

# Four-Laning Bid Going, Once, Twice...

BY SUSAN USHER

For the second time in 1½ years, the Shallotte town board Wednesday rejected a proposal from the N.C. Department of Transportation to four-lane Main Street.

The latest four-laning proposal followed complaints about traffic backing up one to 1½ miles out of town on U.S. 17 and Holden Beach Road, a situation attributed by some complainants to the addition of two new traffic signals along U.S. 17. Both the town and the N.C. Department of Transportation office received complaints about the signals.

Following a field investigation by traffic engineer Roger Hawkins, DOT adjusted timing of the new light at Smith Avenue to coordinate with the signal at N.C. 130 east and U.S. 17.

As a result, said Mayor Beamon Hewett, "traffic is moving at a better clip."

Still, he added, "with as much traffic as we have, DOT said the only way to ease the problem would be to four-lane 17."

Aldermen didn't have to think twice before rendering their decision.

"I suggest we leave well enough alone for the time being," said Aldermen David Gause, speaking for fellow aldermen as well.

Division 3 DOT Engineer T.W. Funderburk had proposed marking U.S. 17 for four-lanes when the road is resurfaced this fall. It was temporarily capped with a thin layer of asphalt in June after grinding.

It was the second time he had made the offer.

Back in April 1984, Funderburk had made the same proposal, writing, "We feel that the volumes of traffic on U.S. 17 have reached the point that consideration should be given to the removal of parking on U.S. 17 and two lanes for northbound and two lanes for southbound traffic."

At that time, the town's request for traffic lights at Pine Street and Mulberry Street were rejected.

In his most recent letter, he wrote in a similar vein, "The traffic volumes indicate a need for additional lanes to relieve the congestion and delay on U.S. 17."

Approximately five years ago, the town board bit the bullet and abolished parking on one side of U.S. 17 in order to create a center turn lane.

A U.S. bypass around Shallotte is presently scheduled for construction start-up in 1988 and is expected to minimize traffic congestion through town when completed.

### Vacation Policy

Aldermen adopted revisions Wednesday to the town employees' vacation policy, mainly clarifying

vague portions of the existing policy.

Vacation time will be based on the employee's anniversary date. Full-time employees will earn five days annual leave, to be taken only after a year of employment. In their second and consecutive years up to 10 years, full-time employees will earn 10 days of leave annually. It will accrue at the rate of .83 day per month.

If an employee terminates employment with the town and gives two weeks notice or if the supervisor decides to waive the notice requirement, the employee can receive pay for vacation time accrued in the current year.

If the employee fails to give proper notice of termination, he or she will forfeit the time accrued that year.

After 10 years of service, vacation time will increase by one day per year.

Vacation time cannot be carried over from one year to the next and vacation cannot be taken without prior approval.

### Annexations

Aldermen upheld a recommendation from the planning board to deny requests for annexation of individual lots in Briarwood Estates submitted by Terry D. Willetts and Richard F. Bangs, citing the current moratorium on sewer line extensions. The planning board had recommended the rezoning of property near Commerce Street from residential mobile home to commercial, scheduling a public hearing at the town board's Sept. 4 meeting.

### Reserve Fees

Handling the subject like a hot potato, the board tabled action on a request from Building Inspector Albert Hughes to interpret the capital reserve fee charge as it relates to mobile home rental lots.

Hughes wanted to know who, if anyone,—mobile home owner or mobile home park owner—would pay the reserve fee since mobile homes in rental spaces wouldn't be there permanently.

"Somebody's going to have to pay something," said Alderman David Gause. Aldermen Jerry Jones agreed, adding, "Somebody down the road has to be responsible for it."

They had a generally favorable response to an interpretation proposed by the mayor, but delayed action until their Sept. 4 meeting.

What Hewett proposed was this: that there be no charge for existing mobile home lots already served with water and sewer taps. But for each new lot laid out, the mobile home lot owner would pay the capital reserve fee. As with a house, the fee would be a one-time charge.

"It would seem to be fair to everybody that way," said Hewett.

### Bailey Street

Town aldermen asked staff to come up with estimates for marl to spread on the two-tenths mile of Bailey Street that remains unpaved. Harold Robinson and James Bellamy of the Brunswick County Farm Bureau asked the town to pave the street, or to at least improve maintenance. The street is used by the bureau's 4,500 members and provides the most direct route to the Farm Bureau office, particularly with installation of a light at Smith Avenue.

If the town can afford it, employees will spread marl on the street. If not, Superintendent Albert Hughes said that with the additional manpower in his department, the street should get more attention than in the past.

Bailey is one of only four unpaved public streets within the town. The others are Mintz, Northside and Forest. The paving money is this year's budget has been allocated already for Mintz Street.

### Other Business

In other business, the board heard reports from the fire and police departments.

The fire department held two meetings, with attendance of 11 and eight members and responded to three fires with property losses of an estimated \$5,000. An average of eight firefighters responded to each call.

For July, Police Chief Don Stovall reported issuance of 22 traffic citations; investigation of 12 crimes and 20 accidents; 59 public service calls; 36 motorist assists; responses to 23 alarms; providing 40 escorts; directing traffic for emergency vehicles four times; and two continuing investigations.

### Public Didn't Attend Hearing

No one but county employees attended a hearing Tuesday night on a proposed water bond refunding project.

"Nobody was there and it lasted about five minutes," County Manager Billy Carter said Tuesday night.

The county plans to sell up to \$3.9 million in new bonds to pay off an equivalent sum of outstanding Series A water bonds as they mature. Finance Director Wallace Harding anticipates a savings to the county in interest expense in excess of the cost of the bond sale.

He plans to schedule the sale of the newly-authorized bonds in mid-September, in conjunction with the sale of the remaining \$10 million of the \$37 million in water bonds approved by county voters a number of years ago.

## Cosmetology Offered Days, Evenings

Cosmetology program courses will be offered during the day and evening beginning October 1 at the Brunswick Technical College Southport Annex.

Beth McLean, dean of students, said the change will accommodate those with day jobs who couldn't previously enroll.

"The evening program will take longer to complete, but will be more convenient for some students."


Students register for fall quarter classes at the Supply campus on Sept. 27. Tuition for a student enrolled for 12 or more credit hours is \$51.

A consistently popular program at Brunswick Tech, about 50 students enter cosmetology each fall. The curriculum offers instruction and practice in hair care and styling, curling, facials and use of cosmetics, manicures and other services required of a cosmetologist.

Upon completion of the program, a student is eligible to take the licensing examination administered by the State Board of Cosmetic Art. Students from the program have won state championships in both North and South Carolina.

Class size is limited. Individuals interested in enrollment are encouraged to contact the college Office of Student Affairs at 754-6900 to reserve space.

### Calendar Of Exciting Events!

<p>Closed On Monday</p> <p>Friday is Day Care Day 8:30-5:30 \$5 includes Skating, Hotdog &amp; Coke</p> <p>Birthdays Party Minimum of 10 people \$40 includes admission, skate rental, cake, drink &amp; hotdog \$3 each additional person</p>	 <p>SEASIDE, NORTH CAROLINA</p> <p>Parties Upon Request—Vicki Crawford, 579-7298</p>	<p><b>Aug. 29-Sept. 4 THURSDAY</b> Country &amp; Western Night 7-10 p.m.</p> <p><b>FRIDAY</b> Day Care Day, 8:30-5:30—\$5 Envelope Night, 7-11 p.m. Self-address a stamped envelope and receive a free pass</p> <p><b>SATURDAY</b> No Skate Lessons Open Skate, 6-9 p.m. Back To School Dance 9:30-12 p.m.</p> <p><b>SUNDAY</b> Soul Night, 7-11 p.m.</p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b> Dollar Night—7-10 p.m. \$1 admission, 50¢ skate rental</p> <p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> Car Load Night—7-10 p.m. (maximum 5 people) \$5 admission</p>
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