



PATCHING THE ROOFS at high schools in Brunswick County is a project underway now, sponsored by the county Board of Education. The roofs at the three high schools have leaked since the buildings were occupied four years ago, and

the Board of Education has ordered that they be fixed. The board will go to court and seek repayment from the contractors for the work done to correct the deficiency.

City Introduces Plan To Annex CP&L And Pfizer

By ED HARPER
News Editor

Southport plans to annex a large area of land — including the CP&L nuclear power plant and Pfizer, Inc. — in an expansion which Mayor Eugene Tomlinson described as "absolutely necessary and mandatory" for the continued progress of the area.

Tomlinson cited four major reasons for the proposed annexation: the integrity of planning, orderly growth, the interests of individuals and industry, and a broader tax base to provide community

services. The proposal, which would push the tax base of the town to over one-half billion dollars, was conservatively termed "one of the most far-reaching" actions of the town in the past 25 years.

The Board of Aldermen voted unanimously Thursday night to hold a public hearing on the proposed annexation November 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Tomlinson said he had met with CP&L and Pfizer representatives prior to the meeting to outline the city's plans. The final meeting of the Annexation Committee was held Wednesday night.

But the mayor emphasized

that the action "hasn't been done hastily." He said annexation has been considered for three years, and that the committee was appointed soon after the current board took office last year.

John Nicholson of Pfizer, Inc., who was instrumental in setting-up the company's operation here, was at the meeting Thursday night but only as a city taxpayer, he said. He said he was expressing no position of the firm; "I only found out today" about the proposal, he told the mayor.

Nicholson asked if some area within the one-mile

extra-territorial zone is excluded from the proposed annexation. Yes it is, he was told, in order that the bulk of the land can be eligible for annexation under the state law.

Nicholson suggested that the city proceed "carefully." "I don't want to see it opposed on legal grounds that may be justified," he told the aldermen.

According to the mayor, the effective date of annexation could be anytime within 12 months of the November 22 hearing. Then the city would have an additional 12 months in which to award contracts to provide the required services.

Nicholson pointed out that the proposed expansion of the city limits would increase the area of Southport anywhere from four to 16 times and this could affect the city's ability to provide services.

Tomlinson responded that Southport provides electric power in the area already; the city provides water to part of the area and the county to another part at the present time; and police protection already is available.

The major increase, he said, would be in garbage collection and sewer services. Tomlinson said the federal government will give the city an "outright grant" to expand the waste treatment plant.

Nicholson said he hoped the board members realized the impact of what they were voting on.

Alderman Conley Koontz asked that once the city decided to annex, could the action be rescinded? The answer was "probably yes," but Tomlinson said the proposal has been made in good faith. Alderman Pierce Home, who seconded Mary McHose's motion to call for the public hearing on the question, said the board action was a "resolution of intent."

Tomlinson said that in his meetings with CP&L and Pfizer officials he stressed the point that the city has never been guilty of fiscal irresponsibility. He said he assured both firms that the city books were open to their inspection.

He said the city has always provided leadership for the area "and all of Brunswick County," and "just because we would be getting a larger tax base we won't be going hog wild" in spending.

He recognized F.C. Lennon, CP&L regional manager who has retired and will live at Long Beach — "which makes him one of us."

Lennon said he remembered in 1954 when Mayor Gilbert (late husband of present board member Dorothy Gilbert) signed the contract with CP&L to provide Southport with electricity. He said he has watched the area grow, and pointed to the fact that people no longer have to move away to find job opportunities.

But he said the reaction of industry to the proposed annexation is a question the city must face.

Tomlinson, who said he could not point to exact figures, said the increased valuation would considerably lower the city tax rate. At 20 cents, combined with the county's 42.5-cent rate, Tomlinson said the total

Site Groundbreaking Set On November 21

Three federal grants for Brunswick County were announced during the regular meeting of the county commissioners on Monday.

Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., who made the announcements, said the county has received \$181,000 in Community Development funds for water tap-ons in the Leland Sanitary District.

He said the Governor's Commission on Law and Order had approved two grants for the Sheriff's Department, including \$15,000 to establish a juvenile unit. The second grant continues the drug program, which is already underway.

In other business, the board decided to hold groundbreaking for the new courthouse complex at Bolivia on November 21, which is a Sunday.

County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., reported that

the board will open bids on Phase I construction at the complex at a special meeting October 28 at 2:30 p.m. He said he had been informed that the board can award the bids the same day.

The board decided to allow county industries to use the landfills without extra charge. Landfill Director Kenneth Hewett said he had received a request from DuPont.

Landfill use "is one small area we can use to attract industry to our county," Commissioner Franky Thomas stated.

Commissioners Willie Sloan and Thomas expressed opposition to allowing New Hanover County to use landfills in Brunswick County.

Flowers said he had been involved in discussions about New Hanover County using the Brunswick County landfills for a fee. "But Brunswick County can't become the garbage can for New Hanover County," he added.

The board agreed to allow the Landfill Department to require contract haulers to have vehicle stickers on their

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Planning Board Action Could Be 'Gag Order'

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The public actions taken by a member of the Brunswick County Planning Board were discussed during a special meeting of the board on September 30.

A new cause was added to the list of the ones for which the board can recommend to the Board of Commissioners that a member be removed from the Planning Board.

"If in the opinion of the majority of the Planning Board, a member is engaging in activities that are disruptive and widely harassing in meetings and causes harassment of the Planning Board in newspapers and any other source, the board can consider any of these to be grounds to request the County

Commissioners to remove said member from the Planning Board," said the motion.

The motion was approved on a split decision with member Eileen Kellagher, the target of the action, in opposition.

Chairman Edward Gore expressed regrets that Mrs. Kellagher had written letters and provided stories to newspapers critical of the Planning Board.

He requested a show of hands whether the meetings had been held in an informal manner to permit members and citizens to express their views, pertinent or not, openly and freely. All members raised their hands except Mrs. Kellagher.

Chairman Gore asked the members to raise their hands if they felt "Mrs. Kellagher

has shown you the due courtesy as a working member of this board." Mrs. Kellagher was the only member to raise her hand while the others were in opposition.

The chairman requested that the record of the meeting show that he personally did not feel that Mrs. Kellagher had shown due courtesy to Planning Board members.

Mrs. Kellagher said she was concerned because other members don't attend their

Township Committee meetings. Since each township has town members, she said she believed that one could attend the committee meetings.

Member Lacy Tripp said all the "commotion" in the newspapers about the Planning Board was getting his "dander up."

Mrs. Kellagher made a motion that the members not be paid for attending the

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County Against Effort To Delay US 17 Work

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has gone on record opposing any "restraint" on scheduled improvements to Highway 17 in Brunswick County.

Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., produced a memorandum at the Monday meeting of the county commissioners in which a state official said the proposed Wilmington-Raleigh connector could be built sooner if the US 17 project were restrained.

Regional Planning Director William T. Reilly reported on statements made by Ted Walters, director of planning and design, Division of Highways, concerning US 17 and the Wilmington-Raleigh connector in the memo to Executive Director Beverly Paul of the Council of Governments (COG).

"One of the problems (obtaining funds for the Wilmington-Raleigh

connector) is the high priority being accorded to improvements on US 17, based on local expression," Reilly reported that Walters said a meeting in Raleigh.

"He (Walters) privately expressed doubt that the Route 17 improvements will bring the economic improvements that local people anticipate, and pointed out that Route 17 alignment through Brunswick County is NOT along the seacoast, and therefore cannot be expected to bring the type of Myrtle Beach and Grand Strand development that it does in South Carolina," Reilly said in the memo.

"If US 17 improvements could be restrained, more resources could be devoted to improvements and additions to the Raleigh-Wilmington connector," Reilly said about the meeting in the memo. "Much of the present N.C. Highway budget is now being expended in Southeastern

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Bloodmobile Here Friday

Southport will host its first Red Cross community blood drive Friday at Trinity Methodist Church from noon to 5:30 p.m.

"Since the middle of July the Red Cross has been meeting the blood needs of Brunswick County," a spokesman said. "This bloodmobile is the first opportunity for area residents to donate blood through the new program."

Mrs. Leslie Emerson, associate regional director of Donor Resources Development, said the first Brunswick County bloodmobile visit was at Carolina Power and Light Company for the employees and the employees of Sunny Point on September 27. "It was most successful, with over 100 pints having been collected."

"The success of this visit was largely due to the tremendous amount of cooperation of the sponsoring groups, the eagerness of the em-

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Voting Books Top 16,000

Brunswick County has a total of 16,368 registered voters eligible to cast ballots in the November general election.

Board of Elections Executive Secretary Linda Babson, who made the announcement, said the county has 3,534 more registered voters than it had for the 1974 General Election.

The total registration in the county includes 12,026 Democrats, 3,712 Republicans, 597 Independents or No Party and 33 American party members.

The county has 12,777 whites, 3,581 blacks and 10 other minorities registered to vote in the November 2 general election.

The registration by precincts follows:
Woodburn: 552 Democrats, 72 Republicans, 9 Independents, 2 American Party, 438 whites, 196 blacks and 1 other minority;
Hoods Creek: 381 Democrats; 59 Republicans, 182 whites; 258 blacks.

Leland: 922 Democrats; 141 Republicans; 4 Independents; 13 American Party; 5 no party, 793 whites; 292 blacks.

Belville: 384 Democrats, 108 Republicans; 14 Independents; 335 whites, 171 blacks.

Town Creek: 725 Democrats, 210 Republicans, 23 Independents; 1 American Party; 1 no party; 719 whites; 240 blacks; 1 other minority.

Bolivia: 733 Democrats; 521 Republicans; 65 Independents; 1 American Party; 1 no party; 1,124 whites; 194 blacks, 3 other minority.

Southport I: 813 Democrats; 323 Republicans; 124 Independents; 4 American Party; 1,172 whites; 90 blacks, 2 other minority.

Southport II: 806 Democrats; 175 Republicans, 69 Independents; 4 American Party; 621 whites;

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