

Land Use Plans Do Serve Purpose

What purpose does a land use plan serve?

That's the question Charlotte Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Wayne Reeves asked at a joint meeting of the town's governing board and planning board last week.

And I'll admit, I've wondered about the same thing.

According to consultant Glen Harbeck, a Wilmington planner hired by the town to help develop the five-year update, it can be a tool to monitor progress for municipalities.

Harbeck said Charlotte's last plan update listed a need for more higher education facilities, expanded medical care, a community building for both youth and adults and a park as deterrents to growth here.

And the major deterrent on the list was the traffic problem on U.S. 17 through Charlotte.

Harbeck said that most of those needs have been met in the past five years—since the last update was approved by the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission.

That's a sign, he said, that the needs of the town's citizens—and any new citizens that might be attracted to move here—can be met.

The Department of Transportation's plans to build a bypass through Charlotte will definitely ease the traffic problem, and that in itself could encourage more business to locate here, said Harbeck. Construction on the bypass is expected to begin in January 1988.

And since the last update Brunswick Hospital has expanded its medical services and the number of volunteer rescue squads in the county has doubled.

Brunswick Technical College has expanded from a few trailers to a bona fide campus during those five years, according to Reeves.

In the past five years the county has established a well-maintained and well-equipped park, the Charlotte Township Park, which offers residents tennis and basketball courts, picnic and fishing areas and



Etta Smith

more. And that's where Harbeck's idea comes in. The update is a method of recording these municipal and county improvements and monitoring the pace at which they are made. And it's also a method of setting priorities for the coming five years.

The Charlotte town board cannot claim full responsibility for the improvements that have been made in the past five years, although no doubt they contributed to efforts to initiate such projects.

The town still needs more indoor recreation, a place for area youth and adults to socialize. It might include an indoor-outdoor swimming pool, maybe a basketball court and a place to hold aerobics classes, karate classes or meetings.

The town board and planning board members all expressed the need for such a facility at the meeting—and I hope this need won't still be around when it's time to update the plan again.

Veterans Seek Support

The N.C. Veterans Administration (NCVA) is asking for citizens statewide to support the establishment of more national veterans cemeteries in the state, since the existing ones are almost full.

Brunswick County Veteran Service Officer Jess Parker said that when the four cemeteries in the state reach capacity local veterans will have to be buried in the regional cemetery in Alabama.

The four national cemeteries in the state are located in Wilmington, New Bern, Raleigh and Salisbury. The

Wilmington National Cemetery is expected to be full by April, said Parker, and the one at New Bern sometime this year. The other two are also close to capacity.

"Matching funds from the U.S. Veterans Administration are available if the state wants to establish cemeteries inside its borders," said Parker. "The USVA would help fund the establishment of the cemeteries and the state would have to take over the operation and maintenance of them."

He continued, "That's why we are

encouraging the state to go into the cemetery business."

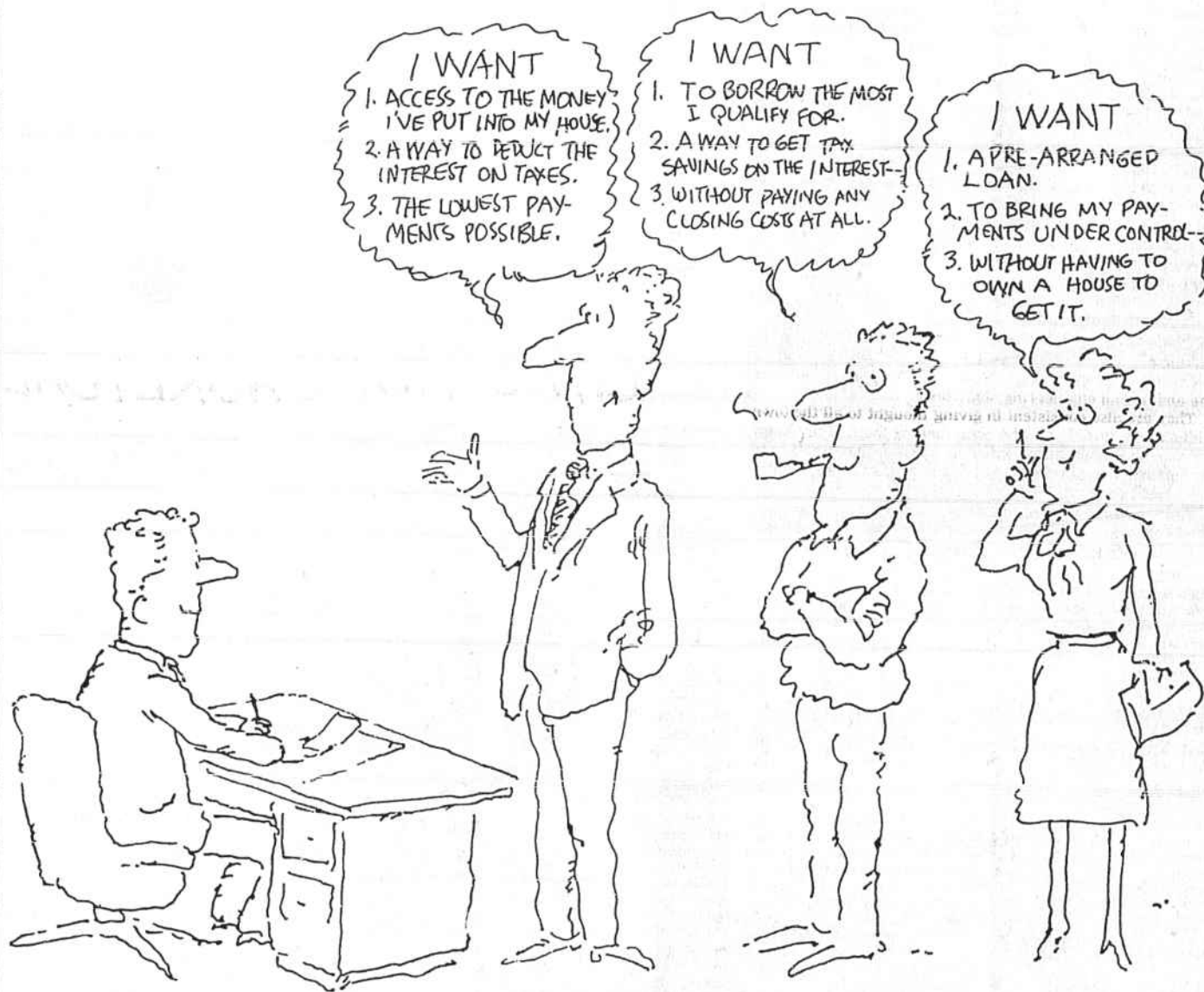
The national cemeteries in the state are presently operated and maintained by the USVA, said Parker.

Persons wishing to be buried in one of the veterans cemeteries in the state can make pre-arrangements by contacting the local VA office and showing proof of an honorable discharge from the military.

Anyone interested in showing support for this cause should call the local office at 253-4307, said Parker.

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Letters

(Continued From Page 4-A)

perience... that land values may rise does not automatically denote that "everyone" would benefit therefrom. Increases in county government revenues from the bigger tax base does not produce lower tax rates.

On the contrary, the regulated societies are characterized by the big spenders who hold office, the huge bond issues they wheedle voters to accept, and a continuing plethora of new laws restricting business decisions to the political agenda. The overhead of complying with all this law is another expense small business cannot pay.

Finally one must note that the First Amendment will get less and less respect as media know-it-alls continue to advocate more and more regulation of others... at a time when it has become painfully apparent that some of them put out products which are harmful indeed. If journalists must have their unregulated freedom in spite of their shortcomings in deference to the public good, how come the same understanding is not to be applied to people in other professions?

The enclosure will show you some of the petty controls politicians in the regulated society thrust upon us all. Perhaps the only private enterprise we are supposed to have is media communication?

Karl E. Brandt
Charlotte

'High Tides' Issue Was Outstanding

To the editor:
I enjoy your paper very much, particularly Susan Usher's coverage and Bill Faver's nature columns. Your "high tides" edition was outstanding.

Sarah Sue Ingram
Assistant City Editor
High Point Enterprise

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