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# NEWS

## Town Council increases taxes, cuts positions with new budget

By LYNNE THOMSON

The Chapel Hill Town Council increased property taxes and cut town government positions Monday night in the 1981-1982 budget.

The council cut \$324,814 from the manager's proposed \$14.7 million budget and raised the property tax rate to 68.75 cents per \$100 valuation.

The new budget calls for the elimination of five full-time positions and two positions proposed by former Town Manager Gene Shipman.

The budget provides a 7.5 percent cost-of-living increase for city employees. It also in-

creases fees for the use of town recreational programs.

With the new budget, the council maintained service on the A bus route, which was to have been rerouted, and expanded service on the F/L route until 11:45 p.m.

Mary Parker, town finance officer, said the council continued funding for social service programs at levels comparable to last year's budget.

At the council's July 6 meeting, Mayor Joe Nassif suggested leasing the old police building to private interests. Other council members suggested either renting the building to social service groups or selling the property.

The old police building still houses the Orange County Commissioners, the Sheriff's offices and the courts.

The police building issue was turned over to the acting Town Manager, Ron Seacrist, for further study. Nassif said no action would be taken until July 1982.



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