

Shallotte Sends Annexation Package Back To Planning Board

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte Planning Board will get a second look at an annexation package that could bring about 800 acres of mostly undeveloped land into town.

But this time around, planners will have an engineer's recommendations at hand as well as some information on the commercial development proposed on one tract of land.

The planning board recommended last month that the town annex two large areas at either end of town. Landowners have requested annexation of about 400 acres north of town and 400 acres at the south end.

After receiving recommendations from the town's sewer plant engineer last Wednesday, however, town aldermen voted to send the requests back to the planning board for another look. Town board members also heard one property owners' plans for commercial development south of town.

The sewer plant engineer, J. Finley Boney of Raleigh, met with some of the town board and planning board members last month to discuss the annexation requests.

In a memorandum to the board, he recommends the town board prepare for growth by establishing an extrajurisdictional area (ETA). Town officials are now working to set up an ETA, which would allow the town to enforce its zoning and subdivision regulations within one mile of the town limits.

Boney also recommends that aldermen plan for growth areas within the ETA and prepare several schemes to provide water and sewer in those areas. Also, he said the town needs to develop fee schedules and water and sewer rates to raise the funds needed for sewer plant expansion.

If aldermen want to proceed with annexation, Boney suggests the town take in the developed sections of both areas. They are the Green Bay Village subdivision

on the north end and Parkview Apartments south of town.

Green Bay Village has approximately six homes, and there are 24 units in the apartment complex. If either area is annexed, Boney recommends that the owners be required to pay for expansion of water and sewer lines and any necessary improvements to streets and storm drainage systems before acceptance of the areas by the town.

W.J. McLamb, who owns the apartment building south of town, said at last week's town meeting that he also has plans for commercial shops in that area. Not giving details of the project, he said it would have very little impact on the sewer plant but would boost the town tax base.

After receiving the planning board's first recommendation, aldermen were concerned they would not have enough sewer plant capacity to serve the two areas once they are developed. The town sewer plant can treat 206,100 gallons of wastewater per day. It is now treating between 95,000 and 125,000 gallons per day, according to Boney.

The planning board was scheduled to meet Tuesday with the annexation requests being one of the items on its agenda. A public hearing will have to be held before any areas are taken into town.

At the close of last week's two-hour meeting, aldermen met in executive session for about 25 minutes but took no action. Town Attorney Mark Lewis requested the closed session to discuss "matters of a legal nature."

Zoning Hearing Set

Town aldermen were to meet with the planning board Tuesday night to discuss a new zoning ordinance developed over the past year by planning board members. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m. in town hall.

For the second consecutive meeting, aldermen tabled action on extrajurisdictional jurisdiction. They want to have

the new zoning ordinance in place before establishing an ETA.

Agreement Approved

Aldermen approved an agreement with the state Department of Transportation last week that could set the stage for future growth on the north side of the U.S. 17 bypass.

The agreement allows the state to include in the paving contract for the bypass improvements to water and sewer lines where N.C. 130 West crosses the bypass and installation of utility casings at Mulberry Street.

At N.C. 130 West, the town's existing six-inch water line would be increased to an eight-inch line and the three-inch sewer line would be doubled in size. No water and sewer lines would be installed at Mulberry Street. But utility casings under the bypass would be put through to allow for future expansion of service north of the bypass.

Maintenance Supervisor Albert Hughes said improvements to the lines at N.C. 130 West will cost about \$6,500. He said the state is estimating work at Mulberry Street will cost about \$25,000.

According to the agreement, the town can delete the projects from the contract if the bids come in too high. Town officials can then seek private contractors to do the work if they desire.

Under an earlier agreement with the state, the town paid for improvements to utility lines crossing the north end of the bypass at Forest Drive. They refused to pay for crossovers at Smith Avenue, however, because of the cost of the project.

In another matter relating to the bypass, aldermen agreed last week that the DOT should request annexation of the property that will house the welcome center.

Town officials said last week that part of the property is in town and part is out of town. They want all of it

inside the corporate limits.

Shallotte will not be able to collect taxes on the property. But if the land is inside town, the state will pay lower water and sewer rates. Rates for out-of-town users are twice as much as the rates for customers inside the town limits.

Roads May Be Closed

Shallotte may be closing sections of two dead end streets in town at the request of a businessman who owns all of the property that would be affected.

Gene Smith, who owns and operates a boat yard and welding shop near Shallotte River, wants to close off the ends of Wall Street and Cheers Street with gates to protect his businesses. He says people drive through his boat yard at all hours of the night and steal ladders and other items.

The town attorney was asked to research the matter and make a recommendation at the next meeting. "You can't block it while it's an open street," Lewis said last week. "It would be a lot easier just to close the street if that's what the town wants to do."

The gates would be situated so that anyone entering the area would have to drive past Smith's home. Police vehicles and fire trucks would still have access to the businesses.

Smith owns all of the land that would be situated between the gates and Shallotte River. The gates would be open during the day to allow people to get to the businesses.

Auxiliary Hired

Shallotte Aldermen hired a third auxiliary police officer last week.

Ronnie Odom, who previously served as a full-time officer for the town, will work at least 16 hours a month without pay to keep his certification, said Police Chief Rodney Gause.

Town Clerk Mary Etta Hewett said it will cost nearly \$600 a year for liability insurance for the officer.

Meeting To Introduce Employment Program

A meeting scheduled Sept. 25 by the Brunswick Interagency Program will introduce its new Supported Employment Program to the community.

Students, parents and prospective employers from across Brunswick County are being invited to the 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. session in the multipurpose room of the agency's building on the Brunswick Community College campus in Supply.

Debra Butler of Greenville, a regional consultant with the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation who has worked with supported employment programs across the state, will discuss supported employment. She will also present a videotape that depicts successful supported employment placements

and answer questions from the audience.

Supported employment is the placement of persons with severe disabilities on jobs in the community where they will earn competitive wages while receiving the support services necessary to learn and keep the job. A "job coach" actually goes into a local business and trains the student how to do the assigned job, gradually spending less and less time with the student as his skills are developed. The coach remains available to provide encouragement and to help work out any problems that might arise.

"It's new to the community college system. It's new to Brunswick County, and to rural communities period," said BIP Director Anita B.

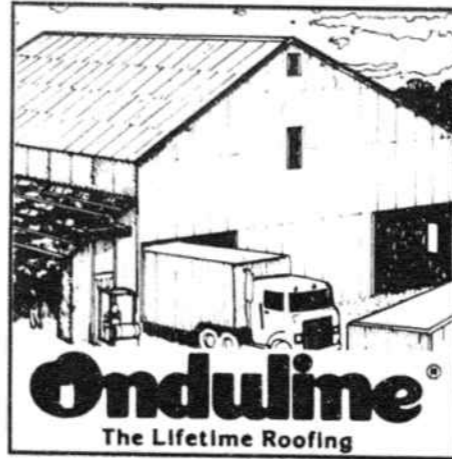
White.

With a recently awarded grant, BIP has hired a job coach coordinator, Ken Wilson of Leland, and is in the process of hiring a job coach for the program. Wilson and possibly the job coach will also be introduced at the meeting.

Mrs. White said that representatives of Southeastern Mental Health, the Brunswick County Department of Social Services and the Social Security Administration have also been asked to attend to discuss how the agencies work together to meet students' needs.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more about supported employment.

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