

June 12, 1985

THE NEWS RECORD

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WEDNESDAY, June 12, 1985

25¢

Buy-out Agreement Reached

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Community Calendar

Marshall Aldermen To Meet

The Marshall Board of Aldermen will meet on Monday, June 17 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall to approve both general fund and Water and Sewer fund budgets for the 1985-86 fiscal year. The board will also consider budget amendments to the 1984-85 fiscal year budget. The public is invited to attend.

County Budget Hearing Set

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will hold a special public meeting on June 28 at 2 p.m. to vote on the county budget for the 1985-86 fiscal year which begins on July 1. The meeting is open to the public.

Job Training Offered

The Opportunity Corporation will be offering a five-day Job Serch Training Program at the Lion's Club Hut in Hot Springs Monday, June 17 thru Friday, June 21 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. For more information call 649-3231.

District Court Hears DWI Cases

District Court Judge presided over two sessions of the Madison County District Court last week.

On June 6, the court dismissed a number of charges. In unrelated cases, larceny charges against Darlene Vicknir and Kenneth Crowe were dismissed. Vicknir was also acquitted on a charge of trespassing.

The court also dismissed a charge of damage to property against Jerry Roberts and a charge of assault against Della Lee Roberts, who was also acquitted of injury to lands. Danny Roberts was also found not guilty on an injury to lands charge.

Breaking, entering and larceny charges against Larry Rice and Steve Proffitt were also dismissed.

Virginia Jean Gosnell entered a guilty plea to a single charge of food stamp fraud. A second food stamp fraud charge was dismissed. Gosnell was given a suspended six-month jail sentence and ordered to serve two years of supervised probation. She was also fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$543 in restitution to the program.

Charles K. Rathbone entered a guilty plea to a single charge of food stamp fraud. A second charge of food stamp fraud was dismissed. Rathbone received a suspended 120-day jail term and was fined \$50 and court costs.

Marie Osteen was found not guilty on a charge of allowing livestock to run at large. Charges of communicating treats against Mack A. Ponder were dismissed.

Champ Rice, Jr. was found guilty of assault and received a suspended 60-day jail sentence and a \$50 fine.

The court found probable cause for misdemeanor breaking and entering charges against Donna Buckner and

Dale Buckner and scheduled their trials for July 3 in District Court.

Assault charges against Ola Brown, Nancy Ballard and Gladys Williams were continued until the July 3 session. Assault charges against both Daniel V. Rusher and Patricia Ann Rusher were continued until the August 29 session.

The court also found probable cause for breaking, entering and larceny charges against both Michael Kirkpatrick and Bill Fricks and sent

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By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall aldermen postponed a final decision on the town's 1985-86 operating budget Monday night during their monthly meeting. The aldermen will meet with the town's auditor later this week to iron out details of a proposed \$261,503 budget presented on Monday.

The aldermen also postponed final action on a series of budget amendments needed to bring the town's present budget into balance as required by law. Mayor Betty Wild instructed town secretary Linda Dodson to set up a meeting with Brad Pippingier, the town's auditor, for sometime later this week.

Monday night's meeting was recessed until next Monday, June 17 at 7 p.m. At that time, the aldermen will decide on a budget for the upcoming fiscal year and approve budget amendments for the current fiscal year.

The \$261,503 proposed budget presented to the aldermen on Monday would hold property taxes at their present level of 85 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Town employees would not receive a pay raise under the proposal.

The proposed budget would cut town spending on fire, street repairs, sanitation and recreation from present levels while increasing funding for administration and the police department. Debt service payments on the town's bond obligations are also scheduled to increase \$25,000 over the present budget.

A proposed Water and Sewer Dept. budget of \$267,500 was also presented for the aldermen's consideration, but a decision on the budget was also tabled until next Monday night. Aldermen Ed Niles and Sammy Lunsford questioned figures for the Water and Sewer Dept. income regarding collections for sewer charges in the upcoming fiscal year.

The proposed 1985-86 budget calls for the town to collect \$187,200 in sewer charges next year, in addition to some \$78,000 in water charges. The monthly report on the department reveals that the town collected some \$28,474 in sewer fees in the first 11 months of the current fiscal year. Both Niles and Lunsford questioned if the 1985-86 figure, which shows an increase of about \$160,000, could be correct. Mayor Wild said she would ask the town's auditor for an explanation of the figures.

In addition to tabling a decision on the budget, the aldermen also postponed approving budget amendments to the current budget.

The proposed budget amendments would increase the town's original general fund budget for the current year from the \$224,147 approved last June to \$312,220. The increase in projected revenues came from \$23,720 carried over from the town's 1983-84 budget, \$37,353 in additional ad valorem taxes and a state grant of \$35,000 used to purchase a new garbage truck.

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PROPOSED BUDGET-MARSHALL GENERAL FUND 1985-86 FISCAL YEAR	
REVENUES:	
Ad Valorem tax.....	\$160,000
Other taxes.....	44,000
Intergovernmental Unrestricted.....	15,000
Powell Bill.....	17,500
Licenses and permits.....	1,500
Investments Earnings.....	3,000
Sales and Services.....	5,000
Miscellaneous.....	5,000
Fund Balance from 1984-85.....	11,253
TOTAL REVENUES.....	\$261,503.00
EXPENDITURES:	
Administration.....	\$63,500
Police Dept.....	45,000
Fire.....	7,000
Streets.....	34,000
Sanitation.....	8,500
Cemetery.....	500
Debt Service:	
Principal.....	\$11,000
Interest.....	50,000
Elections.....	750
Recreation.....	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES.....	\$261,503

Unemployment Unchanged

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate statewide increased slightly during May, according to figures released last week by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC.)

Unemployment across North Carolina increased by one-tenth of one percent during the month to 5.9 percent of the workforce. National unemployment statistics showed a rate of 7.3 percent during the month, as it has for the past three months.

Among the 10 largest states, only North Carolina, New Jersey (4.7 percent) and Florida (5.2 percent) were below six percent unemployment during the month.

Unemployment increased by 4,000 workers during the month, according to the Dept. of Labor's statistics. The seasonally unadjusted rate for May was 5.4 percent. The ESC reported that some 2,884,000 North Carolinians are employed, while 181,000 were without jobs.



Photo by Bob Koenig

WALNUT CREEK NEIGHBORS gathered recently to erect a planter at the entrance to the community on U.S. 25-70. Standing with the completed planter are, l. to r.: Ralph Ramsey, Abner Wilde, Raymond Wilde, Clarence

Faulkner and Junior Wilde. Workers are members of the newly-formed Walnut Creek Community Development Club.

Southern Baptists Face Doctrinal Shoot-out In Dallas

BY DIANE WINSTON
News and Observer

Esau sold his birthright for a bowl of soup; the Rev. William H. Puckett fears that Baptists will sell their birthright equally cheap.

"Our birthright is being stolen from us by the religious and political right," said Puckett, pastor at Millbrook Baptist Church in Raleigh. "It's a birthright of freedom and autonomy, and we're just standing by and letting it happen."

But conservatives dismiss such worries as groundless. To them, the issues at stake are matters of fairness.

"By and large, those who support conservative causes are not for unanimity on a doctrinal fine line," said the Rev. David Horner, pastor of Providence Baptist Church in Raleigh. "What is being asked for is an opportunity for evangelical conservative theology to be given a hearing in the seminaries."

Both Baptists, both believers in a tradition of individual freedom, evangelism and rock-solid faith in God, Puckett and Horner assembly the impasse facing the Southern Baptists as an estimate of the current

members gathered Tuesday in Dallas for what is expected to be one of the most tempestuous annual conventions in years.

Denomination officials predict a "shoot-out" as conservatives and moderates square off in a series of skirmishes for control of the nation's largest Protestant denomination. Among the battles to be fought during the three-day gathering are the election of president, appointments to committees and resolutions.

Rumor has it that the losing side may pull out of the convention, but representatives of both positions say it's hard to imagine anyone walking away from an organization whose 1984 budget reached \$109 million, whose assets totaled \$2.1 billion and which directs the largest missionary effort in the world.

"I don't see the denomination dividing up," said Puckett, a moderate who says he prefers to be called a "denominational mainstreamer." "It's a big bureaucracy. If the convention splits, who owns it?"

The denomination's current problems began in 1979 when a group of

damentalists, decided that the convention had moved too far from conservative principles.

Mounting a sophisticated, well-financed campaign, conservatives accused Southern Baptist officials of permitting a "drift toward liberalism."

To counter the trend, they set out to gain control of the SBC presidency—a powerful position because the president appoints members to the board that selects trustees for the denomination's 29 agencies and six seminaries.

With the 1979 election of the Rev. Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., to the SBC presidency, the fundamentalists began housecleaning. Six years later, they've made inroads into filling boards with their partisans and promoting their agenda.

Hoping to stem the tide, several moderate leaders spoke out this year against the conservative leadership. B. Keith Parks, head of the Foreign Mission Board, announced that he could not support the Rev. Charles A. Stanley of Atlanta for a second one-year term as president because Stanley had given only "partial" support to the denomination's mis-

sion effort.

The mission effort, financed by the Cooperative Plan, subsidizes domestic and international evangelism. Faithful to what they see as the Great Commission, Baptists believe that winning souls to Jesus is a divine mandate. Moderates say that is that mandate rather than any doctrine that has knit Baptists together.

In addition to Parks' criticisms, seminary presidents Roy L. Honeycutt at Southern in Louisville, Russell Dilday at Southwestern in Fort Worth and W. Randall Lolley at Southeastern in Wake Forest have denounced what they claimed was an unsubstantiated allegations of liberal bias on their faculties.

"It's a straw man," said Lolley, responding to the fundamentalist charges. "Theological issues are very emotional, and the seminaries are the lightning rods for this denomination."

He says his action comes not as

response to pressure from conservatives, but rather to desires expressed by Baptists for broader representation on faculties.

"The last thing I want to do is to capitulate to mean-spirited people," he said. "I think Southeastern is a good seminary, a conservative seminary, and I think it could strength to us to establish it as a seminary with an openness to our people."

Lolley is among the moderates, who previously preached tolerance and eschewed politicking, that now are fighting back. For almost a year, regional groups of moderates such as Friends of Mission in North Carolina have organized meetings to cement support and encourage participation in the Dallas convention.

"This looks like the largest effort the moderates have put on since the fundamentalists first won the presidency in 1979," said James L. Guth, a professor at Furman University, who has conducted studies on Baptist religion and political affiliation. "If they don't manage to achieve a stand-off this time around, it's going to be pretty hard for them."

this year is the denominational presidency. Although Stanley of Atlanta is eligible for a second term, moderates hope their candidate, the Rev. W. Winfred Moore of Amarillo, Texas, can defeat him.

Conservatives say Stanley can't lose.

"I think Dr. Stanley will be elected and then we'll go home and go on as usual," said the Rev. Robert M. Tenery of Morganton. "I don't think there'll be any bloodletting or bloodbath if the liberals are wise."

But the moderates say Moore is a candidate for reconciliation. He is as theologically conservative as Stanley, they say, but more committed to the denomination's Cooperative Plan.

"I'll vote for Moore," said the Rev. Alan Sawyer, pastor of Greystone Baptist Church, a newly-formed congregation in northern Raleigh. "He's led his church to make significant contributions to worldwide missionary enterprises."

Another moderate, the Rev. Jerry D. Boyer of Greensboro, said that he would vote for Stanley if he could not get a second term.