

City of Southport

New ordinance requires flood hazard permit

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

An ordinance that requires residents to secure a "flood hazard area development permit" before starting construction in designated flood hazard areas was adopted Thursday night by the Southport Board of Aldermen.

The entire waterfront is designated a flood hazard area, as well as some other sections of the city. Building inspector Doug Gillette said anyone with doubts about whether construction is in a flood hazard area should call him. The city will make the

determination free of charge; the fee for a permit will be \$10.

The board accepted Gillette's recommendation to require the permit. In his presentation, the building inspector said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in its evaluation several months ago said the city should adopt such an ordinance.

Alderman Bill Delaney was skeptical, saying he was in favor of requiring a permit if it would help lower the city's insurance rating down or keep it constant, but that he felt it was just another "bureaucratic

hurdle not worth the paper it is written on."

The board also awarded the bid for the relining of the water tank to Southern Corrosion Co. for \$23,155, and approved an amendment to the noise ordinance which will allow work on the project until midnight. (See related story.)

The noise ordinance as written would not permit construction work after 6 p.m. on weekdays.

Public works director Ed Honeycutt urged the board to amend the ordinance. He said he was "very uneasy" having the tank out of service because the city would be without its main pressure regulator and with no backup.

City attorney Mike Isenberg said there could be no variances from the noise ordinance so the board would have to amend the ordinance to allow construction after 6 p.m. during

the project, which is estimated to take as long as two weeks. Work on the project is expected to begin the first week in December.

The board also approved, after a public hearing, the transfer of \$15,500 in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from the rehabilitation fund to a relocation fund. The move was necessary because a mobile home located at the corner of North Lord and 10th streets is dilapidated and will have to be demolished and its owner relocated.

Consultant Dale Holland said it would take the Division of Community Assistance 15 to 30 days to authorize the move.

The board also accepted recommendations of the waterfront and beautification committees.

The waterfront committee recommended that the pumping station at

the foot of Lord Street be reroofed and painted gray to blend with its surroundings. The town will provide paint for the project; painting will be done with the help of volunteers on November 21. The roofing will be done later.

The waterfront committee also recommended that the city dock in the old yacht basin be repaired. Mayor Norman Holden agreed, saying repairs are necessary to free the town from liability in case of an accident and also because the corps of engineers is planning dredging operations in the area. The board directed Honeycutt to advertise for bids.

The waterfront committee also recommended that the town move the "dinghy" landing at the end of the city pier to the end of the city dock in the old yacht basin. The board asked Honeycutt to determine

the feasibility of the move.

The board of aldermen also accepted a beautification committee suggestion that the town encourage homeowners to install picket fences. A five-foot picket fence will be installed around the base of the water tank.

Holden said the committee should wait until after the relining project is completed.

The board also:

- Decided to meet December 9 at 7 p.m. to review applications for the position of city manager and to decide which applications should be further considered.

- Rejected a donation of a 1972 Chevrolet bus to the recreation department for transporting senior citizens and children.

- Received a report on a hurricane and storm workshop attended by Gillette in Wilmington last week.

Rabies clinics are scheduled

Brunswick County Animal Control and three local veterinarians will sponsor low-cost rabies clinics on Saturday, December 5, from 9 a.m. until noon.

The fee for rabies vaccinations will be \$5, and all other shots will be charged at the discretion of the veterinarians.

Rabies clinics will be held at the following locations: Brunswick Animal Hospital, Highway 17 at Supply; Companion Animal Hospital, Highway 130, East Gate Square, Shallotte; and Leland Veterinary Clinic, Clairmont Plaza, Leland.

County leash law to dog new board

Brunswick County commissioners have effectively handed the final decision to adopt a countywide leash law to new commissioners taking office on December 7.

Commissioners voted 3-2 Monday night in favor of the law, but since the vote was not unanimous the proposal will have to undergo a second reading before it can be adopted. And since Monday's meeting -- which is to be continued on Thursday, December 3 -- is technically the last formal meeting of the current board, it will be up to the next board to adopt the ordinance.

The law would require all dog owners to keep their pets on their property or on a leash when off their property. Violation of the ordinance would be punishable by a fine of up to \$250. Hunting dogs would be exempted.

Commissioners Frankie Rabon and Gene Pinkerton voted against the proposed ordinance.

Pinkerton said he had not studied the proposal long enough to know if he was for or against it, and Rabon called the ordinance "more bureaucracy that the county's taking over."

Water tank repairs are on tap

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

Southport residents can expect fluctuations in their water supply next month as the city water tank is shut down for repairs.

The tank, which regulates pressure in the water system, will be out of service while it is relined with a membrane paint coating to protect the inside from water damage.

"I want to let the people know that this is something that is absolutely necessary," public works director Ed Honeycutt said. "We'll try to keep the inconvenience down as much as we can."

The city water system operates with three pumps, located at Franklin Square Park, Leonard Street and Ninth Street, which generate the pressure that drives the water through the system. Sometimes the pressure rises too high and this could lead to burst pipes and faucets. When the pressure rises to this level some of the water escapes into the tank, thus relieving pressure on the system.

"The tank acts like a balloon and provides excess pressure relief," Honeycutt said.

The tank will, however, be out of service for approximately two weeks. Work on the project will probably start the first week of December.

To relieve the excess pressure in the system, city crews are installing valves on fire hydrants. When the pressure exceeds a specific level, the valves will release some water into the street.

"There is no other way to do this," Honeycutt said. "We will have to

waste water."

Honeycutt said the main concern is damaging pipes, especially in the older section of town. Without the stabilizing effect of the tank, water pressure could be twice as high as normal.

Honeycutt said the major inconvenience residents may experience will be rapid fluctuations in the water pressure.

"Hopefully, it won't get too high," Honeycutt said. "Sometimes, it might be a bit too low but it will come back up soon again."

Honeycutt said water may not be as pure as usual because more iron from the pipes will get mixed in the water.

He said this is the first time the tank has been relined. Damage to the water membrane was revealed when the tank was cleaned last April.

"The cleaning of the inside should be done every two years," Honeycutt said. "It had not been done in 20."

Honeycutt said the city waited until now to reline the tank because in the winter water consumption is lower. He said the reason the operation will take two weeks is because it is a complex procedure.

"We'll have to completely shut the tank off, sandblast it, clean it and then paint it," he said. "Then we'll have to completely disinfect the water before putting it back in."

In their meeting Thursday, aldermen awarded the contract for the project, upon Honeycutt's recommendation, to Southern Corrosion Co. for \$23,155. The board also approved an amendment to the noise ordinance that will allow work on the project until midnight.



Town of Long Beach & Waste Industries, Inc. Recycling

A joint venture.

Materials to be Recycled and How to Prepare Them

ALUMINUM

Accepted: Aluminum Beverage Containers

Preparation: Rinse cans, crush if needed.

Not Accepted: No Food Cans or any other type of aluminum.

GLASS

Accepted: Clear, brown and green glass from beverage bottles and food jars. No Blue Glass!

Preparation: Rinse bottles and jars. Remove lids. Separate glass by color at site.

Not Accepted: Window glass, light bulbs, crystal, ceramic and cookware.

NEWSPAPER

Accepted: Newspapers only.

Preparation: Loose stacked. (Do not bag or tie). Remove all inserts and slicks.

Not Accepted: Inserts, magazines, catalogs, phone books, plastic or brown bags and bundles that are tied.

PLASTICS

Accepted: PETE 1 Soft drink, juice bottles. HDPE 2 Milk jugs, water bottles. (Turn container over and look for (1) or (2) inside the triangular recycling symbol.)

Preparation: Remove lids, caps, or neck rings. Rinse and step on it or crush it.

Not Accepted: No motor oil, antifreeze, pesticide, cooking oil, laundry, detergent, bleach bottles. No plastics codes 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7.

CARDBOARD

Accepted: Corrugated boxes only.

Preparation: Clean boxes, free of any contaminants.

Not Accepted: No waxed boxes.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Saturday 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., SE 48th Street, Long Beach