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Ordinance threatens junkyards

County commissioners ask for strengthening measures

By Ken MacDonald
News-Journal Associate Editor

Hoke County commissioners are again doctoring the county's proposed junkyard ordinance and it appears that within a year after its passage the ordinance could require every junkyard, scrap dealer and some businesses dealing with small motors and used appliances to relocate.

In its Tuesday morning meeting, the commission directed county attorney Duncan McFadyen to add language to the proposed ordinance regulating the distance of junkyards from churches and existing homes, specifying the type of fence that must surround junkyards and requiring owners to obtain a permit before beginning operation. The latter provision would require an on-site inspection by a health official and possibly a

soil percolation test before a permit is granted.

The new portions would be added to provisions that prohibit junkyards within half a mile of a school or an area with fifteen homes or more; that require junkyards be at least 300 feet from the centerline of any road and be surrounded with an 8 foot fence.

As the commissioners discussed new provisions they seemed to think that virtually no existing business which would fall under the ordinance would be able to stay at its present site.

Commission chairman Wyatt Upchurch said, "I'd like to ask a question of the board. Do you realize how many people this will effect who have junkyards that will come under this? A lot more than you think. We say we don't want to put anyone out of business."

The commission acknowledged that regulating the distance of junkyards from adjacent homes would force about all of the ones currently in operation to relocate. Also, county attorney McFadyen indicated in the meeting that there aren't many places in Hoke County suitable for them if they do have to move.

Meanwhile, work continues on a variance procedure that could be one of the few hopes for junkyards. It would give them an opportunity to ask for exceptions to provisions with which they're unable to comply.

McFadyen said he consulted with the Institute of Government, which often advises local governments on such matters, and it recommended limiting potential variances to specific provisions.

For example, a junkyard owner

might be granted a variance to allow him to locate less than 300 feet from the center of a nearby road, but no variance would be granted allowing an owner to operate without a fence surrounding the property.

The proposed ordinance has caused quite a bit of controversy even before Tuesday's proposed additions.

Most junkyard owners have been unwilling to speak on record, but county officials say owners tell them they are unhappy with the provisions that call for an eight foot fence and continuous vegetation to surround the property. They feel the cost is too great.

Another concern is the distance required from the road.

One business that evidently would fall under the ordinance as it is written now is Raeford Salvage



This business on highway 211 is one of several at the center of the junkyard controversy. It reportedly sprang up over a weekend and though now obscured by corn, is a target of the junkyard ordinance proposed by the Hoke County commission.

Company on South Magnolia street.

Manager Clayton Buoyer says the company has outgrown its current location and had been plan-

ning to move into the county. But the 300 foot rule will mean the site for which he is negotiating, won't be permitted.

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Economic development director resigns

Franklin R. Teal, Chairman of the Raeford-Hoke County Economic Development Commission, has announced the resignation of John C. Howard from the position of Economic Developer and Director of the Commission. Howard has served in this capacity since April, 1985, when he was appointed the Commission's first director. He has resigned in order to accept a position as Executive Director of the Wayne County Economic Development Commission beginning September 28.

Teal indicated that this resignation was officially received by members of the local Economic Development Commission in an Executive Session of its membership on Monday, August 31, 1987, in a special, called meeting. Its announcement was delayed at the request of the Wayne County

Economic Development Commission until September 9 to coordinate with their schedule.

In a letter of resignation to the Commission, dated August 31, 1987, Howard expressed his appreciation "for the professional leadership, flexibility to do the job and trust" given to him by the Commission. He added that he departs from this position "having the highest regard for Hoke County, its people, and its prospects for the future."

In reviewing his decision with the members of the Commission in the August 31 meeting, Howard said he believes "that the work of this Commission has been a contributor to progress in this community and that even much more will be evident from projects both underway and forthcoming."

Teal further stated, "John has done an outstanding job for Hoke County during his time as our Director. Our Commission has a solid foundation and good direction as a result of his dedication and professionalism on the job. We will sincerely miss him but wish him the best in his new endeavor."

"The Commission has already begun its search for a new director to continue the industrial development of Hoke County that John has so forcefully pursued," he said.

Howard will be compiling project materials and finalizing items of work with the local Commission until September 27.



Mayor John K. McNeill Jr.

Hoke gets second major grant

By June Lancaster
News-Journal Staff Writer

The City of Raeford has been awarded an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant of \$457,200. Mayor John K. McNeill Jr. was informed of the grant award last week in a telephone call from the office of Senator Jesse Helms.

"We are very pleased that we were able to qualify for this grant. It will certainly help us address a problem we have had for some time at our waste water treatment

plant," said the mayor.

He said the next step is for the city to formally accept the grant. Then engineers will prepare a working document so that bids can be submitted. He expects work on this project will start early next year.

The improvement to the waste water treatment plant is one step in the five-year improvement plan the city is working on following recommendations by the engineering consulting firm of Black and Veatch.

The \$457,200 grant represents 60 per cent of a total \$762,000 to be used on the improvements and to extend utilities to a proposed industrial plant, according to City Manager Tom Phillips.

The overall project includes \$304,800 in local matching funds, Phillips said. Of that, \$264,800 is city money and \$40,000 is from the county.

One aspect of the grant application was that it must enable a local industry to provide additional jobs

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Former economic development director John C. Howard.

Cummings trial moved

A change in venue in the murder trial of Edward Lee Cummings, accused of first degree murder in the death of Teresa Puryear, has been granted by Superior Court Judge D. B. Herring Jr.

The trial was scheduled to take place in Hoke County Superior Court on October 12 but Cummings' lawyers sought a change of venue because of publicity about the case. The case will now be tried

in New Hanover County.

The bodies of 15-year-old Teresa and her sister Karen, 22, were found on January 13, 1986 in shallow graves off N.C. 211 near McCain Hospital.

In May Cummings was convicted of murder in the death of Karen Puryear. The trial took place in Hoke County. The case is under appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Here's what's on the turkey festival menu

By Pat Allen Wilson

The menu for the North Carolina Turkey Festival to be held in Raeford this month offers a variety of goodies. Eight food vendors will have 11 booths on Main Street on September 19.

There will be turkey, of course. The Hoke County School Food Services will sell turkey sandwiches as well as yeast rolls and cookies.

Should the weather call for ice cream, you'll have a choice. The Music Booster Club will sell ice cream by the scoop, as will the Sweet Thing Concession stand. Another booth will offer soft serve ice cream and sundaes.

Roland's BBQ will feature one of the state's favorites -- barbecue, of course, with French fries and iced tea.

For an appetizer, you'll find Mexican nachos. A Pennsylvania Dutch contribution will be funnel cakes, made by Trent Page.

House of Raeford Farms, Inc. and Cuddy Farms will both be promoting their products and that means free samples.

No sweet tooth need go unsatisfied if your taste doesn't run to ice cream. There will be cotton candy, sno-cones, candied apples, donuts made at the site and lemonade for sale. As an added treat, the do-nut makers will be set up early to make this treat for those putting up displays, etc. on Main Street.

The food vendors will be awaiting hungry festival goers from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Main Street on Saturday, September 19.

Man saves life of daughter in fire

An east Hoke County man walked through a wall of flames to rescue his six-year-old daughter from the family's burning mobile home last Thursday morning at Blake's Mobile Home Park off Highway 401 business.

Irving Monroe said he walked to the bathroom and noticed small flames coming from the area of the water heater. As he tried to approach the room from another direction large flames erupted.

"They hit me then and I had to go through the flames to get the little girl out."

Monroe grabbed Lakesa and made his way out of the home as the flames spread. His wife and two other daughters escaped on

their own, ran to the landlord's home, and called the Hillcrest Fire Department.

Fire chief Mike McNeill, whose department responded along with Raeford Fire Department, says the bedroom was completely gutted. The rest of the home was damaged by smoke and heat.

Monroe, a custodian at Turlington School, suffered burns to both feet and legs and was treated at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and released. He has not returned to work.

The family lost all their possessions. But the trailer, which the Monroes were renting, was insured.



Firemen inspect a mobile home fire in east Hoke. The fire gutted one room--the rest of the trailer was damaged by heat and smoke.

Planning board tackles private roads issue

By June Lancaster
News-Journal Staff Writer

A conflict of interest between strict regulation of the growth of development in Hoke County and encouraging that growth with minimal restrictions surfaced at a special called meeting of the Hoke County Planning Board Monday night.

The planning board met to review proposed amendments to the subdivision ordinance recommended by Commissioners Cleo Bratcher and Tom Howell and County Manager William Cowan.

The three men had been appointed by Hoke County Commission Chairman Wyatt Upchurch to recommend subdivision amendments, including a private road provision.

The committee had recommend-

ed allowing three lots with a thirty foot easement on unimproved dirt roads but planning board members thought that was too restrictive. They voted approval of a motion by Ralph Barnhart to recommend allowing five houses on a dirt road with a 50 foot easement and adequate (to DOT standards) drainage.

Commissioner Mabel Riley, also a planning board member, voted against the motion because it did not include requiring a sand-clay mix for the road base.

The planning board recommended to the commissioners that the three lot 30 foot easement provision remain as an amendment. That provision would help people who have been penalized by the existing subdivision ordinance, it was stated. The planning board recommends that the commissioners add the five lot provision also.

The planning board reminded the committee allowing seven lots on a dirt road with a 60 foot easement, as they originally recommended, would encourage developers to come into Hoke County and "test the waters."

Cowan said there was adequate means in the ordinance now for a developer to "test the waters" by developing in phases.

Planning board members expressed a great deal of concern that an overly restrictive policy would discourage subdivision development. Barnhart said, "We want to make it as easy as possible for someone to subdivide in this county."

Browne Hendrix, planning board chairman, added, "We need to find a way here where the developer can operate."

On another proposal, the planning board voted against the com-

mittee recommendation to repeal Section 212 of the subdivision ordinance. That section deals with gift lots. The committee said they suggested repeal because that section is now in conflict with the minimum lot size ordinance.

Cowan said the whole purpose of the gift lots provision is to allow

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Around Town

By Sam Morris

The best way to describe the weather in Hoke County is WET. It has been raining for the past five days and the forecast doesn't seem to call for fair weather this week. The temperatures have dropped down in the 80° level and this is better than the high 90 mark of the past several weeks.

I don't know for sure how much rain we have had, but the ground should be wet. I don't believe I have ever been any wetter than I was after leaving the football game in Chapel Hill last Saturday. I will say though, that you don't feel as bad wet when you win, as when you lose.

Members of the Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke will meet Monday, Sept. 14 at the office of Glenn Langdon on the Aberdeen Cutoff at five o'clock. Plans will be completed for two or

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Refugee finds 'agitating' hideout

By Pat Allen Wilson

When a new resident of Hoke County found the washing machine she'd moved from Orlando, Florida, wouldn't agitate, she called Cam Miller of Cam's Appliances.

The woman complained that even though she had unplugged the washer, it still made a noise every time she went near it.

Miller found a defective lid switch and proceeded to pull the timer out. When he did so, the

motor started humming and he pushed the timer knob in. He heard a noise "almost like a clicking" and determined that the problem was in the motor.

Miller took screws out to remove the service panel from the back of the washer. As he pulled the panel off, the tail of a rattlesnake dropped down and eight and one-half rattles shook before his eyes.

"I broke track records when I left the house," Miller recalls.

He yelled to the washer's owner that there was a snake in the washer. She followed him out of the house but didn't quite believe that there was a snake in the machine.

Miller says he "smoked two cigarettes" and went back into the house, taking with him a broom and hammer. He peeked into the kitchen and saw the rattler's tail still hanging out of the washer. Using the broom han-

(See SNAKE, page 2)