



THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Marshall, NC 28753 9/81

81st Year No. 5

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N.C.

THURSDAY, February 4, 1982

15c Per Copy

Here's Who Is Running Locally

Here is a complete list of candidates who have filed with the Madison County Board of Elections. Primary elections for the Democratic and Republican parties will be held May 4. General elections will be held Nov. 2. * Denotes incumbents.

MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (Three Seats)

Ervin Adams (D)*	James T. Ledford (D)*
Virginia Anderson (D)*	Tom Merrill (D)
Jackie Ball (D)	Robert Phillips (R)
Ralph Brackens (D)	Gregory A. (Gary) Sprinkle (R)
Robert G. (Bobby) Capps (D)	Reese Steen (D)
Howard Chandler (D)	Thomas S. West (R)
William Chandler (D)	Lester C. Wilde (R)

BOARD OF EDUCATION (Five Seats)

Michael Allen (D) Dist. II	Fred Thomas Payne (R) Dist. II
Dedrick Cody (D)* Dist. I	Harry D. Payne (R) Dist. II
Edward Gentry (D)* Dist. II	R.Z. (Bobby) Ponder (D)* Dist. II
Dewey Griffey Jr. (R) Dist. II	Floyd Wallin (D)* Dist. II
Don Hall (R) Dist. I	Gerald Young (D)* Dist. I
Ed Krause (R) Dist. I	

MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF

William R. (Bill) Lisenbee (R)	Lue Allon Silver (R)
E.Y. Ponder (D)*	

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

James W. Cody (D)*	C.N. Willis (R)
Loyd F. Fowler (D)	

MADISON COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR

Frank Massey (R)	Harold Wallin (D)*
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Hensley Withdraws Candidacy

John A. Hensley of Marshall has withdrawn as a Democratic candidate for Madison County Sheriff in the May primary.

By taking his hat out of the ring Hensley leaves incumbent Sheriff E.Y. Ponder without a contender in the Democratic primary and assures him of the parties nomination for the November election.

Democrat Roger D. Haynie withdrew his name from the sheriff's race Jan. 25 saying he decided not to run after Ponder announced his candidacy for re-election.

In a note to The News Record, Hensley said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank my many friends for their interest and for the all-out support shown to me."

"My greatest desire and the goal that we must achieve is to have unity and harmony within our party," he said.

Woman Assaulted

A Marshall woman was assaulted early Sunday in the parking lot of the Steak & Egg Kitchen restaurant on Merimon Avenue, according to Asheville Police Department reports.

Effie Irene Pack of Marshall said when she left the restaurant at 2:15 a.m. Sunday she was attacked in the parking lot by four white females, according to the report.

She was treated at Memorial Mission Hospital for multiple abrasions and contusions and released, reports said.

An investigation was continuing Sunday, according to the police.

FBEMC Rates Increase

Members of French Broad EMC will pay higher electric rates beginning with their February bills. The rate increase showing up on the bill can vary from 4 percent to 15 percent, depending on what kind of customer you are and future fuel charges.

Carolina Power & Light Co. had originally asked for a wholesale rate increase of 17.2 percent for Aug. 12, 1981. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a five month delay for that increase to Jan. 12, 1982. In that time, electric cooperatives across the state have worked with FERC and CP&L to lower the increase to 12.2 percent, according to Charles Tolley, manager of FBEMC.

Tolley said the percent increase to FBEMC members will vary according to the amount of CP&L fuel charges in the rate and the amount of monthly kilowatt hour usage.

Residential members using 600 KWH per month will see an increase of approximately 4 percent in February. If CP&L fuel charges are higher in future months, that increase could be as much as 12 percent, Tolley said.

A residential customer, using 1,500 KWH monthly will see an increase of 5 percent, but if fuel charges run higher

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Photo by N. Hancock

Dr. Bobby Jean Rice (center) Chairs N.C. 2000 Steering Committee

N.C. 2000 Kickoff Meeting Set

The N.C. 2000 Project Kickoff Meeting for Madison County will be held Saturday, Feb. 20 at Madison High School, according to Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, chairman of the county N.C. 2000 Steering Committee.

Plans for the kickoff meeting were outlined Monday at a planning session held by the Steering Committee at the courthouse in Marshall.

Dr. Rice said a dinner meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria for invited county leaders and a general business session for the public will begin at 7 p.m.

The public will be asked to join one of four sub-groups at the meeting — Economy, People, Natural Resources, or Community — to discuss issues and problems facing the county and the state in the next 19 years. The groups will anticipate future concerns and problems in each of the four areas and develop recommendations for dealing with the problems.

The discussions will help prepare county residents to answer questions on a statewide NC 2000 questionnaire which will be mailed out in March, asking residents

what they expect to happen in the county and the state by the year 2000 and giving them the opportunity to express their concerns for the future.

The N.C. 2000 Project was established under the governor's Commission on the Future of North Carolina and was designed to enable citizens in all the state's 100 counties to make informed decisions concerning the future of the counties and the state.

A state conference of Steering Committee delegates will be held in Raleigh in September. The conference

will draft recommendations based on citizen priorities and present a report to Gov. Jim Hunt in December.

Dr. Rice said the local Steering Committee will meet again March 1 at 3 p.m. in the courthouse to discuss the next steps in carrying out the N.C. 2000 Project.

She indicated her hope for a large turnout for the general business session of the Feb. 20 kickoff meeting and said, "I'm really pleased with the enthusiasm of the Steering Committee, local businesses and everyone that's participating."

Marshall Police Force Reduced

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Marshall aldermen have reduced the town's police force by more than half, and have struck an agreement with the Madison County Sheriff's Department, in a move that will save the town some \$25,000 annually, according to Mayor Lawrence Ponder.

The action came in a special called meeting of the aldermen Jan. 29 when the town board approved and adopted a resolution which outlines the new police protection system for the town.

Under the new system, the town will provide two police officers for nighttime duty and the sheriff's department will provide police protection in the municipal corporate limits during daylight hours and up to 9 p.m.

Specifically, the town will provide one officer from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sundays through Thursdays and two officers from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Both town police officers will be available for emergency calls on the Marshall Bypass during those hours and will be specifically deputized by the sheriff's department for that purpose, according to the aldermen.

The sheriff's department will be responsible for police protection in the town every day from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The new system leaves the town without police protection between the hours of 5 a.m. and 8 a.m., according to the resolution.

The aldermen say they adopted the new system because providing 24-hour police protection had become a financial burden to the town and the cost — some \$49,000 annually — was "disproportionate to the police protection afforded" under the only system.

At Monday night's board of aldermen meeting, Ponder said the town would see "nearly \$25,000 saved in expenses." The sheriff's department will receive no money from the town for providing police protection, he said.

Three full-time officers and one part-time officer were fired Sunday as a result of the new police force arrangements. Bill Lisenbee, Warren Edwards and Craig Edwards worked full-time, and Freddie Payne worked part-time on the force.

Officer Carlie Gunter is currently the town's only policeman, but Ponder said a second officer will be hired soon to complete the two-man force. The town's two police cars will be maintained by the town, Ponder said.

With the town's two officers working the night shift, a question arises as to who will take care of the illegal parking situation on Main Street during business hours. Ponder did not commit any of the sheriff's men to that task, nor did he offer any solutions at Monday's meeting. But, department store owner George Penland said the problem continues to plague downtown merchants and he indicated they are growing impatient with the town fathers' apparent inability to provide a solution.

Aldermen Adopt Get-tough Policy On Past Due Bills

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

In an effort to overcome an \$8,000 loss per month in uncollected water and sewer bills, the Marshall Board of Aldermen have adopted a get-tough policy — and a town ordinance to back it up — with municipal water customers.

The aldermen and Mayor Lawrence Ponder met at a special called meeting Jan. 29 to adopt the ordinance and begin a collection campaign centered on the 44 percent of the town's 450 water users who are behind in payment of their bills.

"For the first time, we have a vehicle (collection procedure) that will work," Ponder said at the Monday night's board meeting.

The town recently contracted with Wastewater Services Inc. of Asheville to manage the town's water and sewer system, and Ponder says he's highly optimistic that the company will be able to straighten out the myriad problems that have plagued the town's water system for years.

To back up Wastewater Services' efforts and to generate much needed

revenue, the aldermen adopted an ordinance which requires delinquent account customers to pay 10 percent of any past due amounts along with each current monthly billing. Failure to comply with the ordinance will result in the customer's water and sewer service being "suspended without further notice."

The town sent letters to all water customers Dec. 31, 1981 explaining the new collection policy.

The ordinance says any customer requiring a disconnection or reconnection because of failure to pay a bill will be charged an additional \$10. And, "reconnection will not be made until the bill is paid in full."

The town has authorized Wastewater Services to disconnect the water supply to unpaying customers after the town has given a list of delinquent accounts to the company.

The policy and procedure seems to be working, according to Alderman John Dodson. "Some of the bigger delinquent accounts have been paying since we sent the letters out," he said.

In other business at the regular February meeting, the aldermen ap-

proved entering into a contract with Ralph Russell of Asheville who will provide computerized bookkeeping and auditing for the town. Use of the computer system will provide an \$8,230 savings to the town per year, Ponder said.

The system will allow the town to reduce its clerical staff to one person and will write checks to pay bills, write payroll checks, maintain individual payroll records for town employees, prepare quarterly payroll tax reports, prepare payroll tax deposits, prepare year-end payroll report, maintain a general ledger, prepare monthly comparative reports showing actual variance, financial position and cash flow statements, and monthly certification letters.

In addition, Russell said in his proposal to the board that he would review all office procedures and make recommendations for eliminating unnecessary work and for simplifying work wherever possible.

Russell's fee for the service is \$500 per month. The town currently pays some \$14,230 in payroll, other related costs and annual audit fee for the same amount of work.

Grant Appointed Public Meetings

The Madison County Board of Education will meet Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the courthouse in Marshall.

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet Friday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the county courthouse.

The Madison County Planning Board will meet Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the courthouse at Marshall.

The general business session of the N.C. 2000 Kickoff Meeting will be held Saturday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at Madison High School.

Western North Carolina Congressman Bill Hendon has recommended J. Marse Grant, editor of the Biblical Recorder, as a member of the proposed National Commission on Drunk Driving.

Hendon recommended Grant in a letter this week to U.S. Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, who is expected to submit a list of nominees for the new commission to President Reagan.

Grant, who is retiring this year after 20 years as editor of the popular Raleigh-based religious journal, is also the author of "Whiskey At The Wheel," which deals extensively with the drunk driving problem and has been circulated throughout the country.

The commission was suggested to President Reagan last month in a letter signed by more than 200 members of Congress, including Hendon.