

Aldermen Keep Ridge Alley Open From Page A1

adjoining property to Ridge Alley and Shaw's Tire Service would have reasonable access to their property without the alleyway.

But residents of Highland Avenue with property bordering the alley said they needed it to enter their property from the rear.

"If the alley is closed, we wouldn't be able to use our backyards," said Velma Hopkins of 1228 Highland Ave. "If anything comes to our house, it has to be brought in through the back."

Jim Shaw, owner of Shaw's Tire Service, wrote a letter to Alderman Virginia K. Newell saying that he needed the alleyway as a delivery entrance for tires.

Alderman Lynne Harpe said she didn't understand the logic of the residents saying the closing of the street would deny them access to their property since their homes face a public street, Highland Avenue. "Most people don't have service alleys behind their homes in Winston-Salem," she said.

Harpe termed the alley a convenience, which, she said, wasn't a "compelling reason" to keep the alley open.

Hopkins, who owns one of the houses with land adjoining Ridge Alley, said the city has never maintained the dirt alley, though city maps show it to be public property.

The residents who use the alley have kept the grass cut, the crevices filled in and provided other minor maintenance, said Hopkins.

Pat Swann, assistant city manager for public works, said the only city maintenance he could remember was a load of gravel that was poured into the alleyway. The gravel has since worn off, he said.

Alderman Vivian Burke said that, since the city does not maintain the alley, and since the residents are using it, they should be allowed to continue doing so.

"Some see it (the alleyway) as a privilege that's unnecessary," said Burke. "When we can offer a privilege, we should do so."

Aldermen Robert Northington and Harpe voted to close the alleyway. Alderman Larry Little did not attend Monday night's meeting.

In other business, Alderman Larry Womble called attention to the city's affirmative action policy and called for the city to pursue housing concerns as aggressively as business development ventures.

Noting that several city officials have left their posts and that the city will be adding two new positions, Womble said the city should follow its affirmative action policies in filling the positions. Allen Joines, the city

manager's special projects director, has been named to one of the new positions as head of the city's new economic development office. Joines is white.

Of the development office, which would make it easier for developers to do business with the city, Womble said, "In my estimation, we're (city) moving into the development business ..., catering to developers, making it almost a deal too good to refuse."

"Since we're moving into the development business and creating a department for development, why can't we create a department for housing?"

Northington denied Womble's charges that housing is not on the city's priority list and listed his personal efforts to get federal money for housing projects around the city. He said he had personally corresponded with Sens. Jesse Helms, John East and Robert Dole, among others, about matters concerning housing in Winston-Salem.

But Womble said much of the city's attention to housing is still lip service and asked: "How come we still have the same slums we had when I grew up here as a little boy?"

Burke thanked Womble for sharing his concern with the board and reminded the board and the city of their moral obligation to provide better housing for the poor.

NAACP From Page A1

have," Hooks said, the NAACP will do nothing to "alter or impede his progress."

But Hooks added, "The NAACP maintains that black people have as much right to support a (Walter) Mondale or a (John) Glenn."

Despite Hooks' earlier opposition to Jackson's campaign in 1984, he has expressed an interest himself in running in 1988. When asked on Thursday about his own presidential aspirations, Hooks responded, "That depends on whether Jesse wins. I would hate to run against him."

Hooks stressed that a possible boycott of Food Lion grocery stores in five states, including North Carolina, was only a "small part of what's on our slate." The NAACP plans to target utilities, banks and grocery stores to ensure that they employ more black people in management positions and spend more of their money with black-owned banks, insurance companies, contractors and vendors, Hooks said. "No company in America, in my judgment, is doing all they have to do or can do," he said.

Hooks, who was involved last summer in a heavily-publicized feud with Margaret Bush Wilson, the former chairman of the NAACP's executive board, said the NAACP has survived the internal fight, and will continue as always to move forward. "I have been plagued and the NAACP has been plagued by negative publicity," Hooks said. "During the 75 years we have been in existence, we have had a financial deficit each year with the exception of one, but the NAACP will not fold its tents and will not disappear. We are moving forward. We are moving ahead with the most massive voter registration and get-out-to-vote campaign. Jesse Jackson is stirring some interest in folk who have never shown any interest."

During the press conference, Hooks announced that he had received a \$5,000 contribution from the Hanes Corp. and, during the banquet, Marshall Bass, corporate vice president for R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc., presented Hooks with a check for \$30,000.

Local NAACP President Patrick Hairston said that, despite a slow start in ticket sales, the banquet still turned a profit, attracting an audience of 923. "We made a little money," Hairston said, "but not much."

Hairston said some white businesses had been reluctant to support the banquet this year because of the stand the local NAACP took against the Nov. 8 city-county bond referendum. But, as Hooks said, "The NAACP will take a stand if it costs us every dime we get. We have survived much worse."

What Kind Of Chancellor? From Page A1

challenge to a person who is multifarious and broad-based."

Others say the university needs to shift its priority from physical improvements to academic improvements. Says Victor Johnson, an assistant principal at North Forsyth Senior High School and a graduate of WSSU: "We need a person who is really committed to education. We have the buildings and plenty of space but we don't have the quality teachers because of low salaries. We don't have students who score 1,000 or better on the SAT. Our students have weaknesses and I don't think the (present) administration has addressed those weaknesses."

Another faculty member says the main concern at this point should be who would serve as acting chancellor -- if Covington leaves -- until another chancellor can be found. "We need somebody from the outside without any allegiance to anybody on this campus," he says. "We

have the opportunity for a spanking new start (but) if we don't watch out, the institution, as we know it, will become a thing of the past."

The University of North Carolina system's General Administration in Chapel Hill probably would choose someone from the outside to manage the university during the interim period, says trustee George Hill.

If a person already at the university is chosen, he usually is a vice chancellor, Hill says.

But of the four vice chancellors at WSSU, only two hold permanent positions: Haywood Wilson, vice chancellor for student affairs, and Myron Chenault, vice chancellor for development affairs. Robert Fenning is the acting vice chancellor for business affairs and Dr. Callie Coaxum the acting vice chancellor for academic affairs. Of the four vice chancellors, Wilson has the longest tenure.

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