

# Sewer, Water Dollars Dominate Shallotte Meeting

BY SUSAN USHER

Shallotte aldermen Wednesday night quickly disposed of a "hot potato" carried over from their last meeting, determining that owners of rental mobile home lots will be assessed a one-time capital reserve fee each time a newly created space is rented.

Board members addressed the question at the request of Building Inspector Albert Hughes, who said the town's new fee schedule needed to be clarified since it didn't address space rentals.

"It is still the hot potato it was at

the last meeting?" asked Mayor Beamon Hewett.

"It still is," replied Alderman David Gause, "but it still has to be handled."

New residences, under a new ordinance effective July 1, are charged an impact fee of \$200 per bedroom, or a \$500 minimum, at the time the building inspection fee is paid. The idea is to offset new demands on the sewer system by collecting fees to apply toward expansion of the treatment plant.

Aldermen said it wouldn't be fair to

levy the fee against each new household that rents a mobile home or lot.

"The best bet is to have it paid one time," said Alderman Jerry Jones, when the first unit is set in place and demand on the sewer system increases.

Once in place, they said, a unit's impact on the sewer system would not change.

The fee will be levied against the owner, not the tenant.

"If it's a rental, the owner pays," said Alderman Wilton Harrelson. "He can charge any way he wants to cover his costs. That will be between him and his tenants."

Existing spaces would not be affected. The one-time fee is to be based on the size of the unit first moved into the space—the minimum \$500 for a two-bedroom mobile home or \$600 for a three-bedroom unit.

This clarification isn't expected to have an immediate impact. There is only one mobile home park presently located within the town limits, and to the board's knowledge, the owner has no immediate plans for expansion.

Another town utility—water-dominated the remainder of the 2-hour meeting, as aldermen grappled with the question of how to pay for needed water line extensions within town.

After a lengthy discussion, the board authorized Mayor Beamon Hewett to negotiate with T & T Development Co. on extension of water service to its location on N.C. 130 within the town limits.

A warehouse and small shopping

plaza on the site could be adequately served by extending the existing three-inch line, the mayor said.

"But it wouldn't be fair for him to develop the entire property with it and then someone develop below him" and need water.

The town wants the existing water line replaced with six-inch pipe and extended to the far end of the T & T property line. Aldermen said they were willing to work with the company to get this done, rather than forcing the firm to pay the entire cost itself.

"I think it's the town's responsibility to increase the line size to the end of the existing three-inch line," said Gause, with other board members in agreement.

The town will offer an in-kind contribution of labor, since it doesn't have the required cash. Hughes is to prepare estimates for both labor and materials.

"They concurred that if I can make some kind of deal with T & T we'll go that route," said Hewett.

Aldermen authorized the town's sewer system engineer, Finley Boney & Assoc., to apply for state Clean Water Bond funds to cover 50 percent of the purchase of an influent meter, the seeding/planting of coastal Bermuda grass at the sewer plant and sprinkler installation. The mayor will also ask if the 50 percent matching funds could be used for other projects, such as adding collection lines, improving the lift station or reducing impact fees. The funds are offered for new or expansion projects too costly and burdensome for

the town to bear.

They also directed that materials be ordered for a water main along Mintz Street to River Road to serve the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Shallotte Branch. The line will also provide more water pressure for some households along the street now served by a one-inch line.

The church plans to donate \$7,500 to the town to insure a "first quality system." It asks that the new line be installed by Sept. 13 if possible. The work will take about one week to complete once supplies arrive.

Branch President Nolan Galloway wrote the town seeking clarification of "confusion" over the size of line to be installed, noting that an estimate provided the church covered upgrading of the line as well as extending it.

Mayor Hewett said Galloway had been asked to forward the check so that a public presentation could be arranged and work could begin.

Hewett said the town had \$5,000 in the water and sewer budget, for paying similar measures need to be taken at other shopping centers in town.

bills. Line extensions cannot be paid for with the operating funds or with the capital reserve fund for expansion of the treatment plant.

"That's the predicament we're in," he said.

## Other Business

In other business, the board:

- Tabled, until more information is available, a request from Bob Ford to allow a relocating business to operate no more than six months from a mobile office on Commerce Street until a building is completed.

Authorized readvertising of bids for an addition to the fire station, since only one bid was received.

Directed Building Inspector Albert Hughes to write the developers of Twin Creek Shopping Plaza regarding complaints from nearby residents about the rear of the building, recommending they submit proposals for screening and landscaping the area to improve its appearance and to keep trash from blowing. Aldermen pointed out similar measures need to be taken at other shopping centers in town.

## Calendar Of Events

### Thursday, Sept. 12

LADIES AUXILIARY, Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elk, meets at the Calabash Elks Lodge, with Hugh Higson, director of the Committee Against Spouse Abuse, as guest speaker, 8 p.m.

GAME NIGHT at the American Legion Hut, one mile south of Shallotte on U.S. 17, 7:30 p.m.

### Friday, Sept. 13

SQUARE DANCING CLUB meets at the American Legion Hut on U.S. 17 one mile south of Shallotte. The meeting is open to the public, 8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

GAME NIGHT at the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

### Saturday, Sept. 14

GAME NIGHT at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

### Monday, Sept. 16

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS meet at the Brunswick County Government Center, Bolivia, 4:30 p.m., with a public hearing at 6 p.m. on a proposed \$8 million referendum to support Brunswick Technical College's building program.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING for a coed softball league, at the Planning Building, Brunswick County Government Center. Team representatives should attend, 7 p.m.

### Wednesday, Sept. 18

BRUNSWICK TOASTMASTERS meet for breakfast at the Ship's Chandler Restaurant, Southport, 7 a.m.-8 a.m. Visitors and prospective members welcome.

DISTRICT 9 MEETING of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution of North Carolina, at the Sea King Restaurant between Jacksonville and Richlands, 9:30 a.m. registration.

SHALLOTTE ALDERMEN meet at the town hall, 7:30 p.m.

BRUNSWICK TECHNICAL COLLEGE Board of Trustees meets in the board room at Supply, 7 p.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY PLANNING BOARD meets in the planning building conference room, Brunswick County Government Center, 7:30 p.m.

## Holden Beach Man Charged With Practicing Law Without License

A Holden Beach businessman has been charged by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department with four counts of practicing law without a license and three counts of obtaining property by false pretense.

Officers arrested and charged Richard F. Harding of Route 1, Supply, on Aug. 30. He was released from the Brunswick County Jail on secured bond of \$200 for each of the seven counts.

His first court appearance is scheduled in Brunswick County District Criminal Court on Sept. 16.

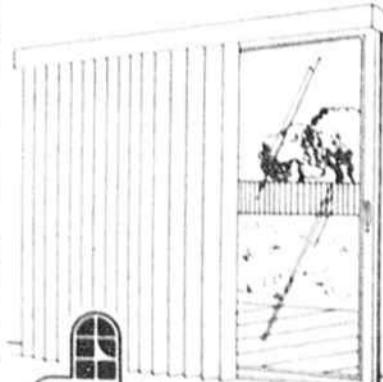
According to the warrants, Harding "knowingly and with intent to cheat and defraud," accepted \$120 from W. Eugene Hutchens Jr. under false pretenses "by representing Hutchens in certain legal matters as an attorney."

He also allegedly accepted \$200 from James Faircloth and advised and counseled him and furnished the service of a lawyer.

Similar warrants also assert he provided legal-type services to Thomas and Laurie Webb and was paid \$100. He also provided legal services to Thomas Gray, but did not receive any money, according to the court documents.

Harding is a partner in Harding & Associates on Old Ferry Road near Holden Beach.

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## Shallotte Wheel and Dealers SQUARE DANCE CLUB

### Open House for Prospective Members



Fridays, Sept. 6, 13 & 20, 8 'til 10:30 p.m.  
HOWARD PHELPS, Caller

For more information call Rose or Harry  
**579-4442**

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