

NO CHANGE IN DAYTIME MEETINGS

Commissioners Set Night Workshops

BY SUSAN USHER

Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners will continue holding all business meetings during the day, but agreed unanimously Tuesday to begin holding evening workshops four times a year.

The sessions, as recommended by Commissioner Ken Proctor after consulting with the town attorney, will be held at 7 p.m. the first Monday of February, April, September and November. That will allow board members a week prior to their regular second Tuesday business meeting to consider any issues raised during the less formal workshops. The first workshop would be held on Labor Day, Sept. 5.

Commissioners will take turns leading the meetings, with mayor and board expected to attend.

Proctor has pushed the board to hold at least some of its meetings during the evenings to allow more participation by residents and other property owners who cannot attend daytime sessions.

Streets To Be Resurfaced

Commissioners also launched the town's largest paving project in recent years, putting out for bid the resurfacing of 26 streets in need of repair.

Two other street projects proposed during Tuesday's meeting will be considered for future action. Neither the foot of Duneside Drive nor the extension of West Fourth Street are included on the town's maps for state Powell Bill gas tax revenues, which means the projects would have to be paved entirely at town or local residents' expense if paved now. The town anticipates adding both sections to the map in July, and will

consider including one or both projects in a future budget.

Scheduled for resurfacing this spring are Second Street East and Second Street West, Goldsboro, Leland, Pender, Dare, Raeford, Duneside, West Third, Starboard, Asheville, Halifax, Union, Anson, Newport, Beaufort I and II, Wilmington, Tarboro, Fairmont, Monroe, Laurinburg and Troy streets, Isle Plaza, Driftwood Drive, and Clinton Street Loop at town hall.

Mayor Betty Williamson said she anticipates work will be completed by mid-May. Tentative bid opening is set for April 21 at 2 p.m.

Resurfacing will not conflict with the town's underground wiring conversion project, since utility workers are boring under streets to install conduit rather than making open cuts.

Other Business

In other business commissioners:

■ on the recommendation of the planning board, decided to continue the town's soil, sedimentation and erosion control program. Planning Board Chairman DeCarol Williamson said that if the program were dropped, developers would be required to obtain a state permit for projects where a permit is not required now, with a resulting increase in time, expense and bureaucracy, and loss of local control.

■ directed Town Attorney Elva Jess to write a letter objecting to the proposed withdrawal of dedication of a public beach access at the foot of Driftwood Drive, on the premise that the offer of dedication has been accepted through recording of the plat and town maintenance of 15 feet of the 25-foot-wide strip at issue.

The property owner has proposed withdrawal to create a 65-foot lot on which stands a house built 3½ feet from the side lot line. Ten feet of the access has been fenced off by the homeowner for some time. "I don't think they should be allowed to withdraw it," said Jess.

■ approved an audit contract for 1993-94 with John Caraway at a price not to exceed, \$5,850, no change from the current contract.

■ authorized staff to proceed with plans to construct a storage shed at the sewage treatment plant, as budgeted.

■ heard from Police Chief Curt Pritchard that 68 calls were answered in March, and from Building Inspector Druied Roberson that 46 permits were issued in town for construction valued at \$470,379, and seven permits in the ETA for construction valued at \$141,050.

■ heard from Mayor Williamson that according to the Office of the State Treasurer the town rates near the top statewide in its tax collection rate (an average 99.8 percent, or 2.8 percent above the state average) in towns of its size, first in investment earnings and third in return on cash investments.

■ recognized the Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association for donating \$2,500 to the police department for equipment.

■ heard a complaint about early morning noise from Pat Loftus, who works late and finds her morning sleep disturbed by construction work that begins at 7 a.m. off-season and 8 a.m. June through August. Chief Pritchard said noise ordinance hours reflect a compromise. He assured Loftus that officers would respond to any complaints about workers starting before the designated time.

OIB Sewer Rates Down, Water Rates Up

BY SUSAN USHER

Starting May 1, Ocean Isle Beach property owners will begin paying water and sewer fees based on meter size instead of occupancy units, and on a new billing schedule.

Town commissioners adopted the changes unanimously Tuesday after

several months of discussion. The rates are part of a larger schedule of fee changes.

Sewer rates will fall slightly on the heels of the Phase II installation project and expansion of the treatment plant.

New water rates reflect the town's

increased cost for water. Brunswick County went up on its wholesale water rate nearly two years ago. The increase was never passed on to town customers, said Commissioner Debbie Fox, which adversely affected the town's capital reserve accounts.

The changes are expected to make the water and sewer utilities each self-supporting and will be monitored to see if revenues come in as expected.

Most residences in town have three-quarter inch meters. For a minimum water bill of 3,000 gallons usage, property owners will pay \$10 instead of \$8 for water, and \$15 instead of \$18.20 for sewer.

The sewer charge for usage over the minimum volume will drop from \$2.68 to \$2.50 per 1,000 gallons, while the water charge will be \$1.90 for each 1,000 gallons over.

Rates were also set for 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-inch meters. A location with a 3-inch meter, for instance, with minimum usage of 80,000 gallons, would pay \$280 for water and \$300 for sewer.

Water service deposits were set at \$50 for residential customers and renters, and \$100 for commercial customers.

On late bills, the town will charge

\$15 to disconnect and \$25 to reconnect. The town doesn't charge for winterization of homes or transfers of ownership.

The schedule provides for adjustments in bills due to leaks.

The board also adopted a billing cycle that coincides with Brunswick County's billing cycle. Bills will go out the first day of the month, with payment due on the 15th. On the 16th, a late fee of \$5 will be added and a second notice mailed. Water service may be cut off if the bill is not paid by the 23rd of the month, though town staff will work on collection with property managers to try to insure continuous service for rental units.

Other fees established include:

■ a minimum charge of \$25 per lot for mowing vacant lots;

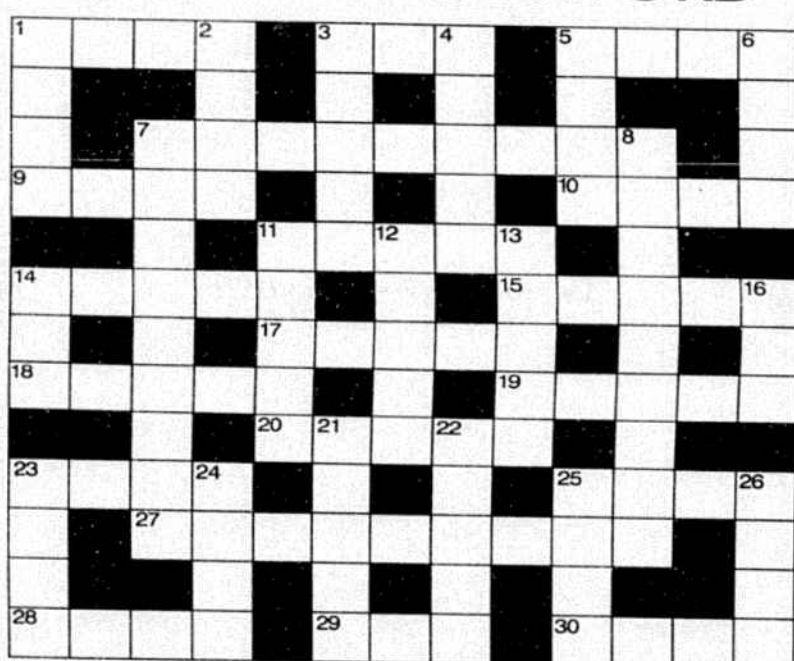
■ setting the cost of town decals used to regain access to the island after an emergency to \$5 year-round;

■ adoption of the state privilege license tax schedule for businesses;

■ charges for photocopying, facsimile transmissions involving long-distance telephone calls and obtaining printouts or labels of the tax scroll or water bill customers; and

■ elimination of house inspections by the building inspector.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Spout
3. Paw
5. Spurt
7. Remedial attention
9. Fabricated
10. Examine
11. Well dressed
14. Dismantle
15. Windshield cleaner
17. Angry
18. Suit
19. In good time
20. Assuaged
23. Avouch
25. Simmer
27. Impoverished
28. Sway
29. Mongrel
30. Murky

CLUES DOWN

1. Prison
2. Solid
3. Sacred song
4. Object
5. Lease
6. Innuendo
7. Frightened
8. Moderate
11. Malice
12. Accumulate
13. Twilled cloth
14. Weep
16. Beam
21. Loft
22. Go in
23. Slightly open
24. Genuine
25. Breeding place
26. Employment

(Answers are on Page 7-C)

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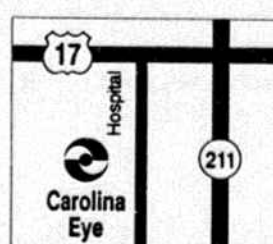
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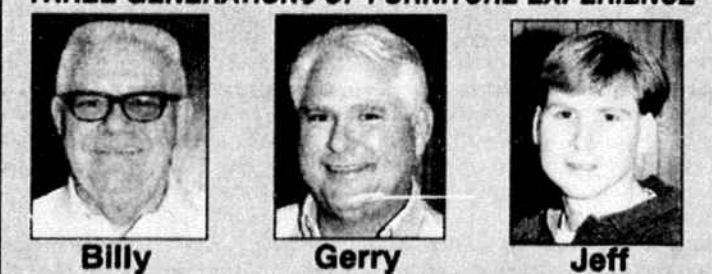
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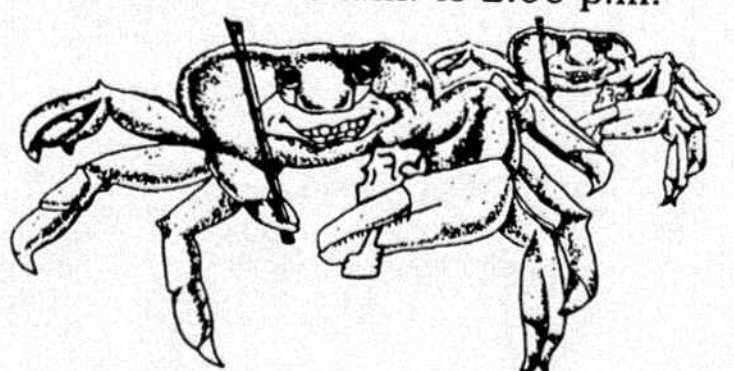
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