

# Curb, Guttering Bills Upset Princeton Drive Residents

Princeton Drive residents are unhappy about recent billings from the city for curb and gutter improvements and aired their complaints during a lengthy session of the board of city commissioners Monday night.

"Why should we pay these bills when we didn't live on Princeton Drive in 1971 when a petition for sub-division improvements was circulated?" asked Elizabeth Pace, Steve Walker, David Brinkley, Georgia Greene, Gloria Langley, and Jean Rikard.

"The nine year lapse is bad for these people," agreed city attorney George B. Thomasson who said petitions were signed May 26, 1971 and some properties changed hands several times since then. He told the protesting group that assessments would not appear in a title search until the assessment roll is approved by the board of com-

## City Will Seek Funds For Plant

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with funding applications with the Department of Energy and/or other available funding agencies.

According to the Mayor, the proposed facility would provide power to operate Ellison Water Plant, the Pilot Creek Waste Treatment Plant and sludge treatment facility which he says now costs \$200,000 annually to run. The hydroelectric plant would produce 820 kilowatt hours and average 3.410 million kilowatt hours annually.

Reporting to the Commission Monday night, the Mayor said that the project cost would be approximately \$1 million with a proposed 10 year "payout" utilizing funds from one or more agencies and city funds.

The City of Kings Mountain would establish a sales agreement with Duke Power Co. to sell surplus power produced on peak to Duke and acquire power at low operation from Duke.

The Mayor noted that the Committee's "principal consideration relative to the hydroelectric power generation project for the City of Kings Mountain was relative to the cost of acquiring electricity from other sources as compared to the hydroelectric operations by the city."

The current costs amount to approximately \$200,000, said the Mayor, and would increase based on needs and increased costs of the supply of energy as demands from the water treatment plant and wastewater treatment facility require.

Moss pointed out that the city has an excellent water supply at the John H. Moss Lake on Buffalo Creek which would supply the necessary water for the operation of a hydroelectric plant. The drawdown, he said, would have limited effect on the water levels.

The Harza Engineering study recommends that the plant be located on the left bank of Buffalo Creek in a natural valley where the project would not disturb the lake's dam or spillway. The study pointed out that the power plant would be the means for releasing water down Buffalo Creek and would not affect the water used for municipal supply.

The Mayor said after the meeting that he and other city officials expect to attend a National Hydroelectric Power Study hearing in Atlanta later this month which is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers aimed at ranking hydropower sites and then making a recommendation to Congress.

"The adoption of this project is a major step in the city's efforts to conserve our natural resources and develop the city's capability on a self-contained energy program for the future. It will prove cost-efficient in view of the continuing escalation of the cost of energy at all levels," continued Mayor Moss.

### VOLLEYBALL

Men's and women's church league volleyball seasons will begin September 2. A meeting for all coaches and team representatives will be held August 25 at 7 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church. All teams interested in entering are urged to be present.

missioners. "I frankly don't know the answer," said Thomasson. "We need to speed up the billing from the time the petition is signed and confirmed."

Mayor John Henry Moss concurred and reminded that state statutes involve a lengthy legal procedure the city must follow and that street projects are approved on the basis of completing them when and if funds are available. "These are some of the heartaches we run into," said the Mayor, who said he was sympathetic with the citizens but did not understand how the transferee could omit passing out information on assessments to the current property owners.

Elizabeth Pace said she was told two years ago by a city employe that her bill would be \$150 and that when she received her statement last week it was twice that amount. Mrs. Pace said the streets by her house have not been resurfaced and that in process of improvements the city uprooted her mailbox

and the postal department had refused to deliver her mail in it.

Each property owner was assessed \$3.42 per foot of the total project costs of \$18,588, according to Section Supervisor Ted Huffman. The city pays 50 percent of the total project cost and some 160 tons of asphalt were used.

Steve Walker, who told the board that he was serving in Vietnam when the former owner of his house signed the assessment petition, noted that the street in front of his house is patched but he wonders "where the 160 tons of asphalt went to."

"We regret there are so many new people on the street but the project was started in good faith. I'm sure that it took longer than anyone would like," said the Mayor.

Huffman said prices for materials in the project were actual costs in 1978 and that assessments were figured "very leniently." He said the city was billed for 160 tons of asphalt and "that is what we paid."

Comm. Jim Childers made the motion, which carried unanimously, that the board table the matter for further study.

In other actions in the meeting which was recessed at 10:30 p.m. for an executive session of an hour and 20 minutes; and adjourned near midnight:

•The board accepted withdrawal of a petition of Mack Lefevers who had requested the rezoning of property on the north side of Jackson St. from R-10 to R-8 to construct a duplex apartment. A petition in opposition to the project was signed by citizens of the area and a large number of Linwood Area property owners were present to oppose the petition.

•The board tabled, upon motion of Comm. Childers, the advertising of bids for bricking of four buildings in the downtown area until design plans are obtained. The buildings under consideration are Myers Printing, Sudie's Beauty Shop, Griffin Drug Co. and McGinnis Depart-

ment Store. Mr. Childers said he was "all for the project" but would like for the board to have the opportunity to make suggestions on design of the building.

•Gene White, community development director, presented rules and regulations for disposal of property in the Cansler Street urban renewal area and noted they are basically the same rules as applied for the redevelopment commission which he formerly headed. He said that provision has been made for the sale of lots to individuals and that average appraisal values from figures obtained four years ago were from \$1,200 to \$2,400. White said criteria for the sale of the 40-45 lots is basically the same as the procedure followed by the Redevelopment Commission. White distributed copies of the regulations to the board which will study them and place the item on the Aug. 26 meeting agenda.

•The board authorized the city attorney to proceed with legal action against Avery Murray to

bring his West Mountain St. property in conformance with city ordinances.

•The board restricted heavy truck traffic on Gold St. from Battleground to York Rd. This applies to trucks over one and one half tons.

•The board advertised for bids for fencing the recreation area at Moss Lake and approved readvertising for bids for the city's supply of asphalt since only two bids were received at Monday's meeting.

•The board accepted the bid of \$10,974.18 from Mill Power Supply for electrical supplies.

•The board approved a municipal maintenance agreement on traffic control devices in the city with the N.C. Department of Transportation.

•After an executive session to discuss personnel, the board voted to uphold the dismissal of an employee in the Sanitation Department by the department head. The employee had filed a grievance under the city's personnel procedure.

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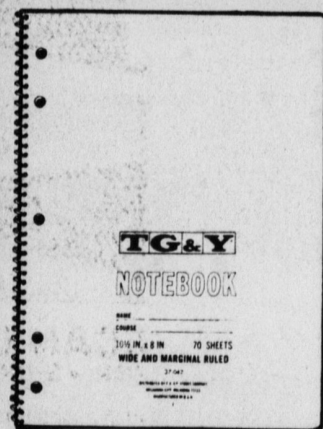


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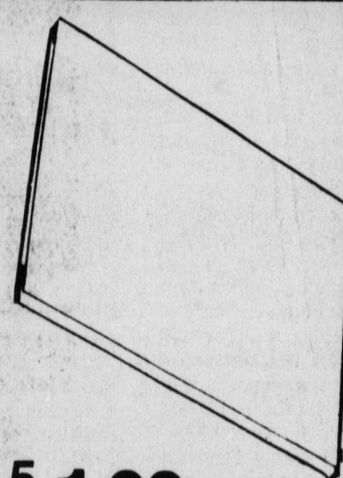
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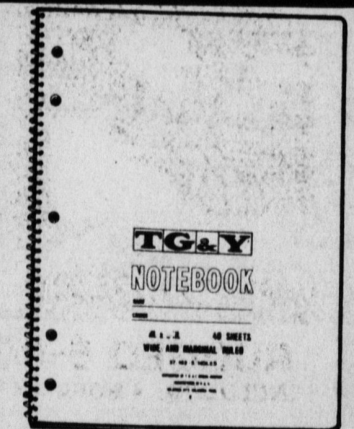
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