

Varnamtown Mayor Casts Deciding Vote For Trailer Park Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown Mayor Judy Galloway cast the deciding vote in favor of a new mobile home park ordinance last Thursday after the town board deadlocked with a 2-2 vote.

With Tonya Robbins absent, board members Will Mumford and Ada McDonald voted in favor of the trailer park proposal and Ennis Swain and John David Dawson were opposed.

"I vote yes, go with it, so it's adopted," Galloway said. Her vote marked the first time a mayor has been called on to break a tie vote of the board since Varnamtown incorporated in 1988.

While all board members agreed the rules are needed, they disagreed over two provisions of the nine-page ordinance. One requires a minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet unless public water and sewer are available. The other prohibits anything but new mobile homes in trailer parks.

As adopted, the rules will allow lots as small as 7,200 square feet if county or town water and sewer service are provided. Galloway, McDonald and Mumford said that provision is appropriate.

However, Swain argued that the minimum lot size

will be relaxed if water or sewer are provided. He said the town board shouldn't require both utilities.

"I feel that's too tight a requirement," Swain said. "I think you should have one or the other. We're cramping our people too tight."

Swain also suggested that mobile homes be allowed in trailer parks as long as they aren't more than one year old.

Dawson did not participate in the discussion, but sided with Swain when it came time to vote. "I was leaning the way Ennis was as far as water or sewer. Really I think it should be rewritten," he said after the meeting.

McDonald and Mumford said the new rules will help prevent problems from arising. "I think it's easier to prevent a problem than to deal with one after it exists," McDonald said.

She also pointed out that the town can grant a variance from the rules if they cause a hardship. McDonald said some soils drain better than others and are better suited for dense development.

Without public water and sewer service, developers will be allowed to put two mobile homes on each acre. With water and sewer, the density can be as high as six

trailers per acre.

Parks won't be allowed on less than two acres of land. The rules also set minimum design and construction standards for utilities, pavement, easements, parks, buffer zones and drainage.

Any landowner interested in creating a mobile home park will be required to get a "conditional use permit" from the town board. The owner will have to get the permit renewed every two years to continue operating the park.

Trailer park developers also will be required to submit to the town a park plan prior to construction showing the location of streets, driveways, storm drainage, building lines and other details.

"Anybody who wants anything orderly, you have to have rules and regulations," Galloway said.

There wasn't much comment from the nine people who attended a public hearing on the rules.

"Tight requirements now might be gleefully reviewed down the road," said Jim Callan, a member of the planning board that worked about seven months on the trailer park rules.

Subdivision Regs Adopted

While board members were divided over the trailer

park rules, they voted unanimously in favor of the town's first subdivision regulations.

As of Tuesday, Varnamtown is under the old Brunswick County subdivision rules. The county updated its regulations in January 1991, but town officials think those are too strict.

They adopted a slightly-revised copy of the old regulations because the town no longer falls under the county ordinance.

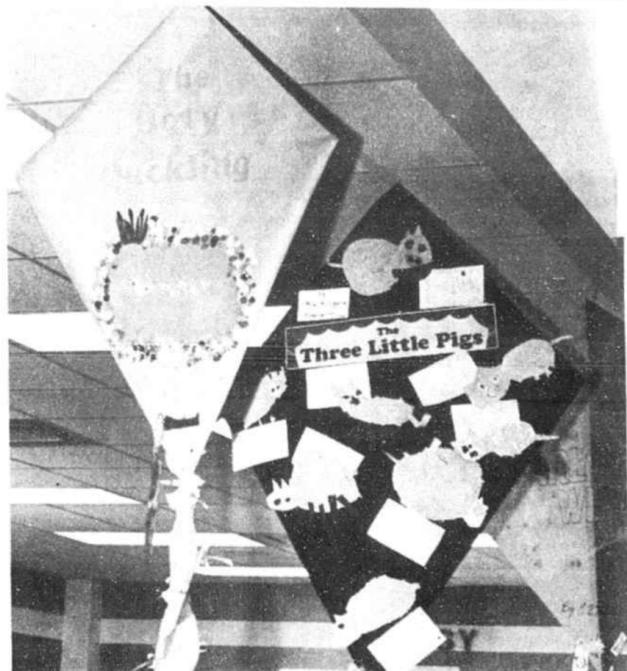
"We just sort of copied it because the county said we had to have one," Galloway told the audience. "You were under this before. You were under the county. Now you're going to be under the town."

Galloway said if anybody wants to divide their land into lots, they will need town approval before they can get it recorded at the courthouse.

"It's the same thing the county had years ago," the mayor said. "The county's a lot stricter now."

Most property that is divided into two or more lots would fall under the subdivision ordinance. Tracts divided into five lots or less would be considered minor subdivisions, and others would be major subdivisions.

The rules set standards for utilities, erosion and sediment control, drainage and streets.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Soaring High With Books

Supply Elementary School students let their imaginations soar recently when they designed "book kites" featuring favorite books in recognition of National Book Week. These are just three of the kites on display in the school media center.

Grand Jury Indicts Bolivia Man On 5 Sex Charges

A Brunswick County Grand Jury Monday handed down five felony indictments against a Bolivia man charged with raping and taking indecent liberties with a girl younger than 13 years of age.

Miles Hanson Price, whose age and address were not listed on the indictments, faces two counts of first-degree rape of a child, two charges of taking indecent liberties with a child and one charge of forcing the child to engage in a statutory sexual offense.

Three of the offenses are alleged to have happened on Nov. 20, 1992, while the other two are said to have occurred sometime between Nov. 23 and 27 of last year.

The grand jury considered a total of 32 indictments Monday morning and agreed that there was enough evidence to bring all but one to trial in superior court. Consideration of that case was delayed until a later session of the grand jury.

Other defendants indicted Monday include:

■ Joe Edward Steele, 54, of Shipwatch Lane, Ocean Isle Beach, on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury for an alleged Nov. 26 attack on Bruce

Dean Henry. Steele is accused of striking Henry several times on the head from behind with the large end of a sawed-off pool cue, opening two large wounds requiring emergency treatment and hospitalization.

■ Scotty Jerome Stevenson, 21, of Route 2, Bolivia, on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury on Shamika Hill by stabbing her in the back five times. The incident occurred Jan. 29 at a Southport fast-food restaurant following a disturbance at a South Brunswick High School basketball game.

■ Joey Wayne Strickland of Cheraw, S.C., on one count each of arson, felonious breaking and entering and felonious destruction of a computer. Strickland is charged in the Feb. 26 burning of the Convenient Tours and Travel building on Main Street, Shallotte. Police believe he set the fire to cover up evidence of a larceny.

■ Julian Keith Marlow, 19, of Bolivia on one charge of robbery with a dangerous weapon for allegedly threatening the use of a .25-caliber handgun to steal \$400 in cash from Linda Letchworth last Nov. 30.

■ Lamont Alonzo Burst, 17, of Goodland Road, Leland, on a charge

of robbery with a dangerous weapon. He is charged with Marlow in the Nov. 30 robbery.

■ Lewis Clayborne Wingfield, 57, of Brunswick Village, Southport, on a charge of robbery with a dangerous weapon for allegedly using a knife with a five-inch blade to threaten a man from whom \$155 was stolen April 10.

■ Freddie Wayne Gainey, 32, of Route 3, Leland, on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon. He is accused of threatening a Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Richard Duvall with a skinning knife while the officer was investigating a reported domestic dispute last Christmas Eve.

■ Richard Hugh Grissett, 32, of Farm Loop Path, Sunset Beach, on one charge of larceny of a firearm, one charge of felonious breaking and entering and three counts each of felonious larceny and felonious possession of stolen goods. Grissett is accused of stealing two deer dogs, a .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol, a .30-30 rifle and other items.

■ Johnda L. Lafferty, 26, of Route 5, Leland, on a charge of possessing stolen property, a videocassette recorder valued at about \$300. The offense is alleged to have occurred

Dec. 28, 1990.

■ Robert Scott Eubank, 29, of Brunswick mobile home park, Leland, on one charge of possession with intent to manufacture, sell and deliver one gram of cocaine and one charge of selling and delivering the drug to an undercover police officer. The alleged offense took place last Dec. 9.

■ Ronald Ellis Robbins, 41, of Route 1, Leland, on a charge of selling and delivering cocaine on Aug. 4, 1992.

■ Allen Earl Piner, 41, of Cedar Hill Road, Leland, on a charge of possessing crack cocaine March 5.

■ Larry Darnell Hooper, 29, of Wilmington on a charge of possessing cocaine Feb. 4.

■ Gary Lynn Hasty, 37, of Woodburn Mobile Home Park, Leland, on one charge each of conspiring to sell and deliver marijuana, possession of 223 grams of marijuana with the intent to manufacture, sell and deliver the drug and delivery of 223 grams of marijuana. The offenses are alleged to have occurred Nov. 14 and 19.

■ David Stewart Hayes Jr., 27, of Bluff Road, Leland, on a charge of conspiring with Hasty and another man to sell and deliver marijuana Nov. 19.

Seaside Man Charged In Local Jewelry Theft

Nearly \$1,800 worth of jewelry, musical equipment and other items were recovered in the Sunday night arrest of a Seaside man charged with breaking into a home outside Shallotte last week.

Three shifts of Brunswick County Sheriff's Department road deputies, two sheriff's detectives and patrol officers from Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach participated in an investigation and search that resulted in the arrest of Jim Walter Gore, 30, of Conch Shell Apartments, Seaside.

Sunday morning, Deputy Phil Bryant was assigned to pick up Gore on a warrant charging him with assault on a female and communicating threats, Detective Tom Hunter said Monday.

Gore wasn't home. But while looking around the building for him, Bryant spotted a black and purple mountain bike parked out back that matched the description of one he had listed while taking a report on a breaking and entering in Somerset Landing April 27.

Bryant notified Hunter, who had been assigned to investigate the case. Acting on a tip that Gore had gone back to his residence, Hunter

returned to the apartment house with Ocean Isle Beach patrol officer Danny Hunter. They were unable to locate Gore.

At about 10:30 that night, second shift Deputy Joey Adams was notified that a man fitting Gore's description had been seen running into the woods off Dale Drive in Seaside, Det. Hunter said.

With help from Sunset Beach and Ocean Isle Beach officers, the sheriff's department set up a perimeter around the wooded area to keep Gore from escaping. A short while later, Deputy Randy Robinson, who was assigned third shift duties in the area, was able to talk Gore into coming out of the woods and surrendering to police.

Detectives Hunter and Billy Hughes interviewed Gore and were led to the recovery of all the missing property. Among the items were several gold chains, two gold watches, four rings, two microphones, a radio cassette player and the mountain bike.

Gore has been charged with felonious breaking and entering and larceny and possession of stolen goods, Det. Hunter said.

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