

Board unsupportive of Federal Express

By Mary Beth Phillips

Morrisville officials will formally oppose the possibility of Federal Express locating at Raleigh-Durham International.

At a work session Monday, the board of commissioners asked Town Manager David Hodgkins to draw up a resolution opposing the location of the new business there.

They also asked Hodgkins to order copies of the Land Use Plan for each commissioner and Planning Board member for study, to look into a bill that would eliminate clear cutting of trees by developers, and to draw up an ordinance that would outlaw commercial burning.

Federal Express has said it is considering Raleigh-Durham among five or six locations in the Carolinas for a new hub to service its main hub in Memphis, Tenn.

"I don't see how we can benefit," said Commissioner C.T. Moore about Federal Express. "You're talking loud airplanes in the middle of the night."

Mayor Pro Tem Mark Silver-Smith, who was conducting the meeting, said he was concerned about road crowding and pollution from the smaller planes.

"Morrisville will have more impact than anyone else," Silver-Smith said.

He was also concerned about the

possibility of accidents with smaller cargo planes that do not have to follow the same safety standards as jets. He said there would be 175 more flights, which would increase the possibility of accidents.

"It's not a matter of if [they have an accident], it's when," Moore agreed.

Federal Express officials are promising high paying jobs but commissioners said other areas need jobs more than this area.

"I'd rather have 1,500 not working than 15,000 people getting woke," Moore said. "We've been too good a neighbor to the airport for them to do this."

Moore suggested attending an Airport Authority meeting in person to express their concerns, along with sending in the resolution.

Commissioners also decided to take a 30-day look at the Land Use Plan and then come back together on a meeting focused on Land Use. Copies will also be sent to all the Planning Board members to seek their input.

Commissioner Leavy Barbee suggested hiring Mike Sorenson of Sorenson & Associates who had developed the current Land Use Plan in the 1980s.

"He has knowledge of every foot in town. Not that our planner isn't all right," he added.

Town Manager David Hodgkins had said he favored hiring an outside consultant because of the workload of the new planning director with current plans in a booming town.

The plans have to be ordered from Wake County because Morrisville does not have a GIS system. Hodgkins said he would get the plans as soon as the county could produce them and the meeting would be set for 30 days after they were distributed.

Commissioner C.T. Moore, who is getting a reputation about his insistence on planting crepe myrtles instead of pines, brought up the concern about developers clear cutting their land before bringing their plans to the town.

"Don't other towns need a permit before they defoliate?" he asked.

Hodgkins said some area towns had submitted a bill into the last session of the N.C. General Assembly asking for special legislation outlawing clear-cutting, but the bill was not considered in the long session and probably will not be considered in the short session.

He said he thought Garner and Wake Forest were included in the bill and he would check into adding Morrisville.

Cary and Raleigh already have special legislation outlawing clear-cutting in their towns, he said.

"If we don't save them, we'll never see them again," Moore said. "Not in our lifetime."

Hodgkins said another alternative was requiring developers to replace large trees with other large trees, which are more expensive, and rewarding the ones who save large trees by requiring less landscaping.

Hodgkins will also write up an ordinance outlawing commercial burning in the town limits. The town currently does not allow residents to burn debris. Developers will still be allowed to have warming barrels at construction sites, but they must get a permit from the town to do so.

Silver-Smith also mentioned his support for the fire department, which will be audited in 1999 for a new fire insurance rating. He said the fire department will be a priority in the next budget process.

Barbee agreed. "We can't do tomorrow's work with yesterday's tools," he said.



SNOW BOP—Conner McNicholas nails his friend, Roshie Taheri, square in the face with a snowball. The two were out enjoying the snowy day Jan. 19. Both live in Preston.

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Suspects in local murders face death

The four men accused of killing two migrant workers in the Carpenter community in November might get the death penalty, after a judge designated the cases as capital murder cases at hearings on the week of Jan. 5.

Jeff Cruden, assistant district attorney who will be prosecuting the cases, said Judge Robert Farmer agreed to try the cases as capital cases because of the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Fernando Neri Perez, 20, and Valentin Suniga, 44, were found shot to death by Sheriff's deputies about 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 20 in the mobile home that they lived in on farmer Lee Phillips' property at 6750 Good Hope Church Road. They were migrant farm workers.

The four men charged will have separate trials which may begin as early as September, Cruden said.

The men charged are Montrese Tameal Miles, 20, of 3524 Misty River Dr., Raleigh; Jamie Antwon Mitchell, 19, of 4606 Craig Rd., Apex; Gregory Robinson Jr., 23, of 6112 Heath Hawkins Ct., Willow Spring; and Jonathan Russell Robinson, 24, of 1326 Wicklow Ct., Apt. E, Cary.

Cruden said he was consulting with attorneys and investigators to decide which young man would be tried first.

He said there were two aggravating factors in the case that made him seek the death penalty. One is that more than one person was killed, and the other is that the murders were committed during a robbery.

He said the jury would first deliberate on the guilt or innocence of the accused, and if he were found guilty of first degree murder, they would go back and deliberate about life or death.

Judge Farmer also appointed an extra attorney for each of the men after designating the trials capital cases.

Arraignment hearings were set for Feb. 2.

Rotary Club established

Continued from page 1

They also do Spring Daze and Lazy Daze as a fund-raiser for the club.

New members will be required to attend at least 60 percent of the meetings in their own clubs, and will be dismissed if they miss four meetings in a row. They have the option of attending other Rotary Clubs as "make-ups." Awards are given for perfect attendance.

Dues are usually \$100 per quarter, including meals. Rotarians meet once a week, usually at a breakfast, lunch or dinner meeting. There is a \$50 initiation fee and dues of about \$35 every six months for the state and national organization.

The prospective members who attended were: Ray Lech, executive director of the Morrisville Chamber of Commerce, who has had perfect attendance as a Rotarian in Michigan for 11 years; David Hodgkins, Morrisville town manager, also a former Rotarian; Mitch Adams, developer of Southport Business Park; Margaret Broadwell, former

mayor of Morrisville; Mark Silver-Smith, Morrisville Mayor Pro Tem; Paul Tymosko of BB&F; Brian Crissey of Voice-Tel; Dave Washington of AFP Technology; Jimmie Robertson of Ed Moore & Associates; Bob Ferguson of Ferguson Enterprises; Wendy Watson of Manpower RTP; John Abram of Nationwide Insurance; and Alexis Wheeler of NFE Technology.

Not all of these members will be eligible to be charter members. Charter members must either live or work in the city limits of Morrisville.

Those who had expressed an interest but were unable to attend Tuesday were Binnie Goel of NFE Technology, Eric Bostrom of Modern Office Mechanics, Bob Cutlip of Weeks/Lichten, and Gerry Boyle of Triangle Factory Shops Mall.

Silver-Smith was appointed provisional treasurer and Crissey, Mrs. Broadwell, and Robertson were asked to find a meeting place for the next meeting.

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