

# Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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## Proposed 1953-54 Kinston Budget Nears \$2,000,000

### Ten-Cent Cut in Tax Rate Recommended in Face of Increase

#### Getting It Here Proposing to Spend it This Way

Offsetting the \$1,996,339.36 that is proposed to be spent for the coming year by the various city departments of Kinston is an equal amount of revenue which these departments hope to "take in" between now and the 30th of June 1954.

Following here is a breakdown of just where this nearly two million bucks is expected to come.

The biggest chunk, by far, \$1,200,000 is expected from the sale of electricity, which includes street lighting and other departmental charge-offs such as lighting of parks, and stadiums.

Another big chunk comes from utilities also as \$155,000 is hoped and expected to come from sale of water, which, again, includes departmental charge-offs such as water for pools and fire hydrants.

Based on the tax revenue on a \$1.15 rate which is 10 cents lower than last year's \$1.25 rate an estimated total tax collection of \$355,137 is included under anticipated revenues. The gross tax collection for the past year was \$290,526.39.

Other sources of revenue in smaller chunks include: Privilege licenses \$18,000, parking meters, \$30,000, Recorder's Court \$24,000, cemetery lots and fees \$18,000, ABC profits (Kinston gets one fourth of the profits) \$40,000, building inspection fees \$7,500, swimming pools income \$2,400, white, \$1,600 colored, auto and bicycle license \$4,500, water and sewer taps \$24,000, beer tax (paid to city by state) \$16,000.

The City of Kinston is really reaching up into the "city" class, at least so far as budgets are concerned. The 1953-54 tentative budget which has been prepared by City Manager Bill Heard and the various department heads of the city government comes within a few thousand dollars of hitting the two million buck mark. And happily Heard and his aides also can point to an anticipated revenue that is ample to cover this burgeoning budget.

An estimated \$1,996,339.36 is the figure that aldermen are now toying with and will give final consideration to at the July meeting next Monday night. This represents a boost of \$256,624.04 over the 1952-53 budget which stood at \$1,739,715.32.

City Manager Heard has included with this tentative budget now in the hands of the mayor and aldermen an explanation for each asked for appropriation and reasons for the increase, if any, that the various departments wish.

The allocation to the mayor and the board is upped from \$10,000 to \$16,000. Largely explained in the salary boosts granted to the six by the 1953 General Assembly. This also includes an increase of \$1,000 from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for legal expenses.

Under general appropriations made by the council last year's \$23,000 figure is upped to \$27,752 which permits increases of \$500 for Christmas lighting (\$1,500 to \$2,000), the National Guard allocation moves up from

\$600 to \$1,200 which includes funds for a second Guard unit for Kinston. Funds for Granger High School Band director are cut from \$3,100 to \$1,900 since the school budget is including a larger share of this expense this year. The City School Tripart Officer allocation is boosted from \$2,100 to \$2,300.

City Manager Heard recommends the full increase by the Public Library from last year's \$7,500 up to \$13,102. Larger quarters, a full-time librarian, need of more personnel and more books are the main reasons behind this big boost.

The \$1,000 airport commission allocation of last year is omitted for 1953-54.

Under the heading of personal benefits and pensions supplements a decrease from \$72,439.96 to \$59,635.96 is recommended. Another \$11,500 for the state retirement fund plus \$1,100 for insurance. An item of \$25,000 for contingent salary increases is omitted from this proposed budget.

For the Municipal Stadium a boost from \$6,062.50 to \$8,000 is made which includes salary increases of \$1,400 and increases in water, electricity and insurance for this department.

For the city hall Heard asks the board to allocate \$7,700 instead of the \$4,212 of last year to provide funds for a new floor in the court room and for mounting new exhaust fans aimed at making the court room a little more bearable in hot weather.

For the city manager's office a boost of \$581 is asked to cov-



er pay raise granted last year. The city finance office allocation is upped from \$27,578 to \$39,867, which includes \$4,472 pay increases, \$300 for repairs, postage \$200 and addition to the office of \$4,000. A decrease from \$4,200 to \$750 is made in this department for new equipment. The city mapping project allo-

Kinston firemen are seen here on the rear roof of the home of Hattie Ingram at 607 Fields Street Monday afternoon fighting a fire in the upstairs bedroom which is believed to have started from faulty wiring. Considerable damage was done to the house by the fire, water and smoke. (Polaroid One-Minute Photo by Jack Rider.)

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## Farm Management, or Lack of It, Is Still Eastern Carolina's Biggest Problem



Nestled almost out of sight in a weed bed, above, is a "rotary hoe," one of the fanciest and latest gadgets for getting weeds out of young crops in a hurry. As the corn in the background indicates it has been many weeks since there was any use in the field for this expensive and use-

ful piece of farm equipment. The weeds that almost hide the hoe are further testimony to its prolonged exposure to the elements. The only person who benefits from this kind of "farm management" is the man who sells such equipment. (Polaroid One-Minute Photo by Jack Rider.)

Since Eastern Carolina, with the rest of the Nation, climbed out of the extreme pits of the 1930's depression great forward strides have been taken in the principal business of our area: Farming.

The SCIENCE of farming has been forced to move forward because of new diseases and new demands by the consumer. This almost unbelievable advance along the scientific frontiers of Eastern Carolina farming has been too general, too great and too widely known to dwell on at great lengths. Development of disease resistant strains of tobacco has been the single biggest scientific contribution to this area, but there have been many others that may, in the long run, be of equal significance. Among these is soil analysis, soil conservation, pasture seeding and control, dozens of phases of improved production and marketing of livestock and poultry, farm architecture from the parlor to the pig pen and other less obvious improvements.

Along with the leap forward in agricultural science have also come amazing advances in farm mechanization. Today the mule is fast disappearing from the Eastern Carolina farm and the tractor reigns supreme.

But as farm science and mechanization moved ahead it became increasingly important that a third phase of business also come to the farm: Management. Today the efforts of most men and women who are in the "professional" end of farming; the county agents, home agents, soil conservationists, FMA Committeemen and civic farm com-

mittees are aiming most of their heavy artillery at this remaining weakness on the average Eastern Carolina farm.

Admittedly, farm management of today is superior to that of 20 years ago, but it still does not compare to what it was prior to the War Between the States and what it is today in other areas; such as Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to name an outstanding example of the very finest combination of management, machinery and science.

Intelligent and continuous farm management have always been vitally important to the farmer and to the nation as a whole, but today, with the shift in the population of the nation AWAY from the farm, management has become increasingly important. When 15 per cent of the people of the nation lived in towns and lived off the surplus produced by the 85 per cent of the people who tilled the soil the importance of a stable farm economy was far less than it is today when less than 15 per cent of the people till the soil and feed, clothes and house—to a certain extent, the 85 per cent which classes itself urban or rural-not-farm.

An amazingly large percentage of Eastern Carolina's farmers know nothing of the individual soil characteristics of their various plots of land. They never take the time or small trouble to use the scientific advances in this particular sphere. On down the line this class, which is the majority, knows little and cares less about using these proven stepping stones to a more profitable production and

a more secure future.

One glaring and physical evidence of the LACK of farm management that anyone may see in a few minutes ride through the countryside is the expensive machinery that is left in the field after field to rust and to rot "in between use." Transplanters, discs, bottom plows, harrows, cultivators—in short all of the machinery that costs so much and helps so much on the farm may be found depreciating far too rapidly out in the weather.

And although many farmers do have shelters for this expensive equipment there are few shelters that can be classed as adequate and even in the best the farmer usually just parks the mud and dust encrusted piece of equipment until it is to be used next time and then a day or more must be spent in scraping mud and rust off. The very simple and easy application of a little used oil from the farm car or truck would be far less expensive in time and money.

Accurate farm figures on production by year, by individual field, by fertilizer use are not kept by 10 per cent of Eastern Carolina's farmers.

Accurate figures on marketing by year, by crop, by market and by variety are missing on an even a larger percentage of local farms, probably due to increasing interest in recent years to the "income tax man," who might want to look at such figures.

Production cost figures are missing too. True, the average farmer knows how much he

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