

Council decides to charge residents for street repairs

By SANDY DIMSDALE
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted 6-2 Monday to pave most of the remaining dirt roads in town at the expense of residents.

The council made this decision after voting down the town manager's proposal to have residents pay 75 percent of the cost to pave and the town pay the remaining 25 percent.

This proposal did not pass because the council vote was tied. Council members Nancy Preston, Jonathan Howes, Nancy Andresen and Bill Thorpe voted in favor of the proposal; Art Werner, David Godschalk, David Pasquini and Mayor Jim Wallace voted against it. R.D. Smith was not present.

Before the vote, Godschalk questioned why the town should pay 25 percent of the total cost if the residents would reap the greatest benefit from the streets. Most are one-way streets with predominantly local traffic.

The adopted resolution would pave 56 publicly-maintained streets, totaling more than eight miles, with a mat and seal surface treatment. This short-term, low-cost treatment would probably require repaving in about five years, said Assistant Town Manager Sonna Loewenthal.

The useful life of regularly-paved streets is about 15 years.

The town manager's office recommended that the town spend about \$30,000 on the project and require the homeowners repay that money in the spring. Loewenthal said the proposal would cost each property owner about \$85.

Only council members Preston and Thorpe voted against the adopted proposal.

The residents will be charged directly for the mat and seal treatment rather than the more expensive asphalt or gravel roads, Loewenthal said. She said residents pay 100 percent of the cost for new streets of asphalt or gravel when they buy a lot or when the streets are paved.

Helen Urquhart said at the meeting that she lives on an exceptionally dusty road where West Cameron Avenue meets Cameron Court. Urquhart said she and her neighbors are

concerned about the installation curbs and guttering, which would result in the loss of part of their front yards.

Urquhart complained of people driving on the street for fun, raising dust which dirties residents' houses and flowers. "They start back at 480 feet and rev up like a bat out of hell," she said.

James Taylor of Fern Lane said at the meeting that his neighborhood had tried to get curbs and paving years ago but were not considered because of the y-shape of the street. Considered as two streets, it was not long enough to qualify for paving.

"We live in mud holes all winter long and dust all summer long, and I feel this is our last chance to civilize our neighborhood," Taylor said.

Taylor pointed out that his taxes increased 21 percent this year and asked the town to require residents to pay only a minimal amount of the paving cost.

Pouring oil on the unpaved roads can alleviate dust problems, but new state environmental regulations prohibit the town from doing this. Many of the residents said neighbors had obtained oil, and the town poured it for them.

Harold Smith said at the meeting

that the council had accepted a petition from the residents of Maple Drive for paving in April 1986, but the money for the project was not budgeted in the 1986-87 fiscal year. Smith said the residents would accept mat and seal if they could not get the pavement they had petitioned for.

Smith requested priority on the mat and seal list for Maple Drive, but town attorney Ralph Karpinos said these residents would have to sign a new petition, because the other one was invalid for requesting mat and seal.

In other business, the council endorsed the joint planning agree-

ment between Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County governments. Carrboro has already approved the joint agreement, which will regulate growth in southern Orange County.

Chapel Hill/Carrboro School Board

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Officials start search for new RAs

By LAURA BENNETT
Staff Writer

Today's RA Awareness Day activities mark the beginning of the Department of University Housing's recruitment process for resident assistants for next year.

Applications for prospective RAs will be available in the Pit from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., where area directors and RAs will be available to answer students' questions.

L.D. Newman, assistant director of University housing's office of student and staff development, said today's events will give students an opportunity to stop by the Pit and ask questions.

Applications for the few spaces available next spring are due Nov. 6. The deadline for the applications for fall 1988 is Dec. 15.

Students who want to be RAs must be full-time students and upperclassmen with at least a 2.3 GPA. Newman said the applications indicate a GPA of 2.5 is required, but the requirement is being reconsidered, and students with 2.3 GPAs are being asked to apply.

Newman said she also looks for candidates with the ability to work with their peers and the potential for leadership.

On the average, about 200 students apply for 70 to 90 available RA positions.

RAs earn \$3,100 for nine months of work, but aside from the money, officials and students said it is a great opportunity for personal growth.

Some RAs also have good things to say about the program.

Senior Karen Poulos has been an RA in Cobb for two years. She says she has learned a great deal from the women on her hall and has enjoyed sharing their interests and meeting their needs.

"I've also become much more responsible in budgeting my time," she said. "It's a great experience for anyone who wants to go out and try it. You can learn a lot about yourself."

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