

Shallotte Aldermen May Annex 30 Acres Of Commercial Land

BY DOUG RUTTER

Six weeks after bringing 37 acres of residential and commercial property into the town, Shallotte officials are considering annexing another 30 acres of commercial land.

Property owners Jo Ann Simmons and Jason Simmons are seeking annexation of three tracts, and town aldermen indicated Tuesday night they will grant the requests despite a planning board recommendation to deny one of them.

Jo Ann Simmons has asked for annexation of two tracts, both of which are contiguous to the existing town limits and have the support of the town's planning board.

One is a 14-acre tract just east of town that stretches from Holden Beach Road to Main Street. The other is a 9-acre tract at the north end of town off the U.S. 17 bypass.

The planning board opposes annexation of Jason Simmons' 6.79-acre tract on Holden Beach Road across from Alice T's restaurant and adjacent to the Shallotte Moose Lodge. It is not contiguous to the existing town limits.

Planning board member Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman said the board based its recommendation on the town's limited sewer system capacity, the size of the sewer line serving the area and the fact that it is not contiguous.

"I think we would like to see the town grow properly and not go out and do another satellite annexation," she said. "What we discussed on the planning board was we would like to see the town grow out to it."

Several years ago, Shallotte officials approved the satellite annexation of the property where Alice T's is located. There are several tracts that separate that property from the rest of the town.

In recent years, aldermen have generally agreed that the satellite annexation was a mistake they should not repeat.

However, board members Carson Durham and Bill Allen said Tuesday that annexing the Jason Simmons tract could be the first step in bringing more Holden Beach Road property into the town.

They said it doesn't make any difference whether the town grows out to the Simmons property or annexes the tract and grows back toward the rest of town.

Durham said the two-inch sewer line that would serve the land is not a problem and neither is the sewer system's capacity.

Over the last 12 months, Durham said the town has generated an average of 110,000 gallons of wastewater per day. The system capacity is about 206,000 gallons per day.

"Sewer capacity is not a problem. It's a long way from being a problem," Durham said. "If we don't do something with Shallotte and start growing we got a problem."

Durham pointed out that the amount of wastewater pumped to the sewer plant each day has not changed significantly in the last five years.

"Shallotte has not grown for whatever reason and I'd like to see that change," he said. "If I'm going to err I want to err on the side of growth."

A public hearing on the annexation requests is planned for Tuesday, Aug. 2, at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Sarah Tripp was absent Tuesday night due to a death in the family, and Alderman Roney Cheers was out of town.

Street Planning

Shallotte's thoroughfare plan will be the topic of a joint meeting of the board of aldermen and planning board scheduled Aug. 2 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Rick Blackwood of the N.C. Department of Transportation's statewide planning branch will help develop the plan, which town officials requested this spring.

Blackwood said Tuesday night that the plan will help identify which streets need to be widened in the future and where new streets will be needed over the next 20 or 25 years.

He said thoroughfare plans are used by state transportation officials when they consider which projects should be funded.

Blackwood said the plan can cover an area much larger than the town limits of Shallotte. "We can make

this imaginary boundary as big as you want," he said.

Cable Television

Town board members Morris Hall and Allen plan to meet with Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. officials within the next couple of weeks to discuss concerns with the cable television service.

Graham Justice, a resident of Brierwood Estates, came before the town board Tuesday to complain about the converter boxes that must be used to receive cable television.

Without renting an extra converter box, Justice said it's impossible to watch one television show and videotape another. Also, TV sets equipped with preview windows cannot be used without an extra box.

"The channel box really messes up everything when you have video or a screen-on-screen set," he said.

Shallotte's cable TV franchise agreement with Atlantic Telephone expires next May. Justice suggested the town ask ATMC to do away with the boxes or consider switching to a different provider.

"I think it would be good to talk to them (Atlantic Telephone) and a couple other companies and see what they can give us that we're not already getting," Alderman Hall said.

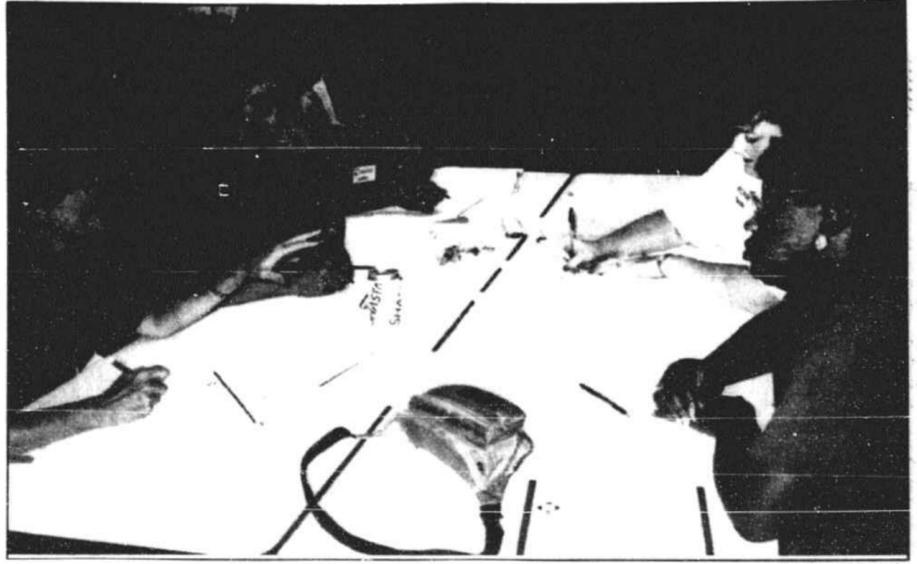
Other Business

In other business Tuesday, aldermen:

■ Adopted a resolution authorizing the mayor and town clerk to enter into a contract for a waterfront access planning grant from the N.C. Division of Coastal Management. The grant is for \$4,556 and requires a match of \$1,122 from the town.

■ Scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, Aug. 9, at 7:20 p.m. on a proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance. Shallotte's planning board has been working on the seven-page ordinance for the past year.

■ Approved a bullet-resistant vest policy for the police department, at the request of Chief Rodney Gause. All patrol officers will be required to wear vests. The equipment will be optional for detectives and vice and narcotics officers.



Teachers In School

South Brunswick Middle School teachers are among the first to participate in the new Teacher Academy, authorized by the N.C. General Assembly to develop leadership skills and innovative instruction techniques. Attending at Greensboro College, one of 10 sites statewide, July 10-15 were (from left) May Moore, Calvin Evans, Diocles Wells, Rhonda Benton and Laverna Hargrove.

Stricken Boat Uses Cell Phone To Call For Help

The skipper of a boat disabled near Shallotte Inlet used a cellular telephone to call for help and was rescued by a patrol boat from the U.S. Coast Guard Station at Oak Island last week, according to station chief BMCS J.D. Arndt.

At about 12:45 July 12, the station was contacted by someone who received a cellular telephone call from the vessel *Spyder*, reporting it self in trouble near the inlet, Arndt said.

Because the boat was not equipped with a marine radio and could not respond to potential rescuers, the station did not issue a Marine Assistance Radio Broadcast (MARB) and instead launched its 41-footer to assist.

The patrol boat reached the scene a short time later and found the situation as reported, Arndt said. The *Spyder* was taken into tow and brought to the nearest safe haven, he said.

At about 3 a.m. July 16, the station was called by the USCG station at Georgetown, S.C., reporting a boat disabled and overdue in the Intracoastal Waterway off Ocean Isle Beach. The female caller said she had caught a ride with a passing vessel after her boyfriend's boat broke down, Arndt said.

Again, the disabled vessel had no radio, so a MARB was not issued. The station launched its 21-foot fast-response inflatable boat to investigate. It provided assistance by towing the stricken vessel to the nearest safe dockage.

Later that day, at about 8 p.m., the station was called by the vessel *Wave Runner* reporting itself disabled and anchored near the Cape Fear River Buoy No. 6.

Arndt said that a MARB was not issued because a tugboat and barge was bearing down on the boat. The station's 21-footer was launched and assisted by towing the *Wave Runner* it to the nearest safe port.

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Getting A Head Start On Her Career

Willa Roena Johnson, daughter of Steve and Flora Johnson of Bolivia, is among 15 high school students selected to participate in the Research Apprenticeship Program sponsored in part by North Carolina A & T's Agricultural Research Program.

Participants in the program are high school juniors and seniors who want to go to college, have an interest in environmental, agricultural and food sciences, rank in the top 25 percent of their class, have letters of recommendation and write an essay outlining their interest in agriculture.

"The Research Apprenticeship Program brings selected students into close contact with botanists, geneticists, animal scientists and environmental researchers," said Charles A. Panton, associate dean of the Agricultural Research Program.

"When they leave here, they will know that agricultural science is not just farming. They will also have a valuable head start on academic and professional careers that have a high demand for qualified people."

Until July 29, apprentices will

live on campus and work one-on-one with scientists to learn research methods, biotechnology, food safety, environmental waste management, computer and media training.

They also are attending agriculture-related field trips and participat-

ing in workshops.

Johnson is a student at South Brunswick High School.

The program is sponsored in part by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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