

Is new job targeted for town's ex-mayor?

By Ron Page

Calling it a political job that is not needed, some 40 citizens Monday night attacked action by the Morrisville Board of Commissioners to create the position of administrative services coordinator.

"We're against this and don't want it shoved down our throats," said Randy Watkins of Airport Boulevard. When R.B. Buchanan of 109 Marcom Drive charged, "This is a political job being made for one particular person," applause again broke out. One member of the audience shouted: "Defeat it. It's not wanted."

That's how some Morrisville citizens size it up

But approval of the new position, which several of the objectors said is being created for former mayor Ernest Lumley, eventually came despite the protest. Only Commissioner Mark Silver-Smith voted against the position. Mayor Margaret E. Broadwell, who does not have a vote, expressed her disapproval as well, going as far as to charge Town Manager David Hodgkins had been pressured into backing the suggested move.

A 10-point list of responsibilities was offered to describe the duties of the new position, generally outlining that the administrator would perform a variety of duties and tasks that may involve several departments, coordinate various support functions as assigned by the town manager, and perform related work as required.

Residents showed up for the meeting as word got around town that the new position was to be proposed. Even before the item arose on the agenda, several residents made their feelings known during the time devoted to public comments.

The tone of the meeting was hostile, with charges brought not only by members of the audience but among commissioners themselves.

Watkins asked who came up with the idea. "We've heard around town that one man had been hand-

picked for this job. Is there anyone here tonight who thinks we need to spend \$40,000-plus for someone in a position like this when we have a town manager who gets \$65,000?" Applause broke out from the audience.

Buchanan, meanwhile, told commissioners the people want to know about such decisions before they are made, decisions he described as underhanded. "The people are tired of it. We want our town back," he

said. "You should all be up there looking out for our interests, not the developers."

Commissioner Mark Silver-Smith explained he had not been told about the proposal by other commissioners. Mayor Broadwell, meanwhile, turned to Hodgkins and pointedly asked: "Is it true you told me in my office earlier this week you felt pressured to put this on the agenda?" Hodgkins began to say he didn't feel pressured, when Silver-Smith cut in, saying, "Be careful, David. I'll back the mayor up."

"Is it not true you told me Com-

See RESIDENTS, page 2



A LITTLE TOO CLOSE—The realigned portion of Morrisville-Carpenter Road will cross over the corner of Sandy Czeck's yard,

through the area where a camper is now parked. Mrs. Czeck says she will put up a picket fence to keep her grandchildren from harm.

Scott says Shiloh's sewer setup stinks

Ex-member airs views before boasting town board members

By Ron Page

Hailing their move as the forerunner of future development and a blessing to an area that has never had sewer services, Morrisville commissioners have approved two sanitary sewer projects for part of the Shiloh community at a cost of \$410,000.

But one influential resident of an area in Shiloh that isn't included in the plan says she's not all that enthralled.

Dolores Scott, a former commissioner who lives on Church Street near Kits Creek Road, said the plan falls short and leaves her concerned about when she and other residents will have sewer access.

"It's piecemealing," she said. What the project will do, she feels, is entice developers and encourage property owners to sell, all this occurring while those who do not have access pay the taxes for the work.

"It's not fair," Scott told commissioners Monday night, emphasizing that she and other residents were not informed of the projects. "It's important for everyone to be informed," she said.

Scott's comments came five days after the two projects were approved at a special meeting on Aug. 21. One plan was approved unanimously, the other by a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Mark Silver-Smith dissenting. Silver-Smith expressed a concern about the source of financing for the projects.

The Shiloh community, where homeowners and businesses rely on septic tanks, and where residents had been promised sewer services when they agreed to be annexed by Morrisville in 1989, spans the northern portion of town from its westerly line at RTP to the town limits of Durham east of N.C. 54. The area has never had sewer lines except for a private pipeline that runs to the Belk Hudson Leggett distribution center on the east side of Church Street. Design and permit process will start immediately for the two new and independent projects.

Unanimous approval was given the first project, which is the Sawmill Branch Interceptor sewer line. It is to be extended from its current location at the Belk Service Center

north to McCrimmon Parkway, a distance of approximately 1,800 linear feet. In offering the project for approval, Commissioner Phyllis Newnam said the line would serve properties along Church Street south of McCrimmon Parkway and north of the Belk facility. "It will also serve properties between Church Street and the railroad, south of McCrimmon Parkway," she explained.

Newnam estimated the cost at \$75,000 and said the funds will come from the Water and Sewer Capital Reserve. Design of the plan and attendant initial costs were placed at about \$5,500.

"This area of the town has waited long enough," she said. "Though this may seem like a giant step, this is just the start of good things to come to this area. These citizens have been very patient and this project makes me proud to be a member of this Board."

The second and larger project extends the Cedar Fork Outfall sewer line from its location north of Metro Center located at Perimeter Park Drive east of N.C. 54, to an area north of the Deli Box on N.C. 54. This will be a combination of gravity and force main, with work to include installing a pump station in the vicinity of where Barbee Road crosses Church Street. This project will include about 9,500 linear feet, 7,800 feet of 8-inch and 12-inch mains, and about 2,000 feet of 4-inch mains, a pumping station, and boring under the railway.

Areas to be served include properties along Church Street in the vicinity of Shiloh Baptist Church, properties along Barbee Road and properties between N.C. 54 and Watkins Road, south of the Deli Box and north of the Metro Center. Cost is estimated at \$335,000. The projects will serve some 30 residences in Shiloh, more than half the developed land, and about a third of the total Shiloh area, much of which is undeveloped.

"With the Newnam project," Commissioner Sauls claimed, "this will serve most of the Shiloh residences on Church Street from the church back to the center of town."

In his motion to approve, Sauls said he and Newnam worked long

See SCOTT, page 7

Dings of the road: views vary along the way

By Ron Page

A plan by state officials to complete the long-awaited realignment of Morrisville-Carpenter Road and Aviation Parkway at N.C. 54 brings mixed emotions from residents and business owners affected by the project.

One resident is concerned with safety, one business owner says it will mean closing down, another expects it to increase sales, while another simply shrugs and says a traffic light and a few signs would have sufficed.

The \$1.3 million project will eliminate one of two railroad crossings and permanently close two streets while creating a new spruced-up intersection with traffic signals and left turn lanes.

Charlotte-based Rea Construction

Co. has a \$818,410 contract for the realignment work and has installed construction warning signs and erosion control measures and cleared land. BellSouth has put in its underground lines. Storm drains, waterlines and manholes are being installed on weekends when motorists will be rerouted from the work zones.

The roads will again be closed for a weekend in November so workmen can work around the clock to raise the elevation of Aviation Parkway and N.C. 54 by almost four feet to match the height of the railroad crossing. At the end, Ashe Street and Old Morrisville-Carpenter Road will be permanently closed to traffic.

But the project has brought varied feelings from those in and about the

path of the work.

At Pine Cone Stables on N.C. 55, just opposite the Morrisville-Carpenter intersection which is to be closed, owner Hunter Young crafts a variety of wood stools, tables, wall hangings, swings and artifacts in his shop, and also displays a large array of yard ornaments. He has lived in the house next door for about six years.

Young admits the intersection has been a problem during that time, but feels appropriate signs and a signal light would have answered the problem just as well.

"They could have put up a sign with a circle and a red slash noting no left turns, added a traffic light, and that would be it," said the 73-year-old retired mortgage banker who hails originally from Okla-

homa. He feels traffic has gotten worse as the area has grown, but the traffic light and another at Aviation Parkway could just as well have solved the problem.

"We used to get a lot of business from passing traffic, but ever since the accident at the crossing which resulted in police directing traffic during weekday rush hours, business died. People won't stop with police in the area," he said. The proposed elevated roadway would also present a safety problem for those with properties along that stretch, he feels.

"But the road will be. There's no reason to be negative," he added.

Over at a soon-to-be-closed stretch of Morrisville-Carpenter Road near the crossing, Ben Terrell

See SHOP, page 2

Clam dip and Newt cost \$25 per minute

By Ron Page

Preston resident Terry Pegram had only a week to prepare his celebrity house guest, but when the name Newt Gingrich was mentioned, he had no problem convincing friends and associates to donate \$500 each to chat with the U.S. Speaker of the House and snack on shrimp and clam dip at Pegram's home on Trail Bend Court.

Gingrich's appearance helped Pegram raise more than \$10,000 for the Jimmy V Foundation less than 48 hours before Sunday's Jimmy V Golf Classic at Prestonwood Country Club. Pegram, who owns a graphics firm and is a member of the tournament's board of directors, expects to net about \$10,300 after expenses.

The Georgia Republican's visit to the Triangle originally was designed as a private Raleigh fundraiser for Congressman Fred Heineman. When his representatives learned that he would have some extra time, they contacted tournament executive director Frank McCann about the possibility of helping raise funds to benefit cancer research.

"We heard from his people a week ahead of time but wound up having only four or five days to put

See CLAM, page 2



THEY LIKED MIKE—Duke basketball coach Mike Kryzewski, who prefers tennis, didn't play in Sunday's Jimmy V Golf Classic at Prestonwood Country Club, but he did sign autographs as wife Mickey substituted for him on the course. For more photos by Kirk Kirkland, see page 9 of this month's Progress.

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