

NEW DEVELOPMENT PLANS OUTLINED

Shalotte Enacts Ordinance Restricting Adult Entertainment

BY DOUG RUTTER

Owners of massage parlors, peep shows and other adult entertainment businesses will have to deal with strict regulations if they ever try to set up shop in Shalotte.

Town officials passed an ordinance Tuesday limiting where such businesses can locate and how they can operate. The rules include licensing requirements and prohibit the businesses from locating near homes, churches or schools.

"I think it's an OK ordinance," Town Attorney Mark Lewis said when the town board asked for his opinion. "I don't know it's exactly what you want. A lot of this was taken from Myrtle Beach."

Shalotte Aldermen adopted the same ordinance that has been in effect in Calabash since 1990. Officials say they don't know of any plans for an adult entertainment business in Shalotte. They want the rules just in case.

The ordinance defines adult entertainment businesses as clubs used for any "presentation depicting, exhibiting or describing specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas for observation by patrons."

The rules will apply to book stores, theaters, video stores, peep shows, model studios, sexual encounter centers, massage parlors, escort services and motels.

If they cater to adults as described in the ordinance,

those businesses would have to be at least 1,000 feet from any residential zoning district, church, day care center, school, park, library or cemetery.

Asked if the rules would meet the town's needs, Lewis said, "I hope so...it's a very comprehensive ordinance."

Development On The Way

While Shalotte officials want to keep adult entertainment businesses out of town, they listened enthusiastically Tuesday night as local engineer Jay Houston described plans for two major developments in the works.

Houston said there are plans to build a 200,000-square-foot shopping center complex on N.C. 130 West between downtown Shalotte and the U.S. 17 bypass. The land is owned by Dr. John Ward.

The first phase will include a fast food restaurant, gas station with convenience store, 100-room motel and part of the shopping center. "Construction could start within the next six to eight months on all of this," Houston said.

Also in the works is a planned unit development on a 74-acre parcel just outside the town limits on N.C. 130 next to West Brunswick High School. DMS Properties is developing the land.

Houston said the large tract has areas designated for light industrial and distribution uses, an office park, resi-

dential lots, commercial retail shops and a motel.

Developers expect a restaurant, motel, two office buildings and four light industrial centers to be operating within the first two years. The various land uses will be separated with natural and man-made buffers.

"It's called taking a piece of land and trying to maximize it's use," Houston said.

The Shalotte engineer said he wanted to share the plans with town officials so they can plan appropriately for sewer system expansion. "The problem right now is how are we going to handle the wastewater," he said.

In the first year or two, Houston said development on the Ward property will generate about 13,000 gallons of wastewater per day. The DMS planned unit development will produce about 15,000 gallons per day in the first phase.

When both areas are fully developed, they will generate more than 100,000 gallons of wastewater per day, which is more than the town will be able to handle at its existing plant.

Mayor Sarah Tripp plans to appoint a committee of aldermen and planning board members to plan for sewer system expansion.

Vendors Market Coming

Town officials have cleared the way for Al and

Shirleen Milliken to set up a proposed vendors market on Al Street.

Following a public hearing Tuesday night, aldermen amended the zoning code to allow flea and vendors markets as conditional uses in the Central Business district.

The board later voted to grant a conditional use permit that will allow the Millikens to establish a centrally-located market near their home on Al Street.

Mayor Sarah Tripp said the vendors market will be "manned" at all times. Town officials, especially Alderman Morris Hall, want to get the vendors off Main Street.

Other Business

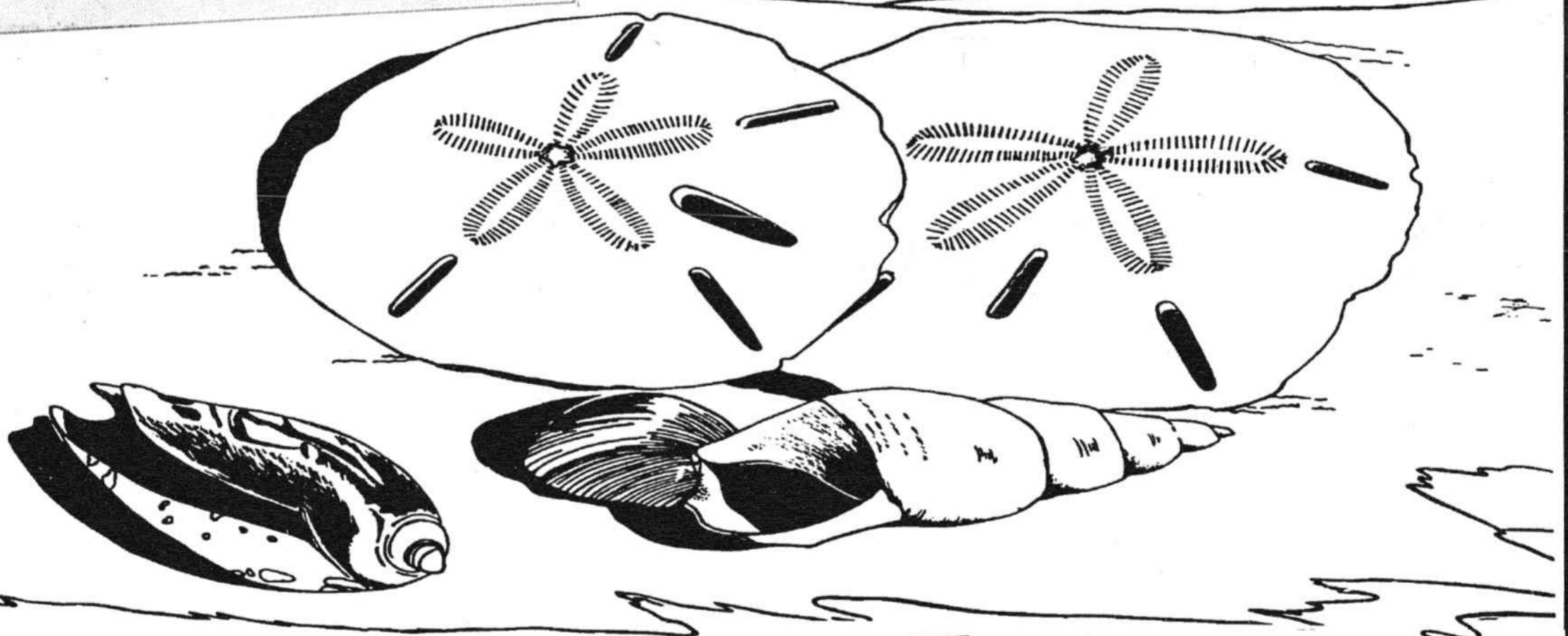
In other business Tuesday, aldermen:

■ Asked their town attorney to obtain documents outlining why the U.S. Postal Service moved mail-handling operations from Shalotte Post Office to the new South Brunswick branch last May. "Unless they destroyed that file I think there's going to be some red faces when that's revealed," Alderman Wilton Harrelson said.

■ Agreed to pay American Legal Publishing Corp. \$8,775 over a three-year period for codifying the town ordinances. Town Clerk Mary Etta Hewitt said the town will pay \$2,500 this fiscal year, \$3,510 next year and \$2,765 the following year. The ordinances haven't been codified since 1979.

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