



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Getting A First Look

Harvey and Lena Gordon of Long Beach and their grandson, Adam Rutledge of Walnut Cove, were among the 200 or so visitors attending a sneak preview at the new Southport Maritime Museum Friday evening. Another 100 people visited on opening day Saturday. The museum, located at 116 N. Howe Street, will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Sunset Beach Adopts \$1.3 Million Budget

BY SUSAN USHER

Sunset Beach Town Council adopted a \$1.3 million budget for the coming year Monday night following a low-key public hearing attended by three residents.

The budget was adopted on unanimous vote. Mayor Pro Tem Ed Gore had to leave the meeting early, but said he also favored the budget as presented Monday.

The budget is based on property valuation of \$186.8 million, an unchanged tax rate of 16.7 cents per \$100 of property and a collection rate of 99 percent, said Town Administrator Linda Fluegel. It includes a \$716,214 general fund and \$590,723 water fund.

The owner of a \$150,000 home would pay \$250.50 in ad valorem taxes, same as this year.

The budget reflects increased property valuation and accommodations tax revenues, an excellent 1992-93 tax collection rate and a decline in state funding, said Councilwoman Julia Thomas, finance officer.

Funds are included to support building inspections as a separate department, \$70,000 for a sewer system study, plus funds for additional legal and professional services, a sewer bond referendum and other related costs; a total of \$200,000 in the general and water funds for future capital projects; a 2.5 percent cost-of-living raise for all employees and a \$25 per quarter raise for council members. That puts their salaries at \$700 per year, with the mayor receiving \$1,100.

Anticipated general fund revenues include \$311,971 in property tax collections, a low-side estimated \$210,000 in

accommodations tax collections and various state-allocated funds. As of June 3, the town had received \$230,000 in accommodations tax revenues for the current year.

Expenditures by category are as follows: \$5,010, governing body; \$101,275, administration; \$6,700, legal (double this year); \$500, elections; \$16,150, public buildings; \$225,940, police; \$56,145, inspections; \$101,555, streets; \$84,676, sanitation; \$3,000, drainage and watershed; \$28,322, planning and zoning, including a zoning study of Bird Island; \$4,569, health (mosquito control); \$14,000, to South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce for promoting tourism; \$18,681, Sunset Beach VFD; \$7,500, Calabash Emergency Medical Services; \$13,760, cultural and recreation; and a \$33,000 reserve fund for future capital improvements.

The water fund reflects anticipated and current growth, with revenues including \$260,323 in retained earnings and \$272,000 in water sales. Expenditures include \$160,000 to buy water and a \$117,000 reserve fund for future outlay.

In other business Monday, the council approved a \$28,000 contract with Powell & Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C. The contract includes \$20,000 for extensive testing on the island at Sunset Beach to determine wastewater flows, and the town's \$8,000 share of a Phase I preliminary engineering report relating to efforts of Sunset Beach and the adjacent town of Calabash to develop a regional sewer project.

POLICE KEEPING BUSY

Swimmers Rescued Off Holden Beach

BY DOUG RUTTER

A water rescue off the east end of Holden Beach Saturday was just the start of a busy few days for the town's water rescue team and police force.

"It's been a tiring last couple of days," Police Chief Robert Cook said Tuesday morning. "It sure looks like it's going to be a long summer."

Four people were rescued off Holden Beach Saturday after a rising tide prevented a man and his daughter from getting back to shore on their raft.

Police have also responded two four other emergency calls since Saturday, including ones involving a capsized catamaran and disabled fishing boat.

On Saturday, police and the water rescue team were called to the Lockwood Folly Inlet around 12:30 p.m. to help a man and his daughter who fell victim to a rising tide.

Keith Sawyer of the water rescue team said they lost contact with the bottom of the ocean and couldn't make it back to shore on their raft.

Two other men at the beach went into the water to help and swam out to the raft, which was about 200 feet offshore.

The water rescue boat took three of the people out to the *Super Salty I*, which was waiting farther offshore. Sawyer said the other man swam ashore after getting a life jacket from the rescue boat.

"They were making headway," Sawyer said of the victims. "As long as they kept a hold of the float they would have been OK. But they were tired. They were glad to see us."

Sawyer said none of the four people were injured. "They were all in good shape, just tired."

Police identified the man and daughter as Ken Gallimore and 13-year-old Erin Gallimore of Asheboro. Dwight and Greg Jackson of Raeford were the men who tried to help.

Police also responded to another call late Saturday afternoon when a boy was having trouble getting ashore in the 1100 block of Ocean Boulevard West.

The child managed to get back to the beach on his own and wasn't injured, said Holden Beach Police Officer Mike Hamilton.

Police were called on to tow a boat ashore late Monday night after its motor quit and the boat drifted out Lockwood Folly Inlet.

Chief Cook said the 16-foot fishing boat broke down in the waterway and its anchor wasn't big enough to hold the boat. Holden Beach Police Officer Bill Jordan saw flares fired from the boat and the water rescue boat was used to tow boat ashore around 3 a.m. Two men and one woman from Lumberton were apparently fishing in the boat when the motor stopped running.

"They were terrified," Cook said Tuesday. "I don't think they'll get back in the water."

Earlier Monday, police and the water rescue team had responded to a report of a capsized catamaran in the ocean.

The sailboat overturned in the waters off 803 Ocean Blvd. West with three men on board, said Officer Hamilton.

Water rescue teams from Holden

Beach and Ocean Isle Beach were en route when the men drifted ashore around 953 Ocean Blvd. West.

All three were wearing life jackets and were not injured. Hamilton said two of the men were from High Point and the other was from Lexington.

"They didn't look like they were in that much distress," he said. "They wanted to go back out and try it again."

Also Monday, police were called to search for two young girls who were reported missing on the beach, said Hamilton.

The girls, who were 7 and 9, were walking on the beach with their mother when she disappeared.

After a one-hour search on the beach, Hamilton said the girls were found back at the house their family was renting.

TAX RATE REMAINS SAME

Shallotte Passes Budget On 4-1 Vote

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte Aldermen approved the town's new \$1.2 million budget on 4-1 vote Tuesday night in a meeting characterized by surprise amendments and political innuendo.

For the fourth straight year, however, the property tax rate was kept at 47 cents per \$100 of property. The owner of a \$100,000 home will continue to pay \$470 in taxes.

Paul Wayne Reeves was the only board member to vote against the budget. His vote followed unsuccessful bids to change the employee retirement plan and get sidewalks and street lights funded.

Reeves also said he was dissatisfied with the way employee pay raises were handled and the amount of the raises in some cases.

On a separate 3-2 vote earlier in the meeting, aldermen agreed to accept the pay raises recommended by supervisors. The amount of the raises varies from 5 percent to 18 percent, said Town Clerk Mary Etta Hewett.

Roney Cheers and Reeves both opposed that motion. Cheers said he favored 5 percent raises for everyone, while Reeves said he wanted to revise some of the recommended salary hikes.

Board members had rejected Reeves' idea to change the retirement plan, a move he said would save the town about \$18,000. Aldermen also didn't like his idea to impose more limits on who could drive town vehicles home.

The only change in the proposed budget Tuesday was the deletion of \$2,000 that had been earmarked for the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

Cheers, Reeves and David Gause voted to cut the funds, while Aldermen Wilton Harrelson and Morris Hall voted to support the chamber.

Reeves, who had supported the chamber donation earlier, said he wanted to delete the funds after talking with 12 chamber members who own businesses in Shallotte. They all spoke poorly of the chamber, he said.

Mayor Sarah Tripp spoke in support of the business organization. "I think with the new board they have we ought to give them a chance," she said.

After the tight vote to delete the chamber fund, board members voted unanimously to put the money into the contingency fund.

Despite the last-minute maneuvering Tuesday night, the tax rate was kept at 47 cents, where it has been since 1988 when it jumped three cents.

There was no talk of increasing the rate this year, but there was mention of reducing it. Alderman Cheers' proposal to cut one penny off the tax rate died, however, when nobody seconded his motion.

Based on an estimated valuation of \$74 million and 95 percent collection rate, Shallotte expects to take in \$331,162 in taxes this fiscal year.

Town officials also expect to collect \$48,400 in overdue taxes and \$3,500 in penalties and interest from taxes.

Other major sources of general fund revenue include \$115,000 in sales tax, \$66,000 in utility franchise tax and \$36,000 in Powell Bill.

Major expenses in the budget are \$249,728 for police, \$120,000 each for streets and sanitation and \$117,620 for administration.

Shallotte expects to spend about \$54,600 for the fire department and \$30,797 for inspections.

The water and sewer fund for the 1992-93 fiscal year totals \$469,523. Expected revenues are \$314,800 in user fees, \$49,500 in connect fees

and \$40,000 in capital reserve fees.

Water and sewer users will pay more this year. Rates have been raised by 50 cents per 1,000 gallons for sewer and by 5 cents per 1,000 gallons for water.

"Our's are in line with other towns," Mrs. Hewett said Tuesday. "As a matter of fact, our sewer rates are very low compared to Ocean Isle Beach."

Before adopting the new budget Tuesday, aldermen approved two changes to the 1991-92 budget.

The board moved \$19,074 from capital reserve to cover unexpected costs in the water fund and transferred \$50 from public buildings to governing body to cover legal fees.

New Signs Are In The Works

State officials are stepping in to fill a need identified last month by a Varnamtown alderman.

Because of the experience of a family member, Ada McDonald became aware of a gap in communication between the state and shellfishermen that sometimes causes problems for both.

Regulatory signs, such as those used to warn of areas being closed to shellfishing, carry plenty of big words in small print, she said, but aren't understood easily even by those working the river who can read well. For those who read not at all or not very well, it's an impossible task.

Mrs. McDonald suggested mounting signs that use international symbols.

The state cottoned to the idea. Two hours after Mrs. McDonald contacted State Rep. E. David Redwine, the legislator had an answer from state Division of Marine Fisheries Director William Hogarth.

"He agreed with it 100 percent," Redwine reported Tuesday.

The division plans to increase the size of print used when posting regulations and it will use international symbols. For "No Shellfishing," for instance, symbols of an oyster, shrimp and clam would be marked with a slash for "no," said Redwine.

"He said the division would start in Brunswick County putting up the new signs" when they are ready.


Neither Hogarth nor Mrs. McDonald could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

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- (10 oz.).....10.98
- N.Y. Strip (3 oz.).....9.98
- (12 oz.).....13.98
- T-Bone (12 oz.).....12.98
- Porterhouse (14 oz.).....16.98
- Prime Rib (8 oz.).....10.98
- (12 oz.).....14.98
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- (6 oz.).....10.98
- (8 oz.).....12.98
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- Above Dinners include Fries or Baked Potato, Salad Bar and Homemade Bread*

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- Grilled Chicken (Fries or BP).....3.98
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- Large Seafood (Choice of four) Flounder, Shrimp, Deviled Crab, Oysters & Clam Strips.....10.98
- Deluxe Seafood (Choice of five) Flounder, Shrimp, Deviled Crab, Oysters, Scallops & Clam Strips.....12.98
- JR's Seafood Special Flounder, Shrimp, Deviled Crab, Clam Strips.....7.98
- (Sorry no substitutions)

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- (Choice of three) Flounder, Shrimp, Deviled Crab or Clam Strips.....6.98
- All Seafood Dinners served with Cole Slaw, Fries or Baked Potato and Homemade Bread*
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- Hot Dog with fries.....1.88
- Hamburger with Fries.....2.88 (with Cheese-10)
- Chicken Breast (grilled or fried) w/fries.....3.98
- Chicken Planks w/fries.....3.98

SALADS

- All You Can Eat.....3.28
- With Meal.....1.98
- Soup and Salad.....3.78
- Soup/bowl.....1.58

DINNER SPECIALS

SUNDAY-THURSDAY \$4.98 YOUR CHOICE

5 oz. Boneless Chicken Breast Dinner
Baked Potato or French Fries,
Salad Bar and Homemade Bread

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