

June 26, 1985

Mars Hill Approves Budget

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Community Calendar

Marshall July 4 To Feature Rodeo, Fireworks

The annual rodeo sponsored by the Marshall Volunteer Fire Dept. will be held on July 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. on Blannerhasset Island in Marshall.

Marshall Masons To Meet

There will be a static communication of the French Broad Lodge No. 292 A.F. & A.M. on Monday, July 1 at 8 p.m. in the Masonic Building in Marshall. All members are invited to attend.

County Commissioners To Meet

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet on Friday at 2 p.m. to approve the county's 1985-86 budget.

The county commissioners will hold their regular monthly meeting on July 1 at 1 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

The public is invited to attend both these meetings.

School Board Meets July 3

The Madison County Board of Education will meet on July 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Mars Hill Board Meets July 1

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet on July 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Hot Springs Board To Meet July 6

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will hold their monthly meeting on July 6 at 8 a.m. in the Town Hall.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend these meetings of local government.

News Record Office Closed July 4th

Deadline for all Community Calendar announcements is Friday at 5 p.m. for inclusion in the following week's edition.

Open Meetings Bill Delayed In House

By JOHN DRESCHER, JR.
News and Observer

The state House voted Friday to delay debate on toughening the state's Open Meetings Law until next week, sending a signal that there will be substantial opposition to the bill.

"I didn't expect otherwise," H. Hugh Stevens, a lobbyist for the N. C. Press Association, said in an interview after the meeting. But Stevens added that attendance during the vote Friday had dwindled enough to make it difficult to say how the bill would fare.

Only 75 of the 120 members of the House voted, and they voted 40-35 to delay debate until Tuesday. Several members said they wanted to be able to discuss the bill during the weekend with their local boards and commissioners.

Rep. Luther R. Jeralds, D-Cumberland, said he was concerned about the effect the bill would have on small municipalities "that don't have a lot of attorneys and legal advice available."

But other House members said local government officials already had made clear their opposition to the bill.

"You don't have to go home to see how your county commissioners feel about this bill," Rep. Timothy H. McDowell, D-Alamance, told the House. "I can tell you. They're opposed to it. You really ought to ask your taxpayers how they feel about their county commissioners meeting in secret."

The N. C. League of Municipalities and the N. C. Association of County Commissioners oppose the bill, which would allow courts to void actions taken in illegally held meetings. If actions taken in a meeting were voided and a court found that a public official had violated the Open Meetings Law in "bad faith," the official would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500.

Under the current law, a North Carolina resident who alleges a violation of the Open Meetings Law can seek a court order directing the public body not to meet in private in the future.

Under Miller's bill, a judge could declare "any action of a public body null and void upon proof that such action was taken, considered, discussed or deliberated in violation" of the Open Meetings Law. Under the bill, a person could seek a court order to prevent a public body from taking any further action in the illegal meeting.

very strong discouragement of good people running for (local) office," C. Ronald Aycock, executive director of the N. C. Association of County Commissioners, said in an interview. Aycock said the bill was "pole-vaulting over anthills" because there were few problems concerning violations of the Open Meetings Law.

Aycock said he sought the delay. "What's so wrong with putting it off?" he said. "Are we trying to rush it through? It's a deliberative process."

But Rep. George W. Miller, D-Durham, who introduced the bill, said in an interview that Aycock's efforts showed his association had little concern with ensuring that the Open Meetings Law was enforced.

"They've attempted to subvert this bill from the time it was first introduced," said Miller, who confronted Aycock with angry words in the hallway after the vote. "They do not appear to want any real enforcement proceedings for the Open Meetings Law." Miller said opponents of his bill had to decide whether the Open Meetings Law "means something or is just a lot of words."

The 1977 Open Meetings Law requires most government bodies to hold meetings in public. That law includes 19 exceptions that allow public bodies to discuss privately such matters as lawsuits, personnel and purchase of property.

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THE NEWS RECORD

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Testimony Begins In Adams Murder Trial

By ROBERT KOENIG

Testimony began on Monday afternoon in the murder trial of former Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) worker James Arthur Adams in Madison County Superior Court. Adams is charged with murder, rape and obstruction of justice in connection with the 1970 slaying of VISTA worker Nancy Dean Morgan.

Jury selection for the trial was completed during the Monday morning session. District Attorney James T. Rusher and defense attorney Joseph Huff of Marshall agreed on a panel of seven women and five men. Two alternates, a man and a woman, were also selected to hear the case.

Former Madison County Sheriff Roy Roberts was the first prosecution witness to testify. Roberts was the sheriff at the time of the June, 1970 murder.

Roberts told the court that he arrived at Tanyard Gap on U.S. 25-70 near Hot Springs shortly after Morgan's car was discovered on June 17, 1970, two days after the Louisiana native was reported missing.

Roberts said he found Morgan's nude body in the rear of the grey 1965 Plymouth four-door sedan. The former sheriff said Morgan was bound with what appeared to be parachute cord. The rope was tied around her feet and neck in hog-tie fashion. Roberts said he found a piece of cloth about 10 feet from the government-owned vehicle assigned to Morgan.

Under cross-examination, Roberts said he had questioned Adams at the scene shortly after the discovery.

A fellow VISTA worker assigned to Madison County, Adams was believed to have been the last person to see Morgan alive. At the time, he told police Morgan had visited him in his home in the Bluff section on the night of June 15. Adams told in-

vestigators that Morgan left his home for her own home in the Shelton Laurel community at 3:30 a.m. the next day after the two discussed VISTA-related business.

Roberts also testified that he had questioned Adams' neighbor at the time, Johnny Waldroup. The former sheriff said he did not make an arrest in the case because he felt he had not found sufficient evidence.

Adams sat intently through Roberts' testimony, turning to face Waldroup when Huff first mentioned his name in questioning the former sheriff. Waldroup is a key prosecution witness in the 15-year old case. Waldroup implicated Adams in the murder while serving a jail sentence in the Madison County for parole violation.

Waldroup took the stand following Roberts' testimony. The 36-year old Bluff resident had been under guard the past few days prior to the trial following an earlier disappearance.

Waldroup told the court that he was at home the night of June 15. He said he walked down to the Adams home after hearing a noise. Arriving at the house, he looked in the window and saw two men and a woman he identified as Nancy Morgan.

Waldroup said Morgan was nude and bound hand and foot when he entered the Adams house. He said Adams then hit him in the nose, drawing blood. Adams then threatened to kill him if he (Waldroup) didn't help them get rid of the body.

Waldroup told the court, "She didn't have no clothes on. A cord was tied from her neck to her feet."

Waldroup said he saw Morgan's eyes moving when he first entered the house, but that she appeared to be dead shortly after he was hit by Adams.

Waldroup said he got into Adams' government-owned

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Marshall Board Approves Budget

BUDGET ORDINANCE, 1985-86 FISCAL YEAR
TOWN OF MARSHALL, NORTH CAROLINA

REVENUES:

Ad valorem tax (85 cents per \$100)	\$160,000
Other taxes	44,000
Revenue sharing	15,000
Powell Bill	17,500
Licenses and penalties	1,500
Investment earnings	3,000
Sales and services	5,000
Miscellaneous	500
1984-85 appropriated funds	11,253
TOTAL REVENUES	\$262,253

EXPENDITURES:

Administration	\$70,800
Police Dept.	36,000
Fire Dept.	8,700
Streets	34,000
Cemetery	500
Debt Service:	
Principal	11,000
Interest	50,000
Election	750
Recreation	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$262,253

WATER AND SEWER DEPT. BUDGET
1985-86 FISCAL YEAR

REVENUES:

Water charges	\$20,000
Sewer charges	158,200
Interest	1,000
Miscellaneous	1,000
Taps and connection fees	200
TOTAL REVENUES	\$230,500

Marshall aldermen met for three hours last Wednesday night to hammer out budgets for the town's general fund and Water and Sewer Dept.

Mayor Wild and aldermen John Dodson and Sammy Lunsford conferred with Brad Pipping, the town's auditor. Pipping and town secretary Linda Dodson had prepared a preliminary draft of the town budget earlier. Board member Ed Niles was out of town and did not attend the special called meeting.

The original estimate of revenues

for the Water and Sewer Dept. was reduced when it was learned that less than 80 percent of the town's water customers will be connected to the sewer.

The aldermen also heard a report from Sam Parker regarding progress on the Island Rd. housing rehabilitation project.

With the new budget approved, the board voted to hire Ricky Chandler as a part-time police officer. The board will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 8 at 7:30 p.m.



A FORLORN JOHNNA LEE BUCKNER calls for friends to bail her out of the Madison County Jail last week after she was arrested on charges of being a runaway.