

Owners To Get Estimate

(From Page 1A)

that "when one starts all will follow." "We always get to the price per foot and stop," he said, and Larry Hamrick and JoeSmith agreed that "we've been coming to meetings for year but nothing has been done."

James Herndon pledged that he would improve and remodel to tenant's specifications his properties in the downtown area.

One of Billing's duties is to recruit new business for downtown and he says he can do just that if merchants and land owners will work together.

"I have seen downtown die in other cities and don't want to see that happen here," he declared.

Realtor Larry Hamrick said he thought local merchants should be notified of the location of the proposed new postoffice as this would be a key decision in location by new business prospects.

Mr. Billings suggested that if all land owners and businessmen work together as a group that the cost would be less. He said that the reception he had received from store owners had been good and challenged them to do some facelift to existing buildings, the backs of the buildings particularly at the new parking lots. He said some vacant lots are

available for new construction from the Redevelopment Commission and that some buildings downtown are available and commented that several prospective tenants and landlords in downtown Kings Mountain. "Maybe we can just break the ice and melt it," he said. Another meeting of the group will be called in about a month and Billings said he would have available cost estimates for the renovation work.

Mr. Billings is a former LEAA coordinator for North Carolina and was hired by the city under a Community Development Block grant. He and his wife and 12-year-old daughter plan to build a new home here.

High Utility Bills

KMers Can Get Relief

Mayor John H. Moss said today that the N. C. Utilities Commission has authorized all regulated electric and natural gas utilities in North Carolina to participate in the N. C. Special Crisis Intervention Program.

This action means that Kings Mountain citizens who qualify for relief of energy cost burdens of the poor as result of the recent severe winter and escalating energy prices can apply for assistance by contacting Department of Social Services in the County Office Building at Shelby.

Cleveland County has been allotted \$55,618.00 for the program, said Mrs. Sandra Woodward, and deadline for applications is Aug. 31.

Cleveland County Social Services will administer the local funds directly of up to \$250 to utility companies and fuel suppliers on behalf of low-income households, which, because of

large unpaid energy-fuel bills, have had their utilities shut off, and-or are threatened with inability to obtain delivery of heat-

ing fuel. Advance payments of \$100 will also be made to utility companies and fuel suppliers for future winter bills of eligible low-income elderly persons who have experienced a financial hardship as a result of the previous winter's fuel bills.

On May 4, 1977 President Carter approved the funding of a \$200 million Special Crisis Intervention Program to relieve part of the energy cost burdens of the poor as a result of the recent severe winter and escalating energy prices. Governor Hunt has designated the State Economic Opportunity Office to administer the program. Available funds for the State total \$4,020,000.

Mayor Moss encourages local citizens who have incurred financial hardship to make applications soon by calling the Shelby office or the "Caroline toll free number 1-800-662-7080.

Police Officer

Hires Attorney

"I am surprised," said Corry, "that the commissioners are not aware of federal requirements on discrimination since the city is recipient of many grants from the federal government."

Ptl. Camp, father of four children by a previous marriage, and his wife, say they just want "a fair shake."

"I'm not quitting," said the young Black officer, "I like my work and I'm doing a good job. But I just don't understand what has happened."

"I mean to get what's coming to me," he said.

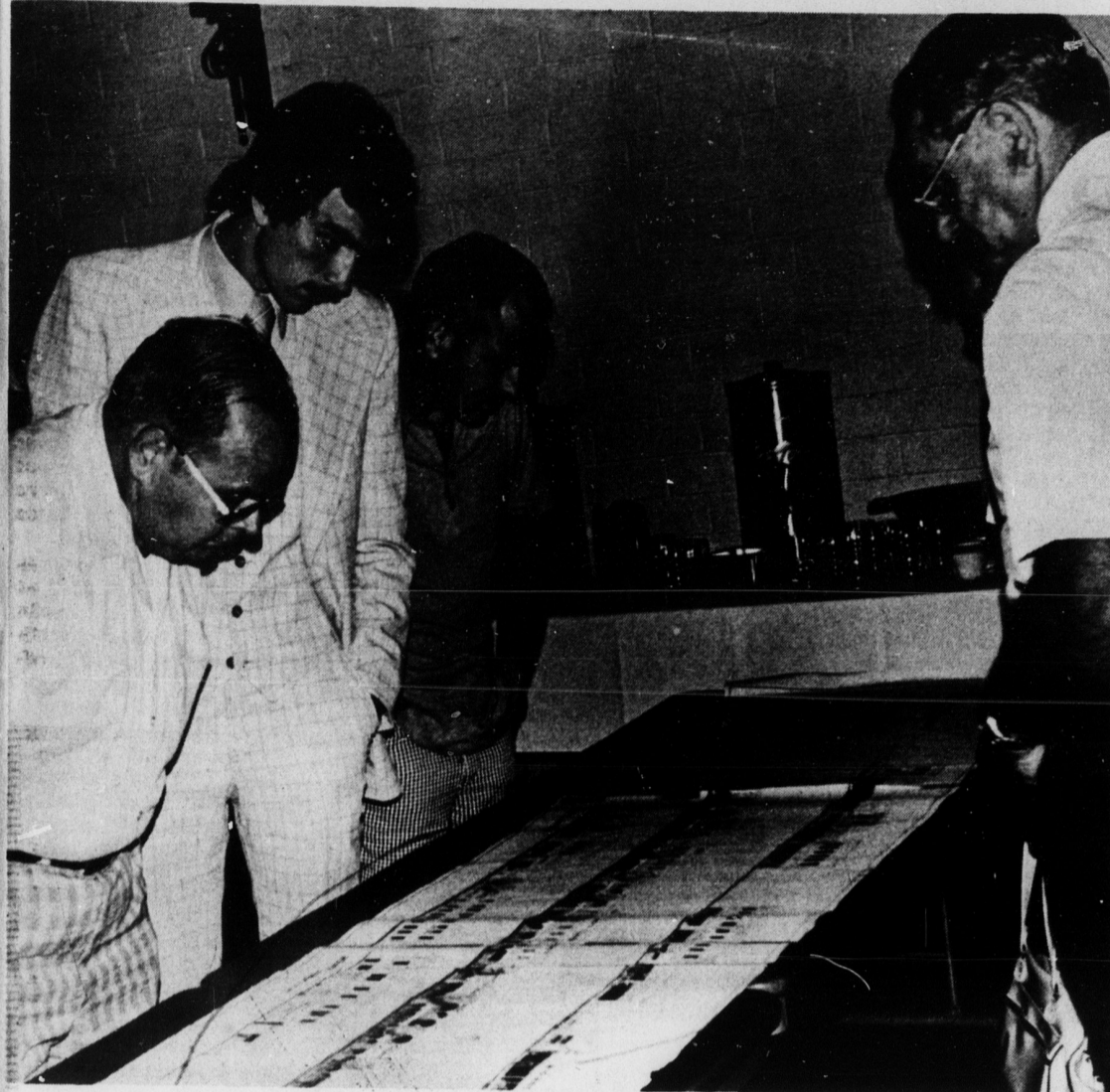


Photo By Lib Stewart

LOOK OVER PLANS FOR DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS — George H. Mauney, Dr. Terry Sellers and Howard Lutz, left to right, look over plans for improvements to businesses in the

downtown area, among over 50 businessmen attending a planning meeting with Business Development Larry Billings Tuesday night.

KMPD Deficit \$60,000

The City police department operated with a budget deficit of \$80,000 during fiscal year 1976-77. Actual police department budget for 1976-77 was \$214,376.25 and the department actually spent \$278,702.64.

Of this amount, salaries for 23 men, including the Chief of Police and including addition of several patrolmen during the

year, amounted to \$188,540.25.

The police budget approved July 1, 1977 for the new fiscal year 1977-78 totals \$313,230.88 of which \$276,444.88 is earmarked for salaries, an increase of \$8,104.63.

The city's budget for 1976-77 was \$5,080,715.00. The city's budget for the new fiscal year, beginning July 1, is \$6,368,748.15,

an increase of \$688,033.15.

Actually, the police department budget will come out of the "red" with the approximately \$90,000 plus in LEAA grants awarded during the Lloyd administration. Funds are spent out of the city budget and then reimbursed when the federal funds are received and applied to the police budget.

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Citizen Blasts City Council

W. Jack Thrower, open letter to the mayor Kings Mountain and board of construction worker, in an missioners blasts the

city fathers for "interference" with operation of the Police Department and charges the Council is "passing the buck." The letter reads:

"Once again the citizens of Kings Mountain must stand the loss for the actions of our elected officials. This is because of an obvious lack of proper management on the part of officials and interference with department heads in the running of their departments. Great emphasis is published about the effort gone to by committees appointed by the Mayor to screen and select professionals to head up the various departments and I have no argument with this. However, once the professional is hired the man is never allowed to properly use his experience to make Kings Mountain a better place in which to live. I refer specifically to our Chief of Police.

"During the past year we have seen a remarkable change in the police services with and obvious trend towards citizen service and cooperation. Programs have been developed to help our people protect themselves as well as assist the police. It is obvious to most that the KMPD does not now have to take a back seat to any other city's police department.

"How long will this remain if you continue your professional interference in areas you know nothing about.

"I emphasize that I believe it is time that politics are not used in law enforcement. Let

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(Turn To Page 9A)

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