



Post Office Going Up

Work on the new Supply Post Office is on or ahead of a scheduled early November completion deadline. "We might be in before then," Postmaster Norman Rachels said Tuesday. "The only delay we might have is getting in the equipment the postal service has to provide." Rachels noted the new location on N.C. 211 will provide ample parking and eliminate patrons having to deal with heavy traffic on U.S. 17.

Rains Causing Drainage Problem At Ocean Isle

BY DOUG RUTTER

Recent rainfall might be great for the local mosquito population, but it's been causing drainage problems at Ocean Isle Beach.

Three property owners took their complaints to the town board Tuesday and asked commissioners to help them close the flood gates.

They said stormwater floods and erodes their low-lying property every time it rains. "I am running scared," said Katie Lesley, who lives at the corner of Monroe and Second streets.

Commissioners informally agreed to cooperate with the property owners to solve their problems. This year's budget didn't include funds for drainage, but some could be taken from the street department allocation.

Streets Commissioner Odell Williamson said creating a swale alongside the road and installing catch basins would help. But he said it wouldn't solve the problem because the lots are below street level.

"Excessive rain will always create a problem, and it's not something unique here," said Williamson.

Town officials said heavy and steady rainfall over the past month has had a lot to do with the drainage problems.

Until the forecast changes, Williamson said there's not much the town can do. He said trying to work while there's still a chance of rain could result in more erosion.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady has measured more than 16 inches of rain at his residence in the last 30 days.

"The sunshine would help the whole thing a little bit," Williamson said.

Commissioner Debbie Fox said a storm drain in the town hall parking lot that is designed to handle the greatest one-day rainfall in any 10-year period overflowed during a storm three weeks ago. "That's how much rain we've had."

Other Business

In other business Tuesday, commissioners:

■ Accepted the resignation of board of elections member Janet Sanders, who is running for town commissioner. Mary Sanford was appointed

to take her place on the elections board.

■ Agreed to enter into a lease with Odell and Virginia Williamson so the town can expand its airport apron. The town will pay \$10 to lease about 3.5 acres adjacent to the airport property for 20 years.

■ Referred to the planning board a request to realign some of the lots in the Crown Stream subdivision, a single-family residential development located in the extraterritorial area. Ray Clifton owns the property.

■ Met in executive session for about 15 minutes to discuss a personnel matter involving the water and sewer department. Mayor Betty Williamson said no action was taken.

■ Heard from Commissioner Fox that the sanitation contractor, Chambers of South Carolina, is expected to give the town a proposal next month on recycling services. The town is looking at curbside service and allowing residents to drop off recyclables at a central location. "It's going to be expensive whichever way we go," she said.

■ Heard from Building Inspector Drued Roberson that he issued 15 permits in town during July. He collected \$375 in fees on construction valued at \$59,400. In the extraterritorial area, Roberson issued seven permits and collected \$295 in fees on a valuation of \$41,858.

■ Heard from the building inspector that a workshop on the National Flood Insurance Program's community rating system will be held Thursday, Aug. 29, at 9 a.m. at town hall. The system provides flood insurance reductions for towns that go beyond enforcement of minimum flood regulations.

■ Heard from Police Chief Curt Pritchard that officers issued 79 tickets in July. Most of them were given to people who parked their vehicles on sidewalks.

Ocean Isle Petitioners Oppose Bars

BY DOUG RUTTER

A group of Ocean Isle Beach area property owners have petitioned the town to prohibit nightclubs, lounges and bars in their residential neighborhood.

Commissioners received a resolution Tuesday morning signed by 49 people opposed to those types of businesses in the area located between the Ocean Isle Beach causeway and Gause Landing.

Spokesperson Marilyn Reeves, a Shallotte resident with family members living in the area in question, said that an existing club in the neighborhood, formerly called Cowgirls, is operating illegally and without the necessary permits.

The resolution, which asks that clubs, lounges and bars be prohibited "now and in the future," was referred to the Ocean Isle Beach Planning Board for a recommendation.

Earlier this year, Building Inspector Drued Roberson ordered the Cowgirls nightclub building vacated and shut down after ruling that it was operating in violation of the North Carolina Building Code.

State code doesn't allow more than 100 people on the second floor of a wood-frame construction building. It also prohibits establishments that serve food or drinks that also have dancing or offer entertainment from locating on the second level of

those types of buildings.

In May, the owner of the building, Betty Gore, agreed to make several changes to bring the structure into compliance with the state building code. Besides the nightclub, the building houses a seafood market downstairs.

Roberson said Tuesday that the owner is on schedule as far as making the building code improvements he ordered earlier this year.

"They have made a good faith effort to bring the building up to code," he said. "They've worked hard in hand with me."

Among other things, Roberson said the owner hired an engineer to design an extra set of stairs to the upstairs balcony and has run a conduit to an outside light.

The building inspector said he and the owner have been trying to find a licensed contractor to install a fire sprinkler system. In the meantime, four fire extinguishers have been put inside the nightclub.

The Brunswick County Health Department filed charges against the owner of the building last month accusing her of failing to provide a sanitary means of sewage disposal.

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The case was scheduled to be heard in Brunswick County District Court Tuesday, but it was continued until Sept. 18, according to the clerk of court's office.

Environmental Health Supervisor John Crowder said Mrs. Gore was given 30 days to make repairs to a sewer system at the building. The deadline passed July 5 with no improvements made.

Some residents complained at the July 8 health board meeting that the leaking system was causing a health hazard and claimed it was draining into a ditch that feeds into the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Crowder said last month the owner has no room to upgrade the sewer system without purchasing additional property. The town's sewer lines do not extend to the business.

At Monday's health board meeting, Chairman Bill Rabon read a letter from area resident Newman Stanley relating to the septic system that serves the building.

Stanley wrote that he hadn't given anyone permission to use his land for septic tank lines. The letter was passed on to County Manager David Clegg.

Ocean Isle Bans Adult Clubs

In an effort to preserve its "family beach image," Ocean Isle Beach isn't going to allow the adult entertainment clubs found in some resort communities.

On a unanimous vote, commissioners Tuesday morning passed an explicitly-worded ordinance Tuesday prohibiting the operation of adult clubs within the town limits.

Mayor Betty Williamson didn't get much response when she asked if any board members wanted to discuss the new rule.

"In front of these people?" Commissioner Bill Benton asked, pointing to an audience of 10 residents.

The rule makes it illegal for people to engage in sexual activities or display certain parts of the body in any public place of business, any place open to public view and any entertainment or amusement facility.

An adult club is defined as "an establishment used for any type of presentation depicting, exhibiting, or describing specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas...for observation by patrons therein."

The rule prohibits the display of

human genitals, pubic region, buttocks and female breasts below a point immediately above the top of the areola that are "less than completely and opaquely covered."

It specifically prohibits wet T-shirt contests and the showing of human male genitals in a "discernibly turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered."

Ocean Isle's new rule prohibits the "depiction or exhibition of human genitals; acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, sodomy, masochism, sadism, sado-masochism; and the fondling, exhibition or erotic touching of human genitals, the male or female pubic region, buttocks or female breasts."

Earlier this year, Ocean Isle Beach officials adopted an ordinance prohibiting nudity in public places. Holden Beach passed an ordinance banning adult clubs a few months ago.

Police Chief Curt Pritchard said no one has indicated an interest in opening an adult club at Ocean Isle. However, he said the ordinance needs to be on the books before that ever happens.

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