

Commissioners Request Satellite Court For KM

Monday night commissioners voted to request Senators Ollie Harris and Marshall Rauch and Representatives Edith Lutz, Robert Falls and Robert Jones to introduce a bill to establish a satellite court in Kings Mountain.

A story published in The Mirror-Herald several weeks ago brought to light the need for District Court to be held in Kings Mountain at least one day each week.

Commissioners also voted Monday night to request an additional magistrate for Kings Mountain. Cleveland County is entitled to eight magistrates and currently has only seven in office.

Police Chief Earl Lloyd and Magistrate Charles Carpenter in interviews with The Mirror-Herald talked about the cost to the citizens here to have at least two officers off the job in court in Shelby everyday and of the workload in criminal and civil matters Carpenter faces in the eastern section of the county.

Monday night Chief Lloyd told the board it costs approximately \$8,780 out of the annual city budget to send officers to Shelby to court. He said "We have at least one and sometimes two officers in court everyday except Tuesday. And if it is a serious case it is conceivable to have every officer on an entire shift tied up in court."

He said the cost is about \$2.50 each trip, not including the time away from the city and off the job for each officer involved in a court case.

City Attorney George Thomasson said Monday he feels a satellite court in Kings Mountain is worthwhile and added that this is being done in other counties across the State.

Thomasson is the former Kings Mountain Recorders Court judge prior to reorganization of the court system in North Carolina.

In the earlier story Chief Lloyd

said a satellite court for Kings Mountain could handle cases from Buffalo Creek east to Gaston County. This move, according to Lloyd would save Kings Mountain and Grover and the county a lot of money, not to mention the savings in time by hundreds of citizens who are involved in court cases.

Mayor John H. Moss told the board "We are 18 miles from Shelby. We have about 9,080 citizens inside our city limits and about 25,000 citizens living in the perimeter area."

On the request for the additional magistrate, Carpenter said, "I have served my first year as magistrate and it hasn't been easy. This job is more than one person can handle. The criminal and civil cases are tremendous and an additional magistrate would relieve the burden greatly."

Carpenter said it is possible the district court could set up a small claims court here to handle civil matters. He said this would mean a lot in time and money saved for area merchants and businessmen.

The request for an additional magistrate in Kings Mountain goes to the Clerk of Superior Court, who will recommend someone for the job to the resident senior judge of Superior Court. The judge would make the appointment.

Payments Microfilm Received

Manager Franklin L. Ware, manager of the Shelby Office of the Employment Security Commission, Tuesday received microfilm records of unemployment payments during 1976. Unemployment benefits are subject to North Carolina income taxes and the new record system will make it possible for claimants to get information on their total UI payments last year.

Containing information on more than 500,000 persons who received benefits last year, the microfilm system was devised by the State Revenue Department and the Employment Security Commission.

Ware said the reporting system is being made available because of the large number of requests for tax information being received by the two state agencies.

"When person file claims for unemployment benefits they're always informed that they should keep records on the amounts received because these payments are subject to N. C. income taxes," reports Ware.

"However, we know many claimants do not keep records. For those who do, often records are lost or misplaced."

"Now that we have microfilm of all payments, we can give individuals an accurate total of the benefits they received last year."

Persons who need this information and live in the Kings Mountain area should visit the Employment Office station in the Community Center. They must furnish their social security numbers because all individual payment records are maintained by these numbers.

Information contained on the microfilm will be used only to inform claimants of their total benefits, and it will not be available to persons other than claimants, according to the ESC.



MAKING APPLICATION - Ben Hughes (left) and David Long, community assistance planners with the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources, are working with Mayor John Moss and commissioners in preparing the applications for the third year of funding under the Community Development program. Applications will be sent to HUD on April 1.

CD Public Hearing

Community Service Is Proposed

A community service project was proposed to commissioners Tuesday night at the final public hearing on the 1977-78 Community Development Block Grant program.

Created by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association and presented at the hearing by the Rev. Gary Bryant, the proposed project would be a multilevel organization designed to develop immediate and long-range assistance for local citizens in need.

Rev. Bryant said the project budget for the first year would total \$15,895. In the proposal 50 percent of the budget would come from CD funds, 25 percent from the ministerial association and five percent each from participating organizations.

Of the projected budget, \$10,330 would go for the salary and benefits of a single Community Service Officer to be hired by the city commissioners. The remainder of the budget would be designated for travel and training, office supplies and equipment.

Performance objectives outlined in the proposal include the following that a Community Service Officer would accomplish:

- (1) Accept referrals of individuals or families needing help and direct them to the community service organizations that can answer emergency needs.
- (2) Establish a list of and train volunteer individuals or families to give continuous support to the person who is seeking emergency help.
- (3) Begin to visit persons seeking help to ascertain casual factors that may go beyond the obvious problems.
- (4) Establish a list of professionals in the community to offer additional training to volunteers and to deal with special problems in persons seeking help.
- (5) Identify areas in which there are no adequate services offered and seek to have them developed by community service organizations.

(6) Identify conditions in the community that create problems for its citizens and seek ways to deal with them through existing channels.

(7) Educate the community as to the kinds of services available, the kinds of services that need to be provided, and the efforts being made to deal with persons in need of help.

"There are several organizations now functioning to help people in the community," Rev. Bryant said. "This project would define what services we do have existing, outline what other services are needed and coordinate all of them together."

The project also calls for the organization of a board of governors, which would take one city official, one minister and the rest as representatives from the various participating organizations. This board would review applicants and recommend someone to serve as the community service officer to the city commissioners. The city board would hire the employee. The board of governors would then direct the office and project and evaluate employee performance and effectiveness of the program.

In other comments during Tuesday's public hearing Tom Harper, executive director of the Kings Mountain Housing Authority, said that in January the authority celebrated its 10th anniversary.

"The city board created the housing authority in January 1967 and named John McGill chairman and Brooks Tate vice chairman of the board," Harper said. "Also named to the board were Martin Harmon, William Orr and Carl Wilson. When Mr. Harmon passed away, Rev. M. L. Campbell was named to replace him. With that exception, all the others are still serving on the board."

Harper has served as the authority's only executive director. He was employed by the board in September 1967.

The program began with 150 housing units and the acquisition of

property on nine sites. A second application for 50 units was approved and by 1971 the city had 200 units of low income housing.

"Our figures show that in those first 200 units we have created housing for 925 persons," Harper said. "In the 90 units currently under construction we estimate another 400 persons will be housed."

The breakdown shows there are 88 units for the elderly and 132 family units in the first 200. In the 90 new units, 40 are set aside for the elderly and 50 for families. At present the housing authority has 310 applications for housing on file.

Harper said the 290 units represents \$5,800,000 in construction and since the beginning a total of \$43,000 paid the city in taxes.

The 90 new units are expected to be completed by mid-April, according to Harper.

Gene White, executive director of the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission, updated the progress in the Central Business District and Cansler St. Project areas during Tuesday's hearing and encouraged the commissioners to begin a program of rehabilitation of homes and enforcement of city building codes.

"We have a housing problem in this country and in this city," White said. "We should begin planning ways of rehabilitating those homes that can be brought up to standards, instead of tearing all substandard homes down."

He said there are two choices to see adequate housing is available; first, construction of new homes and, second, conservation of existing homes.

"It is difficult for the working people today to build a \$30,000 home," White said. "The other choice is to conserve what we have. But the city will have to decide the validity of this suggestion. We have to ask ourselves, can we afford to do this? And can we afford not to do this?"

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Photo By Tom McIntyre

HOW ABOUT A LIFT - Karen Penner, 9, shows off the style of dance that won her first runner-up in the Little Miss Talent N. C. competition held in Wilmington on February 4. She is a fourth grader at Bethware School.

Karen Penner Runner-Up

'Hollywood Or Bust'

"Hollywood Or Bust."

That was the sign on a suitcase carried by Karen Penner as she tap-danced her way to first runner-up in the Little Miss Talent N. C. Pageant at Wilmington this month.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Penner of Rt. 4, Kings Mountain, Karen competed against 17 other girls from all over North Carolina for her honors.

The nine-year old fourth grader at Bethware School has studied dancing for seven years at the Jane McClure School of The Dance here.

In her competition with the other 16 girls, whose ages ranged from five to 12, Karen danced to the tune "Yackety Sax" as she interpreted a fast-struck youngster hitching a ride to Hollywood to be in the movies.

Karen's trophy with her honor is attached to a wood carving in the shape of the State of North Carolina.

Rezoning Requests Heard

Nine separate rezoning matters were brought into public hearing at Monday night's commissioners meeting.

Seven requests were approved and one denied during the board action. The remaining request was withdrawn during the meeting.

The withdrawn petition was submitted by George Ruppe requesting rezoning the Ruppe Subdivision on Phifer Rd. from R-10 to R-6. The property lies across the road from Kings Mountain Junior High.

A group of Phifer Rd. residents appeared at the public hearing Monday with petitions against rezoning the property, but Dean Spears, a spokesman for Ruppe, asked the petition for rezoning be withdrawn before any member of the opposition was recognized.

Spears said "The petition is being withdrawn, not because of the citizen opposition, but because inadvertently people had been misled as to the true purpose of the housing project slated for the subdivision."

Spears said the residents of the area had the mistaken idea that "low income housing was going into the subdivision. This is not true. We were thinking of moderate income level housing."

Spears said it has been leased by Weaver Construction and Realty for development. Spears said it is possible the rezoning petition will be re-submitted to the board at a later date.

The one request denied by the commissioners came from Kings Mountain Savings and Loan Association, which handles the estate of W. D. Byers, which lies on the northside of Hwy. 74 West. The request was to rezone the property from R-20 to G. B.

Scott Cloninger, attorney for KM S&L, commented Monday that the petition was for rezoning in keeping with the business growth in that area west of the city. He said the property had been zoned commercial prior to Byers' death.

Bill Boheler, a resident on the backside of the Byers property, spoke against the petition, stating "There is one road in and out of this property. Another resident and myself lived there when it was business property before. Our access to our property was blocked. People were parking on our lawns, knocking down mailboxes and in general creating hardship for us."

This petition, for that reason, had been sent to the commissioners by the Zoning and Planning Board with the recommendation the petition be denied.

The Z&P Board also recommended that two other petitions for rezoning be denied; requests from Mrs. George W. Mauney and Tolly Shuford to rezone their individual properties on Hwy. 74 West, adjacent to the hospital, from R. O. to L. I.

The Z&P Board disapproved the requests because of the light industry designation The L. I. zoning

designation leaves the property open to a large variety of business that may or may not be congruent with the hospital zone.

In Monday's meeting Commissioners Humes Houston and Norman King voted against approving the petitions from Mauney and Shuford. The requests were approved, however, when Commissioners James Childers, Corbet Nicholson and Fred Wright voted favorably. Commissioner Bill Grissom was absent from the meeting.

The petition requests approved without any comments for or against included one from Robert Lee Parton to rezone his Linwood Rd. - Second St. property from R-6 to N. B.; from John Bernhardt to rezone Kings Mountain Shopping Plaza from N. B. to G. B.; William Stinnett's property adjacent to Northwoods Subdivision from R-20 to R-6; Brown Ware, Eleanor Ware, Don Ware and Bobbie Ware to rezone lots 402 and 406 N. Cansler St. from R-6 to N. B.; and D. A. Beam Co. to rezone lot No. 32 on Hwy 74 West (beyond Goody-Goody Restaurant) from R-20 to N. B.

The commissioners accepted a petition from Darvin and Addie Moss to rezone 319 Fulton St. (near Burlington Industries Phenix Plant) from R-6 to N. B. The request will be forwarded to the Zoning and Planning Board for study and recommendation back to the city board.