

New Buses

Council approves grant to provide bus money

By RACHEL PERRY
Staff Writer

A capital grant application that would give Chapel Hill \$900,000 for new buses was approved Monday night by the Chapel Hill Town Council.

In other actions, the council approved a preliminary sketch for a residential subdivision to be built near the runway of the Horace Williams Airport. The council also adopted a joint planning agreement between Chapel Hill, Orange County, Carrboro and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority.

An ordinance amending the zoning requirements for drive-in businesses was delayed until all council members could be present.

If the capital grant is awarded, Chapel Hill will buy seven new buses, radio equipment and replacement sedans for shared ride services, Transportation Director Bob Godding said.

"There is a pretty good chance that we will get this bus replacement grant," he said.

"We've already gotten another grant for five more new buses approved, so we should be getting about 12 new buses soon," Godding said.

Chapel Hill still has 16 buses that are over 20 years old, he said.

Chapel Hill had previously applied for a similar transportation grant under a nonurbanized area program in July, but was turned down. The town is now applying for bus replacement funds under an urbanized area program — the Urban Mass Transportation Act.

"There is more money available under the urban program, so we have a better shot at the money," he said. The town council approved the grant applications unanimously.

In December 1979, the council referred a request for approval of Coker Hills West, a subdivision to be built near the Horace Williams Airport runway, to Town Manager Gene Shipman for further study. Monday night, Shipman's detailed report about the flight paths of planes at the airport was presented to the council. "The proposed plan complies with all

town standards ... except for the subdivision's partial location within the flight hazard zone which is designated on the land use plan," Shipman's report said.

The council approved the preliminary sketch for Coker Hills by a 6-2 vote. Council members Joe Straley and R.D. Smith voted against the resolution.

"I don't believe we are protecting the health, safety and comfort of the people by approving this subdivision," Smith said.

The council also approved a coordinated planning agreement between Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Orange County and the Orange Water and Sewer Authority. The premise of the agreement is mutual adoption of land use plans and development standards for areas to be urbanized within 10 or 20 years.

The council passed the joint planning agreement by a 7-1 vote. Council member Jim Wallace dissented.

"If passed, this will only document the inactivity of the Chapel Hill town council to protect the rights of the townspeople," he said.



R.D. Smith

Because council member Marilyn Boulton was absent Monday night, Jonathan Howes requested that discussion of the ordinance amending drive-in business zoning be delayed until all council members can attend.

Because the original ordinance failed 5-4 in an earlier council meeting, Howes said that full attendance would be necessary.

Alert to continue

The Orange County Board of Commissioners approved an ordinance Monday night to grant a pre-existing, permitted-use franchise to Alert Cable TV of North Carolina.

The franchise allows the company to continue operating in the unincorporated areas of the county which it is presently serving.

The ordinance prevents the company from extending its lines or adding new service connections outside the cities of Carrboro and Hillsborough, which Alert now serves.

The board voted Jan. 26 to grant a franchise to Village Cable TV to serve the unincorporated areas of the county not already covered by Alert.

The ordinance awarded Village a 15-year, non-exclusive franchise, meaning commissioners could still offer another franchise to serve the same area. The Village area includes nearly all of rural Orange County.

Alert had started cable extensions into outside areas of the county before the commissioners adopted an ordinance in December 1979 regulating cable franchising.

"Previously, if an existing customer discontinued service, that connection could not be reactivated, Commissioner Don Willhoit said. "We changed that stipulation to allow a continuance of service (by Alert) to existing connections.

"For example, if a house is sold or if there is a change of tenants, the new occupants would be able to hook up to Alert," Willhoit said.

"We also made a change to allow them (Alert) to upgrade the system if there are technological advancements. We allocated these changes because they did not significantly affect what we were granting," he said.

— MICHELLE CHRISTENBURY

West Franklin lot not being filled

Report calls for no change in operation

By NANCY DAVIS
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill should continue its current method of operating the West Franklin Street parking lot (located between Yates Motor Co. and the Bread Shop), said Town Manager Gene Shipman in a report issued to the town council Monday night.

Because use of the lot had not reached expectations, the transportation board and town council began to review alternative operating plans for the lot last May, Transportation Director Robert Godding said.

Among the alternatives for the lot was a plan to install parking meters to save wages paid to a lot attendant. Use of the lot has increased since January, and the board expects business to increase in the area as soon as additional office and rental space becomes available in the Courtyard Shopping area. There are also plans for an

additional restaurant.

The lot was built in 1979 at the recommendation of a consulting firm, Wilbur Smith and Associates. The firm estimated that traffic in the area would increase and parking would become a problem.

Town crews built the lot at a cost of about \$33,000 plus \$60,000 for the property, Assistant Town Manager Tony Hooper said. Since 1979, the lot has operated at a deficit, and the town has been financing it with revenues from its other two lots.

Hooper said it wasn't unusual to finance a lot in this way. The town's first parking lot supported the lot at the corner of Rosemary and Columbia Streets for a long time, he said.

Lot attendant Alta Edwards said the 65-space parking lot is never full. "A lot of people say they didn't even

realize the lot was here," he said.

Merchants in the area said the parking lot has helped their businesses, but many customers didn't know about the lot.

John Carswell, owner of Colonial Drug Co., said, "We sure needed a parking lot at this end of town. But people really haven't started using it yet. I guess it'll take a while."

Another store owner, Tom Dean, of Harmony Natural Foods, said that although the lot made it easier for people to park, fewer people are driving today.

Dean also said the type of business in the area has changed. With more restaurants, he gets more customers who are walking rather than driving.

Several businesses such as those in the Courtyard provide their own parking for customers, said Godding.

BSM to hold elections

Elections for all elected officials of the Black Student Movement will be held Tuesday and an open forum will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in Upendo Lounge to present the candidates.

Bernard Bell, a junior from Greensboro, and Mark Canady, a sophomore from Lansing, Miss., currently chairperson, have announced their candidacy for BSM Chairperson.

Other officers to be elected are vice-chairperson, treasurer, secretary, parliamentarian, minister of information, cultural co-ordinator, off-campus co-ordinator and dorm representatives.

All BSM members can vote from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Carolina Union and from 3:00-3:30 p.m. in Ehringhaus, Hinton James and Morrison dormitories.

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