

The News - Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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Council approves ordinance

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Members of the Raeford City Council approved the revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance at their regular meeting Monday night.

The decision came after a poorly attended public hearing held to receive public comment on the matter.

City Manager Tom Phillips said the document "more clearly defines a set of ordinances to control any kind of construction in the flood plane area."

Phillips said the city is required to adopt an ordinance of this nature in order to obtain flood insurance.

The ordinance states that its purpose is to protect the public welfare through beneficial flood prevention practices.

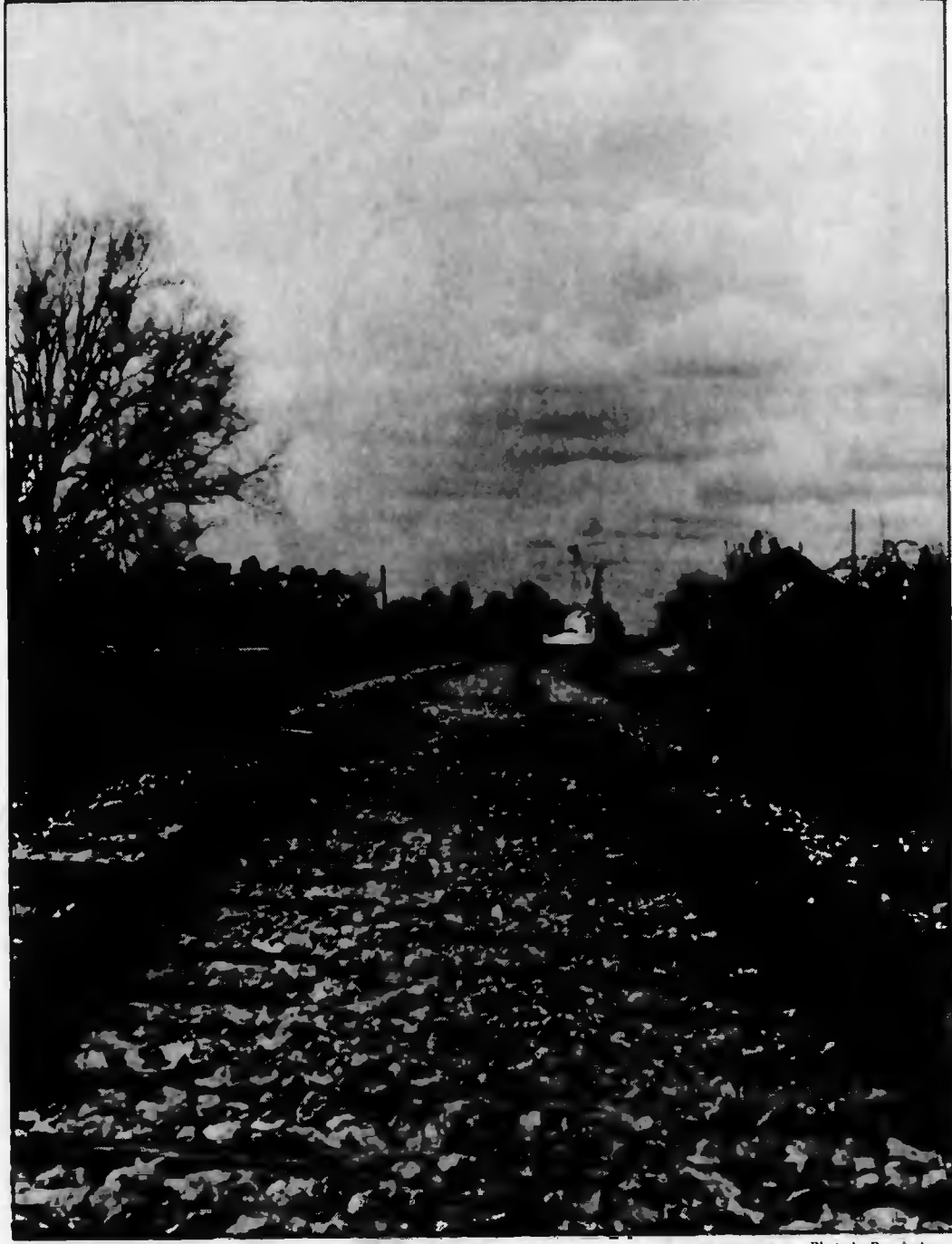
In other business, council members reviewed correspondence from Representative Danny DeVane stating his support in the legislature of the city's needs for a centralized utilities services office.

The matter was discussed at the council's March meeting in which the need was expressed for a central billing and services office for gas, water, electricity, phone and cable television.

In further business, council members approved a resolution authorizing the sale of a 1949 Ford fire truck by the Raeford Fire Department.

The resolution requests a minimum bid of \$1,500 was designated. The department also requested in the resolution that funds received from this sale be applied to the fire department capital

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Tracks
Early Sunday afternoon clouds form over railroad tracks just outside of Raeford. In the distance are grain bins belonging to Farm Chemicals.

Photo by Ron Anderson

County OKs housing grant preparations

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Members of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the continued preparation of an application for a Community Block Development Grant during their regular meeting Monday morning.

The commissioners also approved the appointment of an advisory committee to act as consultants to the staff preparing the grant application.

The actions followed a poorly-attended public hearing scheduled to receive residents' comments on the proposed application. The commissioners will not be able to officially approve the application until a second public hearing for the grant is held, according to County Manager William (Bub) Cowan.

The second public hearing will be held on May 4 at 9 a.m. in The Pratt Building.

The grant application, if approved, will allow the county to apply for up to \$600,000 in federal development monies to be used for the rehabilitation of substandard housing.

The application is being prepared through the Economic Development Commission (EDC) office and part-time employees Barbara Rogers and Maj. Ronald S. Scurry (USA, Retired).

EDC Director John Howard presented to the commissioners a

progress report on the grant application.

Rogers and Scurry have been collecting data for use in the grant application. They will also be interviewing householders in areas of the county where clusters of ten or more units of substandard housing exist.

Howard said that part of the county's obligation in applying for the grant is to provide a cash match of anywhere from 10 percent to 15 percent of the total amount of money that is requested.

The figure decided upon by the commissioners may be considered local option money to be used at their discretion for the purpose of "a project or projects that would also benefit basically low to moderate income persons but does not have to be tied to areas under housing rehabilitation for which the overall grant is requested," Howard said.

Examples of how this local option category of funds could be used is for improvements to streets, creation of water facilities extensions or general community improvements such as recreational facilities.

In March, a planning grant was awarded to the county in the amount of \$4,323 for the purpose of preparing the CDBG application.

Howard said the competition for the development grants "is fierce" but that the EDC has "the intention" (See COUNTY, page 17)

Buie appointed to Literacy Commission

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Hoke County Literacy Council Director and N.C. Literacy Association President Barbara Buie was appointed last Friday by Governor Jim Martin to serve on the newly formed Governor's Commission on Literacy. Buie was one of 15 education leaders to be appointed to the commission.

The public announcement of the appointments was made after a noonday luncheon given in honor of commission members at the executive mansion in Raleigh.

In making the announcement, Martin said the problem of illiteracy is a complex one but that through a collective effort, a

greater number of people could be helped to "be a part of what is happening" in communities across the state.

Martin said that through a variety of individual and institutional approaches, this problem could be resolved in order to "bring people forward into the next century" by raising a public awareness of the problem and giving hope to the important group of people who are illiterate.

Martin said resolving the problem of illiteracy would result in economic growth in many areas.

The commission advises the governor on difficulties and recommendations for eliminating illiteracy in the state.

The commission further serves as a sounding board for constituencies concerned with adult literacy as well as facilitating the coordination of programs among those concerned with literacy.

In addition, the commission defines problems, issues and solutions for increasing literacy in the state.

Reports on the commission's findings will also be produced for public record.

Among the other members of the commission are William Friday, president emeritus of the University of North Carolina; Robert Scott, community college system president; Craig Phillips, state superintendent of public in-

struction; Patric Dorsey, Department of Cultural Resources secretary; David T. Flaherty, Employment Security Commission chairman; Ann Tyndell, N.C. Literacy Council executive director and C.D. Spangler Jr., UNC System president.

Hoke County has an active literacy education program. On March 25, eight county residents were certified as Laubach tutors.

The tutors are Lester Baker, Gracie Breeden, Cindy Champagne, Martha Mackie, Barbara A. McKinnon, Anna M. McPhatter, DeEtra Purcell and Jerome Ross.

Buie served as trainer for the workshop session.



Governor's Literacy Commission

Hoke Literacy Council Director and N.C. Literacy Association President Barbara Buie stands with Governor James Martin outside the Executive Mansion in Raleigh. Buie and 15 other educational leaders in the state were appointed last Friday to the Governor's Commission on Literacy.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Winter weather returned to North Carolina over the weekend. There was over 12 inches of snow in the mountains and snow fell into the heart of the state. It didn't get as cold as we had expected so it seems that the peach crop came through this late spring storm.

If you were watching the GGO Golf Tournament on television, maybe you noticed all the clothing the golfers and fans were wearing. It was almost impossible to recognize the golfers with all the extra clothing.

The forecast is for the temperature to rise every day and for the temperatures to be in the 70s by the weekend.

Congress overrode the veto and the highway bill is now law. This will allow states to raise the speed limit to 65 on rural Interstate highways. New Mexico has already put up their signs and increased the speed.

If you travel much on the super highways, this will be a welcome sign. The only thing about raising the limit, is that most drivers are

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Trial begins
Edward Lee Cummings, right, is escorted to the Hoke County jail between Superior Court sessions on Monday. Cummings is charged with two counts of first degree murder.

Jury selection begins in Hoke murder trial

Eight jurors were selected on Tuesday in the trial of Edward Lee Cummings, charged with two first degree murders. The trial began Monday in Hoke County Superior Court, presided over by the Honorable Judge Robert Farmer.

Cummings, 45, formerly of Willow Springs, is charged with the shooting deaths of two sisters Karen Marie Puryear, 22, and Teresa Annette Puryear, 15 from Raleigh.

One man and seven women were chosen as jurors in the second day of jury selection held at the county courthouse in Raeford.

Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell said on Monday that the state had nine "challenges for calls" in which potential jurors had been dismissed because they have been judged as an unfair selection by either the state or the defense.

"The defense has not finished their challenge for calls yet," Powell said on Tuesday morning.

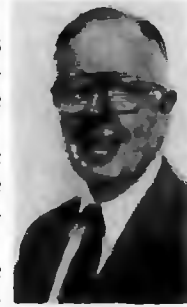
Earlier Powell had said she speculated that the jury selection might take one to two weeks and the entire trial, five to six weeks.

Judge Farmer granted a motion filed by defense attorneys James R. Parrish and Mike C. Boose for two separate trials to be held for each of the murder charges based on the ruling by Farmer that the two cases were not "related in time or place and are without a transactional connection."

The two women died at different times, Karen Puryear in November of 1985 and Teresa Puryear in September of 1983. Their bodies were found in January of last year near the McCain Prison grounds in Hoke County.

Harold Gillis elected Democratic chairman

Harold Gillis was elected chairman of the Hoke Democratic Party at the party's convention held Saturday at the county courthouse.



Gillis

Gillis, who describes himself as a Democrat who "believes strongly in the party," was elected by a unanimous vote.

A native of Hoke County, Gillis has been active in the party and in local politics for a number of years. He served as the party's county chairman in 1981 until 1983 and was re-elected to serve another term from 1983 until 1985.

"I deem it a privilege to again serve the Democrats of Hoke County," Gillis said. "The 1988 election is an important one for the state as well as for Hoke County."

As party chairman, Gillis will represent Hoke County on the state executive committee.

Other party officials elected

on Saturday include: Betty Rogers, first vice chair; Ernest Sutton, second vice chair; Dwight Jackson, third vice chair; Duncan McFadyen, secretary; and Artie McPhatter, treasurer.

The keynote speaker for the convention was state Representative John "Pete" Hasty who cited the party's progress in the last general election and challenged Hoke County Democrats to get involved in the work of the party.

Hasty spoke of his strong connections to Hoke County. His father chose a local woman to be his wife, and Hasty did the same when he married the former Betty Upchurch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Upchurch.

Norma Campbell, who served as the party's county chairman from 1985 until 1987, presided over the convention. Campbell announced that the district and state conventions will be held in the upcoming months. She also said that the annual Jefferson-Jackson Democratic Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 25.