



HELPING PROMOTE the Southport Jaycee Easter egg hunt this Saturday are Robbie McKeithan, Lissa Stephens and Sammy Kirby (seated) and Charlotte Hart and Eddie Kirby (standing). The annual egg hunt will be held in Franklin Square Park starting at 2 p.m., according to Jaycee President Bill Coring. Individual hunts will be held for age groups 1 through 3, 4 through 6 and 7 through 9 years. "We want to express our appreciation to T.C. Lennon of Bolivia, who will donate 450 eggs to the hunt," Coring stated.

Space Needs For School, Sheriff Offices Questioned

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners rubber-stamped most recommendations contained in the office space survey for the new courthouse complex during a special meeting Monday night.

The only two major decisions about the office space needs of county agencies left hanging in the air following the meeting were the Board of Education's request for a separate board room and the Sheriff's Department request for a training and assembly room.

The board unanimously approved the other recommendations made by the county Planning Department and LBC&W, the architectural and engineering firm working on the complex, about items questioned by different departments in county government.

The board then unanimously approved the entire office space survey despite the fact it was not read during the meeting and no copies were made available for the public to examine.

Vice-Chairman Willie Sloan and Commissioner W.T. Russ, Jr., pointed out that the board was only ap-

proving square footage that LBC&W needs to construct a model of the complex. They said that changes can be made at a later date.

"Our projected occupancy date is 1978," LBC&W's Vice-President John Boudreaux, who is in charge of the Brunswick County complex for the firm, told the board.

Boudreaux, who said the board would make the final decision about the complex design, suggested that a shopping center type mall with room for growth be considered rather than campus-type structures.

"This will give you room to grow and not lock you in," he stated. "We are projecting a potential 55 percent growth by 1990. You have plenty of space on the site."

County Planner Johnny Sutton said the complex "will have a built-in cushion so the county will not be over-crowded."

Sutton said his department obtained information from all county departments in developing the office space survey. But he said some dissatisfied departments requested that their positions be presented to the board.

Supt. Ralph King and Assistant Supt. John Hicks told commissioners that the Board of Education needed a separate board meeting room rather than using the assembly center with other boards in the county. Sutton said the request had been found both "unnecessary and not justified."

"Our concerns are based on needs and can be justified," King declared.

Hicks said that any legally-constituted board needs its own meeting room with direct access to records. He told the board he was

superintendent when Columbus County built 10,500-square-foot school administration building. "Sadly, we made some mistakes we don't want to make here," he stated.

Commissioner Franky Thomas said he agreed that a conference room may be needed to obtain records used during a meeting. "I don't want to see the price inflated," he stated. "But you don't buy a new Lincoln and put black-wall tires on it. I favor spending a few extra dollars to have what we need."

Sutton, who said six or seven meeting rooms will be needed if the assembly center is rejected, told commissioners that the Planning Board holds meetings all over the county and has never had problems because the right records were not available.

"I think you are a little off base," Thomas said. "We need our records because we discuss more things in depth in a week than the Planning Board does in a year. We have to have the correct information because the press attends all our meetings."

Sutton said the assembly center can be accepted or rejected when the master plan is presented and distances determined.

Sloan said he favored seeing the model to determine how the assembly center relates to other buildings in the complex. He said all commissioners have "dreams" about the complex, but residents were keeping a close eye on the costs.

Hicks said he disagreed with County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., that "dollars and cents are a prime consideration." "If dollars and cents mean that much, executive offices should be reduced," King stated.

Boudreaux said the sizes of all offices in the complex can be justified.

King suggested consulting the state school planning committee to provide information about the matter. He said the information could be obtained in about two

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Lower Rate Sought As City Starts On Budget

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Can the Southport city tax rate fall to around the 50-cent level this year?

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., said the Budget Committee, under Alderman Conley Kooztz, who is the chairman, should try to work for a tax rate around 50 cents in the 1976-77 budget.

"We owe that to the people," Mayor Tomlinson declared in making his request public during the regular monthly board meeting Thursday night.

Kooztz said that his Budget Committee would begin working on the new budget

this week.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to recommend to the Doshier Hospital Retention Committee an agreement to be used to solicit pledges to pay architectural fees before the referendum is held.

Mayor Tomlinson, who presented the pledge agreement to the board, said he hoped it could be approved by the Retention Committee, composed of representatives of Southport, Long Beach and Yaupon Beach, this week. He said that Mayor Robert Jones has been asked to appoint a representative from Caswell Beach to serve on the committee.

Residents will be asked to sign the pledge agreements to secure commitments that the \$100,000 in architect fees will be paid. A bank will underwrite the pledges.

Mayor Tomlinson said the pledge agreements are needed to keep architectural work on Phase III underway before the August referendum to establish a township tax district to support the hospital. Under the payment schedule, \$20,000 will be due in 30 days, \$50,000 the last of June and the balance in August.

If the referendum is approved, the fees will come from the special tax and the pledge agreements will be

terminated.

Alderman William Furlpess expressed concern that people will not take time to read the three-page pledge agreement because of its length. Mayor Tomlinson said he had hoped the agreement would not be three pages, but said the length was needed to give people necessary information about what they will be asked to sign.

If only 70 percent of the \$100,000 can be raised in pledges, Mayor Tomlinson told Alderman Pierce Horne, the architects will only do 70 percent of the work. But the mayor said he was optimistic that pledges can be secured for the entire amount.

He said the Retention Committee already "has in hand" the first \$20,000 due at the end of April.

Mayor Tomlinson said Post Office officials visited Southport last week and said they would recommend the old high school site as the number one priority for the new post office.

The mayor also said that the city would "fight" the 34 percent wholesale rate hike granted to Carolina Power & Light Company last week. (See related story in this edition of The Pilot.)

Resident Bob Thorsen, who expressed outrage at the latest rate hike, said he believed the city should consider using the Cape Fear River to generate its own electricity.

The board voted unanimously to have Mayor Tomlinson look into securing the services of an architect to develop plans to beautify the

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Campaign Starts For New Hospital Funding

The campaign to obtain pledge agreement signatures to pay architect fees for Phase III work at Doshier Memorial Hospital began during a meeting Tuesday night at the Southport City Hall.

After the Doshier Retention Committee approved the pledge agreement, a total of \$11,750 in pledges were signed by residents attending the meeting.

The pledge agreements will be used to provide funds for Ballard, McKim and Sawyer, Wilmington architects, to continue work on the new hospital facility to be provided at the Doshier site.

When an individual signs a pledge gift, the amount will be credited by one of local banks to the account of the Retention Committee, it was pointed out. The individual signing the agreement will only have to make the pledge good if the August referendum to establish a tax

district in Smithville Township is defeated.

The committee hopes to obtain \$100,000 in pledges to pay the architect. The money is included in the overall bond issue referendum.

In other business, Long Beach Mayor Harold Crain and Southport Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., were elected co-chairmen of the Retention Committee.

Yaupon Beach Mayor Marvin Watson and Caswell Beach Mayor Robert Jones were elected co-vice-chairmen. Mrs. Anne Francis of Southport and Mrs. Margaret Connaughton of Southport were elected publicity co-chairmen.

Other members of the committee include Rosetta Short of Long Beach, Howard Pinkerton of Yaupon Beach, Southport aldermen and a representative to be named from Caswell Beach.

Cool Weather Hurts County Leaf Chances

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The cold spell this week hurt the tobacco of Brunswick County farmers who planted early this year, reports Manager Ralph Price of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service in Shallotte.

"The cold weather did a whole lot of damage to the early tobacco," Price reported. "Some farmers will have to set out their tobacco

again."

Price said Tuesday that it was too early to tell the exact damage the cold weather did to the tobacco. "We will know how much damage was done after the first good warm rain," he explained. "The undamaged tobacco will come back."

Farmers report that the worse damage occurred in plant beds that were not covered. "We have some sick beds in the county today," he added.

Price said conditions

pointed to a banner tobacco crop in the county until the cold weather returned. "We always have a good cold spell just before or just after Easter," he pointed out. "The cold spell apparently came earlier this year because Easter was late."

Because of the early spring weather in the county, the ASCS manager said that more than one-third of the crop has been planted — a record planting this early in the year for county farmers.

"This is the earliest this much tobacco has been planted in Brunswick County," he explained. "We have always had a few early plantings, but never this much in the past."

Early planting without cold weather usually produces heavy tobacco, which is in demand. "The farmer who can make the good grade can make money on tobacco this year," Price stated. "But the market for trash tobacco will be down this year because so much was marketed last year."

Price said there is practically no way that farmers growing good tobacco can fail to make money this year.

"Price supports have been increased more than 13 percent to \$1.05 or \$1.06," he pointed out.

Yaupon Seeks To Ease Town Mosquito Problem

By KENNY HEWETT
Staff Writer

The Yaupon Beach Board of Commissioners voted Monday night to advertise for the purchase of mosquito control equipment.

Louise Corbett told the board that she had gone to the county seeking help and they had been "most receptive and very nice." She stated that, "the county did not have enough manpower or machines to be able to control the mosquito problem."

She told the board that the town could get help on a rental basis from the

Department of Human Resources, with a total of 50 percent assistance.

Doug Aman, commissioner, told the board to "let the county do all they can in controlling mosquitoes, but be in a position to take care of the mosquito problem."

"It is obvious that the county can't take care of this (the summer mosquitoes)," stated Mayor Marvin Watson.

Commissioner Bill Smalley introduced the motion to advertise for bids for the mosquito control equipment with a second from Ted Wood. The motion passed

unanimously.

The board voted 3-1 in the controversial hiring of Clarence Murphy, former mayor, as new building inspector. The board will pay Murphy \$5 per week, including gas and a building permit fee.

Smalley told the board that it was a "bad mistake" to name Murphy, as he is a licensed real estate broker and builder.

The board voted unanimously for budget amendments as follows: (1) increase Municipal Water

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Six File For Public Office

Two incumbents have filed for public office in Brunswick County. Board of Elections Executive Secretary Linda Babson said Tuesday morning.

W.T. Bowen, a Waccamaw farmer, is running for re-election for one of the two seats on the Board of Education. He is presently serving as vice-chairman of the board.

Rep. Allen Ward of Thomasboro has filed for the house seat representing Brunswick and Pender counties in the General Assembly.

Four candidates have filed for the five open seats on the Board of Commissioners. They include William Stanley, Jr., of Shallotte, Cletis Clemmons and Andrew Gray, both of Lockwood Folly, and Pearly J. Vereen of Waccamaw.

All the candidates who have filed except Bowen will be running in the Democrat primary. The Board of Education is a non-partisan race.

No Republican candidates have filed for office in the county.