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Public hearing evokes controversy among Hertford Council

By JANE WILLIAMS

A resolution to seek federal grant funding for a portion of the monies needed to develop a shopping center on U.S. 17 in Hertford was met with an indignant outburst from one Hertford council member during a public hearing prior to Monday night's meeting of the council.

Jesse Harris, a member of the Hertford Town Council and owner of Harris Shopping Center in Hertford, led a one man crusade in questioning the judgement of the developer and financial backer of the shopping center, along with the judgement of other council members.

The purpose of the hearing was

two-fold, with the first portion of the hearing dedicated to establishing the economic development needs for the Town of Hertford.

Tom Webb, a consultant with Webb and Claywell, Inc. from Mount Airy, N.C., met with the council and citizens present to

discuss qualifications set by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for an Urban Development Action Grant.

Monies for the grant have been appropriated by Congress with \$110-million set aside for small communities to stimulate urban development.

HUD has developed a distress list compiled of communities that have not shown a great deal of growth in the past ten years. Hertford is among the communities through the nation that appear on this list.

Webb told the group that funds are available to towns that have a business or industry that is interested in opening in the community that will increase job availability in the area and bring in additional tax dollars.

Once a town has a business or industry committed to opening they can present an application to HUD for funding of a portion of the project, generally between 20 and 25 percent.

The project developer is responsible for the initial equity involved, generally 10 to 15 percent, and for arranging the financing for the remainder of the project.

If the town is granted the funding, they will hold the second mortgage on the project, and will be repaid the money with a five percent proposed rate of interest.

The repaid money will be kept in a loan project fund, and can be used by the town to finance other smaller scale projects for economic development.

The second portion of the hearing was to decide the possible activities to be included in an application to HUD for funding.

A proposal has been made to the town by George Gunyo of Garner, N.C. to develop a shopping center on U.S. 17 in Hertford. The proposal calls for a 18,000 square foot grocery store with a deli, a 8,400 square foot drug store and a 6,000 square foot variety store, in addition to these a reputable fast food chain has shown an interest in locating in the proposed center.

Harris stated early in the hearing that the idea "wouldn't work," and went on to say that the entire idea behind federal grants was "nothing but a form of communism."

Harris further stated that the developer and financial backer of the center had "no idea of the figures that they're talking about in putting up a center here. There is no way that Hertford can support another shopping center."

Harris stated on several occasions during the hearing, and in the ensuing meeting of the council, that his personal holdings (Harris Shopping Center) had nothing whatsoever to do with his opposition to the proposed shopping center.

He stated that an advertisement run in this newspaper's last edition was "insufficient notice to the general public" in making them aware of the time, place and purpose of the hearing, and that he felt that the people should have a say-so as to whether or not the town applied for federal funding for a portion of the project.

The general consensus of the council was that the public had

been properly notified of the hearing, and that a great deal of positive interest was displayed by the people.

Hertford Mayor Bill Cox then presented a resolution to the council for their signatures indicating that they would proceed with an application for an UDAG grant.

Harris then stated that he "saw no reason whatsoever to act on this resolution tonight." "I don't know at this point whether I'm for this thing or against it," Harris added.

Cox told Harris that the application would have to be presented in August to be eligible for the grant. He also stated that he was "surprised that you don't know if you're for or against this."

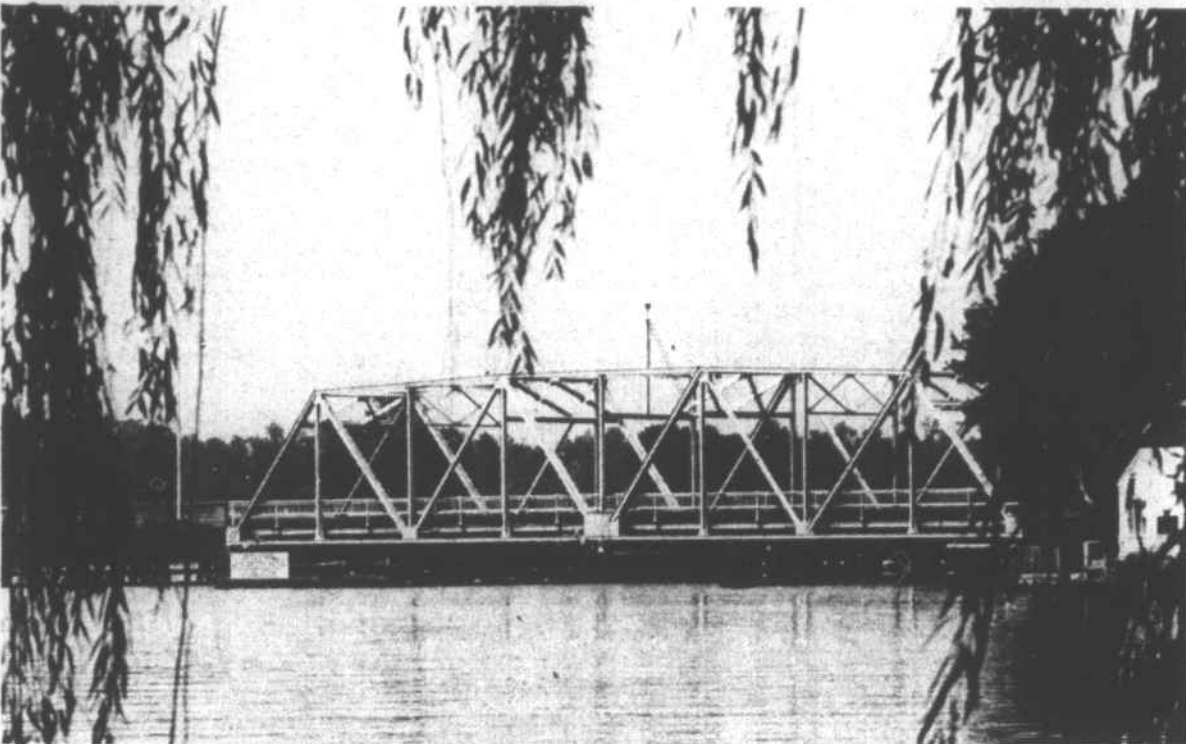
Cox told the group that he had been present at a Perquimans County Committee of 100 board meeting last week, and gave an update on the proposed center. He said that the committee, comprised primarily of local businessmen, went on record in support of a resolution to support the center.

Councilman John Beers lauded the move as a "step forward for Hertford. We need it, and I am calling for a vote to adopt it, (the resolution)."

Councilman Billy Winslow seconded the motion to adopt the resolution, adding "I personally don't see how we could sit here and disapprove of this thing tonight. I think we should be jumping for joy that it is available."

After further extensive discussion the motion was brought before the council for voting. The motion carried with three votes in favor of the resolution, and Harris abstained from voting.

If the town's application is approved by HUD, Cox stated that ground breaking for the facility could be expected as early as December.



The S-Bridge in Hertford will close Monday for repairs to the draw. The project is expected to be complete in mid-September. (Photo by Ken Castelloe.)

Hertford "S" Bridge to close for repairs

By JANE WILLIAMS

Getting the rough spots out of Perquimans County's infamous "S-Shaped" Bridge has been among the top priorities of the community for quite a while, and the dream is about to become a reality.

The plans for re-structuring and re-surfacing of the bridge are coming off of the drawing board after several years, with work on the bridge scheduled to begin on Monday, August 20.

According to Robert Spence, Bridge Maintenance Superintendent for Districts 1 and 2, the project will consist of removing the timber from the draw proper and replacing it with a steel floor and beams before re-surfacing the draw portion of the bridge with asphalt.

"For several years there have been problems with pot holes on the draw proper because of rotten timbers in the floor of the draw. We have gone in and replaced the timber on several occasions, but due to the condition of the bridge it has only been a temporary solution," Spence said.

Bridge work was scheduled for earlier in the summer in hopes that work would be complete before the school term began, thus hampering bus traffic between Hertford and Winfall. Delays in the work were brought about after the Bridge Maintenance Department ran into "red tape" in acquiring permits from the Coast Guard to close the draw during the period that the maintenance project will be underway.

According to Spence the bridge balances on a small bearing that could cause the draw to tip if opened during the repair period. Spence stated that there is a possibility that the bridge can be stabilized for opening on the week-ends while work is underway, but that for general purposes the public should not plan to enjoy the use of the draw.

The bridge will be closed to all vehicular traffic for the duration of the project. Small boats that do not require the opening of the draw for passage will be permitted to pass under the bridge.

Spence said that foot traffic would be maintained on the

bridge during the working schedule, but fishing on the draw will not be permitted during the hours when workmen are present on the bridge. Fishing will be permitted on the draw after the crews leave, and at either end of the bridge during the working day.

In commenting on the proposed bridge maintenance project on Monday night, the Hertford Town Council discussed problems that have arisen due to the heavy pedestrian traffic on the bridge, and the problem with littering and vehicle traffic on the bridge because of its heavy usage as a fishing site, especially during the evening hours.

Members of the council, as well as the Hertford Police Department and the bridge maintenance crew have expressed great displeasure at the amount of debris that is left on the bridge after an evening of fishing.

Council members discussed the possibility of closing the bridge for fishing purposes if individuals who fish from the bridge will not remove their debris before leaving the site.

The council members were advised that they would be within their rights to prohibit fishing from the bridge, and indicated that they would do so if the current problem was not alleviated soon.

Another problem that has arisen in current weeks has been that of people fishing from the wrong side of the bridge thus blocking the flow of traffic across the structure. A sidewalk is available across the bridge to accommodate walking traffic and fishing. Neither activity is permitted on the curbed side of the bridge.

Council members requested that this newspaper urge the general public not to abuse the privilege of the bridge, and agreed that the bridge would be closed for fishing in the near future if the fishermen did not heed their warnings.

The present maintenance schedule for repairs to the bridge targets the project to be complete around September 12.

B.G. Owens, Bridge Maintenance Supervisor from the Elizabeth City Department, will supervise the work.

Art and craft displays to highlight festival

By JANE WILLIAMS

The 1984 Indian Summer Festival, scheduled for September 14 and 15 in Hertford, will take on a new feature this year.



An arts and crafts sale and display will be set up in Missing Mill Park, and Grubb St. will be closed to passing traffic for the event.

According to Jean Humphlett, publicity chairman for the '84 festival, several area craftsmen have already signed up for booths during the festival, and the festival committee are

already assured of a good selection of crafts.

Among the craftsmen that plan to sale and show their wares during the festival are Joyce Olson of Elizabeth City. Olson's booth will feature handmade printed teddy bears that have become a hit with children in the area.

Lona Dunbar of Elizabeth City will feature her cera miss and needle work at the festival, and Pittercrafts, Inc. of Edenton will display their yard and porch furniture. Pittercrafts will be taking orders during the festival for furniture production.

Helen Strain of Edenton will offer magnets, yarn dolls and crocheted items during the event.

From Chesapeake, Virginia, J. Calen Smith will return for his third appearance for the Indian Summer Festival, bringing with him his highly sought after wind chimes, woodwork, folk art, soft ducks, strawberries in baskets, and toilet tissue holders.

Julian Creef, also of Chesapeake, will offer a wide variety of woodwork at the festival.

Tansy Pinner will offer a wide array of articles at the festival

including ceramics, woodwork, magnets, baby items, needlepoint, pillows and stuffed animals.

Raymond and Larretta Sedler of Moyock will return for this years festivities with their all-natural jams and jellies.

Don Vick, an Elizabeth City goldsmith, will display his own creative designed jewelry and will take orders at the festival for jewelry designed to your specifications.

Elvis Perry of Hertford will display his handmade hearth brooms that have become a popular item in the area.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson of Hertford will return to this years festival with a wide variety of crafts including crocheted novelties, snow flakes, bells, Christmas decorations, fridges, Halloween items, baby sets, plastic needlepoint and wooden novelties.

Dianne White of Hertford will offer handmade wreaths and baskets that are created with local natural materials. She will also take orders for her products.

The deadline for booth registration, set for August 22, is approaching fast, but those wishing to display and sell their

crafts still have several days left to sign up for a booth for the festival.

Individuals and groups that wish to obtain a booth for the September festival should contact Crafts Chairman Carolyn Lane at 426-7423 or call the Chamber of Commerce Office at 426-5657.

Booths are available for the festival at a charge of \$10.00 for a ten foot by ten foot booth and \$15.00 for a ten foot by twenty foot booth.

Booths are also still available for the sale of food during the festival and information can be obtained by calling Eva Rae Landing at 426-5693. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to raise additional monies during the festival.

Space is also available for art displays and can be obtained by contacting Brenda Hollowell through the Chamber of Commerce office.

Plans for the festival are nearing completion, and it is expected that this year's festival will be a memorable occasion for all who attend and participate.

Friday break-in nets \$13,000 take

By JANE WILLIAMS

An early morning break-in netted approximately \$13,000 worth of merchandise for burglars last Friday at a Perquimans County business.

Hertford Marine, a relatively new business in the county located just beyond the southern city limits of Hertford on U.S. 17, was entered by burglars shortly after 1:00 a.m. on Friday who took merchandise totaling approximately \$13,000 in value.

Entrance to the building was gained by cutting an opening into the side of the building, approximately five feet high and seven or eight feet wide.

Joe Brickhouse, owner and operator of the business, stated in a telephone interview on

Monday that among the stolen merchandise were several Mercury outboard motors, used motors, a CB radio and fuel tanks.

The incident was reported to the Perquimans County Sheriff's Department on Friday. State Bureau of Investigation Agent Dwight Ransome and members of the Chowan County Sheriff's Department aided in the initial investigation.

Perquimans County Sheriff, Julian Broughton, could not be reached for comment early this week, however a spokesperson from the dispatcher office stated that the sheriff had related that the investigation is pending and that there are no suspects at this time.



Riverside Insurance Agency has recently relocated into a building on the corner of W. Grubb St. and Punch Alley. On hand for a ribbon cutting last Friday were: Mary Janileum, secretary for the firm; Hertford Mayor Bill Cox; Nellie Ruth and Crafton Matthews, owners; County

Commissioner Welly White; Chamber of Commerce President Shirley Perry; O. B. Rawls of NCNB; Jane Williams Editor of THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY; and Mary Harrell, Director of the Chamber of Commerce. (Photo by Ken Castelloe)