

# City of Winston-Salem Government Meetings Notes

## City of Winston-Salem: 1980-1989

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 1980 - Lester Ervin named first African-American fire chief; Deferred compensation program for city employees approved
- 1981 - Redevelopment plans for an East Winston shopping center approved
- 1982 - City Secretary killed; Fair Housing Ordinance enacted; Marie Matthews named first female city secretary; city begins using meter pay plan for employees; new fire station on Shattalon Drive approved; Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Plan adopted
- 1983 - Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program adopted; 23 million dollar bond referendum approved
- 1984 - Civic Ventures Advisory Board created
- 1985 - Public Safety Center Opens; Positions of Housing Service Director and Housing Neighborhood Development Director created; Municipal Leasing Corporation created
- 1986 - Proposed new Coliseum named; Convention Center expanded
- 1987 - George Sweat named Police Chief; Risk Management Office established; Vision 2005 plan adopted; M/WBE Advisory Committee established; Police begin using mounted patrol downtown
- 1988 - Rezoning begins on Hanes Mall Blvd north of Stratford Rd; Redevelopment plan approved for old City Market building; Landscaping in parking lots ordinance enacted; Discussion begins on the location of a new transit center; City television channel approved
- 1989 - Black-Phillips-Smith Center given to the city; City begins collecting household hazardous waste; Martha Wood elected the city's first female Mayor

## 1980

Feb 2, 1980- Old Fire Station No. 2 on South Main was sold for \$177,000. It had been leased to Piedmont Craftsmen since the Fire Department moved out. The new owners used the building for offices and retail.

March 21, 1980- A Development plan was approved for the Brookstown Warehouse District-\$53,000. (96-448)

March 21, 1980- The City stated its intention to sell most of old City Hospital for subsidized housing for the elderly. The west wing to still be occupied by ESR and leased from the city. (96-246) On March 23, 1981, City Hospital was sold to Winston-Salem Housing Foundation for \$250,000. (98-221)

CITY BUDGET 1980-81 (96-348)

\$44,305,920 - Tax rate set at 72.5 cents

July 21, 1980- The Aldermen approved a resolution stating that formal bids totaling less than \$10,000 may be approved by the City Manager. (97-57) Bids of more than \$10,000 were still brought before the Board for approval.

### NEW FIRE CHIEF

July 21, 1980-Lester Ervin was appointed City first African-American Fire Chief in North Carolina following the death of Chief Arnold Bullard in July (97-68) Bullard died of a massive heart attack in front of my desk in the City Training Department (CDC). It was an extremely hot afternoon and Bullard was scheduled to appear in a public safety recruiting video. He walked in the door and said " Man it's hot enough out there for anybody" and dropped dead. There were two EMT technicians and an EMT instructor in the office. They immediately began to administer to him but it was no use. He never regained consciousness or said another word. Central Fire Station was renamed Arnold B. Bullard Fire Station on Oct 6, 1980. (97-215)



**Chief Lester Ervin**  
(City of W-S Photo)

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**City of Winston-Salem Directing Board: 1980-1989**

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Aug 4, 1980- The Inspections Department requested permission to destroy 17,700 building plans that have been submitted with permit applications since November 1958 after they are microfilmed. (97-108)

Sept 15, 1980- A Deferred Compensation program for City Employees was approved. (97-208)

Oct 1, 1980- City Secretary for many years, Lewis Cutright retired and was immediately named ABC Administrator.

Oct 21, 1980- Renovations were approved for the first floor South wing of City Hall. (97-275)

Nov 3, 1980- The position of Business Development Recruiter was added. (97-297)

**RESIGNATION OF ALDERMAN CAVANAGH**

Nov 17, 1980- Jack Cavanagh resigned as Southwest Ward Alderman after being elected to the State Senate. (97-301) Former Alderman Floyd Burge was sworn in on December 15 as Southwest Ward Alderman. (97-332)

# 1981

April 21, 1981- The Alderman began taking the consent agenda, items that had been unanimously approved by committees, first at meetings. (98-259)

June 1, 1981- The Aldermen approved a police redistricting plan changing from four districts to two districts and developing a Special Operations Division. (98-391)

**CITY BUDGET 1981-82**

\$50,058,000 - Tax rate 72 cents

Mayor's compensation set at \$8,800 per year.

July 6, 1981-Old Fire Station 4 on Dunleith Ave was sold at auction for \$19,000. (99-54) On February 2, it had been first offered to Delta Fine Arts Center for \$3,000. (98-102)

**CITY HALL RENOVATIONS**

Aug 17, 1981- The Engineering Division and Utilities Engineering were consolidated into Public Works Engineering Division. The Utilities Administration moved to the old Public Works Offices after Property Management moved to City Yard and the Budget office moved to the south wing of City Hall vacated by Utilities Administration. Total Cost was \$115,043. (99-141)

Sept 8, 1981- The three separate engineering divisions were combined into one division under the direction of a Municipal Engineer. (99-185)

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 1981**

Mayor Wayne Corpening

**Aldermen**

South Ward	Ernestine Wilson
East Ward	Virginia K. Newell
SW Ward	Marilyn (Lynn) Harpe
West Ward	Robt. Northington, Jr.
Northeast Ward	Vivian H. Burke
North Ward	Larry D. Little
Northwest Ward	Martha S. Wood
Southeast Ward	Larry W. Womble

December 10- Resolution approved authorizing use of Community Development Block Grant Funds for the East Winston Shopping Center project. (99-418)

Finance Director Joe Collette retired Dec 31.

# 1982

January 4, 1982- Police will no longer deliver Aldermen meeting agendas or provide transportation to the airport for elected officials. (100-46)

February 5, 1982- Resolutions were passed pertaining to the construction of a new Public Safety Building. (100-85)

## **CITY SECRETARY KILLED IN ACCIDENT**

City Secretary Sanders Hudson was killed in ultra light plane crash on May 2. Hudson had been with the city since 1972 as an environmental control officer, refuse collection supervisor and senior administrative assistant in the Public Works Department before being named City Secretary following the retirement of Lewis Cutright. (100-206)

May 17, 1982- Fair Housing Ordinance was enacted. (100-251) Marie Matthews was named first female City Secretary.

## **CITY BUDGET 1982-1983 (101-367)**

\$53,314,250 - Tax rate set at 72 cents.

June 24, 1982- Resolution adopted extending hospitalization benefits to the Mayor and Board at the same rate as city employees. (100-378)

## **MERIT PAY PLAN FOR CITY EMPLOYEES**

City began using merit pay increases instead of the previous cost of living increases for all employees effective July 1. (100-379)

July 19, 1982- Vice and Narcotics Division of the Police Department move out of City Hall to 750 Chatham Rd. (101-45) Because of the covert nature of this division, their offices would never be with the rest of police functions. For many years, they occupied space on the top floor of the Tobacco Square building at 8th and Oak St.

## **CITY HALL RENOVATIONS**

August 2, 1982- Board approved \$420,000 for repairs and improvements to City Hall (101-116) including a new roof, renovations to the main lobby and renovations to the City Secretary Office and Finance Dept.

Oct 4, 1982- Bids approved for the construction of Fire Station No. 14 on Shattalon Drive. (101-218)

Dec 6-, 1982 -Aldermen adopted an Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Plan. (101-310) The debate and public hearing consumes some 28 pages of the Minutes Book.

# 1983

Feb 7, 1983- City entered into agreement with 10 other cities in North Carolina for what would become the Municipal Leasing Contracts Program. (102-71)

Feb 21, 1983 -Parking penalty increased from \$1.00 to \$5.00. (102-90)

## **CITY BUDGET 1983-84 (102-342)**

\$55,298,780 - Tax rate set at 72 cents.

July 18, 1983- Minority and Women Business Enterprise Program for the City adopted. (103-70)

## **BOND REFERENDUM Nov 8, 1983 (103-444)**

	For	Against
\$15,000,000 Convention Center Upgrade	12,790	9,622
\$3,000,000 for Industrial Park	11,927	10,099
\$900,000 Site improvements for redevelopment	11,631	10,715
\$1,100,000 Sewer improvements	13,804	8,335
\$2,200,000 Street and sidewalk improvements	12,756	9,533
\$800,000 downtown streets improvements	12,139	9,828

# 1984

Jan 16, 1984-Position of Development Director added to City Budget. (104-58)

April 16, 1984- Personnel policy revised to include new pay ranges and the addition of new performance evaluation standards. (104-259)

May 21, 1984- A new long term agreement for cable TV is approved and a Cable Review Committee created. (104-382)

## LENGTHY MEETINGS

Early City Secretaries saw no need to write the time of adjournment at the end of minutes. Later the practice was done sporadically. Under Mayor Corpening, the length of meetings in 1984 show just how much time was spend in conducting city business-Feb 6 11:56 PM, March 9 11 :10 PM , April 16 11 PM, May 7 ends at 11:29 PM, June 4 meeting ended at 1 AM , Nov 5 11 PM. The longest recorded meeting in Board history occurred on April 1, 1985. It adjourned at 2:56 AM. The subject that night was a proposed sign ordinance which was ultimately tabled.

## CITY BUDGET 1984-1985

\$59, 558,710 - Tax rate set at 55 cents. (104-525)

June 28, 1984- Civic Ventures Advisory Board was created. (104-541)

July 16, 1984- Resolution passed approving a 90 day experimental use of an ultralight aircraft by the Police Department. (105-41) Chief Powell, an avid pilot, resigned Aug 20 effective Sept 28. The ultralight project left with him.

Aug 20, 1984- Alcoholic beverages allowed by permit at city owned venues including Convention Center, Coliseum, fairgrounds, city-owned golf courses and Bowman Gray stadium (105-107)

Sept 17, 1984- Property on Buchanan St sold to the County for site of a new branch library- \$12,000. (105-134)

## J.E. MASTEN NAMED POLICE CHIEF

Nov 21, 1984- Police Major Joe Masten, already a 37 year veteran, was chosen from 60 applicants to replace L.A. Powell who had resigned 3 months earlier to enter private business.

# 1985

Feb 4, 1985- Renovations approved for north wing of City Hall -\$42,073. (106-99)

Feb 4, 1985-City Manager's salary set at \$64,253.

March 18, 1985- Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund established. (106-177)

## PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER OPENS

Police and fire moved out of City Hall and into the New Public Safety Center on North Cherry St. It brought the police department units all under one roof for the first time in 15 years. The formal dedication was held on March 29, 1985. The building cost \$5,700,535 and was completed without issuing revenue bonds.

## CITY BUDGET 1985-1986

\$64,812,990 - Tax rate 55 cents (107-1) adopted July 1.

Aldermen compensation was \$7,300. Mayor, \$9,800, to begin Jan 1, 1986. (107-12)

## BONDS APPROVED FOR NEW COLISEUM

Special Bond Election Jun 23, 1985 (107-48)

	For	Against
\$20,000,000 bonds for new coliseum	12,796	3,404

Reorganization of Community Development Department called for the creation of two new positions. Housing Service Director and Housing Neighborhood Development Director (107-56)

July 15, 1985- The Board endorsed the establishment of a Business Technology Center. (107-63) A loan of \$376,955 was approved on August 19. (107-136)

July 15, 1985-A Contract was awarded for the construction of new Hanes Park Tennis Center. (107-77)

July 25, 1985- In response to increasing insurance premiums, City established a self-insurance fund for vehicle and comprehensive liability claims. (107-91) With this, Winston-Salem becomes the first city in NC to self-insure motor vehicles.

Aug 19, 1985- The North Carolina Municipal Leasing Corporation was officially created. (107-156)

Sept 16, 1985- Although they had been discussed previously, “greenway parks” were added to the ordinances. (107-210)

Sept 16, 1985- A Computer aided drafting system was purchased for the Engineering Department at a cost of \$15,000. (107-237)

#### MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOV 5, 1985

Mayor- Wayne Corpening

Aldermen

South Ward Frank Frye

East Ward Virginia Newell

West Ward Robert Northington, Jr.

SW Ward Lynne Harpe

NE Ward Vivian Burke

North Ward Patrick Hairston

SE Ward Larry Womble

NW Ward Martha Wood

Dec 16, 1985- Aldermen approved Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday as official city paid holiday. (107-441)

## 1986

Jan 21, 1986-Board approved a Homeowner Assistance Program to leverage public and private funds to increase home ownership opportunities. (108-72)

#### PROPOSED NEW COLISEUM NAMED

Feb 3, 1986- Aldermen discussed a proposal to name the new coliseum for Winston-Salem native Lawrence Joel who won the Medal of Honor in Vietnam. (108-97) There was more debate on Feb 17 but passed 5-2. (108-132) The controversy involved the naming of the Coliseum after an individual instead of it being a memorial to all veterans as the old coliseum was to have been. The compromise naming the facility the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum was finally reached but to this day very few people know its full name.

On March 17, 1987, over a year later, contracts awarded for the construction of the LJVM Coliseum. (110-164) Total-\$20,863,514

On Nov 7, 1988, the Board approved a design for a Veterans Memorial at the new coliseum. (113-410)

On August 28-29, 1989, LJVM Coliseum held a two night grand opening celebration. Tickets to the event were free but it was lightly attended.

Feb 3-City Manager’s salary set at \$70,678. (108-420)



**Viet Nam Medal of Honor winner and Winston-Salem native Lawrence Joel** (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

Feb 17- Victim Services Unit approved within the Police Department; initially using funds from the Governor's Crime Commission. (108-138)

Feb 17- Aldermen suggested a bill in the General Assembly to establish MLK Holiday statewide. (110-27)

**SALEM LAKE WATERSHED PLAN**

Salem Lake Watershed- originally adopted on March 21 1977, revised May 19, 1986.

**CITY BUDGET 1986-1987**

\$72,732,940 -Tax rate set at 55 cents.

Convention Center expanded to 100,000 square ft.

**1987**

March 9, 1987- One Triad Park Plaza renamed for Mayor Corpening. (110-158)

**POLICE CHIEF GEORGE SWEAT**

March 9, 1987-George Sweat recognized as new Chief of Police. (110-159) Sweat was chosen from more than 60 applicants even though he had not applied for the position. He had been the Department's Rookie of the Year in 1971, a Sergeant by 1975, a Lieutenant by 1978 and a Captain by 1982.

March 23, 1987- Risk Management Office established. (110-243)

May 18, 1987- Stadium Drive from WSSU south to Thomasville Rd renamed Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. (110-357)

May 18, 1987-City Manager Salary \$78,356

**CITY BUDGET 1987-1988**

\$76,001,440 - Tax rate- 61 cents

1.5 cents of the increase was earmarked for the phasing out of public safety concept. (110-482)

Aug 3, 1987- Comprehensive Development Plan Vision 2005 adopted after lengthy debate. (111-121-147)

Oct 19, 1987- City appropriated \$33,860 to upgrade the rose plan that calls for planting more roses on I-40 and US 52 right-of-way through downtown. (111-333)

Oct 19, 1987-Police received a donation of 190 teddy bears to begin Bear Care Patrol to be given to children caught up in traumatic situations. (111-374)

**BOND REFERENDUM NOV 3, 1987**

\$36,000,000 sidewalk/street improvements	10,121	6,711
9,000,000 urban redevelopment	8,936	7,708
\$6,000,000 fairgrounds improvements	7,820	8,860
\$3,000,000 watershed bonds	10,761	5,894
\$3,000,000 recreation facilities	9,025	7,344

Certified by Board of Aldermen on December 7 (111-495)

Nov 17, 1987- Permanent M/WBE Advisory Committee established. (111-418)

**MOUNTED POLICE PATROL**

December- A three unit mounted patrol formed for use in the downtown area and nearby residential sections. They were also used in special events and crowd control. The unit was phased out completely in 2000 and replaced with officers on bicycles.

Dec 21, 1987- Personnel revised positions in the Fire Department and Planning Dept. (111-544)

# 1988

January 4, 1988- Rezoning of property for Sam's Club off S. Stratford Rd opens the area up to retail. (112-12) Within 15 years, the whole area between Stratford and Jonestown Rd is a commercial district.

Jan 19, 1988- Redevelopment plans approved for Old City Market. (112-29)

Feb 15, 1988- Alderman Wood delivered a blistering attack on city administration regarding cost overruns and misinformation. (112-160)

March 7, 1988- Landscaping in Parking Lots ordinance enacted. (112-184)

May 2, 1988- Citizen Bond Advisory Committee created. (112-277)

May 16, 1988- Grant was received from the NWPCOG for a solid waste recycling facility. (112-406)

June 20, 1988- Comprehensive study of labor, trades and crafts position completed resulting in a number of additions, deletions and salary changes. (112-472)

June 20, 1988-Housing rehabilitation guidelines first approved on March 21, 1983 revised and updated. (112-501)

June 20, 1988-Risk Management program for the city approved. (112-513) Detailed in (113-47)

## **CITY BUDGET 1988-1989**

\$81,837,930 - Tax rate set at 53 cents.

The budget was adopted only after the Mayor broke a 4-4 tie. (112-521) City Manager's salary set at \$86,195.

## **WHERE A NEW TRANSIT CENTER?**

Oct 17, 1988-Public hearing on proposed transit center site at 3rd and Liberty. (113-318) This meeting did not adjourn until 2:01 AM. There was more discussion on Nov 21, but no decision was reached. (113-467)

It was noted on Nov 21, 1989 that the 3rd Street site was no longer being considered. (115-375)

On July 20, 1992, the Board approved site bounded by Trade, Fourth, Fifth and Liberty for a new transit center. (121-30)



**This business block at 5th and Trade was cleared for the new Transit Center** (Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)



On Oct 19, 1994, ground was broken for the \$7 million transit center.

On March 24, 1997, the Transportation Center almost, 10 years in the works, was dedicated. (220)

Nov 21, 1988- Community Appearance Commission created (113-462)

#### **CITY TELEVISION CHANNEL**

Dec 19, 1988- Approval given to lease space in City Plaza Building on west 5th St for use of new city television station. (113-506)

Aldermen approve a plan for implementing the TV station on December 19. (113-522) The channel began operation on July 1, 1989.

On May 7, 1990, Winston-Salem became the first triad city to broadcast Council meetings live via cable TV. (116-375)

**A severe storm on May 5, 1989 heavily damaged Ardmore, brought down trees in Old Salem, collapsed a hanger at Smith Reynolds Airport and cut a swath through the woods around Salem Lake. Winds were strong enough to flip the top on the coffee pot. No one was injured.**

(Forsyth County Public Library Photo Collection)

## **1989**

Feb 20, 1989- Business licenses regulations revised. (114-160)

Feb 23, 1989- Contracts awarded for the construction of Little Creek Recreation Center. (114-186)

CITY BUDGET 1989-1990

91,928,530 - Tax rate set at 53 cents

July 17, 1989-A former branch bank property at 2305 N. Patterson owned by Wachovia given to city. (115-28) It was officially named Black-Phillips-Smith Neighborhood Government Center on March 19, 1990. (116-216)

July 17, 1989- Aldermen approved revisions to the M/WBE Program. (115-35)

July 17, 1989-Ordinance passed criminalizing loitering for the purpose of drug activity. (115-72)

#### **BOND REFERENDUM**

\$2,150,000 Recreation funds

\$1,450,000 Public Facility Funds

\$900,000 Street and Sidewalk





The Ribbon cutting ceremony completed two days of grand opening celebrations for the new Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in September 1989. (City of W-S photo)

**CITY BEGINS COLLECTING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Oct 2, 1989- First annual Household Hazardous Waste Day set for Oct 21. (115-251)

The one day event was renamed *EnviroFair* in 1991. *Envirofair* would end in 2000 with its work taken over by a privately operated, permanent facility on MLK Drive-3RC-The Envirostation.

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION Nov 7, 1989**

Mayor	Martha Wood
Aldermen	
South Ward	Hugh Wright
Northwest Ward	Nancy Pleasants
West Ward	Robert Northington
Southwest Ward	Lynn Harpe
East Ward	Virginal Newell
Southeast Ward	Larry Womble
North Ward	Nelson Malloy

Dec 31, 1989- Fire Chief Lester Ervin retired with 39 years of service. He was the last of the original African-American firefighters hired by the City in 1952. He died in February 1997. A resolution honoring his life was passed at the Feb. 17 meeting. (86)

Sept 11, 1997-Fire Station Number 4 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive was renamed for the city's first African-American Fire Chief, Lester Ervin.



Former Northwest Ward Alderman Martha Wood was elected Winston-Salem's first female Mayor.