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Terminate Leonard, Sanders, Fox

Commissioners Clean House

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Following an executive session Monday night city commissioners named George B. Thomasson city attorney and in a surprise move terminated the services of R. B. Leonard, Boyce Sanders and Dennis Fox.

Commissioner Corbet Nicholson started the house-cleaning by stating "after eight months in office some changes in personnel is needed, changes that will be a forward step for Kings Mountain."

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Nicholson moved that the services of city engineers Fox and Ritter be terminated along with the services of Superintendent of Public Works R. B. Leonard.

Mayor John H. Moss suggested the motion be broken into two motions and that Fox and Ritter be allowed to complete a couple of ongoing contracts in which they are involved.

Leonard, who has served as public works director for almost three years, was terminated effective last Monday and given two weeks severance pay. Commissioners

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voted to allow Hal Hicks, a veteran city employe, to serve as interim PW director until the new superintendent reports for work.

The new superintendent is Leonard P. Bloxam, who reports for duties the first of next month.

Commissioner James Childers made the motion to employ Bloxam as superintendent of public works.

Commissioner Norman King moved that Boyce Sanders be terminated as superintendent of the city gas department and that the department be placed under the supervision of the public works

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director. King also moved that Jerry White, now assistant superintendent of the gas department, be named foreman over gas operations. King's motions, which were approved, included given Sanders two weeks severance pay.

In another motion King asked that all department heads be required to reside within the city limits of Kings Mountain. King said if "a department head now living outside the city limits owns property inside, then he should be given a reasonable amount of time to dispose of his outside dwelling and move inside."

Childers also moved that W. K. Dickson of Charlotte be employed as city engineer replacing Fox and Ritter and that Alvin Moretz be employed as codes and building inspector and the city's Community Development Funds director.

Both motions were approved.

Following the meeting Commissioner Childers, when asked the reason for these surprise motions, said, "We felt it was time for a change. We think the city will find these new appointments are very

beneficial."

During Monday's executive session, which lasted until 11:10 p. m., the commissioners sent for Fox and Leonard and at the time it was thought they were wanted to discuss a drainage situation which had surfaced earlier in the meeting during public hearings on street improvement assessments.

Untouched by Monday's house-cleaning were Police Chief Earl Lloyd, Electrical Supt. Harry (Dutch) Wilson, Street-Sanitation-Cemetery Supt. Ken Jenkins and Recreation Director Roy Pearson.

Public Support Is Needed

New Program For Elderly Begins

This week saw the birth of another first for the Kings Mountain Program For The Elderly and Handicapped.

Monday the staff of this CD funded program began delivering hot meals to the homes of the elderly and handicapped.

The Rev. Kenneth George, program coordinator, said, "This program is not a part of the Meals on Wheels project and does not take anything away from the congregate meals program at the community center."

About 60 persons attend the five-day-a-week lunch program at the community center. Rev. George said the new program is designed to serve the elderly and handicapped living alone, those so afflicted by arthritis they cannot prepare meals for themselves and others who have suffered strokes or are recovering from surgery.

"Our staff has made surveys of the needs," Rev. George said. "And we will serve about 25 meals each day to begin with."

How is the program to be financed?

"It is time for churches, clubs, organizations and individuals to give

strong support to this venture," Rev. George said.

The hot, nutritious meals cost about \$1.25 each and donations from the public will finance the project.

"I do not hesitate to tell the people of Kings Mountain that we need your support," Rev. George said. "Our elderly citizens need at least one hot nutritious meal each day, but most of them are living on small fixed incomes and in view of the high cost of medical aid, high cost of food, fuel and clothing, it is impossible for many of the elderly to get even one

hot meal a day."

Rev. George said many people have offered to aid the program in the past, but until now most of the needs of the program for the elderly have been met with community development funds. The program has received less than \$200 in donations since it began from outside sources.

"This new project needs that offered assistance," Rev. George said. "It is difficult to know which way to go in creating new programs,

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George Thomasson Takes City Attorney Post

George B. Thomasson, Kings Mountain's new city attorney, is a native of Kings Mountain who has practiced law here for 23 years.

He was tapped by the city board of commissioners Monday night. The commission had invited all area lawyers to meet with them for interviews, including Mike Readall and Scott Cloninger, interim attorneys for the city for the past two months and Robert Bradley. Mr. Bradley declined because he serves as attorney for both the city housing and city redevelopment commissions.

A graduate of Kings Mountain High School, Davidson College and Duke University School of Law, Mr. Thomasson served as solicitor of KM Recorder's Court and subsequently was appointed Judge and served until the new district court system became effective Dec. 2, 1968.

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Thomasson, Sr., Mr. Thomasson served as president of both the Kings Mountain Jaycees and Kings Mountain Lions Club. He is a former

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GEORGE B. THOMASSON
... new City Attorney

Superintendent Of Public Works

Bloxam Is Highly Qualified

Leonard P. Bloxam.

Not exactly a household name in Kings Mountain, but one that will become known throughout the city when he reports for duty as the city's new superintendent of public works next month.

Bloxam was named to the position late Monday night after commissioners voted to terminate R. B. Leonard as superintendent of public works and codes administrator.

Bloxam received a BS Degree in electrical engineering from N. C. State University in Raleigh in 1932. He has completed courses in public utility management at the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill and the executive development course at ECU at Greenville.

KM's new superintendent of public works is a member of the American Water Works Association and has served on the board of directors and



LEONARD P. BLOXAM
... Public Works Supt.

as chairman of the North Carolina chapter. He is a member of the Water Pollution Control Federation and has served on the national board of directors and as chairman of the state chapter.

Bloxam is a member of the American Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, a past member of International City and County Managers Association, former board member of the N. C. League of Municipalities and is a member of the N. C. Society of Engineers.

He began his engineering career with Duke Power Co. in steam generation and later transferred to transmission, substation and distribution engineering.

During World War Two he was on active duty with the U. S. Navy Engineering Corps.

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O'Herron Here Next Wednesday

Ed O'Herron, Democratic candidate for Governor in the Aug. 17 primary, will visit Kings Mountain next Wed., Aug. 4.

H. A. Logan, Jr. of Kings Mountain will escort the candidate to the downtown business district and through local government offices during his visit.

Jaycees Tournament Plans Finalized Last Monday

The Kings Mountain Jaycees met Monday night at the Kings Mountain Motor Inn. Special guests were David Myers, Director of Field Operations and Mrs. Lucy Hodges, Regional Director for the Miss North Carolina Pageant.

Plans were finalized for The Kings Mountain Jaycee First Annual Invitational Softball Tournament. The tournament will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday July 29, 30 and 31st at City Stadium. Participants in the tournament are Lithium Corporation, Herman's Trading Post, Oliver Enterprises, R. Cloninger, Carolina Sports, PPG Industries, B. R. Smith and Reliable T.V.

The tournament will begin Thursday night at 6:30 p. m., Friday night at 6:30 p. m. and Saturday at 1 p. m.

Tickets are \$1 each and will be good for all 15 games. Tickets will

also be good for door prizes to be given away between each game.

Merchants contributing door prizes are:

Fulton's Department Store, Morgan & Boggs, Dellingers Jewelry, Grayson's Jewelry, Willie's Jewelry, McGinnis Furniture, Eagle Store, Royal Villa, Paul's Seafood, Mauney Hosiery, Plonk Bros. Department Store, Cooper's Furniture, Joy Theatre, Smith Drug, Winn Dixie, Parkers Amoco, TG & Y, A & P Food Store, McGinnis Department Store, Storch's Furniture, Clark's Goodyear, Timms Furniture, Wade Ford, Dilling Heating and Ellison Grocery.

Proceeds will help finance a Jaycee Little League ball team.

Tickets are available from Jaycee members and at the gate.

Firemen Set Hot Dog Sale

The Kings Mountain Fire Department has about 2,500 hot dogs to sell on Sat., July 31.

The dogs will go on sale at 8 a. m. July 31 and Charles (Pete) Peterson, one of the firemen in charge, said delivery orders will be filled. The number to call is 739-2552.

Firemen and volunteers are trying to raise about \$500 to finish paying for the antique fire engine purchased for display in the historical fire museum.

Rummage And Bake Sale Set

The Kings Mountain Rescue Squad is planning a rummage and bake sale at the community center on Sat., Aug. 14 from 8 a. m. until...

The sale will be held rain or shine in the gymnasium.

Rescuers are requesting donations of household items to be sold at the sale. Citizens who have odds and ends of items they wish to donate to the squad may do so by calling 739-2077 or 739-3071. Rescuers will pickup the donations.

The bake goods will be made by members of the ladies rescue auxiliary. Cupcakes, pastry, coffee and soft drinks will be sold.

Proceeds will go toward the new ambulance fund.

Alvin Moretz

New Codes Director

Alvin B. Moretz came out of the basement of city hall Monday night where he has been directing the city's community development fund programs to take on the job of codes administrator, building inspector and CD director.

The 29-year old Hickory native is handling such jobs as adapting the former Southern Railroad Depot for

use in community functions, adding a new entrance from lower to upper parking areas at Moss Lake and continuing as general troubleshooter and director of community development funded programs like water lines construction, street work and work with the appearance (or beautification) committee.

Moretz graduated in 1973 from N. C. State University with a BS degree in civil engineering. He is registered as Engineer In Training in North Carolina and is affiliated as an associate member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of the Professional Engineers of North Carolina.

In 1969 Moretz joined the firm of Rummel, Klepper and Kahl, Raleigh office, as a junior design engineer and after his graduation from NCSU, he was appointed design engineer.

He participated in the design of highways and preparation of plans for projects in North Carolina, Maryland, West Virginia and Florida. His work included route location studies, intersection and interchange design and supervision of contract drawing preparation.

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ALVIN MORETZ
... Codes, CD Director

The Fourth Bid.....

Mystery!
Suspense!
Comedy!

Those are the elements of the case of the fourth bid.

It all came about during Monday's commissioner meeting under Item Six of the agenda - receiving bids for fencing of old depot property.

Mayor John H. Moss said there were three bids; Chastain of KM, Allison of Charlotte and Fence Builders, Inc. of Winston-Salem.

Fred Barnes of Charlotte stood to say his company - B&H Fence Builders - has entered a bid, too.

"Where?" the mayor asked.

"Downstairs last Friday. The girl in the office said she would accept it and see it got into the right hands," Barnes said.

"Somebody get the learned attorneys in here and let's see what the legal opinion on this happens to be," the mayor said.

Mike Randall and Scott Cloninger, the two honorary temporary interim city attorneys, came in and conferred and Mike stood. "The board could vote to accept this fourth bid or vote to readvertise for new bids. But since, through no fault of the board, you do not have the fourth bid, then you can vote to open the three you have and forget the fourth."

A hurried conference brought out the theory that "downstairs" where

Barnes submitted his bid was Chief Earl Lloyd's office. The chief was summoned and he and Barnes went down to plow through the offices to find the bid. The mayor called a recess.

Twenty minutes later it was stated "the girl" in the chief's office had been phoned and confirmed she had been given the bid and that she had turned it over to "Al." Then a search was conducted for "Al."

"Al" turned out to be Alvin Moretz, the CD man. He came to city hall to help straighten out the mess.

Moretz said "the girl" had given him the bid and described the man who had given her the bid. Moretz said "that describes Mr. Chastain." So he wrote Chastain on the envelope.

Mayor Moss was holding the "Chastain" bid and when Barnes came forward he described the envelope as his own. So the Barnes bid turned out to be the Chastain bid and it turns out that Chastain did not bid on the fence at all.

Mike Randall stood again. "I'd like to withdraw everything I said earlier."

Commissioner Norman King said, "Yeah, but what happened to the fourth bid?"

"There was no fourth bid," Mayor Moss said.

Well, that's the end of that mystery.