

Morrisville voters back Republicans in general election

By Debbie Burdick

Residents casting ballots at the Morrisville Community Center presented a predominately Republican profile against a backdrop of county, state, and nationwide Democratic victories during the Nov. 5 election.

In the Cedar Forks Precinct, Bob Dole carried 56 percent of the votes cast for president, while Bill Clinton received only 35 percent of the ballots cast.

In straight party voting, the Republican Party prevailed as well in Cedar Forks. Nearly two hundred more ballots were cast for a straight Republican ticket than for a straight Democratic ticket, 534 to 335.

The vote for U.S. Senate was one of the few in which the will of the voters at the Morrisville Community Center reflected the overall vote. Jesse Helms defeated Harvey Gantt, with the Cedar Forks Precinct vote at 55 and 40 percent respectively.

While the voters' choice in Cedar Forks was mainly at odds with

overall results, at least one prominent citizen was satisfied with the election.

Mayor Margaret Broadwell said, "personally, I'm very pleased that a lot of the Democrats got in, and I'm happy that Governor Hunt was re-elected by both Republican and Democratic voters."

Fred Heineman, the Republican incumbent who lost his bid for reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives, received half again as many votes in Cedar Forks as did the victorious challenger, David

Price. Ballots cast for Heineman numbered 1,235, while Price received 852.

The only major race in which a Democrat clearly prevailed over a Republican in Cedar Forks was the gubernatorial race. Jim Hunt received 170 more votes than losing challenger Robin Hayes. In the race for Attorney General, Mike Easley won, but only by nine votes.

Republican Richard Petty also received more of the local vote in his much-publicized unsuccessful bid for Secretary of State, 47 more

than Elaine Marshall. Morrisville gave majority approval to all three losing Republican hopefuls in the races for County Commissioner. Republicans Herb Council, Bill Johnson and Ray Paquette each received about 400 more votes in the Cedar Forks Precinct than their winning Democratic opponents Yevonne Brammon, Vernon Malone and Betty Lou Ward.

In the race for N.C. State Senate, District 13, Morrisville showed the same favor for unsuccessful Repub-

lican contenders. Bill R. Dunn and Brian Womack received 1,151 votes and 1,093 votes respectively. Winning Democrats Wb Gulley and Jeanne Lucas gathered only 718 and 645 votes each.

Likewise, in the race for N.C. House District 63, losing Republican Arlene Pulley had half again as many votes in Morrisville as the overall winner, Jane Moseley.

State bond referendums for highways and schools passed by wide margins both in Cedar Forks and in the state overall.

Board approves new engineering position

The Town of Morrisville is looking for someone to fill a newly created position at town hall.

Earlier this month, the Board of Commissioners approved a plan to hire a director of engineering whose annual salary would range between \$39,600 and \$58,507.

In recommending the plan, Town Manager David Hodgkins said the rapid rate of development and growth and the complexity of development issues had brought on a need for in-house technical support.

Among other duties, the staff engineer would review construction plans for utilities like water and sewer lines, streets and storm drains, and for new site and subdivision development.

Hodgkins said the engineer would assume jobs that had been done by a firm, thereby saving money spent on contracted services.

Hodgkins said he recommended the salary range to attract a quality person who had relevant experience. He added that the pay range was in line with comparable positions offered in other towns like Apex, Garner, Holly Springs and Wake Forest.

But Commissioner Mark Silver-Smith said that while he agreed with the concept, he felt an engineer may be more than the town needed.

Silver-Smith said the position appeared to be the beginnings of a new department that would cost

money to equip.

He suggested delaying a decision until next spring when the position could be planned for and budgeted, rather than paid for out of the town's contingency.

"I don't see a dire need to do this by January," he said.

But Hodgkins said the cost savings to the town would pay for the salary and that any difference would be paid for out of the General Fund balance, unappropriated money available for spending.

Commissioner Billy Sauls said he wholeheartedly supported the plan. "The way the town is growing, this is another step toward where we need to be," he said.

Commissioner C.T. Moore

agreed the position was needed but wanted Hodgkins to hire "new blood," someone unrelated or unknown to town employees or members of the town board.

At first, Moore made his wish into a condition and attached it to his motion to approve the job, but he later withdrew it at Hodgkins' request.

"I have a problem with officials restricting how I hire, if the applicants meet the qualifications," Hodgkins said.

The board gave the position its unanimous approval.

Hodgkins said he expected to interview candidates and have the position filled by late January.

Site plan approved for new 120-room hotel

The welcome mat has been put out for another motel to be erected in Morrisville, this one at the intersection of Slater Road and Airport Boulevard.

The proposed 120-room hotel is one of the several new site plans approved by the Board of Commissioners. Extended Stay America will be constructed on a 2.4-acre plot along what officials have publicly referred to as the main entryway into Morrisville. The owner is Copley Capital I Partners of Cary.

Despite a plea from Michael A. Fiocco of Civil Consultants that a required 50-degree turning radius for the driveway would be a hardship, the town held that the radius was one they required at all other similar buildings.

Fiocco asked that it be cut down to 30 feet, explaining the larger turn area would restrict parking and eliminate several planned parking spaces. It was later said that two of the proposed 124 parking spaces would be lost with the larger turning requirement.

The applicant said the entryway was to be widened to accommodate the fire department, but that the largest truck entering the premises would be a garbage truck.

When Commissioners Billy Sauls and C.T. Moore raised questions about other deliveries, they were told that the hotel will not have a restaurant which might have needed truck deliveries, and that all of the lines to be used at the hotel will be delivered during construction.

"There will be no 18 wheelers," Fiocco assured them. Commissioners held to the regulations, however.

Other site plan approvals included one from Prestonwood Country Club for several refuge collector facilities adjacent to the already approved small restrooms

being constructed on the club's golf courses. Plans were approved on a motion by Commissioner Sauls, seconded by Commissioner Leavy Barbee.

An Averit Express site plan was approved for a 50- by 175-foot addition to the existing facility on Chapel Hill Road. The Planning and Zoning Board requirement of the planting of evergreen shrubbery similar to the existing landscape

was approved, as was a requirement that a 5-foot concrete sidewalk be constructed along Triangle Parkway.

Approved as well was a 4,000-square-foot warehouse addition at Applied Control Technology's existing building on Morrisville Parkway. It will not require any additional sewer or water capacity.

Another approved site plan was one that had been tabled at an earlier meeting. AAA Cooper Transportation was given approval to build a transfer trucking facility and office on 15.9 acres in the Cedar Fork Business Park off Aviation Parkway. The firm is based in Dothan, Ala., and Talton Engineering of Raleigh made the site application.

Board approves site plan for police station

A site plan for a new \$550,000 police station won the town board's approval last month, but there'll be no bricks and mortar until an actual cost is in the town's hands.

The board put the project out for bids and will submit the project to the Local Government Commission for financing approval as required by law.

"We don't know what it will cost until the bids come in," Town Manager David Hodgkins said. The bid deadline is Dec. 3.

Hodgkins said the board had not set a specific limit on what it would be willing to spend but had used the figure of \$750,000 as a guideline.

In the meantime, the town is soliciting proposals from five area lending institutions for financing options.

The site plan, designed by Smith Sinnott Associates in Raleigh — the same company that designed the town hall — calls for a 4,100-square-foot building which would be located on the town hall campus to the right of the town hall. It will have a 900-square-foot canopy to a side entry.

The building will have a similar style and theme as the town hall.

The current police station on Page Street has less than 1,000 square feet and is cramped.

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