

# Aldermen delay vote on shelter

Vives pointed out that since the Salvation Army first proposed moving from its South Marshall Street location near Old Salem to east Winston-Salem five months ago, votes on the proposal have been along racial lines.

Some members of the board openly questioned whether or not the new proposal was worth the added expense.

"There is no racial harmony on that board," she said. And it appeared to me that the white aldermen were content to dump the shelter in Alderman Newell's ward as long as it stayed out of their wards."

Both of the present sites for the new shelter are in Alderman Virginia Newell's ward. But for Newell, news of an alternate site came as a welcome relief.

It was Newell who first made reference during the board meeting Monday night to a letter she and other board members received from H. King Triplett, acting chair of the Salvation Army's local Advisory Board, about a new site.

After reading the letter, Newell made the motion to approve the request of the Salvation Army for the alternate site and for the city manager to provide whatever assistance was necessary to develop the new facility and report back to the board with a "decision package" as soon as possible.

The motion was quickly seconded by Alderman Nelson Malloy.

But just as quickly, Alderman Robert Northington, who appeared to be annoyed at the prospect of what would amount to a fifth delay in making a decision on the shelter, chimed in with a host of questions. Questions, he said he had, because he had no communication of any kind from the mediator Mayor Martha Wood hired to help resolve the issue.

Northington voted against bringing in a mediator when the matter was considered, calling it "a waste of time and an abdication of the Board of Aldermen's authority as a governing body."

He asked then of Douglas Leckie, a member of the advisory board who was there to represent Triplett, who could not attend the board meeting.

"I've never seen, heard from, had a phone call, letter or anything else from whoever that person (mediator) may have been," Northington said. He asked Leckie which site, if either, the Salvation Army preferred.

Leckie answered that the Trade Street site was preferred, but that in the interest of Alderman Newell and others who wanted a compromise on alternative site that the Patterson location would be suitable.

Northington also asked for clarification on what the Salvation Army wanted from the board in helping to "get" the deal on the new location. "Does that mean you want us to provide what the federal government calls technical assistance...or does that mean you want us to do that and put some money in the deal?"

Leckie said the Salvation Army may need as much as \$42,000 to pay for some parcels of the site which has six different owners. Two owners of the largest parcels, he said, have given tentative indications that they would swap land for other city-owned property. But he said others would want money for their parcels and that the Salvation Army would be looking to the city for assistance.

When Northington asked city manager Bill Stuart where the cash would come from, Stuart said he didn't know.

Then he asked Newell if her motion was only that the city staff come back to the board with a proposal for consideration only. She said that was correct. That appeared to be a point that Aldermen Vivian Burke and Larry Womble also wanted to make sure was everyone's understanding and that the board's other options about a location were still open if it is determined that the Patterson location for some reason becomes unsuitable.

The new location came as a result of a mediator meeting repre-

sentatives of the Salvation Army, Kimberly Park residents, and the Homeless but not Helpless organization.

But Warren Coppedge, administrative assistant for the Salvation Army, said he was not so sure the controversy about the location of the shelter would die down even though an alternative site had been found.

"It really depends on what the city manager and his staff come up with," Coppedge said. "What if they come back and say the Trade

Street location is still best, or what if people in the Patterson area say they don't want the shelter there either even if the money is available. We'll just have to wait and see what happens."

The Salvation Army wants to move into a new facility in order to expand its services for the homeless and federal inmates.

Local developer David Shannon struck a deal with the Salvation Army where the agency would give him the building on South Marshall and more than \$640,000

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dollars raised for a building addition.

Shannon would in turn build the Salvation Army a \$1.2 million facility on the new site.

The board will consider the city manager's proposal at its meeting next month.

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