

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

NEWS CENTER

Public Hearing Held Board Votes 4-1 To Buy Raiford House

Strong feelings were expressed against the purchase of the Raiford House during the public hearing Monday night, after which the Kenansville Town Board voted 4 to 1 to buy the historic landmark and renovate as a new Town Hall.

Doug Judge, Mayor of Kenansville, opened the hearing, which was held at the Courthouse because of the large number, approximately 100, attending. Mayor Judge stated, "The purpose of this hearing is to discuss the pro's and con's of the purchase of the Raiford House."

The Kenansville Town Board approved by a 3 to 2 vote at a meeting last month to negotiate for the house. At a later called meeting, Board member Phil Kretsch made a motion to hold a public hearing after learning that there was strong opposition to the purchase.

"We feel like it is time to expand our town facilities," stated Judge. "In 1972 we signed a 5-year renewal 15-year contract with the Fire Department with an option that each could terminate the contract at any time."

Mayor Judge then gave the reason: the Town Board felt they should go elsewhere for expanding the Town Hall, and also their reasons for buying the Raiford House.

"What other property have you looked into buying?" asked Robert Franklin Williamson. "What about property in front of Liberty Hall?"

"We have not looked into this," replied Mayor Judge. "Let's look at this from a practical point of view. Can we afford this?" asked Earl Hatcher.

"We possibly can get a grant," said Judge. "May I speak," said Hatcher. "If we get too much promised out, we are going to spread ourselves too thin, and I would not be proud to bring anyone into town and point out that house as our Town Hall."

"What is the possibility of our town growing as much in the future as in the past?" asked Ivey Bowden.

"I think the possibilities are greater," replied Judge. "Maybe I can help with this," stated Town Administrator Woody Brinson.

"I was the one responsible for preparing the budget, so let me give you these figures. Property Taxes in the 1974-75 budget listed \$41,000, and in 1977-78 \$55,000; Franchise Tax \$10,500 - \$14,500; Intangibles Tax, \$1,190 and \$1,350; Local Sales Tax, \$9,900 and \$12,500; ABC Profits, \$8,800 and \$13,200; Powell Bill (Gasoline Tax), \$12,600 and \$13,700; and Water and Sewer Charges, \$36,200 and \$45,000."

"What is our indebtedness?" asked Board member Jimmy Johnson. "\$396,000," stated Brinson. "Would you pinpoint the issues or controversy?" asked Colon Holland.

"The issue is the Raiford House," replied Judge. "Well, what would this Board do if this property was not available?" asked Holland.

"I don't know. I feel certain that they would look for other property," answered Judge. "I think the Town officials should remember that they were elected to serve the interests of the people, and I think a vote of the wishes of the people would end this meeting," exclaimed Hatcher.

Town Attorney W. E. Craft stated that a vote of preference would not help the interests of the citizens against the purchase.

The public hearing at the Courthouse was adjourned and the Town Board members, along with many interested citizens, moved to the Town Hall for the vote.

The Board meeting was called to order by Mayor Doug Judge with the minutes of the last meeting and the special called meeting read by Town Clerk Ruth Holmes. Board member William Fennell made a motion to purchase the Raiford property with a second by John Hall, W.E. Craft, Town Attorney, said that in order to make the motion legal it must read "for purchase-lease at \$41,500," which was agreed to. Board members John Hall, William Fennell, Mrs. Elbert Long and Phil Kretsch voted in favor, with Jimmy Johnson voting against.

As soon as the vote was taken, Board member Jimmy Johnson walked from the room, followed by many other Kenansville citizens.

An anti-purchase group was formed after the vote and collected money in order to secure a lawyer to possibly block the purchase. The group also announced a write-in campaign for Jack Brinson as Mayor.

On November 8th, Mayor Doug Judge and Town Clerk Ruth Holmes closed the "Lease-Purchase Contract" with Mrs. P.B. Raiford to purchase the Raiford property for the new Town Hall. The contract is recorded in the Register of Deeds Office in Kenansville. The Town also presented Mrs. Raiford with a check for \$10,000 as the first year's lease.

According to Town Administrator Woody Brinson, the Town is presently applying for a National Historic Grant of approximately \$25,000. Brinson also stated that "of the estimated \$13,000 renovation, \$5,000 in labor will be provided for through a recent Manpower Grant, which the Town has just received."

Interested citizens - Pictured are some of the many Kenansville citizens in attendance at the Courthouse for a public hearing held on Monday night concerning the purchase of the Raiford House as the new Town Hall. Later at a Board meeting, the purchase, although highly contested, was made final by a 4 to 1 vote.

Kenansville Mayor Wins By Narrow Margin Over Write-In Candidate, Voting Reflects Public Hearing Controversy

Incumbent Mayor Douglas Judge barely won over write-in candidate Jack Brinson as controversy stirred voter interest in Kenansville because of the disagreement over the purchase of the Raiford House as a new Town Hall. Judge received 131 votes to 116 for Brinson with approximately half of the registered voters making their preference known.

Town board member Philip Kretsch, who had first opposed the purchase but who voted with the majority at their meeting Monday night, lost his bid for re-election.

KENANSVILLE - Commissioners elected included: Earl Hatcher (228 votes) and Cordell Johnson (127 votes). Others receiving votes were: Phil Kretsch (99) and Nick Bowden (52).

BEULAVILLE - Incumbent Mayor Carl Pate was defeated by Marion Edwards (208 votes to 148). Commissioners elected included: Mervin Whaley (231 votes) and Wilbur Hussey (264 votes). Others receiving votes were: Donald Ray Brown (28), Douglas Brown (94) and J.M. Simmons (50).

MAGNOLIA - Commissioners elected included Hubert Lee Howard (101 votes), Bromley Pope (121 votes) and Millard Williams (106 votes). Others receiving votes were: Incumbent Clarence Evans (91 votes), Preston Hall (95), and Frank Krause (73).

WARSAW - Sam Godwin, Sr. was unopposed as Mayor, and received 381 votes. Commissioners elected included: Incumbents W.E. Foster (296 votes) and John Weatherly (306 votes). Kenneth Guy received 204 votes.

WALLACE - Incumbent Mayor Charles Farrior was unopposed and received 458 votes. Commissioners elected included: Incumbent Lloyd J. Boone (360 votes) and Willie M. Biggs (274 votes). Others receiving votes were: Jessie Denkins (37), Norman Pate Evans (53), Reba E. Harvell (26), Bobbie W. Marshburn (199 votes) and Dulan E. Murray (101).

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FARMER OF THE YEAR - (L to R) Joe Williams, Soil Conservationist, is shown presenting his "little brother" Franklin a trophy naming him Conservation Farmer of the Year at a banquet held at the Oak Ridge Community Building on Monday night. The award was part of the 7th Annual Duplin Soil and Water Conservation Tour.

Conservation Tour Held Williams Named Farmer Of The Year

Franklin Williams of Route 1, Wallace, was named "Conservation Farmer of the Year" at a banquet held at the Oak Ridge Community Building which concluded the 7th annual Duplin Soil Conservation District Tour on Monday.

Franklin farms 511 acres of which 260 acres are in crops. His emphasis has been on practices that keep topsoil in the fields, such as field borders, grass waterways, etc.

Conservation Poster Contest awards were presented to Johnny Rouse, 1st Place; Camille Grady, 2nd place; and Jennie Lee, 3rd Place. All three are students at B.F. Grady School.

The Tour was sponsored by the Duplin Soil and Water Conservation District and Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company.

According to Kenneth Futrell, Duplin County Conservationist, "The purpose of the tour is to review and discuss conservation practices which the local people are doing well, and to improve the environment of Duplin County."

Otho Lee Holland welcomed the group, which included Congressman Charlie Whitley along with local Commissioner Bill Costin and many other Duplinites.

Pictures on Page 4 show some of the points of interest the group of approximately 160 visited.

Son Of A Gun

Armistice Day is almost here. . . Others call it Veterans Day, but when I first started attending Warsaw's celebration long ago it was Armistice Day. . . and still is to me. The reason I am sure it is just around the corner is that the carnival is in Warsaw. . . And I like a carnival as much as most, but this year it has been set up practically in my back yard. . . and I don't like it THAT much. . .

Armistice Day was to me, as a youngster, a Fun Day. . . I had no idea the celebration was due to a war ending. . . To me it was a day to get out of school early, go to Warsaw and have a fun time. . .

I remember one year when I was just beginning to notice girls. . . I was at that stage where I wasn't sure which was the most fun, . . . girls or ball. . . Of course I later found out that with girls you can have a ball. . . but not this particular time. . . Not this Armistice Day. . . I was supposed to be sweet on Annie Grace, and we were to meet at the carnival and do something together. . . And I got a wide awakening. . . Our first ride was the octopus. . . We went up to the ticket booth and the ticket seller gave me two tickets and took my money. . . "Hey," I said, "I didn't want but one. I am not going to ride this thing but once. . ."

And he said, "Aren't you buying one for your girl?" (who was standing beside me). . . Son-of-a-gun. . . I hadn't thought of that. . . I looked at Annie Grace and asked "Ain't you going to buy you a ticket?" . . . I guess she was a little more accustomed to this boy-girl thing than I was. . . She looked shocked, but bought her own ticket. . . So then I tell the fellow I wanted to turn one of my tickets back in for the money. . . But "No, sir," says he. . . "When you buy them, you get them. . . No refunds." . . My god. . . I thought, I only have \$2 and at the price of two on each ride -- and junk -- my money won't last long. . . So I said, "Annie Grace, you keep your ticket and later on you can buy another one and we will ride this thing again." . . But Annie Grace had less money than I did. . . Well, in those days there were gambling booths all over the place. . . Roll the Dice. . . Guess Where the Rat Will Go. . . Shoot over the Coke Bottle with the \$5 bill in it. . . So I tried a couple of those, but the only thing I was any good at was spending and losing money. . . So soon I was broke. . . I was penniless before noon. . . At that time my dad worked at the movie. . . So Annie Grace and I went to the movie to see Dad and, hopefully, replenish my bankroll. . . But Dad said "Nothing doing. . . You spent your money, and you will just have to do without." . . What in the world am I going to tell Annie Grace, I thought. . . I'd told her I could get more money from Dad and he'd said "no". . . I'd even told him I was with this girl and we had no money, and would he at least give me enough money to get into the movie. . . And he did. . . And we sat there holding hands. . . But I didn't enjoy the movie. . . All the time I was trying to think of a way to get some more money to go back to that carnival. . . Never did think of any way, but things turned out all right anyway. . . When we got out of the movie, Annie Grace's parents were waiting and she had to go home. . . I spent the rest of the day goggle-eyed at the carnival. . . Looking. . . I did see the motorcycle riders in the hotel before I got home. . . And the freestyle act was fine. . . But of all I all I guess I had a good time. . . I guess I did with my money-gone game. . . Annie Grace.

Ingram Honored At Retirement Dinner

Mr. and Mrs. Colon Holland hosted a dinner party honoring Paul Ingram, who retired recently after 25 years as an employee of the U.S. Postal Service in Kenansville. Shows (l to r) Rev. N. B. Barrow of Snow Hill, Mrs. Ingram, Paul Ingram, Colon Holland, postmaster, and Mrs. Barrow.

From Will Baptist Church, of which the Ingrams are long-time members, and Chestnut is a retired rural mail carrier and a close friend of the honoree.

In Postmaster Holland's welcome remarks, he said, "Welcome to my Thanksgiving special, for you all are very special guests, who have come to witness gratitude to a very special person, Paul Ingram."

Prayer to the benediction by the Rev. N. B. Barrow of the Will Baptist Church, Kenansville, closed Ingram with a prayer of thanksgiving, which the

Open House At ED

Charles R. Powers, principal, announces an Open House to be held at East Duplin High School on Thursday night, November 10th, from 7-8:30 p.m. Patrons will have an opportunity to tour the building, including the new Vocational Education and Fine Arts Building. All teachers will be present.

The contest is sponsored this week by the following businesses: Smith Brothers Gas Company of Magnolia and Beulaville; Golden Skillet of Warsaw; Ebersole's Market of Warsaw; Kenansville Drug Store of Kenansville; Brown's Cabinet & Millwork, Inc., of Snow Hill; Tullora Chrysler

Warsaw To Hold 57th Veterans Parade

Warsaw will hold its 57th Veterans Day Parade Saturday at 11 a.m. Professional and local floats, along with military and local bands are scheduled for the parade. A special attraction to the parade will be James Kenan High School students dressed in animated costumes sponsored by local merchants.

Activities for the week include a nightly carnival with local booths, Midget Football on Wednesday night, and a sidewalk sale on Saturday. All activities will be held at Warsaw Recreation Department except for the parade, sidewalk sales and the Midget Football game which will be played at 7 p.m. at James Kenan High School.