

New Mirror Company Termed A 'Good Possibility'

BY DOUG RUTTER

A representative of a Michigan-based mirror assembly firm told Shallotte officials Tuesday there's a "good possibility" the company will move into a Smith Avenue plant that was vacated last December.

However, Jere Comeford did not indicate whether the Mirrorlite company of Rockwood, Mich., would request annexation into town if it moves into the former Pelican Manufacturing Co. building.

Comeford, a Shell Point resident and friend of Mirrorlite owner Bill Schmidt, met with town aldermen for about 30 minutes Tuesday to discuss fees the company would be required to pay for town sewer service.

Also attending was Tom Monks, director of the Brunswick County Economic Development Commission, who has been working with Mirrorlite for several months in an effort to fill the vacant plant.

"We would like very much to have the operation in Shallotte. We sure do need it," Alderman Carson Durham told Comeford.

If Mirrorlite buys the plant and is annexed into Shallotte, the company would be required to pay \$17,275 in acreage and capital reserve fees plus as much as \$3,500 more for sewer installation.

The total includes \$7,500 in acreage fees and \$9,775 in capital reserve fees, and those fees would be doubled to \$34,550 if the six-acre tract of land remains outside the town limits.

Mayor Sarah Tripp asked if Mirrorlite plans to locate at the Smith Avenue plant, regardless of whether the property is annexed.

"There's a good possibility," Comeford replied. "That could always change. We like that location. We like that building."

Mayor Tripp said later, "We pray that you do come into town. We need the jobs. We really do."

If Mirrorlite, which assembles school bus mirrors, comes to Shallotte, Comeford said the plant would hire approximately 25 people initially and have between 100 and 150 people on the payroll within a year.

He also said company officials have proposed doubling the size of the building to 46,000 square feet within a year of opening the operation.

During Tuesday's meeting, town officials assured Comeford that the town's existing sewer plant has enough remaining capacity to handle wastewater that would be generated at the plant.

Comeford said the assembly operation would not generate any industrial waste, and town officials said they don't expect Mirrorlite to have a major impact on the sewer system.

Asked about the capital reserve fee, Alderman Bill Allen said the town was recently able to hire an engineer to design expansion of the sewer system because it has been collecting the fees for several years.

"Right now we're able to look at expansion because we had this capital reserve in place," Allen said.

Public Works Director Albert Hughes said he doesn't believe any sewer line extensions would be needed to serve the plant, which had been using a septic system.

If a sewer line extension is needed, Monks indicated that his agency could apply for a grant on behalf of the town to cover the cost.

Shallotte officials said the town would pay for the line extension if grant money cannot be obtained.

Crossword Answers

SOLUTION—ACROSS
 1. Zero 3. Odd 5. Firm
 7. Haphazard 9. Cool 10. Mire
 11. Feint 14. Noose 16. Eclat
 17. Villa 18. Brave 19. Comet
 20. Retch 28. Cash 25. Scab
 27. Testimony 28. Tier 29. Ago
 30. Gift

SOLUTION—DOWN
 1. Zinc 2. Opal 3. Ochre
 4. Dozen 5. Form 6. Mine
 7. Holocaust 6. Diplomacy
 11. Fever 12. Inlet 13. Teach
 14. Nab 16. Tot 21. Extra
 22. Cameo 23. Chit 24. Hear
 25. Snag 26. Bout

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Ronald Hewett has served with distinction for 11 years as a Deputy Sheriff. **You know him, he knows you. He is a person you can talk to in time of trouble and one you can count on to be understanding and discrete.**

He has been preparing himself for this job ever since he was sworn in at Holden Beach in 1983 as North Carolina's youngest police officer. He has the training, the experience, the temperament, and the leadership ability for the job.

As Brunswick County D.A.R.E. Program Coordinator and Narcotics Investigator, Ronald Hewett put this county's D.A.R.E. program on the map and made a name for himself as national and state D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year for his outstanding work in trying to protect our young people from drugs by making them aware of its danger.

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deputy, he knows the strengths and weaknesses of the Sheriff's Department and knows what needs to be done to improve the operation of the Sheriff's office:

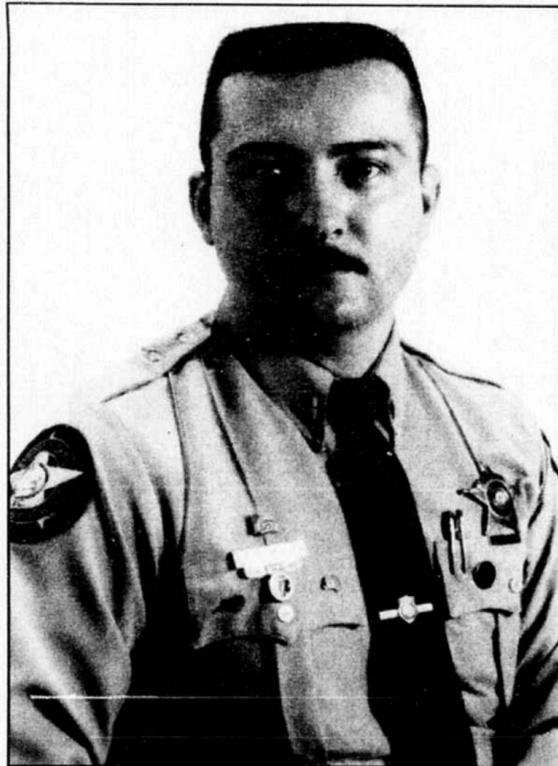
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