)

There were twelve Standing Committees with two members on each. Two Special committees- The City Hall Committee and the School Building Committee (17-12)

MEMORIAL DAY

Congress had enacted a law declaring Memorial Day a National Holiday. Mayor Barber declared Saturday the 30th of May a holiday and requested that all citizens "...manifest their patriotism by displaying the National Flag and paying proper respect thereto."(17-20) It would not be until 1973 that city employees were given the day off with pay.

TRADES AND VENDORS MUST BE LICENSED

May 29, 1925- An Ordinance was enacted providing for a privilege license tax on trades and professions. (17-25) The Ordinance stated that it was illegal to conduct business without a license and that each license was for twelve months. The Ordinance lists and describes the trades and vendors that must be licensed and the annual fee for each including Class A and B Restaurants (wiener stands, hot dog stands), knife dealers, feather renovators, hypnotists , Lightning Rod Dealers, Traveling Theatrical companies and "rolling stores".

June 26, 1925- An Ordinance was enacted regulating the governing of the new City Market at 6th and Cherry. (17-75) There is a section entitled Personal Conduct which included "Unbecoming comment of any sort concerning patrons including whistling or any other means to attract attention is forbidden..."

ARDMORE FIRE STATION

July 17, 1925- A contract was awarded for construction of the Ardmore Fire Station on Academy St. At that time, Academy was the only street that connected the Ardmore section to the rest of the city. (17-104)

THE ARDMORE SCANDAL

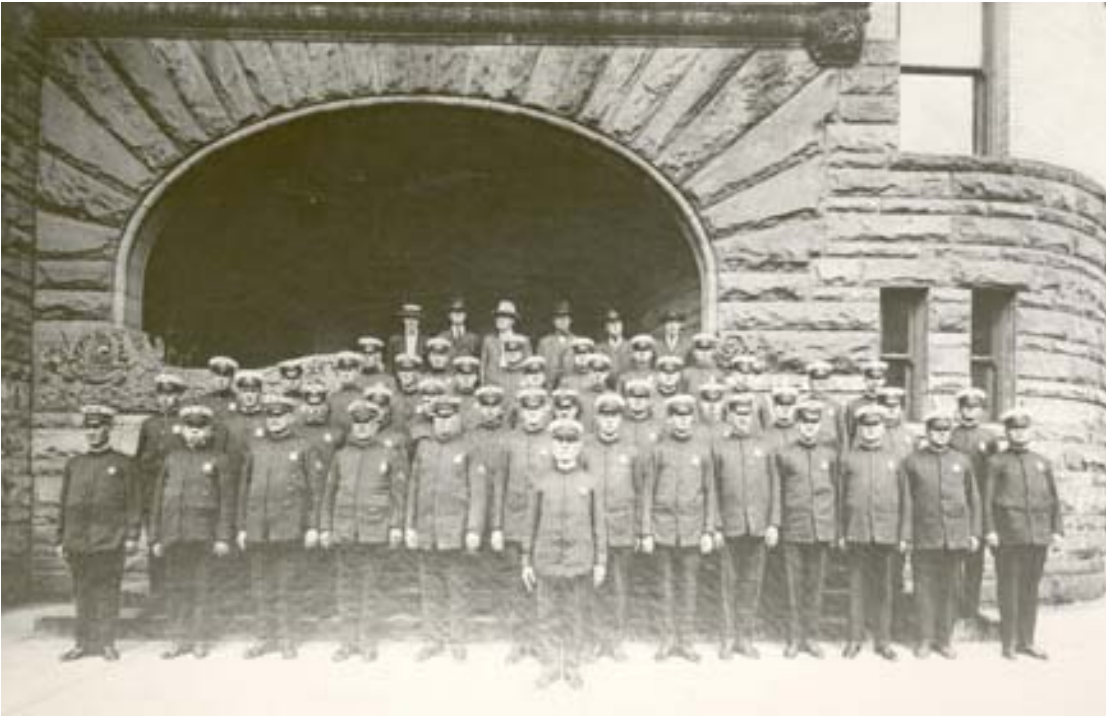
Sept 26, 1925- Two Police Officers and a Detective Sergeant were fired following a series of newspaper articles and a Police Committee Investigation (17-193) According to the *Winston-Salem Journal*, a house on Elizabeth Avenue in Ardmore was "...a house of ill-fame protected by Police."

"It was reported that some officers who had been sent to watch the house and who had failed to report anything were watched by other officers who found their predecessors participating in the entertainment."

Two of the officers appealed to the Board of Aldermen their firing for "conduct unbecoming" saying they were the "goat" for higher up officials. Their firings were upheld by the Board.

CITY RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

Nov 6, 1925- A n Ordinance was passed stating that 'no person shall be eligible to be appointed or elected to or to hold any executive or administrative office in the City of Winston-Salem, or under any Board of Commission thereof, or any office which under the Charter must be filled by the action of the Board of Aldermen, unless he is a resident of the City.'"(17-252)



Chief Thomas and the police force pose in front of the Court House about 1925. On the back row are the “Plainclothesmen”. The man in the Panama hat is D.C. Brown, the department’s first fingerprint expert. 2nd from left on the front row is Sgt. J.T. Thompson who appears in an 1884 photo of the Winston force. (WSPD photo)

1926

CITY ORDINANCES REVISED

Jan 26, 1926- A complete draft of the City Ordinances having been revised and rearranged under the direction of the Ordinance Committee as previously authorized by the Board were presented. The revised ordinances were printed in full in Minute Book 17, taking up 101 pages beginning on page 329. Included is a section on the observance of Sunday, wherein all businesses were to close from midnight Saturday through Midnight Sunday. There were only a few exceptions including boarding or rooming houses, ice houses, livery stables, public garages (but no gasoline could be sold), ice cream stand (carry-out only), wiener stands could be open but could not serve soft drinks.

Feb 19, 1926- The Street known as “Lovers Lane” had its name changed to “Stratford Rd.” (17-472)

April 9, 1926- Among the approvals given to pave additional streets in the city is one to pave Waughtown St from Vargrave to Peachtree. (17-549)

April 30, 1926- Office of Electrical Inspector created (17-586)

SAFE BUS COMPANY INCORPORATED

May 21, 1926- 13 drivers who operated 31 jitneys or buses appeared before the Board to present a corporation to be called the Safe Bus, Inc. (17-626) The request was approved. The Board must have breathed a sigh of relief since for many years much time had been spent approving or disapproving individual Jitney routes and drivers. On Aug 6, Southern Public Utilities Company requested licenses to operate nine jitney lines in the city. (18-94) Although this consolidated several routes, there were still routes to be approved that Safe Bus and SPUCO did not cover.



Safe Bus Company served the African American community
(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

STREET WIDENING PROJECT-NOT!

June 6, 1926- The Board approved these street projects: (18-22)

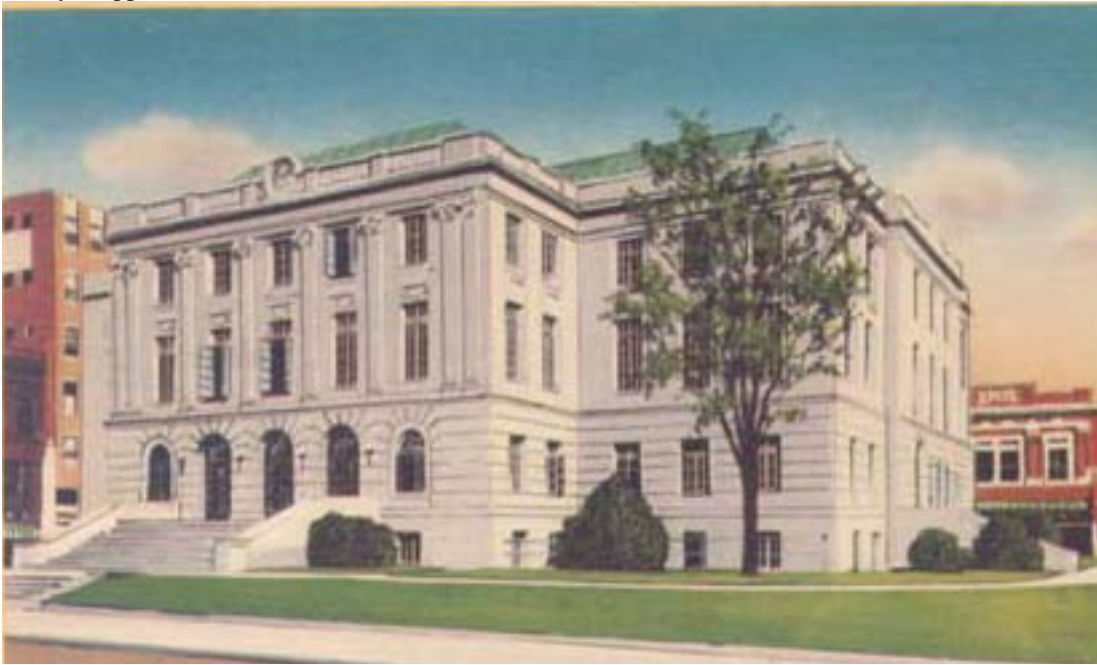
West Third-From N. Cherry at 3rd St intersection through the Presbyterian Church property and falling in with Holly Ave to Spring St, thence through private property to Burke St at Brookstown Ave

Burke St-From Brookstown Ave to W. 4th and West 1st

Brookstown Ave-From West 1st to West 4th

West First St-From Shady Ave to Green St and From Westdale Ave to West 4th St

Many well attended public meetings were held on this project, and the matter continued under discussion for several years until it was finally dropped in 1928.



The Forsyth County Courthouse was drastically renovated in 1926. The gothic tower was removed and the signature arch and steps disappeared behind a new façade. The primary entrance was now on Main St. 25 foot extensions were added to the Main and Liberty Street sides. Two courtrooms were built on the second floor. (J.R. Snider postcard collection)

CITY BUDGET 1926-1927

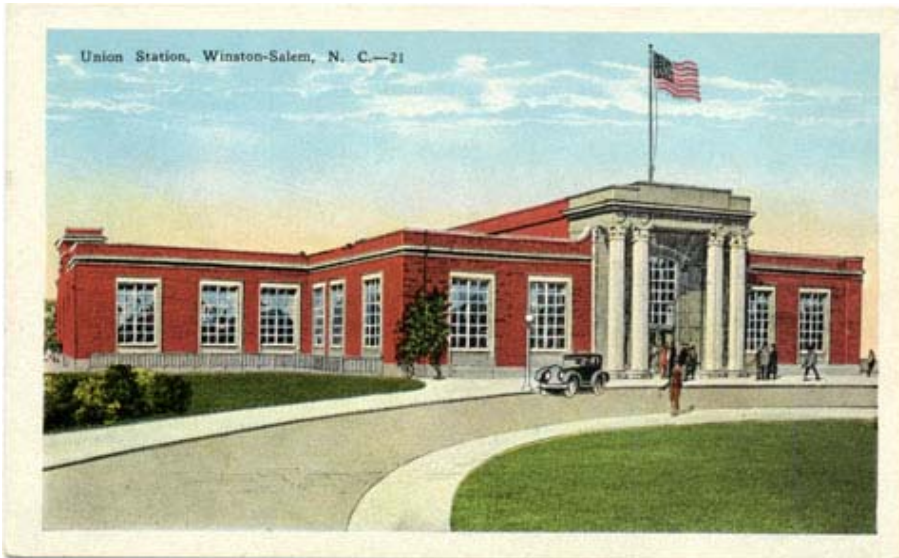
\$3,226,860.17 Tax rate set at \$1.00, 60 cents for operating and 40 cents for schools.

WEST FOURTH STREET WIDENING PROJECT

Nov 12, 1926- Many of those opposed to the widening of Third threw their support behind a proposal to widen west Fourth from Marshall to Glade St. (18-231) Under this plan, Fourth would be widened 12 feet on the north side. The majority of property owners submitted this request to the Board. The plan called for 100% of the total costs would be assessed upon the property owners on the basis of benefits accruing to said property by reason of the improvement. The Board approved the petition and authorized the improvement. Several years later West Fourth Street was widened according to the plan.

WIDENING OF COURT HOUSE SQUARE PROPOSED

Aug 13, 1926- The County proposed leasing the property around the refurbished Court House needed for widening the streets for \$1 per year if the City would develop the streets and sidewalks. (18-102) Basically, the County would not charge the city for the right-of-way. On April 8, 1927, the Public Works Committee reported “The County has developed all the property adjacent to the street herein mentioned. It would be five years before the streets around the Court House were widened as part of the “Plaza Project.”



The new Union Station opened in 1926. It closed in 1970 and is now used as an auto repair garage. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

Oct 22, 1926- The Aldermen approved "...application of Frank Brenner for permit to engage in the business of Junk Dealer at 950 Linden St." (18-200) This was the beginning of the Brenner Iron and Metal Co and the Sanco Corporation among others.

Nov 12, 1926- An Ordinance was enacted creating a Health Committee and Municipal Board of Health (18-237)

FIRST MEETING IN NEW CITY HALL

The first Board of Aldermen Meeting was held on Friday night November 19, 1926. (19-240) Mayor Barber stated that since this was the first meeting in the new Chamber he had invited Dr. J. Kenneth Pfohl of Home Moravian Church to be present and to offer a dedicatory prayer. After the prayer, Dr. Pfohl made a few fitting remarks in connection with the opening of the new City Hall Among the items addressed by the Board were: Permission given to allow Christmas Decorations on Fourth Street on "The White Way." (18-243); Assessments for sidewalks on Hawthorne Rd from Bank Street to the City Limits (18-241); requested the Ordinance Committee prepare an ordinance prohibiting spitting on the floors of the new City Hall.(18-244)



When City Hall opened it was the largest municipal building in North Carolina. (J.R. Snider postcard collection)

Dec 17, 1926- Aldermen approve resolution extending to the Southern Railway Company an invitation to move its offices from Washington, D.C. to Winston-Salem saying "...with the assurance that the real welcome will be given the Company, its officers and employees would the city be selected as headquarters."

1927

OLD CITY HALL CLOCK SOLD

Jan 21, 1927-The Chairman of the City Hall Committee submitted an offer from Calvary Moravian Church to purchase the Old City Hall town Clock, the same to be erected in the tower of the Church building now located at the intersect of Holly Ave and Poplar Street; the Church agreeing to pay the City the sum of \$300 for the clock as it now stands in the old Municipal Building. The motion was approved. (18-310)

The clock had to be wound manually every week. It was electrified in 1972 and reportedly has not been as dependable since. As of 2004, the clock still strikes the hour from Calvary Moravian Church.



In this old postcard of Main St, the clock in Town Hall is clearly visible (J.R. Snider Postcard collection)

OLD CITY HALL SITE SOLD

Jan 27, 1927-A public auction was held to sell the old building and property. The property was divided into 13 lots all having a frontage of 20 feet except the lot at the corner of 4th and Church which had a frontage of 19.4 feet on 4th St. Five lots fronted on Main, six on Fourth and two on Church.

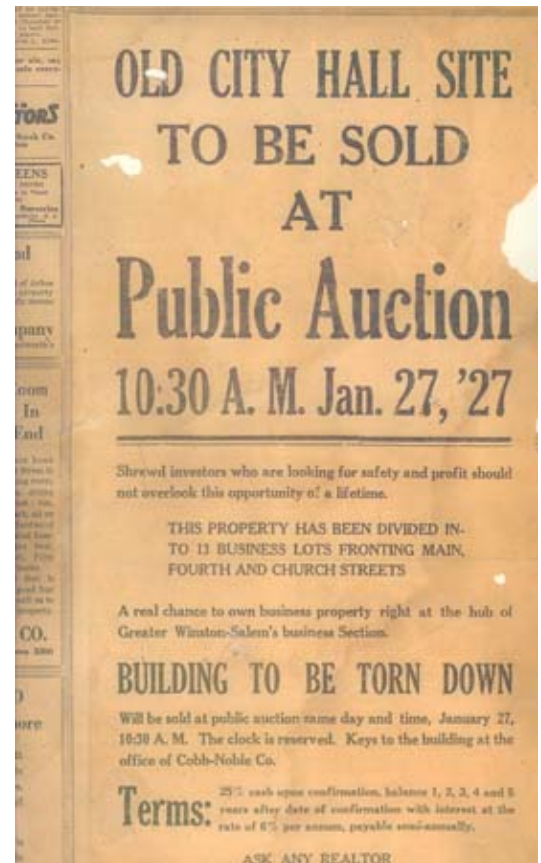
Prior to the auction an elaborate brochure was prepared by showing pictures of the old City Hall Building, a reproduction of the map showing the lot layout, the terms of the sale, etc. The property was described as “The Most Valuable Business Property ever offered at auction in Winston-Salem.” The lots were to be sold separately and not as a whole. The sale of the building and each of the lots “will be held open for increased bids for ten days, and the respective purchases will acquire no rights under the sale until confirmation by the Board of Aldermen.” The purchaser of the building was to tear it down and remove all material from the ground within a period of 120 days from confirmation of the sale.

The bids of the last and highest bidders were considered at a meeting of the Board on February 8, 1927 and the Board decided that the bids were insufficient and then rejected all bids. (18-328) The mayor was authorized to receive and to report any private offers he might receive for the lots and for the old building.

The Mayor reported on February 11 that the highest bid was from Home Real Estate Loan and Insurance Company whose aggregate bid amounted to \$330,832. (18-336) The previous high bid for the old building was \$805. The Mayor reported he had received an offer of \$1505. The Board then approved the sale of the building and the lots.

Home Real Estate and Loan was acting as an agent for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company who then erected their headquarters on the site.

The City of Winston had purchased the old Town Hall property in 1890 for \$10,100. The building was built for \$43,639.



SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

February 18, 1927- During the period from 1920-1930, it was the policy of the Board to order the construction of concrete sidewalks on streets following the installation of curbing and the paving of the streets. On Feb 18, the Board ordered sidewalks on both sides of 13 streets and on only one side of 10 streets. The entire cost of the sidewalk improvements was assessed against the abutting property owners. (18-346)

These streets included: Academy Street from Granville to Duke St, Holton Street from Acadia Ave to Hollyrood, Hollyrood St from Holton to the City Limits, Waughtown St from Salem Creek to Peachtree St, West 25th St from Druid Hill Drive to North Cherry St and Sunset Drive from West End Blvd to Glade St.

March 11, 1927- The Health Committee declared that an emergency exists in the condition caused by fire at Powell Paving company's stables in which 42 mules were burned. Owing to impassible condition of street leading to the stable and the condition of the carcasses, Powell Paving Company was directed to bury the carcasses at the place were the stable was located. (18-384)

CITY YARD CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

April 8, 1927-Bids were approved for the construction of seven brick and concrete buildings, filling station and shed at the City yard property on Stadium Drive. The contract price was \$89,405 plus heating and plumbing, three 5,550 gallon gas tanks and one 18,000 gallon gasoline storage tank (1-439)



MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 3, 1927 (18-478)

Mayor- Thomas Barber

Aldermen

First Ward- Frank P. Davis, W. J. Pascal

Second Ward- J.W. Alspaugh, W.C. Houchins

Third Ward- R. H. Hauser, W. B. Elkins

Salem Ward- C.T. Leinbach, D.C. Butner

DEPOT STREET SCHOOL SITE SOLD

May 6, 1927- The Board approved the sale of the old Depot Street School Property to the YMCA for \$25,000. (18-480) The property, on Patterson Ave at 7th would be the site of a YMCA for the black community until the Winston Lake YMCA was built in the 1970's. The old Y was torn down and was a parking lot in 2004. A marker commemorating the old Depot Street School has been erected on the site.

FIRST MEETING OF NEW BOARD

May 13, 1927- The usual 12 Standing Committees and two Special Committees were appointed. The Board agreed to hold regular meetings every two weeks during the months of July and August instead of weekly. (19-1)

CITY BUDGET 1927-1928 (19-115)

\$3,751,740.41 Tax rate set at \$1.00

ALDERMEN RESIGN

July 29, 1927- Third Ward Aldermen R. N. Hauser resigned. W. T. Shelton elected to fill the seat. (19-158)

Sept 2, 1927- The other Third Ward Alderman W. B. Elkins resigned. (19-221) E.F. Tulloch was appointed On Sept 30th (19-264)

Sept 23, 1927- P.S. Baily elected to succeed Second Ward Alderman W.C. Houchins

This building at 7th and Patterson was part of a highly successful black business district. After appearing as a drug store in the movie "Mr. Destiny" in the 1990's. The building was torn down. (J.R. Snider postcard collection)

NEW INCINERATOR PROPOSED

The first city incinerator, a small burner unit was located between Peters Creek and 13th St just west of Underwood Ave. The second plant was on the east side of Stadium Drive. The City yard was built around it. As of 2004, the unit still existed and was about half full of debris.

In September, the Board authorized the Public Works Committee negotiate for the purchase of approximately 18 acres "in the northwestern section of the City" for a new plant. (19-236)

In March 1928, the Board adopted an ordinance authorizing the issuance of \$150,000 in bonds for the erection of an incinerator plant.

INCINERATOR SITE-NOT IN MY BACK YARD PART 1

These sites were considered and abandoned in this order:

1. A 20 acre tract west of Greenway Ave offered at a price of \$22,500 on May 10, 1929. (20-434)
2. A 19 acre tract west of Thurmond St and South of 14th ST. (21-21) Confirmation proceeds were authorized but on July 5, 1929, a letter was received from the Children's Home protesting the location of an incinerator there.
3. 30 ST between Patterson and Cherry St. Protests were made against this location.
4. A site immediately north of the present Paisley School off Glenn Ave. There were protest here also and the Board again postponed action.
5. An area north of 115th between Cherry St and Harrison Ave. University Parkway now runs through this area.
6. A 75 acre site, owned by John F. Reich, located between Salisbury Rd and Salem Creek, southwest of the Sewage Disposal Plant Rd offered for \$50,000 presented on August 9, 1929. (21-115) At the same meeting a petition signed by 96 residents and property owners was received. The Board thought the price too high so they passed a resolution condemning 54.5 acres of the property. At the August 23rd meeting, more protests were heard and the Board repealed the resolution to condemn the property.

SEWAGE PLANT/INCINERATOR` SITE APPROVED

On Oct 25, 1927, 41 acres was purchased north of Salem Creek and west of the old Sewage Disposal Plant at a price of \$300 per acre. (21-242) The Committee report stated "...The property has extensive dumping ground and as it adjoins the sewage disposal plant property much of that land can be used for dumping purposes in future years. It is believed that this location will take care of the City's needs for many years to come. We are of the opinion that not for a generation at least will Winston-Salem have to face again the problem of locating an incinerator plant. The Board approved the recommendation to purchase the property."



In 1914, the Board discussed at some length the proper way to handle the disposal of raw sewage being dumped into Peters Creek. A petition had been filed by citizens living and owning land along the creek, claiming that this condition was very offensive, and damaging to crops raised along the creek. A city septic tank was built north of Salem Creek, just west of Lockland Ave (now Silas Creek Parkway). It was 130 ft long and 45 ft wide. with laterals extending west and south to Salem Creek.

This plant...called a "Direct Oxidation Plant" was built in 1927 on the site of the city septic tank and the septic tank...along with ones that served Ardmore and Waughtown...were abandoned. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

At the same meeting two letters from Mr. John Reich were presented. In the first letter he stated that he wished to withdraw his former offer for an incinerator site and to submit a new price of \$30,000 for about 56 acres of his farm property between Old Salisbury Rd and Salem Creek. In his second letter, Reich stated he wished to enter an earnest protest against locating the incinerator on the Burke property adjoining his "...as it will cause serious damage to my land and make discomfort to my home."

The Board then authorized the issuance of another \$150,000 in bonds for the new incinerator, making a total of \$300,000.

THE GILMER FIRE

Oct 15, 1927-Aldermen issued a proclamation thanking the cities of Greensboro and Kernersville for their assistance in fighting the fire at the Gilmer Building on Liberty just north of 4th the day before. (19-280) Gilmer's was the largest department store in Winston-Salem. Firefighters were able to contain the blaze to one building but several businesses sustained smoke damage Two Winston-Salem firemen received minor injuries. Damage was estimated at \$225,000 to \$275,000. The Winston-Salem Journal called it "...one of the most destructive fires Winston-Salem has experienced in several years." The fire would have certainly been headline news except later that same day Charles Lindbergh made an appearance in Winston-Salem as part of his nationwide tour.

THE SAGA OF SILVER HILL

As the City grew northwest around the new high school, a section of lots known as "Silver Hill" was cut off from access. Silver Hill was a small black community of tobacco workers and domestic servants that flourished in the predominately white Buena Vista neighborhood. The area was located north of Wiley and Angelo Streets just behind the homes on Virginia Road. The road into Silver Hill had been only a path and when streets were cut, the path was in someone's yard. There are several references during 1927 requesting the Board grant an outlet.

On Nov 4, 1927, the Public Works Committee reported on the residents' request for an outlet to either Virginia or Hawthorne Rd "...originally there was an old traveled way or farm road leading from what is now Hawthorne Road through Silver Hill. This traveled way has been closed up by private property owners and the Land Company cutting off access to Silver Hill." (19-300)

On Dec 2, City Attorney Fred Parrish advised the Board "I feel that these colored people who built their homes on a well defined cartway which led from Winston-Salem to a church and graveyard have been bottled up, but I do not think it is a fight of the city, as we have all of the streets and highway we can look after, without seeking others."(19-333)

The Board then approved improvements to Virginia Rd. without mentioning Silver Hill (19-337)

The African American church on Holiday Street burned in 1942 but the graveyard remains. Only one or two stones are visible but it may contain as many as 20 graves. According to legend "there was an old black man back there who was a witch doctor, and for him to doctor folks, they had to give him silver-silver dollars. That's why they called it Silver Hill." (Twin City Sentinel 4/6/42)

RETAINING WALL BUILT ON MAIN STREET SIDE OF CITY HALL

Nov 18, 1927- The Board advertised for bids to build a retaining wall on the Main St side of City Hall (19-319)

1928

SALEM WARD DIVIDED

Jan 20, 1928- The Board adopted a resolution dividing the Salem Ward into three voting precincts. (19-392)

Precinct 1 included all the Salem Ward between First Street and Salem Creek with the polling place at First Station No. 2 on Liberty St at Cemetery.

Precinct 2 included the territory south of Salem Creek and west of the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway with polling place at South Park School.

Precinct 3 included the territory south of Salem Creek and east of the Winston-Salem Southbound Railway, with polling place at Waughtown School at Sprague and Marble Streets.



The logo on the parked car says "Water Dept".

(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

BOND REFERENDUM

March 1, 1928- A referendum regarding 2.5 million in bonds for schools passed 1,966 votes for and 11 against. Only 269 of the qualified voters did not vote. (19-466)

PLANS FOR BUSINESS DISTRICT DENIED

March 28, 1928- The Aldermen rejected plans in Ardmore for a “Westover Park Business District”. The area, on the north side of Maplewood between Melrose and Fairway Drive, is still residential. (19-429)

April 20, 1928- Street named “Shady Lane” changed to “Roslyn Road” (19-552)

DEAD ANIMALS PROBLEM ADDRESSED

May 18, 1928- The Health Committee reported “...some provision should be made for at least covering dead animals when they are hauled through the streets of Winston-Salem. The Health Department has recently had a number of rather vigorous complaints regarding the unsightly conditions caused by this procedure. We had one especially bitter complaint regarding this occurrence on Easter Sunday when the streets in Winston-Salem were filled with out-of-the-city visitors. A dead horse was in very bad state of preservation was hauled at that time without any covering at all and the reaction from the public who saw it was not very good. We think that some provision should be made for at least covering these animals as they are being hauled away.” (19-607)

On July 12, 1929, an ordinance regarding the disposal of dead animals was enacted followed by a contract for dead animal removal with Norfolk Tallow Co. (21-80)

MORE POLICE SUSPENSIONS

May 18, 1928- Chief Thomas reports he has suspended Officer J.A. Horton for five days for sleeping on duty. Chief Thomas said “...I feel that the five days I have given him without pay would be sufficient punishment, as he was asleep only a few minutes.” (19-609)

Chief Thomas also suspended Patrolman O. L Rhoades for five days for “...using his private automobile in patrolling his beat, and lounging in his automobile on Pilot View Street.”

On Sept. 21, Chief Thomas recommended permanent suspension for Patrolman R.C. Caudle” who is a married man, has been going around over the City representing himself to be a single man to young single girls, taking them to ride, and calling on one at her residence. I am sure that the Police Board does not want any man in this department that would conduct himself in such a manner.” (20-148)

Dec 14, 1928- Officer Beshears was suspended for his “conduct at a medicine show.” (20-230)

Jan 11, 1929-Motorcycle Officer C.E. Gentle suspended for “cursing the patrol driver and using language that was very unbecoming to anyone, much less a police officer.” (20-261)

March 1 1929- Officer A.L. Stutts suspended for being under the influence of whiskey while on duty. (20-309)

WATER FROM YADKIN RIVER PROPOSED

June 15, 1928-Commissioner of Public Works Capt. Shaner recommended studies be authorized for an additional water supply from the Yadkin River. To cover the cost of this work, \$15,000 was set aside from water bonds. (20-21)

CITY BUDGET 1928-1929

\$3,995,936.52.

The anticipated revenues from all sources was estimated at \$4,146,299.07(20-38)

ZONING COMMISSION

July 13, 1928- The Board approved preparation of an ordinance “...providing for the zoning of the City according to a comprehensive but liberal plan...and providing for the appointment of the Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjusters. (20-51) The Zoning Commission was appointed on August 10 and an ordinance adopted designation certain districts as residential and also neighborhood business districts. (20-73)

Sept 7, 1928-A Resolution was approved to pave Ebert St from Hawthorne Rd to city limit (20-123)

TRAFFIC ENGINEER PROPOSED

Sept 21, 1928- The Mayor was authorized to secure the services of an expert traffic engineer to aid the Police Committee in its investigation of the proposed establishment of Arterial Highway in the City. (20-149)

Nov 2, 1928- The Paving of Reynolda Rd from Buena Vista Rd to city limits approved. (20-180)

Nov 2, 1928-“The Public Works Committee reports that arrangements have been made for the handling of traffic at the corner of Main St and 4th Street during the erection of the R.J. Reynolds Office Building.”

Nov 22, 1928 -First Ward Aldermen F. P. Davis resigned. (20-215) He is replaced on December 14th by A.A. James.

Nov 30, 1928- Police Committee recommended that “...the request of the Piedmont News Co. for permission to erect news stands and sell newspapers from the space between the sidewalks and entrances to stores in the business district be granted.” (20-220)

1929

Feb 8, 1929- The City received \$50,000 for the construction and equipment of an Industrial High School for colored pupils from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. (20-289) Bids were opened on February 7, 1930. (21-357) In 1931, the Winston-Salem Negro High School opened. Its name was shortly changed to honor Simon Atkins.



(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

April 19, 1929- Board approves sale of gasoline by service stations and garages on Sunday. (20-269)

April 19, 1929- The purchase of lettering for City Hall was approved (20-386) and installed.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MAY 7, 1929

Mayor George W. Coan

Aldermen

First Ward- M.D. Stockton, S. B. Hanes

Second Ward- P.S. Bailey, T.D. Blackwell

Third Ward- E.F. Tulloch, L.V. Scott

Salem Ward- C.T. Leinbach, D.C. Butner

Most candidates ran unopposed in the April primary; in fact a primary was held only in the Third Ward.

GIFTS TO RETIRING MAYOR BARBER

May 13, 1929- Two term Mayor Thomas Barber was presented with a dozen silver, gold-lined goblets. On behalf of the city employees, he was presented one large silver platter, eight silver dinner places and eight silver bread and butter plates. (20-435)

May 31, 1929-The Tax collector was authorized to issue licenses to jitney buses, taxicabs and autos for hire. (21-23)

WILLIAM H. HOLCOMB'S SUICIDE IN CITY HALL

Holcomb was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the City of Winston on Jan 25, 1913 and continued to serve after consolidation. Holcomb introduced the use of typewritten minutes in Minute Book 11 on Sept 5, 1913. He set the standard of details minutes and elaborate financial statements. Marginal notes were typed in red on the outside edge of each page to indicate the nature of the subject matter immediately opposite such notations.

Holcomb was elected by the Aldermen as Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance in September 1918 and continued to hold the title of Secretary and Treasurer.

He died on May 30, 1929 by committing suicide at his desk in City Hall. The *Winston-Salem Journal* reported the next day, "The Commissioner when found was seated at his desk with the revolver gripped in his right hand."

His suicide came in the midst of an audit of city funds by an outside agency. Two days before, the city financial records had been seized by the auditors and it was discovered that approximately \$60,000 in city funds was missing. The *Journal* reported that Holcomb had been moving funds between accounts to cover the missing money.

At the May 31 Board Meeting, Mayor Coan announced that the Tax Department and the Water Department would close at noon on Saturday instead of 3 PM in order that employees might attend the funeral. F. J. Peterson was elected Commissioner of Public Accounts and Finance on Sept 6. Peterson had previously been an auditor with Ernst & Ernst; the company that had conducted the audit.

June 21, 1929- Three small safes were purchased for the Tax Office, Water and Treasury Departments in City Hall for a total of \$400. (21-57)

CITY BUDGET 1929-1930

\$4,237,157.10 Tax rate set at \$1.30

BOWLING ALLEYS APPROVED

Aug 23, 1929- An ordinance was enacted allowing bowling alleys in the city. (21-135) Bowling alleys did not have the stellar reputation they enjoy today as a place for family fun. Bowling Alleys and Pool Rooms had been closed during the First World War ostensibly to cut down on vagrancy. The City had for many years resisted allowing bowling alleys to operate even though there had been requests. The 1929 ordinance specifically states that there will be no employment of those who have narcotics or liquor violations. On November 1, six alleys were approved at 230-232 N. Liberty St (21-258) A second request was filed Dec 6 for 20 to 22 alleys in a building to be constructed on Third St. (21-295)

The ordinance was amended on Dec 20 to restrict the area of the city in which a bowling alley could be located. (21-309)

BILLIARD HALL APPROVED

Billiard halls had been forbidden as well; but on Jan 3, 1930, an ordinance was passed regulating billiard halls and a request for the first one was received for 247 N. Main St (21-322) For the next few months there seems to be a request for a billiard hall in every meeting. Finally on March 7, a request to open a billiard hall at 417 N. Main St caused the Police Committee to respond "...we have pool rooms enough." (21-402) The request was tabled until the Board could determine just how many pool rooms there were. It was approved on April 4 1930 (21-420) without comment.

J.G. WOOTEN-CHIEF OF POLICE

Sept 6, 1929- J. G. Wooten was elected Chief of Police succeeding J.A. Thomas who had been Chief of Winston from 1907 until consolidation and then Chief of the combined towns until his retirement in 1929...a period of 22 years.

POPULATION OF A BOOM TOWN-WINSTON-SALEM 1910-1930

Year	Population	Increase
1910	22,700	
1920	48,395	25,695-113%
1930	75,274	26,879-55%



The first aerial photograph of Winston-Salem was taken in the mid 1920's. The south's first parking deck is in the large white City National Bank Building at 3rd and Liberty, old St Paul's Episcopal Church backs up to the new YMCA on Spruce St. The Y tennis courts are on the site of the Winston-Salem High School which had burned in 1923. The James A Gray home is barely visible at the bottom center. The Robert E. Lee Hotel is at top left. The County Courthouse, prior to its 1926 renovations is visible on court house square. (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)