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Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Love owes constituents permanent residency

City Councilman E.J. Love said he moved outside High Point's Ward 1 several months ago for "personal reasons." For political reasons, he needs to move back in.

He plans to do so by April 1, Love's attorney told the Enterprise last week. That intention, and the temporary nature of his outside habitation, mean he has not broken the residency requirement for holding his council seat, City Attorney Fred Baggett said.

Love is one of six ward representatives on council. Each is supposed to live in his ward. The requirement ensures that each area of the city has a representative on council, someone who understands the needs and problems of his neighborhood and is easily accessible to residents.

Although Love has lived outside his ward - and, apparently, even outside of High Point for much of the last few months - he has not been absent.

"I'm doing my work for the city and my

church," said Love, who is pastor of Greater New Hope Baptist Church on Cedrow Drive. "I'm at my church 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week. I have not missed but one council meeting in about four years. The city has a lot of committee meetings, too, and I attend them all."

Actually, records show Love has missed six council meetings and attended 36 in the last year. That is not a bad mark. As long as he spends so much time in his ward, and is accessible to constituents, he arguably is serving better than someone who might maintain an address in the ward but spend all his waking hours elsewhere.

Yet Love owes it to the citizens of Ward 1 to live there full time, as he says he will soon. Then, if he seeks re-election next year, it will be up to the voters of his ward to evaluate all these circumstances and decide whether Love has been a worthy representative.

NEWS & RECORD
GREENSBORO, N.C.

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High Point pastor, ex-councilman dies

● The Rev. E.J. Love is a former City Council member, but he's also known as a caring and dedicated minister.

BY ALEX WAYNE
Staff Writer

HIGH POINT — The Rev. E.J. Love, a former High Point City Council member and the founder and pastor of Greater New Hope Baptist Church, died Wednesday after a six-month bout with cancer.

Love, 78, is survived by his wife, Lerline Love, as well as five children and three stepchildren.

Love was born May 4, 1921, in Franklin and had lived in High Point for nearly 40 years. He was elected to the City Council in 1993 and served a single term before he was defeated in the 1997 primary election.

Aaron Lightner won Love's Ward 1 seat in 1997. During that race, some of the ward's constituents criticized Love for not doing enough to cure economic and crime problems in the area. But Lightner said Wednesday he had nothing bad to say about Love, who was his former pastor at Calvary Baptist Church.

"He was really a dynamic individual," Lightner said. "I can say nothing but great things about him. He carried himself with dignity."

Lightner remembered Love's dedication to Calvary Baptist while he was the pastor there, and he said he admired him for leaving to found Greater New Hope Baptist in the late 1960s.

Lerline Love said she'll remember her husband best for his heart.

"He had a very warm and giving heart, which was contradictory sometimes because he could be cantankerous and contrary," she said. "But when somebody needed something he always found a way to help them."

Lerline Love said that the Rev. Nathaniel Lindsay, associate pastor at Greater New Hope Baptist, ministered the church during her husband's illness. The church, which has nearly 300 members, has not yet decided on a permanent replacement, Lerline Love said. Lindsay could not be reached for comment Wednesday evening.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Hazelith Funeral Home in High Point. The funeral will be held Sunday at Greater New Hope Baptist Church, but the time had not been set as of Wednesday evening.