

Ocean Isle Begins Phase II Of Sewer System Development

BY SUSAN USHER

With construction of its \$5 million-plus sewer system underway, Ocean Isle Beach commissioners started discussing plans Tuesday to expand its capacity to keep pace with accelerated growth.

Commissioners met in special session at 9 a.m., hiring the engineering firm of Henry von Oesen & Associates to begin preliminary work on Phase II at a total cost of about \$14,000.

In addition to expanding the

overall capacity of the system, Phase II will serve the extreme east end of the beach, the least developed portion of the town and the only area not included in Phase I.

With potentially few sites near the town suitable for wastewater disposal, commissioners said they want to study all alternatives—including possible use of the Ocean Isle Beach Golf Course for spray irrigation.

Mayor LaDane Bullington said that

a regional sewer study completed more than 10 years ago identified only a few suitable sites that were not prime development property, some of which may no longer be available or may be too far away to be cost-effective.

Commissioners specified to William (Bill) E. Burnett, an environmental planner with the engineering firm, that they want all reasonable alternatives checked out before the town invests in a detailed hydrogeological study of one site.

In a letter to the town, the firm had proposed the golf course as an obvious alternative, with the owners agreeable to the idea.

But Mayor LaDane Bullington stressed that all other alternatives should be studied first.

"We don't want to buy any more than we need," she cautioned, "but we don't want a short-term fix either."

Ideally the expansion will serve the town at least 15 to 20 years, she said.

Burnett agreed to bring recommendations for the board's approval before authorizing a detailed study. He noted that a \$7,500 additional fee for the hydrogeological study by geologist Edwin A. Andrews III was based on the golf course site and will

be subject to change depending on the option chosen by the board.

He said the town could even check with the state on the possible discharge of treated wastewater into the Shallotte River, an idea commissioners didn't pursue Tuesday.

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Ocean Isle Will Consider Paved Business Entrances

BY SUSAN USHER

An Ocean Isle Beach business got a temporary break Tuesday morning when the town's Zoning Board of Adjustments tabled action on a request for a variance.

CBN Associates had sought permission from the town to keep a concrete, 36-foot-wide driveway at Sand Dollar Realty, located on the causeway to the island.

In an apparent unintentional violation of the town's zoning ordinance, the entire span had been poured all the way to the street's curb and gutter. Driveways that serve businesses are not supposed to be paved—to allow more surface for absorption for runoff, Street Commissioner Odell Williamson explained.

Both he and Debbie Fox, a town commissioner, agreed with CBN spokesman Nick Newton that the compromise he proposed Tuesday morning would be an improvement over existing ordinances. They also agreed that the coquina now allowed in driveways is almost as impervious as paving.

(Town commissioners also sit as

the zoning board of adjustments, with Mayor LaDane Bullington as clerk and Commissioner Betty Williamson as chairman.)

Rather than regulate through granting individual variances, though, board members said they would prefer to study the zoning ordinance for possible revision.

Newton wants to leave the driveway paved, but tear out aprons on either side where a sidewalk will eventually cross. In the meantime he plans to plant shrubs and flowers there.

"In C-2, where we do have curbs and gutters," agreed Odell Williamson, "we could allow them to pave the driveway."

Pending board action on the request for variance, members said the driveway at Sand Dollar Realty does not have to be torn out.

In the meantime, members cautioned Building Inspector T.D. Roberson to be on the lookout for similar situations, so that property owners might avoid unnecessary expense in tearing out driveway connections that are in violation.

"We don't need Ocean Isle Beach paving parking areas right up to the curb," said Odell Williamson. "What you're going to have if you allow that is cars backing up and hanging over (into the roadway). You can't provide that amenity for visitors and not expect them to use it."

In addition, he added that the 36-foot-wide driveway would serve as a "canal," channeling stormwater runoff into street manholes intended to handle runoff from the road, not adjoining lots. A 20-foot-wide driveway would be better, he said, questioning whether the state permitted extra wide drives. Newton said the realty company had gotten a permit for it.

Both Commissioner Fox and the mayor pointed out that in considering the matter, the town needs to keep in mind new stormwater rules being developed by the state.

In other action, the zoning board of adjustments changed its regular meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Town commissioners will consider

another zoning matter on August 13, at a 4 p.m. public hearing before their regular meeting. The town proposes to allow public utility substations within areas zoned for single-family and two-dwelling structures. The move is to accommodate sewer system construction.

Lions Told Interagency Program Could Serve More

As many as 600 residents of Brunswick County could qualify for the Interagency educational program, coordinator Tom McGraw told Shallotte Lions Club members at

their Aug. 1 meeting. The club met at Bennett's Seafood Restaurant in Calabash, with President Bobby Long presiding.

In addition to the program,

members also reviewed a calendar of events that outlined club activities through the remainder of the year, said secretary Leonard C. Ferguson.

McGraw emphasized the goal of the interagency program training areas is to provide participants with the skills they need to live and work as independently as possible.

The interagency program, serving primarily the mentally retarded, is a joint venture of Brunswick Technical College, Brunswick County Public Schools, Southeastern Mental Health Center and Brunswick County Advocates for Retarded Citizens. In operation approximately one year, the project anticipates growth as more citizens learn of its availability and growth.

Located on the grounds of the technical college in Supply, the program welcomes visitors.

Southport Man Named To Inspection Board

James J. Jeffries of Southport has been appointed to the N.C. Gas and Oil Inspection Board by Gov. James G. Martin.

The state board, with three members, sets specification standards for all motor fuels and kerosene. The commissioner of agriculture is ex-officio chairman, as standards set by this board are regulated and enforced by the N.C. Department of Agriculture Standards Division.

A Nanticoke, Pennsylvania native, Jeffries attended Bucknell Junior College in Wilkes Barre, and later completed studies in petroleum refinery engineering and petroleum refining processes. He worked for 46 years in the refinery and petrochemical industry.

Jeffries has served as a Southport city commissioner, including four years as police commissioner and mayor pro tem. He currently serves

on the board of elections and was an unsuccessful Republican candidate for the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners in 1982.

Married to a native of Southport, he and wife Marjorie have two daughters, Catherine Perry and Nancy Lynn, and five grandchildren.


The other two members appointed to the board are David G. Blevine of Spruce Pine and William G. Daughtridge Jr. of Rocky Mount.

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