# Shallotte Board Gives Okay To Junk Car Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

In 90 days, Shallotte officials will start enforcing rules that prohibit "junked, nuisance and abandoned" vehicles anywhere in the town or within a mile of the city limits.

After lengthy discussion Tuesday night, aldermen voted 3-2 in favor of an ordinance aimed at cleaning up Shallotte and the outlying communities within its extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ).

Aldermen Carson Durham, Bill Allen and Morris Hall voted in favor of the controversial regulations, which were opposed by board members Roney Cheers and David Gause.

"Why do you want to plant flowers when you have junked cars sitting around?" Durham asked at Tuesday night's board meeting. "I think as a town board we need to look at the total town."

Said Gause, "I think we really need the ordinance, but I'm not sure the people of this town are ready to go along with it."

The new set of rules, which take effect Oct. 31, basically outlay, cars and trucks that are considered a nuisance or a health hazard or lower property values.

Mayor Sarah Tripp said she received a lot of telephone calls about the proposal. "Since I've been mayor I probably got more calls on this ordinance than anything, in protest of it," she said.

During a 90-day grace period that ends on Halloween, town staff has been instructed to prepare a list of potential vehicles that could be considered in violation of the rules.

The regulations, a combination of state statutes and ordinances currently used in Sunset Beach and Yaupon Beach, will apply to vehicles parked on public and private property.

The ordinance defines a "junked" vehicle as one without a current license plate that is partially dismantled or wrecked, cannot be driven or is more than five years old and appears to be worth less than \$100.

"Nuisance" vehicles are defined as cars or trucks on public or private property that are determined to be a health or safety hazard or a public

"Abandoned" vehicles are those that are parked illegally, left on a public street for more than seven days, left on property owned or operated by the town for more than 24 hours or left on private property for more than two hours without the

owner's consent

The ordinance will allow each property owner to keep one "junked" vehicle as long as it is in the rear yard and "is entirely concealed from public view" in a garage or shed.

Shallotte native Merell Hawes spoke out in opposition of the ordinance Tuesday night. He's afraid the rules will force him to dispose of one or more of the half dozen vehicles parked at his White Street residence.

Hawes said he stores his tools in the cars, and has been doing it for 40 years or more.

"I've got from \$200 to \$2,000 worth of tools in cars. One reason they're spread out is if somebody gets them they won't get all of them," Hawes explained.

Hawes said the guidelines are "mighty strict," although town officials said Tuesday they aren't sure if any of Hawes' vehicles would be classified as "junked" cars.

Mayor Tripp said there are several factors to consider. "Just because you park a car and take the license off of it does not make it a junk car," she said.

Gause said he thinks the town needs the ordinance, but he questioned how officials are going to enforce the rules in the expansive, ETJ territory outside the town.

"I've got some reservations about it," he said. "I don't know how many cars you got out there but there's a lot of them. It's gonna take personnel if this is passed to stay after it."

### Chief Appointment Postponed

Shallotte officials decided Tuesday to postpone the appointment of a fire chief for the 1994-95 year until after an Aug. 16 meeting with fire department members.

Aldermen said they want to meet individually with each of the three men recommended by the department as possible fire chief appointees: Tim Carter, David Moore and Tony Hewett.

Carter has been fire chief for the last seven years, but he said two weeks ago he didn't expect to be reappointed because of recent tension between the department and town board.

Aldermen said Tuesday they want to meet with the entire department in an effort to improve relations. The meeting is scheduled Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station.

Mayor Tripp said she thinks most of the problems in the past have been the result of misunderstanding and lack of communication.

"We're open-minded about it. The fire department wants to sit down with the mayor and board of aldermen," Moore said.

Added Hewett, "We need more communication between the two departments. We need to work closer together."

"Whatever happened in the past, let's start anew if we can," Durham said. "Shallotte could not get along without a volunteer fire department. We could not afford to pay for one."

Said Allen "We're looking to

Said Allen, "We're looking to make the fire department happy with us also. We want the fire department, need it and we're here to support it."

### **Annexation Approved**

Town board members voted to annex approximately 30 acres of commercial property Tuesday night at the request of two landowners. Aldermen voted unanimously in favor of annexing two tracts owned by Jo Ann Simmons that are contiguous to the town limits.

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

Aldermen voted 4-1, with Cheers dissenting, to bring into the town limits a non-contiguous, 6.79-acre tract owned by Jason Simmons. The property is on Holden Beach Road across from Alice T's restaurant and adjacent to Shallotte Moose Lodge.

Shallotte Planning Board had recommended against annexation of the Jason Simmons property in part because it is not contiguous, according to member Shirley Waggoner-Eisenman.

She said last month the planning board also based its recommendation on the town's limited sewer system capacity and the small size of the sewer line serving the area.

However, Durham disputed those

claims. He said the town has plenty of sewer system capacity and the 2 1/2-inch sewer line that serves the property is large enough.

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Jason Simmons told the town board Tuesday he plans to put a

#### **ABC Meeting**

small business on the property.

Shallotte officials have agreed to invite members of the Brunswick County ABC Board to a future meeting to discuss the possibility of merging the town and county systems.

Raymond Babson, a Shallotte resident and former member of the county ABC board, said he thinks the county board would be interested in consolidating the systems and it would benefit both the county and town.

Babson said a consolidated ABC system would be more efficient than the existing town and county systems and it would give the stores greater buying power and increased profits.

Shallotte officials have been at

odds with the county ABC board since it opened a store on Holden Beach Road four years ago. Town revenues from the Main Street store have dropped more than 60 percent since then.

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The county ABC board's latest proposal to build a liquor store in the Ash community also has drawn fire from Shallotte officials, who fear a store west of town would re-

#### **No More Flyers**

sult in further revenue cuts.

Fed up with flyers and handbills littering town parking lots, aldermen passed an ordinance Tuesday prohibiting people from sticking notices, posters and similar materials on vehicle windshields.

The rule makes it illegal for anyone to "nail, stick or otherwise affix bills, posters, advertisements, notices or others graphic matter upon automobiles, trucks or any other vehicle within the town."

Exceptions have been made for parking tickets and other citations issued by law enforcement officers.

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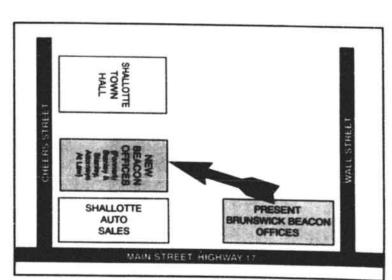
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