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Water, Sewer Bids For City Within Funds

The proposed \$1 million-plus water, sewer and storm drainage project for the City of Southport took a giant step toward reality with the opening of bids Tuesday at City Hall.

"It appears there is a bid within the total amount of money in the project submitted in the bond election last November," Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., announced after the bids were opened.

The exact totals of the 11 bids received will not be known until they are tabulated and verified by Henry Von Oesen and Associates, consulting engineers for the city.

C.E. Davis of Von Oesen and Associates said he hopes to be able to make recommendations concerning the tabulated and verified bids to the Southport Board of Aldermen within two weeks.

Once the bids are awarded by the board, construction work is scheduled to begin within 30 days. The con-

tractors will have 240 days to complete the project.

Davis, assisted by City Manager Alvin Kornegay and State Representative Everett Scott of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), opened the 11 submitted bids.

"I am extremely well-pleased with the bids because, since being elected mayor, I have spent more time and concern on this project than anything else except the hospital," Tomlinson declared.

Mayor Tomlinson, Aldermen Pierce Horne and Conley Kooztz, who attended the ceremonies, all said they were pleased with the bids received on the project. "We will be able to complete the entire project with the available funds," Horne noted.

Officials had expressed concern before the bids were opened that skyrocketing costs might endanger the project. They feared that the

project might have to be reduced because of rising costs. The board even held a special meeting this summer to consider cutting items from the project, but took no action.

Mayor Tomlinson predicted at the summer meeting that the bids might not be as high as estimated because of the downward turn in the construction industry. He said at the time companies might submit lower bids in order to keep their crews working.

After the bid openings, Davis said the scarcity of work had kept prices down despite the rising costs.

Mayor Tomlinson said he made his summer prediction based on economic indicators, such as bid openings, material costs and labor availability. "They seemed to indicate the peak was passed in June or July and we would reach a favorable price situation in the fall," he pointed out. "I believe that is exactly what happened."

Southport approved the \$500,000 bond issue for the water, sewer and storm drainage project in November, 1973. The rest of the funds for the \$1 million-plus project came from HUD, the Coastal Plains act and the Clean Water Bonds act.

Funds Distributed

The largest sales and use tax distribution in three years has been made to Brunswick County and nine municipalities.

A total of \$223,391 has been distributed for the quarter ending Sept. 30. Brunswick County received the greatest share — \$199,955. Of the remainder, Long Beach received \$10,178, Southport \$4,283 and Shallotte \$2,230.

Boiling Spring Lakes received \$742, Bolivia \$56, Holden Beach \$1,897, Ocean Isle Beach \$1,240, Sunset Beach \$933, and Yaupon Beach \$1,874.

The one-cent tax is collected with the state three-cent levy, then returned to local governments by the N.C. Department of Revenue Local Disbursement is made on an ad valorem tax basis. Newly-incorporated towns Calabash and Shady Forest were not allotted any funds.

TURKEY SHOOT

The Supply Lions Club will sponsor a turkey shoot on Saturday behind the Holiday Drive-In on US 17 just north of Shallotte. The shoot starts at 11 a.m. Ammunition and guns will be provided when needed.

Court May End Marina Dispute

U.S. District Judge John D. Larkins has tentatively set a hearing in New Bern today (Wednesday) to consider the long - appealed Bald Head Island marina suit.

Judge Larkins is expected to consider whether to dissolve the environmentalist complaint about the proposed marina and let the project continue during the tentatively scheduled hearing.

Judge Larkins, the first judge to handle the long - delayed suit, was re-assigned the case by the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., Officials of both Carolina Cape Fear Corporation, developers of the island, and the environmentalist

groups have expressed confidence that Judge Larkins will rule in their favor.

Corporation attorneys have said Carolina Cape Fear faces financial ruin and may go out of business if the federal courts don't dissolve the legal tangle the environmentalists have been using to stop development of the island.

Judge Larkins held a hearing involving attorneys representing Carolina Cape Fear, the environmentalists and the government in Wilson last Tuesday. But the hearing ended after it was discovered that there had to be a 21 - day period for attorneys to file briefs before the case could be resolved.

The Court of Appeals in Richmond ruled last Wednesday that Judge Larkins could ignore the 21 - day waiting period after a Carolina Cape Fear attorney, David Nash of Wilmington, made the request.

The environmentalists are seeking an injunction against the marina permit because no environmental impact statement was required by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Federal attorneys said the statement was not needed because the marina is a minor part of the total development of the island.

The Appeals Court, the third court to hear the case, rejected most of the

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THE NEW PEOPLES Savings and Loan Association office in Southport is scheduled for a spring opening. Both Peoples and Security Savings and Loan have under construction new offices

in the same block of Howe Street in downtown Southport, expanding what has become a principal financial district.

Energy Crisis Or No, Christmas Lights Here

Southport will have Christmas lights despite the energy crisis.

The Board of Aldermen, holding its regular monthly meeting Thursday night, unanimously voted to burn Christmas lights this year four hours a night from December 18 until December 31. The lights also will be turned on the night Santa Claus arrives in Southport.

The city will put up the same number of outdoor lights it has previously and in the same areas. In addition, the city will light the weather tower near the Garrison House.

The outdoor Christmas lights will be put up on Howe Street from the City Park to the waterfront and from the Lord Street corner to the county tax office on Moore Street.

Aldermen Harold Aldridge, Robert Howard, Pierce Horne and Mary McHose were asked by Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., to make sure the lights are equitably put up in the designated areas.

Howard and Aldridge, however, took the lead in urging the board to burn Christmas lights in Southport this year.

Aldridge questioned whether an energy crisis existed in the country after hearing the federal recommendation against burning Christmas lights. "I don't think there is that much of a

shortage of electricity," he declared.

He said he found it hard to believe that a crisis existed as long as one of the major power companies burns as many lights as it does at night.

Board members do not know how much it would cost to burn the lights this Christmas season. But the

cost was estimated at over \$5,000.

Aldermen Conley Kooztz said it cost the city about \$3,500 to burn outdoor Christmas lights in 1972.

Horne urged the board to put up Christmas lights on the Fryling Pan Lightship, but no action was taken on the request.

In other business, Kor-

negay said all the dozen or so streets on the priority list have been re-surfaced except Park Avenue. He reported that the \$10,500 in Powell Bill funds ran out before the city reached Park Avenue. He said it would cost about \$5,000 to re-surface the street.

The board voted unanimously, with Aldridge abstaining, to proceed to develop Bay Street Extension east of Kingsley Street as outlined in the Brunswick Navigation Company deed for the property on the north and south sides.

Horne urged the action to clear up the disputed ownership of the property 80 feet wide and 800 feet deep.

The only cost involved for the city will be the fees for the surveyor and the attorney, Howard was informed.

The board voted unanimously to allow owners to replace mobile homes already in the city during the next year. No new mobile homes will be allowed in the city under the ordinance.

The board decided to establish a non-profit corporation to produce a musical pageant in connection with the Bicentennial celebration in 1976.

City Bicentennial Chair-

man Bill Crowe, who made the request, was asked by Horne to submit two names for the proposed corporation before City Attorney E.J. Prevatte applies for non-profit status.

Crowe told the board he hopes the pageant "will become a permanent fixture each summer in Southport" after 1976.

He said his committee expects to spend about \$30,000 between now and 1976 to produce the pageant. Plans call for building a theater at a cost of about \$7,000 in the City Park.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Elizabeth Young to serve on the Bicentennial committee at Crowe's request. The appointment will become effective when Edwin Clemmons resigns.

Director Jackie Stephenson of the Resources Development Commission was unanimously named to represent the city on the Airport Commission at the request of Dr. Richard Conrad, chairman.

Dr. Conrad told the board the commission hopes to build a \$1 million airport at a cost of between \$20,000 and \$50,000 in local funds. The

commission is trying to obtain federal and state funds to pay the rest of the cost.

The board voted unanimously to apply for a \$4,300 grant for planning assistance under the Coastal Management Act.

New Chief George McCracken, in a letter, expressed appreciation for his recent appointment to head the Police Department "in this great city."

It was pointed out that Chief McCracken was named chief by City Manager Kornegay with the endorsement of the board. Aldermen noted that the city manager hires all personnel for city departments. They said it was incorrectly

reported in The Pilot last week that Chief McCracken was appointed by the board.

Mayor Tomlinson said Chief McCracken wanted to know if the board favored the establishment of an Auxiliary police force in Southport. Harold Davis, Aldridge and Kornegay will investigate the matter and report back to the board.

The board decided to write a letter of commendation to Herman Strong, who served as police chief until he was elected sheriff of Brunswick County earlier this month.

Mayor Tomlinson said he wanted to publicly thank City Attorney Prevatte for helping him present the Dasher side

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Injunction Sought To Stop Program This Weekend At Leland

By BILL ALLEN

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has hired an outside attorney to try to stop the proposed East Coast Concert from being held this weekend at Leland.

Southport Attorney Grover Gore was employed by the board Monday on a unanimous vote to try to obtain an injunction to stop the concert scheduled at the Leland race track.

The board took the action after Gore, who said he represented about 200 Leland property owners and residents, and V.A. Creech,

Jr., a Leland Businessman, urged commissioners to stop the controversial concert from being held.

Gore told the board he believed he could obtain the injunction to stop the concert although "it would be close" because of the time element involved.

County Attorney Thomas Horne recommended that Gore be hired by the board "to institute action on behalf of the county to obtain the injunction" to stop the concert from being held. "Otherwise," Horne told the board, "you can forget it

(stopping the concert)."

Horne told commissioners that he would not seek the injunction himself "without spending three weeks doing research" into the Constitutional aspects of the case. "I will not get into it this late in the game," the county attorney added.

After being employed by the county, Gore said he hoped to file the petition seeking the injunction with the Clerk of Court in Southport and have the New Hanover Sheriff's Department serve the papers on the

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