

County bucks national trend, backs Carter

Voters in Perquimans and surrounding county's bucked a national trend in marking their ballots for incumbent President Jimmy Carter on Tuesday.

But not much more than an hour after the polls closed, network newscasters were already projecting Ronald Reagan the landslide victor.

A heavier than expected turnout was about the only surprise in county balloting, as some 70 per cent of the county's registered voters marked their ballots.

Board of elections chairman William "Buddy" Tilley surmised that the voter turnout may have been a record-breaker.

The only real race on the county level turned out to be no race at all, as District

II commissioner candidate Wayne Winslow, a Republican, was buried under Democrats Joe Nowell and Charles H. Ward.

Ward led the ticket, picking up 182 votes in the Belvidere precinct, 305 votes in the Bethel precinct, 434 votes in East Hertford, 266 votes in West Hertford, 342 votes in New Hope, 69 votes in Nicanor, 383 votes in Parkville, and 56 absentee ballots for a total of 2,028.

Nowell tallied 1916 votes, with a precinct by precinct breakdown reading: Belvidere-198; Bethel-258; East Hertford-403; West Hertford-280; New Hope-321; Nicanor-74; Parkville-335; absentee-47.

Battling a tendency of county voters to

mark a straight Democratic ticket, Winslow was able to collect only 936 votes. A precinct by precinct breakdown reads: Belvidere-96; Bethel-140; East Hertford-190; West Hertford-152; New Hope-124; Nicanor-65; Parkville-241; absentee-18.

Democrat Lester Simpson returns to the board in District I, with 2,224 votes against no opposition, and Jeanne C. White returns as Register of Deeds after polling 2,624 votes without opposition.

County voters selected Carter over Reagan by a 1560 to 1210 margin in Perquimans, and also carried Pasquotank, Camden and Chowan Counties by wide margins.

The incumbent was, however,

projected to lose the state of North Carolina as of press time.

Independent John Anderson polled 63 Perquimans County votes in his bid for the presidency and Libertarian Ed Clark won the votes of 17 county residents.

In the governor's race, incumbent James B. Hunt, Jr. carried the county by a handy margin, defeating his major challenger, I. Beverly Lake, Jr., Republican, 2,106 to 501.

Incumbent lieutenant governor Jimmy Green, a Democrat, was also handily endorsed, defeating Republican William Cobey, his closest challenger, by a 2,090-503 margin.

Democrat Thad Eure had no trouble retaining his long held secretary of state

position, defeating Republican challenger David T. Flaherty by a 2,122-518 margin.

In the state auditor's race, Democrat Edward Renfrow thrashed Republican James F. (Jim) McIntyre, 2,095-479. Democratic attorney general Rufus Edmisten turned back a challenge from Republican Keith Snyder in 2,105-487 county landslide, and Democratic insurance commissioner John Ingram was endorsed by county voters over Edwin W. Tenney, Jr., by a 2,097-527 margin.

A race that proved to be a cliffhanger state-wide wasn't even close in Perquimans County as Senator Robert Morgan, a Democrat, out polled Republican John East by a 1,980-705 margin.

There was only one local race for the state legislature, and Democrats Charles Evans and Vernon James easily defeated Republican challenger Walter W. Tucker.

County voters favored an amendment to the N.C. Constitution requiring justices and judges to be duly authorized to practice law prior to appointment, by a 1,995-563 margin.

They also endorsed Elmer C. Lassiter as the Perquimans County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor.

In the only competitive judicial race, county voters selected Democrat Willis P. Whichard, Jr. over Republican Robert R. Browning for N.C. Court of Appeals Judge.

Winfall meeting

Hertford electrical rates, service hit

by JACK GROVE

A group of some thirty town residents attended Winfall's Town Council meeting Monday night to push for switching their electric service from Hertford to Albemarle Electric Cooperative.

Some 125 residents now get electric service from the Hertford utility. Prompting their concerns were the recent 15 percent rise in Hertford's electric bills and alleged poor service.

Albemarle Electric's general manager, Ed Brown was at the meeting to field questions from citizens and councilmen.

Asked if there would be a definite economic advantage to the customer, Brown replied, "Rate comparisons are more difficult to make all the time." But he added, "Historically AEMC's rates have been as cheap or cheaper than the town of Hertford. Our base rate is some cheaper, not including the 15 percent increase."

One resident wanted to know if Brown could guarantee that her current wouldn't be "drained off" when Albemarle Chemical "turned on big electric motors." Brown answered, "To my knowledge we're not having problems of that type now."

During the course of the discussion it was brought out that an attempt was made some four years ago to switch users from the Hertford system to the AEMC system. Several present voiced recollections that Hertford town officials were unwilling to even discuss the issue.

Brown stressed that he was not attending the meeting as an advocate either way on the issue. However, when asked if AEMC was willing to accept the transfer of customers, he said that the nine-member AEMC board of directors had expressed a favorable interest if negotiations ended in a fair and equitable transfer.

He did say that the power lines and transformers used by the Hertford utility were not compatible with those of AEMC and thus would be useless to his utility.

He cited the customers themselves as the main transferrable asset.

On the advice of Town Attorney, James Singletary, petitions will be drawn up for signature of affected Winfall residents. Singletary indicated that this was the necessary first step in showing interest in the transfer. Court action was raised as a possibility by some residents if Hertford resisted efforts to arrange the transfer.

On other legal matters concerning the town, Singletary reported that he had drawn up a list of proposed local ordinances, and had researched proposed annexation and zoning laws.

The council voted to annex into the town 500 feet from the edge of the following roadways: the East side from the Town Office Building to the junction of U.S. 17 and N.C. 37, the North side of U.S. 17 (Business) to the junction with S.R. 1220, both sides of S.R. 1220, and the South side of U.S. 17 (Bypass) from the S.R. 1220 junction to the Perquimans River.

The council then passed a formal "Resolution for intent of Annexation" required by state law, which included a call for a public hearing on the measure next Dec. 29.

In other matters the council:

- Approved a request by Cheri Williams that would allow four homeowners near Albemarle Chemical Co. to plant trees on a town right of way as a screen from the company;

- Heard W.M. Knight of Crown Point Development Co. report that water lines were in at the new River Croft subdivision and that the streets there would be paved with asphalt instead of the planned gravel surface;

- Amended the town budget to shift \$2,500 to the Chlorine, Insurance and Miscellaneous accounts from the \$8,466 in the Surplus account;

- Asked that a comprehensive report of income and expenditures for the water system be presented at the next meeting.



Hertford Mayor Bill Cox received the town's second Community of Excellence Award from Governor James B. Hunt,

Well done

Jr. during ceremonies held in Raleigh last Wednesday. Hertford was one of 100 North Carolina communities awarded

during the second annual Governor's Conference on Economic Development.

A town excels

The town of Hertford was officially honored as a Governor's Community of Excellence in Raleigh Wednesday during the second annual conference on economic development.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox was present to accept the town's second award of excellence from North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt.

"I am proud of the progress which communities like Hertford have made during the past year," said Hunt. "It is an achievement which they can look upon with great pride. But more importantly, the work which has been done in qualifying for this honor also represents a big step toward better job opportunities."

To qualify for the award, Hertford was put to the test of meeting the basic criteria required by new industry.

Representatives of the N.C. Department of Commerce, posing as electronic component company officials, met with town and county officials in June.

A total of 100 communities, all with populations of 15,000 or less, received the awards. Thirty-five of the recipients were first-time winners.

Highway signs noting the honor have been provided.

Resident, tax office tangle

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners will seek a ruling from the N.C. Attorney General's office on whether or not the county tax assessor can enter a construction project in progress without the permission of the owner.

The decision came after Hertford resident Carl Skinner complained to board members that county tax supervisor Keith Haskett had entered an addition to his home without permission for the purpose of making a tax assessment.

"Keith Haskett says he has the right to go into my house without permission to examine it but the town attorney says he does not," said Skinner.

"Also, Keith asked me several times why I was trying to hide it (the addition) from him," he added.

"I'd like to know what can be done about it," Skinner said. "The people of Perquimans County have put up with his arrogant manner long enough."

Haskett, however, said that he had seen the addition while on county

business and had asked construction workers on the premises if he could go in and look around.

According to county attorney John Matthews, Haskett appeared to be within his legal boundaries.

The Machinery Act of North Carolina says that any building appraised for the purpose of taxation must be visited and observed by a competent appraiser, Matthews said.

"It seems to me that to adequately appraise, he would have to do this (enter

the building)," Matthews said.

Nevertheless, Skinner argued that that the tax assessor has at least a moral obligation to seek permission before entering construction projects.

"Personally, I think something ought to be done," said Skinner. "I don't feel anybody should be allowed to enter my house without permission. There are proper ways to do things and going into somebody's house without permission is not one of them," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Annexation eventual

Zoning beyond boundaries set

The Hertford Town Council has decided to proceed with steps begun four years ago to zone the allotted one-mile around present city limits.

Extra-territorial limit zoning, initiated in June of 1976, was abandoned when the planner developing the ordinance changed jobs, said Hertford Mayor and Town Manager Bill Cox at the town council's regular monthly meeting Monday.

The area to be zoned at that time was off of Grubb Street Extended, down the Ballahack Road, which winds back into town, according to Cox.

But the council moved Monday to extend the initial zoning territory to include much of the one-mile radius allowed by law.

Although zoning past present boundaries would not add to the town's present tax base nor require the expansion of town services, Cox told the council that he felt such action was important as a protective measure for the town of Hertford.

"It would help insure that the town gets the type of businesses and growth that is desirable," said Cox.

Council member Jesse Harris, who abstained from voting either for or

against zoning, expressed apprehension in the possible negative effects zoning could have on eventual annexation.

"If we zone now, it could cause hard feelings in the people that live in those areas," said Harris, "and if there's a feeling built up against zoning, it could be a subtle deterrent from annexation."

Harris emphasized that he felt annexation, particularly extended to include Don Juan Shirt Manufacturing Company in the city limits, was needed to increase the town's tax base. "We should annex that area to include Don Juan," said Harris, "because we need a larger tax base."

Commissioner John Beers explained that while annexation had been the council's eventual intent when the extra-territorial zoning limit had been initiated four years ago, he felt that zoning now was necessary for the town's protection.

Voicing compliance with Beers, Cox said, "I can't see anything wrong in zoning the borders around the town of Hertford to provide us with some control as to what goes out there."

Cox added that he felt zoning would ease the town's eventual plan to annex. "Proper zoning would be a step toward annexation," said Cox. "Through

meetings and hearings it would allow people to get involved and acquainted with what zoning would do and eventually help us with annexation," he added.

In other business, the council heard from Howard Capps, a community planner involved with the revitalization effort in the town's King Street area.

Capps told commissioners that the community development project, initiated some three years ago, was well on its way to completion, with one house yet to condemn, one family left to relocate, and acquisition pending on only two properties. Some 23 households have been removed from substandard structures in the King Street area, and moved into "desirable homes," said Capps.

Grading, stone work, paving, curbing and gutting work is expected to begin in early spring, according to Capps, who added that several contractors had expressed interest in building both apartments and single family dwellings.

"We're getting to the point that we can notify the people who lived in the area or nearby, and let them know they can bid on the properties," said Capps.

Capps then recommended that the



Tie a yellow ribbon

Jacyettes Betty Hare, Barbara Nixon and Faye Bunch (left to right) tie a yellow ribbon around a tree on the courthouse lawn in a gesture of support for the hostages. The Jacyettes are wearing yellow ribbons on their lapels

and offering ribbon to members of the community as part of their "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" campaign for the hostages in Iran, who marked the anniversary of their capture on election day.