

Sunset Budget Draft Keeps Present Tax Rate

BY BILL MCGOWAN

Sunset Beach freeholders will be paying the same tax rate for the fourth year in a row if a proposed budget submitted Monday night survives the scrutiny of town council through June 30.

The \$235,925 operating budget for fiscal year 1985-86 will keep its 28-cent tax rate based on an increased tax base of \$50 million and ad valorem tax revenues of \$126,000.

The public will be able to view the budget proposal firsthand at a special budget workshop Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. at town hall.

Council members have reviewed the budget, but have not discussed it in open council session. At the workshop, council will be able to discuss the budget, but may take no formal action.

According to Town Manager Wallace Martin, assumptions followed in developing the tentative 1985-86 budget include the following:

- The town will give employees an 8 percent salary increase rounded to the nearest hundred dollars. The increase comes after the town granted two merit increases for employees who took on additional responsibilities and, as such, saved the town money.

- The vacant position in the water department is programmed to be filled this year.

- The town will purchase 60 million gallons of water from Brunswick County and sell it to its 1100-plus customers on the existing rate schedule: 3,000 gallons minimum of \$6 and \$1.55 per thousand gallons above the minimum.

- The computerized billing for water and property

taxes, budgetary accounting and payroll reporting is being performed in-house in a more efficient and timely manner.

- The town has received requests from the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department for \$8,000, which has been provided for in the budget draft.

- The town's income has been projected conservatively with a collection rate of 90 percent for a safety factor in budgeting. A tax rate of 28 cents per hundred dollar valuation with a carryover of \$18,280 from prior operations will balance the proposed budget.

- A \$205,250 water budget is proposed based on water sales, water taps, interest on investments, and miscellaneous income. That figure is down from a \$308,250 budget for 1984-85.

A breakdown of the budget by category reveals the following: governing body, \$1,800, a \$2300 increase; administration, \$28,775, a \$1,380 decrease from the 1984-85 budget; elections, \$500, to take care of the November general election; non-departmental, \$30,251, an \$11,081 increase; inspection, \$3,100, no increase; legal, \$2,000, no increase; planning and zoning, \$675, no increase; central services, \$3,600, a decrease of \$4,750.

Other categories contain the following expenditures: police, \$84,304, an increase of \$175; streets, \$9,550, an increase of \$3,950; Powell bill (road maintenance), \$14,865, an increase of \$969; sanitation, \$28,800, a decrease of \$22,880; local contributions, \$9,600, no change; and capital project fund, \$10,000; no change.

The police department budget includes the town's \$4,954 General Revenue Sharing Funds.

Drainage Problems Acute

Martin informed council members at Monday night's meeting that the drainage problems which have plagued residents and property owners have gotten worse.

Most of the trouble is isolated on 1st, 2nd and 3rd streets, as well as on 28th and 29th streets and North Shore Drive. Martin told council that "water holes," many on vacant lots are a nuisance and health threat. He added that state standards are making the town's dilemma worse.

"Things we have done in the past have now come under close scrutiny as (state officials) raise standards on water quality," he said. "I don't feel we'll be able to drain the water into the marsh in such a way as to satisfy them."

Martin noted that surface water runoff has been labeled as a leading cause of water pollution, especially around barrier island.

The town manager told council that water standing in the vicinity of 28th and 29th streets may be pumped into a drainage system on 30th Street. Water holes in other areas cannot be drained as easily.

If the town is permitted to drain some of the water into the marsh, the cost may be prohibitive. Martin said an estimate given on draining 1st, 2nd and 3rd streets into the marsh was just under \$10,000.

"I just don't know what to do," he said.

"Well, it has to be done," Gore responded. "We'll just have to apply for the permits and see what happens."

When asked if the N.C. Office of Coastal Management has made suggestions about how to deal with the drainage problem, Gore replied that one suggestion was

to transport the water to be drained to a treatment facility.

Martin said he has not approached that office recently with the problem, but said he will.

"It seems to be the consensus of council to go ahead and apply for the permits," Gore said.

"I don't think we have any choice," answered Councilman Donald Safrit.

Other Business

In other business, council members did the following:

- Approved a request by Martin to advertise the town's tractor and bush hog for sale.

- Tabled a request from a 39th Street property owner to have a traffic light installed in front of her house until a long range plan or policy on street light installation can be formulated.

- Granted a request from Ernest Wheeler of Lake Shore Drive to refund \$45 he paid to have a water meter unlocked by the town. The meter was locked after a previous resident did not pay the water bill.

- Agreed to designate council Clerk Linda Fluegel as the town's mosquito control officer for the coming year.

- Heard Martin report that the police department during the month of April issued 70 in-tow, investigated two disturbances, responded to three out-of-town fires, answered five pyrotechnic calls and delivered five messages. Police officers drove 2,495 miles in April on 367 gallons of gas. Gasoline used by the sanitation and water departments amounted to 82 and 99, respectively.

- Heard Martin report that the town purchased 5.7 million gallons of water from the county in April at a cost of \$5,358.

Mayor Kanoy's Official Resignation Received

Sunset Beach is without a mayor. That word is official.

Town council members Monday night accepted the resignation of former Mayor Francis Kanoy, who had served the island community in that capacity since 1981.

Mayor Pro Tem Ed Gore, who has held the reins of the municipal government and chaired council meetings for the past year, will continue to do so, at least until council action dictates otherwise.

Acceptance of Kanoy's resignation followed two months of mystery and confusion about the former mayor's intentions.

One newspaper account quoted Mrs. Kanoy as saying she had mailed her letter of resignation prior to the February council meeting. The letter never arrived.

Finally, April 2, Town Manager Wallace Martin received a telegram confirming an earlier telephone conversation during which Kanoy told Martin she planned to resign.

The actual letter of resignation arrived at the town hall April 20th. It had apparently gotten lost in the

mail, Martin said. The letter was dated Jan. 20.

In praising Kanoy for her dedication to Sunset Beach, Gore said her "service will be missed. Her efforts on behalf of the town will always be appreciated." It was "with regret," Gore said, that he asked council to accept the resignation.

Kanoy's letter stated the following: "I feel very honored to have served as mayor of Sunset Beach and to have had the opportunity of working with you in our effort to give good government to our very special town. I wish each of you success in all you undertake in the future. You have a real challenge before you as the town grows. As you govern, please never forget what a special place Sunset Beach is."

Kanoy was unable to attend town council meetings for many months while caring for her husband in Florida.

Now that council members have accepted the resignation, they must declare a vacancy in the office before deciding when or if the seat should be filled prior to the November election.

No action was taken on the matter.



FRANCIS KANOY
Former Sunset Mayor

Democrats Slate Key Meetings

Brunswick County Democrats will reorganize three precincts and nominate candidates for the Brunswick County Board of Elections in meetings next week, Democratic Chairman Rex Gore announced Tuesday.

On Thursday, May 16, at 8 p.m. precincts that have not elected officers for the upcoming two years will hold organizational meetings at the precinct polling place. Shallotte, Supply and Southport I precincts will reorganize, with Democrats electing a new chairman, three vice-chairmen a secretary, a treasurer and four members to the precinct committee.

On Friday, May 17, the county Democratic Executive Committee will meet to nominate three persons to the Brunswick County Board of Elections. They will also hear reports on fundraising efforts and plans for expansion of the party within the county.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the public assembly building, Brunswick County Government Center.

All precinct chairman and first vice-chairmen are members of the executive committee, said Gore.

Council Bans Smoking At Sunset Town Hall

Smokers planning to attend functions at Sunset Beach Town Hall had better take along a pack of chewing gum or a tin of snuff.

Town council has gone smokeless.

The health-conscious action took place at council's May meeting Monday night.

By a vote of three to one, the public body effectively banned smoking from the town hall during its meetings, as well as other public gatherings.

George Foster hesitantly seconded Donald Safrit's motion to institute the smoking ban. Both men expressed their regrets to Kathy Hill, the only smoker on the

board and the only member to oppose the measure.

Mary Katherine Griffith abstained, but her vote counted as a 'yes,' making the final count three to one.

Town Manager Wallace Martin said the issue surfaced because of concern expressed by council members and the general public. He added that the small size of the town hall was generally listed as the reason for concern.

Following the vote, Safrit kidded Hill that the ban would not become effective until the June council meeting and that she could continue to smoke during Monday night's meeting.

STEWART & EVERETT THEATRES

Ocean cinema 1-2-3

Phone (803) 249-2133
HWY. 17 AT OCEAN DRIVE S.E.
20 MINUTES SOUTH OF SHALLOTTE

Rustlers Rhapsody
Rated PG
Shows 3, 5, 7, 9

Amadeus
Rated PG
Shows 3:00

Gotcha
Rated PG-13
Shows 7:15 & 9:15

Code Of Silence
Starring Chuck Norris
Rated R
Shows 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

Daily Matinees

The Wallpaper Place

SPECIAL GRASSCLOTH SALE

\$5⁹⁹ PER SINGLE ROLL & UP

1 WEEK ONLY BEGINNING THUR., MAY 9TH AT ALL 3 LOCATIONS

MYRTLE BEACH: P.O. Box 1000, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, Phone 803/447-2500

N. MYRTLE BEACH: 117 S. Ocean Drive, Suite 100, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, Phone 803/447-4882

SURFSIDE: 1491 Pines, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, Phone 803/216-6485

©1985 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

SCUBA DIVING CLASSES

LEADING TO YMCA CERTIFICATION

STARTING MAY 20 AT HOLDEN BEACH

Monday & Wednesday Nights
7 to 9:30 PM. Cost: \$225
YMCA Certified Instructor

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Dr. Mike's Dives
842-3565

OLYMPIC MEMORIAL DAY REBATE

SAVE \$1.50 PER GALLON UP TO 20 GALLONS

OFFER EXPIRES JUNE 9, 1985

Paints and Stains

OLYMPIC

We have the inside on outside protection.

SHALLOTTE LUMBER

build right

Highway 17, Shallotte, North Carolina 254-4321
OPEN M-F 7:30-5:00, SAT. 8:00-12:00