

Apartments

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Parkway and the future James Jackson Avenue. The project is being developed at a density of 5.73 dwelling units per acre.

The approvals did not come without lengthy discussions.

Town Engineer Jay Gibson and Fire Chief Tony Chiotakis expressed concerns about the impact of traffic from the Legends development on Morrisville Parkway. At Gibson's request, the developers have asked the North Carolina Department of Transportation to make a cut in the median at the complex's entrance.

Gibson asked that the board wait until the median cut was approved before approving the project. Chiotakis also cautioned the board that the median cut is needed. He said when Preston originally brought the plan to the town, the land was to be used for a refreshment center for the golf course. He said the original plan would have had negligible traffic impact.

Karl Blackley of Preston Development cited a traffic report conducted by Kimley-Horne Associates, traffic engineers, stating that even without the median cut, traffic from the project will remain within reasonable limits.

"Morrisville Parkway is not even close to capacity," he said. "We will do everything we can with DOT, but we still think we have a viable project, even without the curb cut," he said.

Sauls made the motion to approve the project, seconded by Commissioner Leavy Barbee.

"We're gonna have traffic problems from now on," Barbee said, before making his second. "I don't see the idea of waiting for DOT. DOT will in time correct the traffic problems."

Commissioner Mark Silver-Smith voted against the project.

The road through Cameron Chase Apartments would connect Morrisville Parkway to the future Cary Parkway, and Gibson asked that the road be straightened and widened to be used as a traffic connector, but developers said it would take up about 15 percent of the site, and make it economically unfeasible.

Commissioners Phyllis Newnam and Mark Silver-Smith also disagreed with Gibson.

"You wouldn't want heavy traffic going through a residential area," Mrs. Newnam said. "You'd have a mess."

Silver-Smith said, "We wouldn't want to destroy something that's viable."

The complex also featured gated entrances on both sides, and developers said they were willing to remove the gates.

The extension of Cary Parkway, which would tie into the development, is not slated to be completed until early 2000.

The project was approved unanimously with the removal of the gated entrances.

In other planning matters, the board approved a plan that will define the utility service and annexation boundary between Durham and Morrisville at the border of the two towns. The boundary line substantially follows the Wake-Durham county line with slight deviation.

Also at the request of the town planner and engineer, the board considered a right-of-way dedication ordinance that would require developers to set aside property for later road-widening projects. This recommendation was forwarded to the planning board for its input and will return to the town board in December.

The board also approved a 20,860 square foot flex building in Cedar Fork Industrial Park.

Newcomers surprised at being elected to board

By Mary Beth Phillips

Gordon Cromwell, who will be sworn in as mayor on Dec. 8, was surprised to be elected, so much so that he hadn't cancelled his usual Tuesday night Bible Study.

"I hadn't planned to win, so why change it?" he asked, adding that there was a celebratory mood at the meeting.

Bill Case was not expecting to win either. He and the other newly elected board member Jan Faulkner were together at the Morrisville Community Center polling place with their friend, incumbent mayor Margaret Broadwell. When they heard the results, "at first I was in shock," Case said.

Ms. Faulkner was excited about being elected, but "very disappointed that Margaret didn't get elected. I think some of the bad publicity, bad letters, negative type stuff was a factor," she said.

But both she and Case say they want to put all that behind them and do what is best for the town.

The three incumbents, Broadwell, Billy Sauls and Phyllis Newnam were all seeking re-election and were defeated.

Case said he has consulted with all three of them. "Those folks are a vital part of our town, and have been a vital part for two to eight years and more. There are a lot of ideas, a lot of resources from those folks that can be used."

Ms. Faulkner said she likes being involved with the town, and "I want to involve the people, the residents, the citizens of Morrisville. They kind of think they have been cut out of the loop. I want to speak for the people."

Cromwell, Case and Faulkner will join C.T. Moore, Mark Silver-Smith and Leavy Barbee on the board when they are sworn in in December.

Cromwell spent Nov. 18-20 at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill with about 100 other newly elected officials, taking classes on everything from funding to land use to dealing with the media.

Faulkner and Case plan to take a similar set of classes at a later time.

Cromwell said the other newcomers, "both have a desire to do the business of the town. They act like a professional group...."

"I think the new board will work together well," he added.

All three agree that water and sewer capacity is the major issue confronting the town as they take

their seats. Extending water and sewer to the parts of town that are not already served is a big priority with all three.

"Ultimately we have to try to decide what the town should look like five years down the road, because we are land bound and we can't go out and start annexing a lot of property," Cromwell said.

Ms. Faulkner, who must give up her seat on the planning board when she takes her seat on the board of commissioners also feels that an updated land use plan with designations for multi-family residential zoning is a priority.

"Roads are another thing that we need to consider," Ms. Faulkner said. "The density we have up and down Morrisville Parkway, along the 54 Morrisville Parkway area, I think there will be some major traffic problems if we don't consider doing something with the roads, or limiting the density that can go in that area. If we go any further, we're going to have a problem."

Case said, "We need to sit down, and probably with work sessions and stuff, we need to set some goals, and get some future plans set up. It's going to take some time, but I'm gearing up to dive right in and solve some of the issues of the town."

Cromwell said, "I think it's going to be interesting. I think if we perform well, we can do a lot for the town."

Tree lighting set Dec. 7

The Town of Morrisville's Seventh Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Open House will be held at Town Hall, 100 Town Hall Dr. on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

The Carolina Hurricane's Mascot, the Homeland Singers and the arrival of Santa will be part of the event Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call the Parks and Recreation and Cultural Resources Department at 469-9760.



ONGOING CONSTRUCTION—Work on the town's police station is several weeks behind schedule. The board is considering whether to charge the contractor a penalty for the delay.

Town hopeful station ready by mid-December

Work is still ongoing on the Morrisville Police Station building, but town officials are reserving judgment whether to penalize the contractor.

The deadline had been extended from Sept. 23 to Oct. 22 earlier in the year. Interior work was still not complete Nov. 24.

The contract allows the town to charge \$500 per day for liquidated damages if the company fails to meet the deadline without good reason.

Officials in the construction company, Webster Environmental, Inc. of Ruffin, say some of the problems were caused by delays in receiving architectural drawings, and mistakes in some of the drawings that later had to be corrected. They also had to wait for soil testing in the early part of the project.

"We'd like to be in there by now," acknowledged Town Manager David Hodgkins, but he expects it to be at least mid-December before police are moving in to the new building.

"Our main thrust right now is getting the project finished and

having a quality project," Hodgkins said. "The workmanship and everything seems to be fine."

The police department is currently located in about a 1,000 square foot building on Page Street in the residential section of old Morrisville. The new building, next to the town hall on Town Hall Drive will have 4,100 square feet.

The contractor had to redo some

of the cement work in July because it did not satisfy the architect overseeing the project, Smith-Sinnett Associates of Raleigh. At that time, the construction schedule was revised and the deadline moved to Oct. 22.

The construction contract was awarded last fall, and work began early this year.

Thank you for reading *The Progress*. See you next month.

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School children donate coins, cans to help sick, needy

The students at Morrisville Elementary School brought in canned goods to help those less fortunate, and also put coins in a large can for the Pennies From Heaven program which benefits the Make A Wish Foundation.

As of Friday, the students had dropped in \$170 worth of coins, but there were still coins that had not been counted.

Kristi Lee Smith, guidance counselor, hoped about \$200 would be raised in the Pennies from Heaven drive. The Make A Wish Foundation is a nonprofit organization that grants wishes to terminally ill children.

About 70 large boxes of canned goods will be donated to the Town of Morrisville for distribution to needy families. Morrisville police officers will pick up the canned goods and oversee their distribution.

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