Citizens Ask For County Zoning In CAMA Hearing

BY RAHN ADAMS

Four local residents used this week's final public hearing on Brunswick County's Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) land use plan to ask commissioners for county zoning-one issue supported by the local CAMA plan.

As county planning officials earlier predicted, turnout was light at the public hearing Monday night in Bolivia; only 13 people other than county officials and reporters attended the hearing, which lasted approximately 13 minutes.

After the hearing, Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Chairman Grace Beasley said she was disappointed with the turnout, although she noted that citizens had participated in a number of earlier public hearings and workshops on the CAMA plan.

County Planning Director John Harvey said he felt Monday's turnout showed that "the state should have permitted us to have it (final public hearing) last fall."

A "rough draft" of the county's CAMA plan submitted to the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) last September was returned for additional citizen input and revi- implemented "

According to Harvey, the county planning board, which meets Oct. 21, is expected to review public input from the Monday hearing, then recommend adoption of the CAMA plan to commissioners.

Following the county board's approval, the land use plan again will be submitted to the CRC for final

At Monday's public hearing, only four persons took the floor to address Commissioners Beasley, Frankie Rabon and Benny Ludlum. Commissioners Chris Chappell and Jim Poole

All four citizens expressed support of county zoning, an issue which is addressed in one of the CAMA plan's policies: "Brunswick County supports and encourages the continued expansion of the existing urban growth pattern and will attempt to manage future growth through the development and use of enhanced land use controls and growth management techniques."

The policy suggests that "a zoning ordinance should be developed and

Eileen Kellagher of Long Beach told commissioners Monday she thinks Brunswick County is three to five years behind the county's zoning needs. She said zoning "helps everyone, including farmers."

Robert Noe, manager of the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association (POA), said the CAMA plan is a "step in the right direction," and he encouraged commissioners to "take the next step and adopt zoning for the county."

Noe said the Carolina Shores POA supports zoning to control develop-

Ford Says

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owners.

County resident George Walker said he would like to see zoning to help the average homeowner and protect "a person's investment." Walker noted zoning would ensure that certain industries are not built in undesirable areas.

Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association, said his organization is "strongly in favor or planned zoning, particularly east of Route 17."

Following the hearing, Ms. Beasley

BROTHERS

ment and protect all property sure about whether all or just part of the county should be zoned.

"I think that the urban areas are really in need of zoning," Ms. Beasley said, "but I'm not sure the rural areas are in as much need of it as urban areas are . . . It's just such a varied county."

According to Harvey, he received Bud Knapp, representing the no comments "of substance" on the CAMA plan during the 35-day notification period prior to Monday's hearing. Copies of the draft were distributed to the county's 14 municipalities, Wilmington and said she supports zoning but is un-neighboring counties including Col-

Mark King says:

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be out-traded or undersold."

umbus, New Hanover and Horry County, S.C.

Work on the county's CAMA land use plan began in the fall of 1984. Since then, the county planning board has addressed the plan in 27 meetings, he said. Since November 1985, seven public hearings and 15 public workshops on the plan have been held, he said.

The current CAMA draft was prepared by the planning board, with technical assistance from the county planning department and planning consulting firm Edward D. Stone Jr. and Associates of Wilmington.

Ingram Hired As Chief Inspector

BY RAHN ADAMS

County officials this week announced the hiring of John William "Billy" Ingram IV of Ash as Brunswick County's new chief building inspector, an administrative position created to oversee the county's growing inspections department.

The 41-year-old Brunswick County native accepted the post Tuesday morning, according to Personnel Officer Debbie Bowling.

She said Ingram will report to work as chief building inspector Oct. 19 and will receive a \$24,614 annual

Ingram, a 1964 graduate of Waccamaw High School, currently is employed as vice president and loan officer at Farm Credit Service in Shallotte.

Ingram said that during his eight years in management at Farm Credit Service, he has worked closely with the various types of building programs that the company has handled. He said he has done building inspections for the company.

Prior to joining Farm Credit Service, he worked as manager of Barclay's American Credit in

gram said Tuesday. "I think it'll definitely be a challenge.

"I'll certainly need the support of the (inspections) department employees," he added, "and they'll get my support."

The county inspections department currently consists of three building

schools, civic groups, etc.

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code inspectors, two electrical code inspectors and an office staff of two.

According to County Manager John T. Smith, Ingram was hired due to his management experience.

"We thought he was the strongest in administrative ability-in running a department," Smith said Tuesday.

Commissioners interviewed seven applicants for the inspections post Sept. 16 in Bolivia. All seven were Brunswick County residents and had backgrounds in construction, building inspection or some other type of inspections department, Smith said.

After narrowing the field to one, commissioners initially asked for a second interview with Ingram before officially offering him the job. However, Smith said he contacted commissioners individually Monday and suggested that Ingram be hired even though the second interview had not yet been held.

"I just felt like we needed to bring him on," Smith said.

He said the inspections department, which was formed in July 1985, is experiencing "growing pains." and is in need of better organization and of more office space than it cur-"I'm happy with the move," In- rently occupies in the county planning building.

> Brunswick County Planning Director John Harvey has served as the inspections department's administrator since its formation. Smith said Ingram initially will work closely with Harvey to insure a smooth transition.

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