

## New Electric Rates Adopted By City Board

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Co-Editor

As expected, the city board of commissioners adopted the recommendation of Southeastern Consulting Engineers Monday night and upped the electric rates an average of 10.5 percent.

The new rates will be effective Sept. 1 and will be reflected in the Oct. 1 billings to city customers.

The electric rate increase, according to Engineer W.H. Little Jr., is expected to absorb an estimated nine percent increase the city will pay Duke Power Co. for wholesale power.

Oct. 1 billings from the city will see higher rates for city users of both natural gas and electricity. The board, at the same time it received a preliminary report on the electrical hike proposal, approved increase in gas rates to absorb increases in wholesale cost of gas purchased from Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Co. The projected natural gas hike is a whopping 59.12 cents per MCF to all classes of customers, while the electric hike will mean some customers will pay 6 to 12 percent more, depending on which rate block they use. Little said the 10.5 percent is the average over the whole classification of customers.

"The rates are too darn high," Clayvon Kelly strongly objected, as he expressed concern for "all our people on fixed incomes." Replying to Kelly's question about how much profit the city will make on electricity, Little said the city's net revenue after all bills are paid will total \$21,541. Kelly disagreed with the estimated profit, pointing out that the electrical engineer will be paid \$8,000 for survey work

alone. Little said the average residential electric bill for a customer who uses 825 kilowatts of electricity will increase from \$39.40 a month to \$44.13 a month, plus an adjustment for the wholesale fuel charge. The city took Little's recommendation to add on the fuel charge, about 10 percent, because the city did not take in as much as it paid out last year, Little said. Little estimates that residential all-electric customers using an average of 1,425 kilowatts of electricity would pay \$64.04 plus the fuel adjustment as compared to \$58.45 per month previously.

"That's too much for our people on fixed incomes to pay," declared Kelly, who noted that Duke is making a 9.1 percent increase to its customers yet Kings Mountain is charging between 10.5 and 12 percent while other cities in the area are maintaining the same hike as Duke. Duke gets the kicking and we do the paying," said Kelly, who charged that "every time Duke raises the city shafts us. Some of our people can't pay \$60 more a year for power," he added.

Comm. Jim Childers, responding to Mr. Kelly's remarks, said that "when rates go up the city does not say now is our time to go up. We all pay utility bills. My bill last month was \$138.09."

Comm. Bill Grissom responded, "I don't like it either. Everything's going up. We're citizens just like you and are affected just like you by these increases in power and natural gas. The city didn't bring about these increases, they were made by the suppliers."

"At no time since 1978 has the city's rates been higher than Duke Power's and before that they were considerably lower,"

said Little.

Little's recommendations to the city included provisions that Duke Power's winter rates - the cheapest - be adopted in all six proposed rates to produce 10.5 percent more revenue than the existing rates.

Other recommendations, which the city adopted, were to establish a minimum charge of 90 cents per KW of contract demand for the two-load factor type rate schedules; retain the present policy of passing on Duke's wholesale fuel surcharge that has been adjusted 10 percent for losses; retain the revenue, KWH and KW records for residential and commercial rate classifications. A separate record will be initiated in order to closely monitor Duke's fuel cost adjustment and insure cost is recovered. Outdoor lighting schedules of \$3.75 and \$5.85 are below Duke's lighting schedules and the city will increase those to \$4.80 and \$7.75.

A meter testing company will be contacted to check one-third of all the three phase and demand meters annually in order that all meters of that type will be checked every three years.

In addition, any commercial or industrial customer with an energy consumption over 3,500 KWH will have a demand meter and billed accordingly. All schools and churches will be billed under commercial rate schedules. The city's energy consumption will be metered and billed in keeping with the city's desire for each department to reflect actual cost. Each different type of street light, yard light and traffic signal will be metered and an actual cost be maintained in order to reflect total KWH usage imposed on the electrical system. The recommended rates are expected to adequately recover the base interest in the cost of purchased power and provide for additional increases in operating margins, said Little.

## Citizens Protest Assessment

City commissioners Monday night voted 5-0, with Comm. Humes Houston absent, to assess controversial fees for curbing and guttering on Princeton Dr. from Fulton to dead end over objections of 36 citizens who petitioned the board to "strike the unfair and unjust assessments from the record."

City Attorney George Thomasson said that under the general statutes, the law requires petitions filed by over 50 percent of property owners, which was done, he said, and the work took longer than expected to complete. The streets have been improved, he said, and the current property owners will reap the benefits although it's unfortunate some of them did not know of the assessments until after they bought their properties from former owners who had approved the petition nine years ago. The city is obligated to confirm the assessment, the attorney responded to questions from Mayor John Henry Moss.

A group of Princeton Drive residents repeated their protests aired at the board's last meeting and reiterated their claims they knew nothing of the assessments until billed by the city. Some reported charges ranging from \$290 to \$410 for concrete and asphalt for improvements to properties which began in 1978 and completed this year.

Reiterating that they didn't live in the area when the petition was first signed nine years ago

Turn To 3A



Photo by Gary Stewart

**HEADQUARTERS OPEN** - Opening ceremonies were held at the headquarters for the 200th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain Wednesday morning. The headquarters are located in the old First Union National Bank building at the intersec-

tion of Battleground Avenue and West Mountain Street. Pictured above, front row, left to right, are Ted Huffman, Mayor John Moss, John Hill and Jerri Werner. Back row, Gene Tignor, Jimmy Dickey and Jerry King.

## Anniversary Headquarters Open In Old Bank Building

Celebration headquarters in the former First Union National Bank building at 137 West Mountain St. opened Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m.

The headquarters, which will serve as an information center and will be manned by Jim Rhyne, former newspaperman, will be open on weekends only until Sept. 27 when it will be staffed full time through Oct. 7, the 200th anniversary date of the Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain.

Mayor John Henry Moss, general chairman of the celebration committee, said that the headquarters will be used for planning and implementing the celebration which will begin Sept. 23 in Abingdon, Va. with the initiation of a reenactment of the march of the Overmountain Men to the battle site at Kings Mountain National Military Park.

The Mayor said a number of events have been planned along the route of the Overmountain Men and in the City of Kings Mountain during the final five days of the celebration.

The telephone number of the information office is 739-3466

and after the weekend of Sept. 27th the office will be open daily from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Present at the opening ceremonies were Mayor Moss, John Hill, assistant director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for the State of South Carolina and finance chairman of the celebration; Gene Tignor, parade chairman; Ted Huffman, property maintenance chairman; Jim Dickey, assistant activities chairman; Jerri Werner, administrator; Jerry King, manager of the outdoor drama "Then Conquer We Must," Mrs. Hill and Kings Mountain fireman Larry Smith.

Hill presented Mayor Moss a \$5,000 check from the State of North Carolina to help finance the celebration.

Mayor Moss noted that many historians are calling the Kings Mountain celebration "the most significant historical celebration in the history of Western North Carolina. I think that speaks very highly of the event."

Governors of five states - North and South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia - will take an active part in the celebration. Moss said Governor

Jim Hunt of North Carolina plans to participate in the Overmountain Victory Trail march which will begin in Abingdon, Va., and continue to the Kings Mountain National Military Park.

The event has been in the planning stages for 18 months and all division chairmen reported their events are on target. President Carter has been invited and Mayor Moss said "we feel real confident that he'll attend."

If Carter does attend, it'll mark the first time since 1930 that a President has come to Kings Mountain. President Hoover spoke at the 150th Battle Celebration then.

### MUSIC PROGRAM

The Senior Citizens band will present a program of music Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Midview Baptist Church. Rev. Fred Wells, pastor, invites the public to attend.

### EMT CLASS SET

EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) classes will be held at Grover Rescue Squad starting Sept. 9. The meetings will be held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 until 10 p.m.



**PRESENTATION** - John Hill, budget and finance chairman for the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain, left, presents Mayor John Henry Moss with a \$5,000 check from the State of South Carolina to help finance the event. Presentation was made at the opening of the bicentennial headquarters Wednesday morning.

## Herald's Football Contest Will Begin Next Tuesday

It's that time again. Football's here. The Herald, as in past seasons, will again sponsor its "Pick The Winners" football contest.

The first contest page will appear in Tuesday's edition and will carry games of September 5, the first night of high school competition in the area.

Each week, 20 games, including high school and college, will appear on the page of advertisements. The person who comes closest to predicting all the winners will receive the \$75 prize.

The Herald's cash prize is the biggest payoff of any newspaper in the state.

In case of a two-way tie, the prize money will be divided. If more than two persons tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner.

Contestants are urged to read the rules carefully. The main thing to remember is that you are allowed only one entry, and it must be in our hands by noon Fridays. All entries coming in past noon Friday, regardless of the date of their postmark, will be disqualified.

So, get out your crystal ball, and get ready. You may be our first winner.



Photo by Gary Stewart

**GIFT TO PUTNAM FUND** - Members of the American Legion Auxiliary, through a recent dance benefit and a Woodbridge-sponsored golf tournament, raised \$3,630.00 for benefit of cancer patient Billy Putnam and his family. From left, Mrs. Clara Rhea, Unit 155 president, Mrs. J.D. Barrett, Unit 155 treasurer, and Carl

Champion, far right, representing golfers, present the check to Mr. Putnam. A Gastonia man, Sonny Savage, not pictured, won the \$700 set of golf clubs presented by the Auxiliary and donated by a California golf company for the benefit.