

Holden Manager Working On Land Use Plan Changes

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Town Manager Gary Parker and a state official are working on what are expected to be final changes to the town's 1990 land use plan update.

If all goes well, town officials will hold a public hearing on the revisions in March before the plan goes to the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission for final certification.

Parker is working on three revisions to the plan with Haskell Rhett, planning and access coordinator with the N.C. Division of Coastal Management in Wilmington.

Two of the proposals relate to the definition of the Conservation Land category and the need for a new category called Conservation Special Use.

Rhett said the changes have to be made if town officials want to continue allowing development adjacent to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and finger canals.

The other change involves a policy statement in the plan which says Holden Beach wouldn't object to a jetty at the east end of the island, which has experienced erosion damage in recent years.

Rhett said the policy must be deleted from the plan because it's contrary to state regulations against erosion-control structures that "harden" the beach.

Despite Rhett's recommendations, Holden Beach Commissioners refused to make the suggested changes at a Jan. 22 meeting.

They decided instead to send Parker to the CRC meeting with a letter from the board supporting the version of the plan adopted in December.

The CRC subsequently rejected the plan and sent it back to the town for revisions.

Town board members indicated Monday night that they are now willing to make the proposed changes in order to get the plan approved.

"Our intent has never been changed," Commissioner Sid Swarts said. "It's just the verbiage, so I don't see any problem with it."

Parker said Monday he expects to have the changes ready for the town board's Feb. 17 workshop.

Commissioners could then hold a public hearing on the proposals and adopt the changes at their March 18 meeting.

The CRC could give final certification for the plan when it meets March 25-27 at Wrightsville Beach.

Holden Beach officials have been working on the land use plan update since the fall of 1989.

Other Business

In other business Monday, commissioners:

■ Met in executive session for 30 minutes to discuss legal and personnel matters. Mayor Wally Ausley said commissioners authorized Town Attorney Ken Campbell to take action on a pending legal matter. Both the mayor and attorney declined to discuss details.

■ Took no action on a request from Jim Lowell, president of the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association, to pay rent on a billboard advertising the beach. Lowell said the sign off U.S. 17 near Mt. Pisgah Church Road would cost \$600 per month if it's rented for three years.

■ Agreed to use Robert's Rules of Order as a guideline for parliamentary procedure during board meetings.

■ Asked Parker to get more information on a proposed land donation to the town. The property is located on Hillside Drive.



STAFF PHOTO BY DORIS GURGANIUS

You Are My Sunshine

Erica Stuchall of Shallotte (left) and her little brother Mark enjoy Saturday's spring-like temperatures while practicing their performance skills on an electronic guitar with built-in microphone. Luckily for these beginners, it automatically plays "You Are My Sunshine," appropriate for last weekend's mid-60s temperatures and clear skies.

Here Comes The Rain Again

While temperatures should remain near normal for mid-to-late winter, local meteorologist Jackson Canady is predicting "somewhat above average" rainfall.

Tuesday he said he's expecting temperatures to be in the mid 30s at night, and in the mid 50s during the day over the coming week, with at least three-fourths inch of rain.

Heavier rains are typical for winters along the coast, Canady said, and the South Brunswick Islands area is "still in the throes of winter for a while."

Another band of showers should move through the area around the

end of the week, he said.

For the period of Jan. 28 through Feb. 3, Canady recorded a maximum daytime high temperature of 65 degrees on Jan. 31 and Feb. 3. He recorded the minimum evening low temperature of 27 degrees on Feb. 2.

The daytime average was 59 degrees, and the nightly average was 37 degrees, he said, for an average daily temperature of 48 degrees.

That reading is two degrees above average for this time of year, Canady said.

Last week, he measured 1.35 inches of rain at his Shallotte Point home.

Schools Make Case For Building Plan

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William Turner, assistant superintendent for auxiliary services, who presented the plan.

"We would like having both cake and ice cream," he said, in advancing the need for both school construction and the new central office.

Holden told the school system commissioners will "be absorbing all the information you've presented between now and budget preparation time," with no action taken Tuesday night.

Adopted by the school board in December, the plan calls for the following to be constructed, ideally over a five-year timetable:

■ A new cafeteria and kitchen wing at Southport Elementary, delayed one year already, with renovation of the old kitchen into classroom space;

■ New central office at the county government center;

■ Nine teaching stations, administration area and teacher support area for West Brunswick High School (like the project recently completed at South Brunswick High), with similar expansion later of North Brunswick High.

■ New elementary schools in the northern and western attendance areas, to house 600 students each;

■ Eight teaching stations, special education facilities and resource room for South Brunswick Middle. While other county agencies made the move from Southport approximately 15 years ago, the school board has continued to operate in cramped quarters in the former county nursing home on N.C. 133-N.C. 87 near Southport, with personnel overflowing into five trailers.

Other Business

■ Set two public hearings for Monday, Feb. 17. At 5:30 p.m. the board will hear comments on a proposed noise ordinance for the unincorporated areas of the county, and

at 6:30 p.m., comments on a plan by the Brunswick County Public Housing Agency for a housing rehabilitation program using federal community revitalization money. Both will be held in commissioners' chambers at the government center.

■ Agreed to sell solid waste system equipment to Waste Industries Inc. for its bid price of just over \$153,000, there being no upset bids received, with delivery March 1.

■ Slated an auction of surplus county property, including solid waste collection equipment not sold to Waste Industries, for Saturday, March 14, at the county government center.

■ Accepted into the county water system lines in Bent Tree Plantation Gate 4 and approved three routine budget amendments.

■ Approved the hiring of Joseph S. Hill & Associates engineering firm in Wilmington as consulting engineer for the Shallotte Point SAD water project.

■ Awarded a contract for 911 emergency system communication consoles to the low bidder Communications Specialists Co. of Wilmington, for a total of \$277,708 including bid options. The equipment is to be installed and in operation at the Bolivia center and at backup locations in Southport and Long Beach no later than April 1.

Other bids (excluding options) were Wilmington Communications Inc., \$295,398.85, and Motorola, \$362,687.

■ Agreed with Chairman Kelly Holden it would be a "good idea" to talk with Horry County, S.C., officials about the possibility of a tap near the state line that would allow either of the two counties to supply

the other with water in an emergency situation. Holden said he thought it would be a good thing to do since a Brunswick County water line is being extended to within a mile of the state border.

■ Voted to temporarily transfer \$30,000 to the account of the Southeast Sanitation District (in the Long Beach Road/N.C. 211 area near Southport) to provide start-up funds and speed installation of sewer lines, as requested by Commissioner Gene Pinkerton. The district is to return the money within three days of receiving a federal grant it has been awarded. The money is expected to arrive in March or April. Commissioner Donald Shaw voted against the measure.

■ Approved all but one road name change of those subject to a public hearing just prior to Tuesday's meeting, as follows: Horse Branch Rd. S.W. to Ocean View Dr. S.W.; Westwood Drive S.W. to Sunset Lakes Blvd. S.W., Woodgate Lane S.W. to Osprey Drive S.W., Oyster Gate Lane S.W. to Huguenot St. S.W., Bryant Road N.E. to Bryant-Hankins Rd. N.E.. At Pinkerton's request the board tabled consideration of a change in Sunset Lakes Blvd. S.W. pending clarification.

■ Approved the final resolution and financing documents for the Phase III water system, clearing the way for the county to price and sell certificates of participation on the bond market.

■ Approved forwarding of S.R. 2 road petition to the N.C. Department of Transportation asking for McLamb Avenue, Holiday Acres subdivision, to be added to the state secondary road system.

At several minority districts, with particular attention to southeastern North Carolina.

Most candidates for state legislature and Congress, including himself, said Redwine, would greatly prefer having their primary at the same time as that held for local offices. While delaying the regular primary is still an option, he said it's unlikely.

"It's pretty well set that the locals will have their election at their regular time," said Redwine.

At present Redwine is holding to his prediction that the plans adopted by the legislature stand a 50-50 chance of approval.

"We did everything they told us when the rejected it the first time. If it (the decision) goes on the merits of what we did in respect to what they asked for, then it should be approved," he said. "But you have to factor in the political aspect."

He said Tuesday that Assistant U.S. Attorney General John Dunne had advised Monday that his staff was reviewing the plans and expected to arrive at a recommendation by Tuesday or Wednesday.

"It should be soon," said Redwine. "We thought it would be sooner than this."

The Justice Department rejected the first plans because, it said, the new lines weaken minority voting strength. It recommended creation

Filing Opens Monday For County Offices

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Congress only and end at the same time as filing for local offices—at noon March 2, and all primaries would be held at the usual time, May 5.

However, if the General Assembly has not heard from the Justice Department by the 15th, said Redwine, the scenario changes significantly. At that point, the primaries for House, Senate and U.S. Congress would be delayed and held separately from those for other offices because of the timeline if drafting and gaining approval of new district plans becomes necessary.

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Shallotte Blasts PO Move

(Continued From Page 1-A)

■ Set a public hearing for March 17 on a proposed change in the acreage fee ordinance. The change would set reduced rates for owners of land developed for "public recreational uses" that don't need water or sewer service.

■ Voted to refund \$2,110 to John Ward for 1989 and 1990 taxes that shouldn't have been paid under the "agricultural use" exemption. The board also released a \$36.66 tax bill charged to Dolphin Boat Rentals Inc., which isn't located inside the

town limits.

■ Heard from Mayor Tripp that the town received an additional \$2,117 in Powell Bills funds from the state as a result of the recent census adjustment. However, the town is still about \$6,000 short compared to last year.

■ Re-appointed planning board members Paul Wayne Reeves, Davis Milligan, Tim Carter, Conrad Pigott and H.A. Stalaland Jr. The board also created a ninth seat on the planning board and appointed Alan Lewis to fill it.

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