

COMFORT INN PROPOSED

Calabash Council Moves Closer To Staggered Terms

BY DOUG RUTTER

Following a public hearing Monday, Calabash town council unanimously approved a resolution of intent to create staggered four-year terms for council and the mayor.

Council will most likely approve an ordinance and amend the town charter during its Sept. 28 meeting, according to Mayor Doug Simmons.

The ordinance would first take effect following the 1989 municipal election. At that time, the three elected council members receiving the fewest number of votes would initially serve a two-year term.

The next election for these three seats would be in 1991. Thereafter, these three seats will be up for election every four years.

The two elected council members receiving the highest number of votes during the 1989 election and the person elected mayor at that time will serve four-year terms, with the next election for those seats coming in 1993 and each four years thereafter.

Currently, the entire council and mayor are elected every two years.

According to the resolution, "It is in the best interest of the town that there be more continuity and stability in the governing body of the town, and that such continuity and stability could be better accomplished if the entire governing board of the town were not subject to change every two years."

Their decision is almost the opposite of one made recently by Holden Beach voters, who voted to return to two-year terms after trying four-year staggered terms for the board of commissioners and mayor for several years.

Variance Sought

Council members agreed to consider a request from hotel representative Bill Cockayne for a zoning variance that would clear the way for construction of a Comfort Inn hotel in Calabash.

Zoning in the area proposed for the hotel, along N.C. 179 between the Quick Stop convenience store and Marsh Harbour Yacht Club, only permits two stories and a maximum height of 35 feet.

Cockayne said plans for the proposed hotel called for a three-story, 40-foot high structure.

The national-franchise hotel would include 90 rooms, 90 parking spaces

and a swimming pool and would cater to golf packages and yacht club members.

Plan Coming

Also Monday, the council approved a resolution allowing Simmons and Town Clerk Janet Thomas to act on behalf of the town in authorizing and instructing a company to develop a town land use plan.

Acting Town Attorney Mark Lewis told council that such a plan "would help decide what is best for the town in terms of growth."

He added, "This is especially good for a small town like Calabash where no one has the time to sit down and decide what is the best way to grow."

Ms. Thomas said the plan would cost about \$10,000, of which \$8,000 would be financed by a state grant.

Variance Approved

In other business Monday, meeting as the town board of adjustments, members approved a variance to allow the Calabash Elks Club to continue meeting within the town limits.

In doing so, an ordinance against clubs in the town of Calabash was bypassed. Elks member and councilman Robert Weber was not permitted to vote on the issue.

Other Business

In other business Monday, town council:

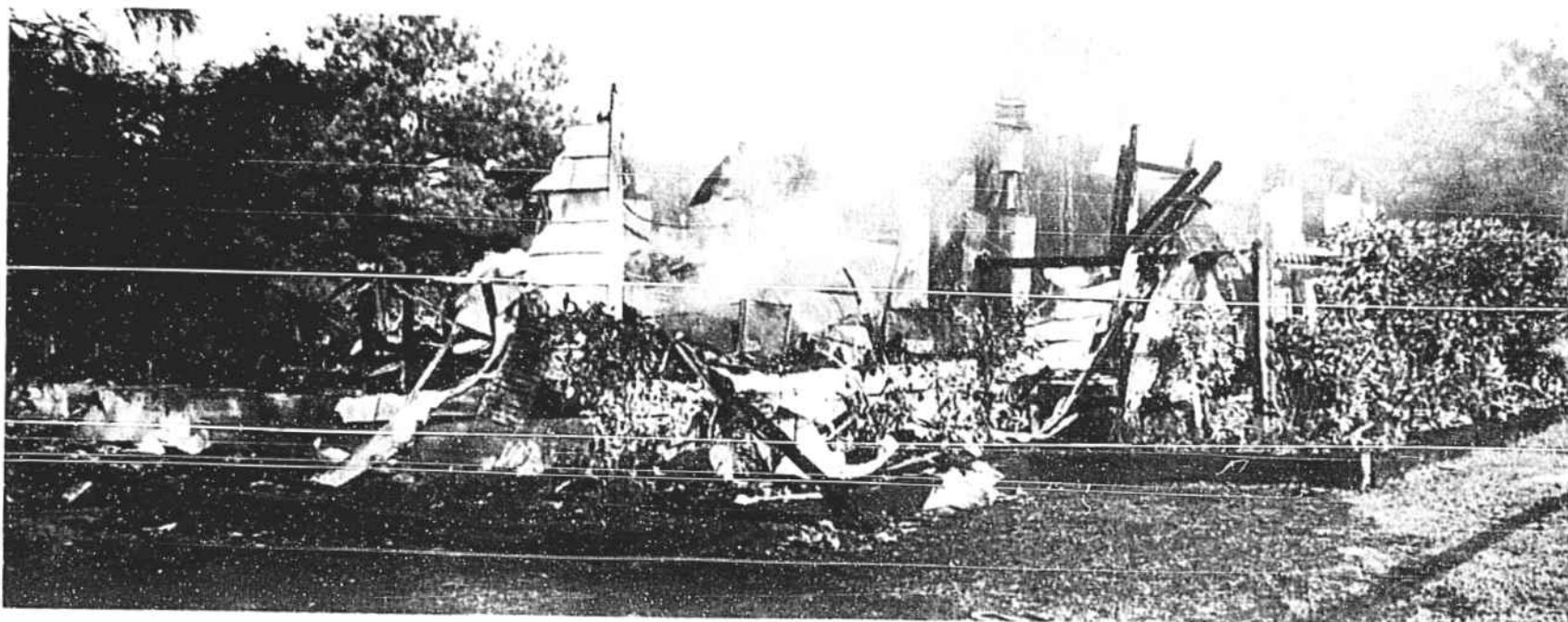
•Asked Ms. Thomas to get contract estimates from landscapers and pest control companies for the maintenance of the town hall. Ms. Thomas said the money which had been budgeted for maintenance was reserved for the land use plan study.

•Heard from Ms. Thomas that an anticipated \$183 in Federal Revenue Sharing funds was being appealed by the federal government and that the town may not get it after all. A public hearing to determine how the money is to be spent has been scheduled for Sept. 28.

•Heard from Ms. Thomas that a \$12,000 Department of Transportation project to pave Wilson Street, Lake Drive and Trader's Lane would shortly be underway.

•Heard from Ms. Thomas that Little River Trash Service manager Bill Jordan was requesting a new five-year contract with the town.

She said he wanted a new contract before council changed seats in November and that he would be present at the Sept. 28 meeting to make his request in person.



LITTLE REMAINS of what was once Dr. Karen Paine's office on Forest Drive.

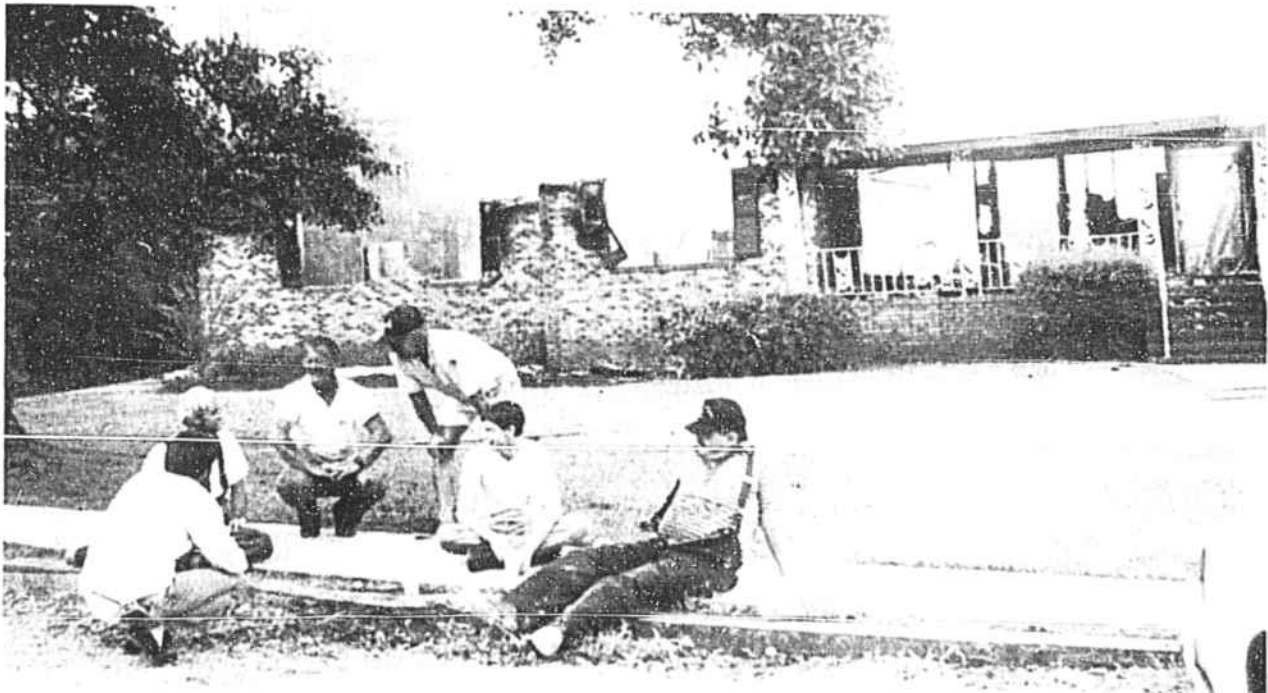
Fires—

(Continued From Page 1-A)

lost, Hewett said her patient records and billing information were on computer tapes at another location.

She also lost irreplaceable photos of a son who had died.

"I sure don't understand anybody doing anything like this," said Hewett. "It hurts."



OCEAN ISLE FIREFIGHTERS take a needed break after mopping up at the chiropractic center fire Monday morning. Clockwise from the lower left are Chief Terry Barbee, Al Crawford, Dave Harrell, Ray Eriksen, Steve Brinsfield and Butch Walker.

Waters Reopen

The state has reopened shellfishing waters closed a week ago.

Affected are waters in the Cape Fear, Lockwood Folly and Shallotte rivers.

The closure was due to increased pollution caused by stormwater runoff.

Shalotte Man Given Four Life Terms

BY RAHN ADAMS

"It was a very emotional, heart-rending trial," Assistant District Attorney Wanda Bryant said of a case heard last week in Brunswick County Superior Court in which the jury convicted a 39-year-old Shallotte man on sex charges. He was sentenced to four consecutive life prison terms.

According to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, jurors deliberated for more than 2½ hours last Thursday before convicting the man of two counts each of first-degree rape, first-degree sexual offense, incest and taking indecent liberties with a minor.

Ms. Bryant served as prosecutor in the trial, which began Tuesday afternoon in Bolivia and included two days

of graphic testimony on sexual offenses involving the man's 9- and 10-year-old daughters. The girls used anatomically-correct dolls during portions of their testimony.

The girls, both Shallotte area residents, were eight and nine years old at the time of the offenses. Ms. Bryant said the 10-year-old girl testified last week in court that the offenses had been "going on a couple of years."

"I'm certainly pleased with the outcome of the trial from the prosecution's standpoint and from the standpoint of the well-being of the children," Ms. Bryant said. "The jury, by this verdict, was saying they believed those children."

Brunswick County Detective Nan-

cy Simpson, the arresting officer in the case, said the man initially was charged May 11 with two counts each of first-degree rape and first-degree sexual offense. He was released from the Brunswick County Jail the same day on a \$30,000 secured bond.

Ms. Simpson said the man actually had turned himself in to authorities following an investigation of less than four weeks. She said the alleged offenses had been reported to the sheriff's department through Brunswick County Social Services.

On May 18, a Brunswick County Grand Jury returned eight true bills of indictment, adding the incest and indecent liberties counts to the initial charges against the man, Ms. Simpson said.

At the conclusion of last week's trial, Judge Henry W. Hight Jr. last week handed down the mandatory life sentences for the four rape and sex offense counts, and ordered that they be served consecutively.

The man also received an additional 16 years in prison: 4½ years for each incest conviction and 3 years for each indecent liberties conviction.

According to Ms. Simpson, the man was transported to Central Prison in Raleigh last Thursday night immediately following the trial. The man's identity is being withheld by The Brunswick Beacon in order to protect the identity of the children.

Defense attorney Michael Ramos has filed notice of appeal.

All Eight Drug Suspects Are Caught

Lawmen last week apprehended all eight Southport-Oak Island men who were indicted Sept. 8 by a Brunswick County Grand Jury on drug-related charges.

The indictments were the result of "Operation Nova," an undercover drug investigation conducted by the Long Beach Police Department, Brunswick County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Squad and the SBI.

Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis said Monday the investigation is continuing.

According to Det. Sgt. David Crocker of the department's Narcotics Squad, five of the eight were arrested in Brunswick County within hours after the indictments were handed down. Also, one vehicle was seized, he said.

Crocker said one suspect, Ira Spencer of Southport, was taken into custody Sept. 8 in Roanoke Rapids. Chief Deputy John Marlowe said two others—Noah Hough, 24, and Marshall Starns, 23, both of Long Beach—were arrested last Wednesday in Monroe.

According to Jailer Linwood Gray, all but Hough and Starns had been released by Monday from the Brunswick County Jail on \$10,000 bonds.

Bonds for all eight originally were set at \$50,000 but were reduced to \$10,000, Gray said.

Charges against the eight men included: Red Gowan, Southport, conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana.

Spencer, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana, conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana.

Hough, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana.

Gene D. Mellville, 25, Long Beach,

possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, sell and deliver cocaine, conspiracy to sell and deliver cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of distribution.

Wilford Smith, Southport, sell and deliver cocaine and possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine.

Starns, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana, conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana, possession with intent to sell and deliver cocaine, sell and deliver cocaine and conspiracy to sell and deliver cocaine.

Donnie Price, 17, Long Beach Road, Southport, conspiracy to sell marijuana, conspiracy to sell cocaine, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana.

James E. Price, Long Beach Road, Southport, conspiracy to sell marijuana, sell and deliver marijuana, possession with intent to sell and deliver marijuana.

Brunswick Islands Got Rain

Sept. 8 through 14 was another rainy week across the South Brunswick Islands, with Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady recording 2.37 inches of rainfall in his gauge.

The week was also four degrees warmer than normal for this time of year, with an average daily high of 88 degrees combining with an average nightly low of 72 degrees for an

average daily temperature of 80 degrees.

He recorded a maximum high of 91 degrees on Sept. 9 and a minimum low of 69 degrees on Sept. 14.

Both temperatures and precipitation should be near-normal during the next few days. Canady said temperatures should average in the mid-60s at night, ranging into the mid-80s during the day, with about three-quarters inch of rainfall.

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