

Shalotte Wants A Voice In Growth Around Town Borders

BY SUSAN USHER

After shelving the idea for four years, Shalotte Aldermen now say the town should begin exercising its extraterritorial authority outside the town limits.

Their position is spurred in part by a growing interest on the part of Brunswick County government in zoning.

Extraterritorial jurisdiction would allow the town to enforce its zoning and subdivision ordinances and the state building code in an area up to one mile beyond the town limits. In turn the area would have voting representation on the two town boards that address how property is used: the planning board and board of adjustments.

The jurisdictional privilege is available to towns only where the county has not already taken on all three duties. Brunswick County provides building inspection and subdivision ordinance enforcement in the unincorporated areas of the county, and is studying the possibility of a

zoning ordinance.

"I don't feel any different than I did five years ago, but I would rather us have extraterritorial jurisdiction than the county," said Alderman Wilton Harrelson as he made the motion Wednesday night to proceed. "If the county zones it—and its coming—we're liable to run into some legal headknocking."

It was on his motion in January 1984 that the board tabled consideration of extraterritorial jurisdiction for 12 months. Harrelson said at the time that he didn't like the idea of the town regulating property outside the town limits.

As outlined by Attorney Mark Lewis, the next steps are for the town to establish boundary lines for the jurisdictional area and set a public hearing.

Harrelson recommended that the town planning board meet with a representative of the county's planning department in developing the perimeter line, as well as working with surveyor Bobby Long.



"I would rather us have extraterritorial jurisdiction than the county."

—Wilton Harrelson
Shalotte Alderman

Alderman Sarah Tripp was absent from the meeting, while Alderman David Gause left early to attend to a personal matter. Present for the full meeting were Mayor Jerry Jones and Aldermen Paul Wayne Reaves, Jody Simmons and Wilton Harrelson.

Request Withdrawn

While Shalotte businessman John Fazekas withdrew, at least temporarily, his earlier request for a variance in the town sign ordinance, that didn't quell board members' interest in signs Wednesday night.

"I don't see where what we've got now would work a hardship on

anybody," Harrelson noted.

Citing several recent violations, Mayor Jones and Alderman Reaves pointed out the need for better enforcement of the existing ordinance.

Possible violations include a temporary pyramid sign erected by Fazekas at the intersection of Smith Avenue and U.S. 17, where he had earlier asked to put a 7-foot by 14-foot sign to promote his Smith Avenue businesses. The town code provides for off-premises signs no larger than 32 square feet.

Reaves turned to the town staff, "I recommend making that (sign or-

inance enforcement) a priority for Albert (Hughes) the next two to 10 days."

Other Business

In other business, aldermen:
•Adopted an ordinance that restricts parking or leaving vehicles on the traveled portion of any route in town unless the vehicle is disabled. Town police expect the ordinance to discourage use of the center turn lane for loading and unloading and as temporary parking by truckers on meal breaks and to provide authority in the event a motorist doesn't move a vehicle on request.

•Zoned Forest Heights lots 10, 12 and 14 commercial following a public hearing at which no comments were offered. The planning board had recommended the zoning, which was requested by property owners Jerry Jones, David Pridgen and Wayne Long.

•After a 27-minute executive session requested by Reeves, granted permanent status to patrol officers Ulysses Rhea Altizer Jr. and William

Roy Kohler Jr. on a unanimous vote. The matter had been tabled from the board's last meeting, at which Police Chief Rodney Gause recommended their upgrading from probationary status. All town employees serve six months probation before being considered for permanent employment.

•Agreed to pursue a grant from the N.C. Office of Coastal Management to study stormwater management and landscape regulation, as suggested by Maintenance Supervisor/Building Inspector Albert Hughes. If approved in the July 1 funding cycle, the state would grant the town funds to pay for about two-thirds the cost of the \$5,000 study.

•Took no action on an incomplete request for annexation. Alderman Reaves said the planning board has asked that each such request include a letter, a map showing metes and bounds, plans and projected sewer use, in light of the town's restricted sewage treatment capacity. The petitioners will be asked to resubmit their request.

70 Apply For County Anti-Litter Position

BY RAHN ADAMS

Response to Brunswick County's search for someone to head a new anti-litter department was so great that officials now expect to have a difficult time narrowing down the list of candidates for the job.

According to county Personnel Officer Debbie Bowling, 70 applications were received by last Wednesday's deadline for the "Clean County" project officer post—a vacancy that was announced only two weeks earlier when county commissioners decided to fill the position.

Of that number, 67 applicants are Brunswick County residents, while two live in Wilmington and one resides in the Greensboro area, Ms. Bowling said. Fourteen applicants are current county employees.

The project officer, who will earn a \$22,872 annual salary, will be responsible for "promoting and publicizing litter control methods and concern for the visual environment, monitoring cleanup efforts, acting as staff to the Clean County Committee, researching litter problems, answering complaints and interpreting county ordinances and state laws," according to the county's job advertisement.

Requirements include experience in a public information capacity, and graduation from high school or an equivalent combination of experience and training. Also, the project officer must have a driver's license, be physically capable of performing manual labor and have "interest in Brunswick County as a whole."

Ms. Bowling said it isn't unusual to get 70 applications for a county job—like the Clean County post—that doesn't require "stringent" qualifications such as a college degree or certification in a specific field.

However, for a department head

position, the number of applicants was well above average, she added, noting that the county generally receives about 40 applications for a director or coordinator type job.

County Manager John T. Smith told the Beacon Friday that the difficulty he now faces is deciding whom to interview, since the training and experience requirements are so low. If most of the 70 applicants must be interviewed, the selection process will be extremely protracted, he added.

"I think it's got to be a person who's dedicated to the job, because it's going to take a lot of hours," Smith said, referring to after-hours work the project officer will have to do with volunteers and community groups.

The county manager indicated Friday that he did not know when interviews would be scheduled or when the job would be filled, due to his uncertainty about how many applicants would be interviewed.

He said another problem is finding permanent office space for Clean County at the already overcrowded county government complex in Bolivia.

Almost \$37,000 was allocated for the new department in the 1988-89 county budget last June. However, the coordinator's job wasn't filled right away due to what officials described then as the county's "tight" financial position.

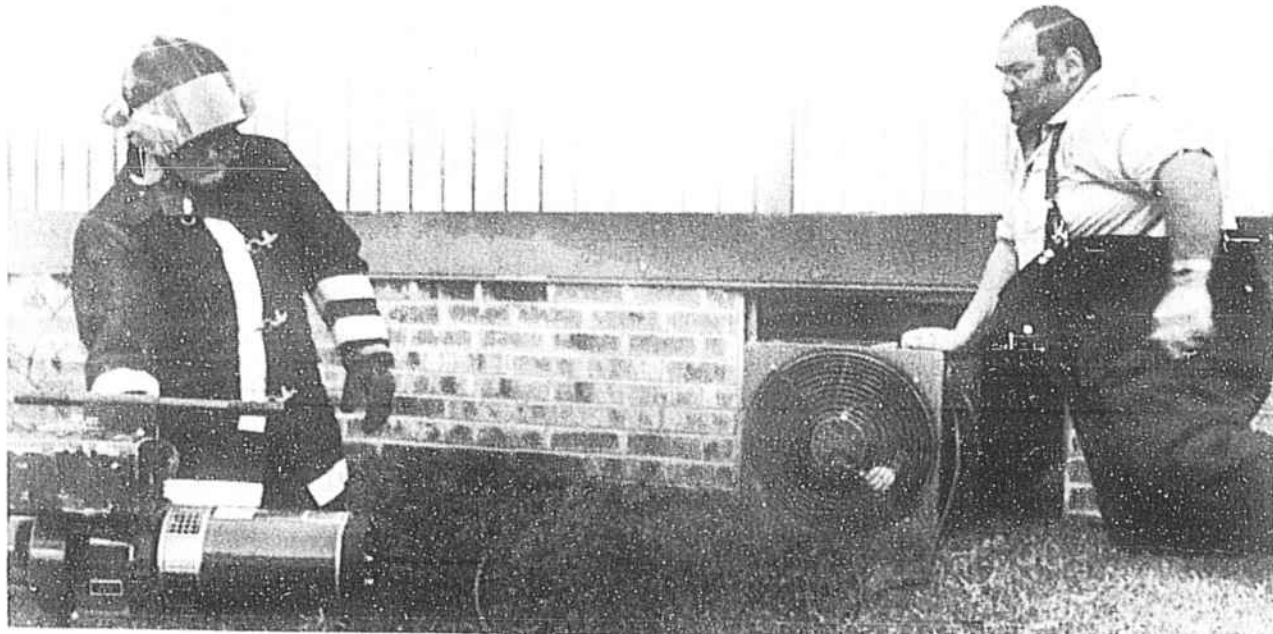
On Feb. 1, the county board voted to advertise the position, after Commissioners Frankie Rabon and Gene Pinkerton noted that they were receiving numerous calls from citizens to fill the post. Pinkerton commented that individuals and civic groups said they wanted to participate in a county-sponsored cleanup effort but were waiting for the department to be formed.

The Shalotte area was 51 degrees, which Canady said was four degrees above normal.

The average daily high temperature was 60 degrees, and the average daily low temperature was 43 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 77 degrees, occurring on Feb. 16. The minimum low temperature was 33 degrees, occurring on Feb. 18 and 19.

Canady measured 1.12 inches of rain during the seven-day period.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTLER

Fire Damage Limited

Property damage was limited and no one was injured in a mobile home fire last Thursday morning in High Hill subdivision off N.C. 130 East. Firefighters from Shalotte and Civictown VFD's responded to the blaze, the second in two weeks in the subdivision. Civictown Chief Al Nord said the fire was caused by a short-

circuit in an electrical cord under the house, and he estimated damages at about \$200. Homeowner Aubrey Trear said the fire melted approximately a 10-foot section of septic tank pipe. Above, Shalotte firefighters Roland Varnum, left, and Wayne Mason draw smoke from underneath the home.

Redwine Introduces Septic Tank Bill

State Rep. E. David Redwine last week introduced to the N.C. General Assembly his third bill relating to sewage treatment, this one calling for changes in numerous areas of state septic tank law.

House Bill 269 is one of 14 bills that members of a 1988 state septic tank study commission co-chaired by Redwine plan to introduce this legislative session. It would change state laws relating to training and continuing education for sanitarians, local health board membership, review and appeal procedures for improvement permit applications and permitting of on-site sewage systems.

Specifically, the bill would promote a continuing education program for sanitarians and would allow appointment to the county health board of a professional engineer, or certified sanitary sewage system contractor if an engineer is not available.

The bill would also provide for technical peer review of permits that have been denied on a local level that are appealed to the state.

Another part of the proposal would provide that the owner of a site that is denied a permit be informed of possible site modifications or alternative systems.

House Bill 269 would also make septic tank permits valid for five years instead of three years would allow an applicant to appeal decisions to a local health board.

Also, the bill would allow individual aerobic sewage treatment plants that are National Sanitation Foundation, Standard 40, Class 1, to be permitted under rules developed by the state Division of Health Ser-

vices and N.C. Environmental Management Commission.

Two weeks ago, Redwine introduced the first two of his bills relating to the septic tank study committee.

The first of those bills, House Bill 159, would appropriate funds to the state Department of Human Resources and the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina for research, development and implementation of various on-site waste treatment projects; aid low-income individuals in obtaining septic tank repairs; and provide continuing education for sanitarians.

House Bill 160, the second bill, would establish a certification program for sanitary sewage system

contractors and a statewide fee schedule for improvement permits.

Still to be introduced is the legislative committee proposal which would likely have the most impact in Brunswick County.

That proposed bill is aimed at allowing septic tanks to be more easily permitted in some areas that are built up with "historic" fill dirt over sandy bottom.

If ratified, Redwine has said the legislation would ease limits in some areas of Holden Beach and Sunset Beach, islands that were affected by a 1987 reinterpretation of state septic tank laws which require at least one foot of natural soil above the water table to receive a permit.

Calabash Goes Outside

(Continued From Page 1-A)

moving into the area who are used to these types of services."

Although it will be up to the ABC board to decide the size of the new building, Wrenn said he has recommended construction of a store that measures approximately 50 feet by 60 feet to 70 feet. As proposed, the new facility would include an unloading dock, something the present store lacks.

It may be several years before construction begins on the new store. The ABC board currently plans to rent the existing store until the lease expires and save money for the new building in the meantime, said Ms. Moore.

"We wanted to get the land first," she said. "We want to get it paid off

before we start on the building."

The ABC board began searching for land for a new ABC store last summer, said Ms. Moore, and looked seriously at about four different locations around town. She said the chosen lots offered the best location at the lowest price.

Shellfish

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Meanwhile, the lower section of the river, downstream of a line running from Genoes Point on the west bank to Gore's Landing on the eastern shore, has apparently stabilized in recent weeks.

After being shut down entirely at the end of August and reopening and closing several times since then, shellfishermen have been permitted to work in those waters since the end of January.

Gilbert said the Lower Lockwood Folly River, which has been nominated for classification as an outstanding resource water, is relatively free of pollutants. On Tuesday, he said any future closing of the lower river would follow sampling by the state. However, closures along the upper reaches of the river are generally automatic following measureable rainfall events.

Library Programs Are 'Outstanding'

Two 1988 Brunswick County Library programs recently were designated as "outstanding" by the N.C. Public Library Directors Association at its winter meeting in Asheville.

The local library's annual Halloween Ghost Walk in Southport, coordinated by Felecia Hardy, was recognized in the children's programs category.

Nancy Price's "North Carolina Month in the Brunswick County Library" was listed as an outstanding adult program because it involved newcomers and natives alike in a series of events at all three library locations.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
Established Nov. 1, 1962
Telephone 754-6890
Published Every Thursday
At 4709 Main Street
Shalotte, N. C. 28459

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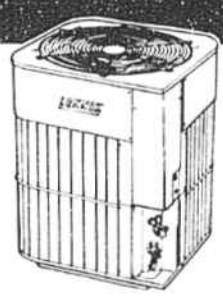
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