

Littleton Eyes Possible Block Grant For Town

By HELEN HOLT
News Editor

LITTLETON - A land use study now about 15 per cent complete in Littleton may be followed by an application for approximately \$500,000 in federal rehabilitation funds.

Such a course of action was recommended by George Harris, representative with Region L. Council of Governments, as "an outgrowth of the study, a natural step" at the Littleton Board of Commissioners meeting Monday.

Harris, along with Zeno Gaynor, another Region L planner now working on the land use study, attended the regular board meeting to update current work and to advise in future activities.

Harris informed the board that new guidelines adopted Oct. 1 by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for its community development program tended to favor smaller towns.

Subsequently, Littleton - if it submits a suitable application and proposed program - could expect to receive \$500,000 maximum to be used to upgrade housing conditions.

The HUD policy underlying its grant program is to refurbish low to moderate income neighborhoods, Harris explained.

"You can do basically anything you want to with this HUD money," the representative stated. "You can match it with other grants and put together a package for a good program."

Although the actual dollar limit has not been set by HUD, Harris estimated the figure to be about \$5 million for small towns with less than 2,500 population and \$2 million for larger towns.

The 100 per cent grant, if awarded, would be used primarily to improve existing housing in the area, Harris said. However, the remaining funds may also be applied to improving water and sewer systems, upgrading paving and streets, promoting recreation and other uses.

Deadline for applications to the Washington office is March, 1978. Harris said Region L workers would give technical assistance in the application's prepara-

tion while the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development would administer the program if approved for Littleton.

Little or no expense would be incurred by the community, Harris said.

Commissioners discussed several possible areas that could be targeted for rehabilitation but made no commitments. Those present agreed to survey the community and reassemble Nov. 17 for further discussion during a called session.

If the town decides to pursue grant funding, at least two public hearings will be required to give input to the board's final decision, Harris said.

A successful first year in the proposed project would assure continued funding throughout the entire three-year grant program, he added.

Zeno Gaynor, in an additional Region L presentation, told the board that the land use study was about

15 per cent complete.

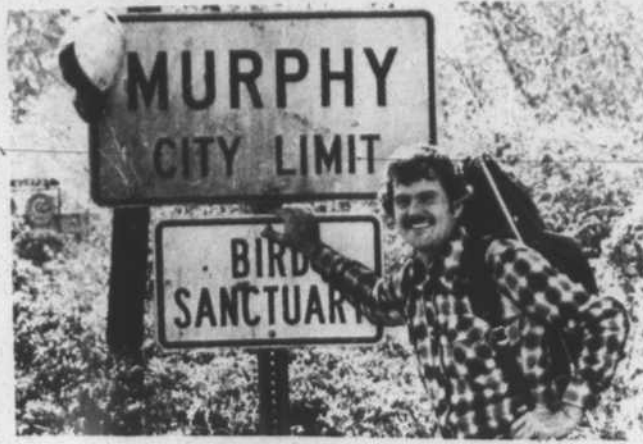
The 12-month work program was initiated two months ago and is intended to provide the groundwork for better land use and future planning.

Gaynor said he has spent much of the past two months collecting data on population, soils and other details. This information will be incorporated into a narrative description which will, in turn, be applied to a base mapping program.

Aerial photographs of the town and its immediate environs will also be taken if funding is available, Gaynor said.

He said he hoped the year-long work program would be completed in July, 1978, enabling the town to adopt a comprehensive land use plan by August of the same year.

Gaynor further asked the board to adopt a resolution authorizing Region L to seek community development funding as described by Harris.



Senate Hopeful McKnight On Tour

Walking Dave McKnight To Tour Warren Monday

"Walkin' Dave McKnight," the Democratic U. S. Senate candidate who recently completed a walking campaign across the state, will be in Warren County Monday.

McKnight will spend the day in Warren County Monday, visiting Warrenton, Norlina, Ridgeway, Inez and other points in the county. His get-acquainted tour of Warren will open a week of campaigning in the area.

He also plans next week to visit Franklin County on Tuesday, Vance County on Wednesday, Granville

Thursday, Caswell Friday and Person County on Saturday, Nov. 19.

McKnight spent nearly seven months this year walking the state to open his bid for the 1978 Democratic senatorial nomination.

He began the campaign walk April 2 at Manteo on the coast and completed it on Oct. 22 at Murphy in the far western corner of the state.

He covered 1,650 miles and walked through 60 of North Carolina's 100 counties. He also wore out six pairs of shoes.

Now that he is back on wheels, the candidate is touring Warren and other counties not included on the walk.

McKnight, who will be 30 years old in December, is the youngest in a field of candidates for the Democratic nomination for the U. S. Senate in 1978.

He announced his candidacy last January and has campaigned on a theme of "doing more with less."

He undertook his walking campaign last spring "as a way to meet the people of North Carolina on their terms - in their communities."

Delegate Needed To Compete For Grants

By HELEN HOWARD
Staff Writer

NORLINA - Norlina board members were informed they needed a delegate to pursue help from Region K at the regular monthly board meeting Monday night.

Don Everett of Council of Governments of Region K was questioned at length on how the town of Norlina could receive better benefits from Region K.

Ben Lloyd, board member who had invited Everett to the meeting, noted Norlina had never received any money through grants from Region K.

It was pointed out that Norlina has only two CETA employees while other towns in the area have far more.

Everett stressed Region K's view that the community and citizens should be aware of what is available. He told the group newsletters were sent out and regular meetings were held when opportunities were studied.

Everett told the board they needed to appoint a delegate to attend the meeting. That delegate should then relate any available funding opportunities to the board.

"What and how you want to do something is the first step," Everett said. He explained that the Region K staff would help with any problems in filling out grants, but the kind of grant needed should be determined first.

"Technical assistance is available," he noted. "We have resource people on our staff to assist with the community," he continued. Everett said he sympathized

with Norlina in that it is a small municipality.

He said so often the small municipalities are in far greater need of help than larger ones but the federal agencies do not always view the problem that way.

In the absence of Mayor Bill Perry who is in the hospital, the members decided to table the appointment of a delegate until Perry's return.

The discussion continued on the need for water and sewer connections on new street extension. Everett said Norlina "should be eligible for an EDA grant" for this work.

He also said Region K could offer no help with curb and gutter on the same extensions.

In relation to the CETA employees, Everett said when the grants for additional laborers were available, it was a question of "who is at the door first."

Several citizens attended the meeting to oppose apartment complex construction in the residential section. The board explained they had only heard a proposal on a multi-housing unit for Norlina and no decision had been made.

Direct questioning followed to individual board members. The question of a zoning ordinance was aired.

Jimmy Overby, member of the board, said Norlina would eventually have a zoning ordinance but usually an ordinance restricted mobile homes. He noted that Norlina would have little or no housing if mobile homes were restricted in residential developments.

The citizens were informed no action would be taken

on approving a multi-housing complex without proper notification for citizens.

Thomas Burton appeared at the corner of Liberty Street and US 158. He also requested to be notified when water would be turned off so he could post signs in his laundromat. The board agreed to study the street light possibility and offered to heed his request on the water.

The board voted to grant Mrs. Mae Gums a week's vacation from Dec. 10-17.

Ben Lloyd notified the board that Seaboard Railroad was fixing the track on the Portsmouth side.

Discussion of an ordinance for Halloween was begun by Wallace Stallings but the board decided to consider the plan before next Halloween.

Jerusalem UMW Hear

Sub-District Topic

"Dependence - Interdependence" was the topic of a program for the Sub-district meeting of the Raleigh District UMW on Nov. 2 and 3. The meeting was held at Jerusalem United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Becky Rooker, president of Jerusalem UMW, welcomed the 85 women who attended from various churches in the district.

Mrs. Martha Gould and Mrs. Lilly Harton presided over the meeting.

Catharine Vice, conference vice-president, and Tibbie Roberts, conference mission coordinator of supportive community, gave the program.

The host church served a light lunch.

Middleburg Council Seeks Highway Repairs On US 1

The State Highway Commission will be asked to inspect and repair US 1 in Middleburg, it was decided at the regular monthly meeting of the Middleburg Town Council on Monday night.

Following a brief discussion of the potholes in the highway, the council moved that the town clerk be asked to write District Engineer S. R. Ross at Henderson requesting him to have the inspection and necessary repairs made as soon as possible.

In August the board notified, in a registered letter, Pierson and Whitmin, town engineers, that their services would no longer be required by Middleburg. Monday night the town clerk was instructed to write a second letter to the engineering firm requesting an acknowledgment of the first letter.

Frank Edwards and Jimmy Hawkins appeared before the commissioners with checks in hand for a permit to erect a garage and a body

shop on what is now land zoned for residential purposes.

The zoning committee has been requested to change this property from residential to business property, and the town clerk had been informed, but not officially, that the zoning committee had met and made the changes requested.

Council member Mrs. Donna Neathery moved that the council not approve the rezoning until it had received notice in writing of the approval of the zoning committee.

This motion was approved, but it was then discovered that the zoning committee had not advertised

a public hearing on the proposed zoning change. The town clerk was asked to contact the chairman of the zoning committee and have this notice published in *The Henderson Dispatch* at once.

Work on the structures to be located on Washington and Walnut Streets will be started as soon as the zoning is approved by zoning committee and town council. Edwards and Hawkins decided to leave their checks with the town clerk until the zoning is completed.

Following the transaction of these matters in a short session, the council went into executive session.

Child Find Survey Seeking Special Children Underway

Warren County Schools are participating in the "Child Find" program during the month of November in conjunction with Gov. Jim Hunt's proclamation for

"Child Find Month."

Mrs. Sally White of the Warren County Social Services Department is working with the Board of Education and school system to search for the children.

Mrs. White said last week the survey will actually be a follow-up on a census taken about two years ago. At that time, agencies in the county contacted doctors, the schools and mental health programs to locate children with special needs.

Mrs. White noted those children found in the earlier census are in some type of learning activity at present.

The Child Find census is coordinated by the Division for Exceptional Children and will involve governmental agencies which provide special education services.

It is an effort to locate and identify every handicapped and gifted child, ages 0-21, who is not now receiving services. This effort is designed to insure that these youngsters receive appropriate educational services when they reach the age of five years.

Individuals who know of children who are not receiving educational services are advised to contact their local school system at 257-3184.

Conclave Set

The Eastern North Carolina Regional Convention of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International will be held Nov. 10-13 at the Hilton Inn in Raleigh.

Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., began his acting career at age 13.

Council Fund Transfer To Aid In Light Hanging Effort

LITTLETON - A transfer of \$650 in revenue sharing funds to the Littleton Tennis Club which will hang Christmas lights this year was approved by the Littleton Board of Commissioners Monday.

The money will go to the purchase of materials for putting up 27 permanent fixture services on light poles down main street. Work should be completed by Dec. 2, in time for the Littleton Christmas parade.

Labor in the effort has been volunteered by the Littleton Tennis Club, according to Fred Owen who made the motion to transfer revenue sharing monies.

Due to difficulties encountered last year when the town was decorated with hanging street lights, the board stipulated in the motion that the lights be taken down by Jan. 7.

Problems with last year's Christmas decorations began after the lights had been installed, using conduits. Carolina Power and Light Co., which owns the poles, objected, saying that conduits were not allowed and that the lights must therefore be switched off.

Consequently, the town was without lighted decorations even though mer-

chants had footed the installation expense. Matters worsened when the lights were not taken down until long after the holiday season had ended.

The Rev. Neal Salter, working with the tennis club, said the parade was scheduled for Dec. 2, beginning 4:30 p.m. Some 15 to 20 group commitments to participate in the parade have already been gained, he said, and others are expected.

"People are reluctant to do anything with lights this year because of what happened last year," he said. "But I think it would be good PR for the people traveling on US 158 to see what the town of Littleton does."

In other action, the board voted to award its sidewalk project contract to low bidder John T. Harris, of Warrenton, who submitted a bid of \$24,765 for construction and repairs.

Harris' bid was lowest of three submitted during a third round of bid advertising for the project. Earlier bids from other contractors were as high as \$32,000, several thousand dollars more than had been budgeted.

Mayor Mason Hawfield

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