

# New Customers To Bear Share Of Shallotte Sewer Expansion Cost

BY SUSAN USHER

New customers tapping on the Shallotte sewer system in the near future can expect to pay more. Town aldermen last Wednesday night began looking at a "capital reserve fee" that would be levied on new customers to generate a chunk of the money needed to enlarge the town's wastewater system. They also discussed increasing the cost of installing town water and sewer services, with any excess revenues set aside for the same purpose. "It's a known fact we're going to have to do something," reminded Mayor Beamon Hewett. "It's coming and it won't be too far off." About the time they levy any fees, he warned, aldermen must also decide how to handle a possible flood of applications and phone calls. "I know it's coming," he added, noting that Ocean Isle Beach received applications for 35 building permits the day after the town board adopted an impact fee. One board member suggested a possible moratorium.

While sewer tap-ons may continue within the existing town limits, the wastewater treatment plant must be enlarged before sewer mains are extended into newly-annexed areas because if existing areas in town were to all be developed, the plant would be operating at or beyond capacity. The existing system, according to consulting engineer Finley Boney of Boney & Associates, has a capacity of 120,000 gallons per day. The town is currently using 100,000 per day. Expanding the plant would require construction of an additional 120,000-gallon lagoon, purchase of land and development of an irrigation field. The lagoon would cost about \$408,000 and the irrigation field, about \$3,400 per each 1,000 gallons of effluent to be applied. As proposed the special fee would be levied on new customers both within existing town limits and those out of town who qualify for service after annexation or are allowed to buy the service but remain outside town

limits. Those within the existing town limits would pay only half the amount charged the others. Basing his revenue calculations on an average 2½ bedrooms per living unit, Boney recommended the following fees: \$400 per bedroom, with a minimum of \$1,000 fee per living out for out-of-town residence and \$200 for in-town residence; \$1,200 per 5,000 square feet or \$250 per 1,000 square feet for out of town commercial property; \$600 per 5,000 square feet or \$120 per 1,000 square feet of in-town commercial property. During 1984-85, average daily water use was 103,400 gallons per day. Sewage volume and rates are estimated at 90 percent of water usage at present, but the town plans to meter the volume of influent entering the plant for a more accurate count. Boney anticipates water and sewer sales of \$162,200 during 1985-86, compared to \$127,832 this year, an increase of 27 percent.

In a related move, town aldermen also tentatively approved increased water and sewer rates for 1985-86 Wednesday and a water-sewer budget of \$250,760, an increase of 28 percent over the current year, including a contribution of \$13,060 from ABC Store revenues. The budget also reflects proposed increases in the cost of water and sewer installations, changes that would require revision of town ordinances. A water installation would increase from \$300 to \$350 and sewer installation from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Any difference in the town's cost and the fee charged would be added to the capital reserve fund for future expansion of the utility systems. Mayor Beamon Hewett and Maintenance Superintendent Albert Hughes estimated the town would be able to set aside \$250 from each combined water-sewer installation. Still, at that rate, the mayor added, "it would take 45 years to get enough to do it (expand the sewer system). The budget includes \$35,000 for the purchase of water from the county; during the current year the town will not use as much county water as it had first anticipated.



IT LOOKED LIKE CHRISTMAS in June as shirt-sleeved Shallotte aldermen Bobby Ray Russ, David Gause and Jerry Jones paused in their meeting last Wednesday night to help reload a van of sample Christmas decorations. Board members agreed to purchase 80 lights, 40 in each of two styles, over a three-year period.

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## Cool Action On A Hot Day

As temperatures climbed last week, Shallotte aldermen turned their thoughts to Santa Claus and the first Saturday in December. That's the day new Christmas decorations must be in place along U.S. 17 for the annual holiday parade and its most distinguished guest. Sample decorations ranging from three feet to eight feet high and fashioned of gem-like green, red, gold and white garlands glowed from every corner of the town hall meeting room Wednesday night as representative George Mosca of Carpenter Decorating in Hickory took the board's order. Before acting, aldermen asked the opinion of everyone in the room, town employees and news reporters alike. "I think we should have new ones or none at all," recommended Mayor Beamon Hewett as aldermen con-

sidered a huge red bow, two variations of a Christmas tree, and their final choices: a curlicue with a candle mounted on it and another curlicue with a dangling star. Their final order, on a motion by Bobby Ray Russ: 40 each of the two models priced at \$135 and \$139 each, to be hung on alternating poles along U.S. 17 through town. The models were those favored in an informal poll of several women in town. After having had cross-street lights for years, Mosca warned, "To be honest with you, these will look skimpy." And for drivers with poor peripheral vision, they'll also be harder to see. But the new decorations will be easier to install, maintain and store, added Mosca. Payment will be made in three an-

nual installments with no interest and a 10 percent discount for ordering early. The first payment is due on delivery in August or September. The price includes mounts and 10 percent extra bulbs. Installation will cost extra, because a "pigtail" must be dropped on each pole to provide electrical service. Once here, the town must find space to store the decorations upright, preferably hanging and protected by dustcovers, Mosca said, or the garlands will become brittle and also get crushed. The total cost will be about \$10,000, excluding tax.

## Driver Charged With Unsafe Movement

A Supply man was charged with making an unsafe movement last Thursday night following a two-car collision near Shallotte Middle School shortly before eighth-grade commencement exercises were to begin. Charged by Patrol Officer Nellie Evans in the 7:20 p.m. accident was Jerry Allen Beauvais, 18, of Route 2,

Supply. Evans said Beauvais' two-door 1973 Ford sedan crossed the center line, entering the path of a 1984 Chevrolet operated by Carson Herman Durham III, 52, of Brierwood Estates, Shallotte. Durham's auto toppled over on its roof after striking the curbing, Evans said.

Durham's car was traveling toward Shallotte on N.C. 179, while Beauvais, traveling in the opposite direction, was looking for somewhere to park near the school. Both drivers were treated and released from Brunswick Hospital in Supply. Damage to Durham's car was an estimated \$2,000 and to Beauvais', \$700.

## Calabash VFD Sets Breakfast

The Calabash Volunteer Fire Department plans another all-you-can eat pancake and sausage breakfast Saturday, July 6, from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the fire station. Orange juice and coffee round out the menu. The price per person will be \$3.50, with proceeds going to the fire department.

## Make-Up Workshop Open For Girls

Wanda Swain, a licensed cosmetologist, will hold a make-up techniques workshop today (Thursday) for girls ages 13 to 18 in the meeting room of the Southport branch of the Brunswick County Library. The free workshop will be from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Each participant should bring her own cosmetics and a mirror.

## Other Business

(Continued From Page 1-A)  
on the Status of Women if he could find someone interested in serving. Authorized advertising for bids for a new backhoe for the town, with

the first payment from 1984-85 Revenue Sharing funds. The money was designated for road use and Mayor Hewett said the backhoe is used on the streets "a lot." If bought on a three-year plan, future allocations will come from the General Fund. Took no action on a letter from Calabash Mayor Sonia Stevens regarding the possible charge by the county of a fee to dump trash at the county landfill. "We feel towns are already being taxed twice. We think it is time for the towns to take a stand," she wrote. While the solid waste committee has discussed a possible dumping fee, the county has hired a consultant to prepare a list of all possible user fees for commissioners' consideration. Received a thank you letter from James Poole, vice chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, for the area's "impressive show of unity and support" at the regional transportation hearing on May 23. Approved spending \$350 to have a town emblem designed by former Police Chief Wayne Campbell made into a flag, with delivery in 4½ to six weeks. The company wrote, "We love your emblem. It's super." The town also plans to buy a flagpole and to obtain new state and U.S. flags for outdoor use. Heard from the mayor that Coastal Insurance would not be bidding on town insurance again and that there might be only one bidder when bids are opened on June 19. Reduced the mileage reimbursement rate from 25 cents to 20½ cents

so employees won't have to pay income tax on the difference. Heard that the fire department held two meetings and answered two fire calls and was on stand-by for another, filled one pool twice, found one faulty hydrant which was reported for repairs and washed several roads after accidents and washed one parking lot, receiving a \$100 contribution. Exempted Maintenance Superintendent/Building Inspector Albert Hughes from having to call all adjoining property owners who might be interested in a proposed special use permit. Instead the request for the permit will be advertised. The land will continue to be posted. Referred an annexation request from Al Willis to the planning board for a recommendation. Granted a variance in setback to Grace Baptist Church from 25 feet to five feet from the property line to allow relocation of the fellowship shed as had been planned for some time. The area is zoned industrial. Granted town employees a seventh holiday, Memorial Day, with Alderman Jerry Jones voting no.

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Friday, June 14... **PKM & Stonewall**  
(2 BANDS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!)  
Saturday, June 15... **Stonewall Band**  
Ladies' Night with DISKITCO Sun., Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9-11.  
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