

Shalotte Prepared To Revise Water Extension Ordinance

BY DOUG RUTTER

Homes or businesses within one mile of Shalotte could soon have the option of using town water.

However, that service won't be free. Such out-of-town customers would have to finance line extensions and request annexation into town under the terms of a water extension ordinance which town aldermen are expected to adopt next week.

During last Wednesday's meeting, the board briefly reviewed a revised proposal for extending water lines beyond the town limits and decided to study the changes another two weeks before amending the existing ordinance.

At the meeting, town Attorney Mark Lewis presented a package which included an ordinance, policy, agreement between the town and Brunswick County concerning water line extensions around Shalotte and a standard contract between the town and water service applicants outside the town limits.

Alderman Wilton Harrelson was the only board member absent.

The original proposal was presented to the board in May, and the revised proposal is the product of a committee consisting of the town attorney, board members Jody Simmons and David Gause, Water Supervisor Albert Hughes and Alan Lewis of Lewis and Associates of Shalotte, engineers for the town water system.

While Mayor Jerry Jones said the package had been considered and discussed long enough, he urged board members to look over the revisions before taking action on the ordinance and policy. Aldermen are expected to adopt the package during their regular meeting next Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in town hall.

"There are some substantial

changes from the other proposal," the attorney told board members during last week's meeting, adding that Alan Lewis did most of the work on the new package. "But it's basically the same as before."

A major point of the ordinance is that the town would accept applications for water service from persons living within one mile of the town limits. Those applications, however, must be accompanied by a petition for annexation.

The ordinance specifically states that the town is not obligated to annex the property or extend water service if the board feels it is not financially or hydraulically feasible.

Under the proposal, the party that requests water service would pay the full cost of the line extension unless it is oversized to provide for future water needs, in which case the town would pay the difference. The ordinance defines oversized lines as lines which are greater than the needs of the developer and greater than six inches in diameter.

Applicants for water must also open, grade and otherwise prepare streets to meet town specifications. Once the water service has been extended, streets must be dedicated to the town along with the water lines.

Board members briefly discussed doing away with the contract between the town and out of town water customers, but decided to keep it at the request of the town attorney.

"You need that. I don't see how you can do away with that," said Lewis. "It makes everything clear as far as what the people have to do."

A proposed contract between the town and Brunswick County would require the county to obtain approval of the town board prior to extending water service to any new customers

"There ain't no roads over there. It's a very sore subject in Brierwood."

—Sarah Tripp
Shalotte Alderman



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

SOME STREETS in Brierwood Estates, like the intersection of Country Club Drive and Sandtrap Drive above, are in drastic need of improvement. Town Aldermen said last week that Shalotte won't take over street maintenance in the golf course community until the roads are brought up to state standards.

within one mile of Shalotte.

Many of the revisions in the proposal presented last week take decision-making power away from the county and leave it in the hands of the town board.

For instance, the extension of water service beyond the town limits would not require prior approval of the county under the revised ordinance. The town could also decide to extend water service more than

one mile beyond the town limits to schools, industries or other properties that have water supplies of unsatisfactory quality or quantity.

Sections added to the proposed ordinance include one which requires the applicant or developer to submit a lien waiver signed by all contractors and subcontractors showing the line is paid for before the town takes it over. The contractor and applicant must also warrant workmanship for at least one year.

Also added to the proposal was a paragraph requiring that all plans for water line extensions provide for fire hydrants at least 800 feet but not more than 1,000 feet apart.

Under the town's existing ordinance, the decision to extend water lines beyond the town limits is left to the discretion of the board of aldermen.

In recent months, requests have piled up for water service outside the town limits. The board has not discussed or acted on those requests, however, pending adoption of the updated ordinance and policy.

Personnel Discussed

Also last week, the board discussed a personnel matter in executive session for 40 minutes at the request of Alderman Gause. No action was taken on the matter, which had to do with the length of service and retirement benefits of a former town employee.

Former maintenance employee Johnnie Browning, who retired earlier this year, complained that the town provided inaccurate employment dates in forms sent to the state Division of Retirement Systems, said Mayor Jerry Jones.

According to Jones, town records reflect that Browning started working for the town in October 1979, while the former employee believes he started working for the town about two years prior to that date.

If Browning can prove the town records are inaccurate, the board agreed to forward the correct information to Raleigh.

"If he can prove he was here two years prior to that, there's no problem. We'll send it off to the state," the mayor said following last week's meeting.

Streets Need Improvement

Aldermen also talked about streets during their meeting last week and

agreed that roads in Brierwood Estates need major improvement before the town takes over maintenance while another street in town needs outside attention before it can be paved.

According to Mayor Jones, Brierwood developers are planning to ask the town board to take over maintenance of the streets. A previous request was turned down because of the condition of the roads.

Mayor Pro Tem Paul Wayne Reeves said the streets were never brought up to state standards even after the area was annexed into town. He said drastic improvements have to be made before the town will ever consider taking over the roads.

"There ain't no roads over there," added board member Sarah Tripp. "It's a very sore subject in Brierwood."

Aldermen also talked briefly about Bailey Street, which the town recently learned would not be taken over by the N.C. Department of Transportation for maintenance as was previously thought.

Board members hope to pave the street soon, but said the county will first have to improve it to the condition it was in prior to installation of county water lines.

Other Business

In other business, aldermen:

- Sent to the planning board a request from Sammy Gore for a zoning change on his Mulberry Street property from industrial to commercial.

- Heard from town secretary Sandy Hewett that four groups have registered for the town's annual Christmas Parade. This year's parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. Businesses or organizations interested in entering can call town hall.

- Denied a request from Russell Lewis to purchase sludge produced at the town sewer plant for use as fertilizer. Supervisor Hughes said because of the design of the wastewater treatment plant, the byproduct is more like sediment than sludge.

- Received the police report for the month of August from Police Chief Rodney Gause. During the period, police drove 7,050 miles, answered 433 calls, made 29 arrests, recovered \$31,500 in property and spent 17.64 hours in court.

Police Forums Will Focus On Armed Robbery And Rape

Brunswick County law enforcement officials have scheduled two forums later this month which will address the topics of armed robbery and rape.

The first of these will be an armed robbery class slated for Tuesday,

Sept. 27, at 8 a.m. in Shalotte Town Hall.

Shalotte Police Chief Rodney Gause and Brunswick County Crime Prevention Officer Don Gates will teach the course, which will tell business owners and employees what to do during an attempted robbery

and preventive measures that can be taken against such crimes.

On Sept. 30, a public meeting addressing rape will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the West Brunswick High School auditorium.

Representatives of local police forces and the Brunswick County

Sheriff's Department are expected to discuss the prevention of rape, investigative techniques, self defense and how rape is handled in the court system.

Persons interested in attending either one or both of these meetings are asked to contact Gause at 754-6008 or Gates at 253-4321.

PBS Training Series Focuses On Teaching Adults To Read

A new PBS series that begins Sept. 16 on UNC-TV, Chapel Hill, offers information on how to "Teach An Adult To Read" and should be of special interest to local literacy volunteers or prospective volunteers.

According to the Brunswick County Literacy Council, the programs will air Sept. 16, 23, 30, and Oct. 7 and 14, with a repeat of the series to begin Oct. 21.

Program 1 targets understanding the personal side of illiteracy and sensitivity to the needs of adult students. Other programs are focused as follows: Program 2—Beginning with Books, introduces the Laubach Way to Reading program, as well as

"New Beginnings in Reading," "Reading for Today" and other print material; Program 3—Using Your Student's Life and Language, introduces the use of language experience as a teaching tool; Program 4—Using Sounds and Sense, introduces phonics as an approach to reading; and Program 5, Reading for Living, demonstrates how to use everyday items such as newspapers and the phone book to teach reading skills.

For more information on teaching adults to read, contact the Brunswick County Literacy Council. Tutor training workshops are scheduled for September and November.

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