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Downtown Merchants Plan Beautification

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

About 25 downtown Kings Mountain businessmen met with Shelby architects Crawford Murphy and Kenneth Bell Tuesday night at the country club to begin planning a beautification program in the central business district.

The meeting was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association Downtown Committee with Charles Blanton, chairman, presiding. Blanton termed the downtown group as "loose-knit and without funds," yet at the end of the two-hour planning session it was generally agreed that Murphy be re-

tained to work with CBD businessmen on an individual basis.

The first step to be taken is the adoption of a color theme and types of materials to be used to create the unified beautification concept. Secondly, beautification of the buildings abutting the new city parking plaza.

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Firm To Study Electric Rate

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Southeastern Consulting Engineers, Inc. will conduct a study of the Kings Mountain electric retail rate schedules.

The firm will provide the city with a financial analysis, including costs

of purchased power, system operation, system construction and maintenance to establish guideline limits for any proposed rates or rate revisions.

Southeastern will also prepare a comparative rate chart for all existing and proposed rates. The charts will show the average cost of

energy for each rate to show the city's competitive position in the various cost classes.

Charts will also be prepared for the equivalent rates of Duke Power and will include both the demand and energy-only rates.

Once the comparative schedules of both the city and its supplier, Duke Power, are charted, recommendations for city rates adjustments will be offered. The recommendations will be for rates that will allow the city to keep from losing income on power and system maintenance.

The study will also provide the commissioners with calculations of the effect of any proposed rate revision on the individual bills and on the city's total revenue. Southeastern will tabulate by blocks on the individual bills for a representative month.

In a letter to the commissioners, D. B. Lampke, president of Southeastern Consultant Engineers, Inc., said "Proposed electric rates will be designed to be comparable with the equivalent rates of Duke Power where such levels will not result in the city's selling power and energy below cost and will be designed to meet the city's budgetary requirements.

"The proposed rates will also reflect the requirements of system

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Lazar Instrument For W&S Work

Locating and installing water and sewer lines will be accomplished far more easily and in less time using a new piece of equipment purchased by the board of commissioners Monday night.

The Lazar instrument, purchased under a bid from Gyro Lazar, Inc. for \$6,400, removes all guess work in selecting proper location and installation for proper fall.

The advertisement for bids on the instrument was published twice because three bids were needed on first advertising. However, under the law, the second time at least one bid is legal. The board received two bids. The second bid was for a Lazar instrument more adapted to survey work.

The Gyro Lazar instrument carries an 18-month guarantee and will be delivered within a week.

Vibrating Roller Demonstration

Commissioner James Childers moved to table a decision on the purchase of a vibrating roller for the street department until after bidders can give the city officials a practical demonstration.

This item was also advertised twice, but only two bids were received. The low bidder is Western Carolina Tractor Co. with a bid of \$2,156.50. The equipment from WC Tractor meets all specifications.

The demonstration is expected this week and the board will meet in a special session following that to make a decision.

Surplus City Vehicles Are Sold

Seven city-owned autos and one motorcycle were sold to highest bidders at Monday night's board meeting.

Six autos and the Harley Davidson motorcycle were police department vehicles and one car was used by the fire department.

The motorcycle, which brought the highest single bid, was sold to J. Fred Withers for \$600. Two 1973 Dodge model cars went to M. C. Pruette Used Cars for a total of \$628. Jim's Used Cars of Bessemer City purchased one 1969 Ford, one 1970 Plymouth, two 1971 Plymouths and one 1973 Dodge for a total price of \$973.

Construction Materials Bought

The commissioners awarded a contract to Grinnell Corp. of Charlotte for all materials needed for the construction of water and sewer lines in the Canaler St. urban renewal project.

The total contract bid was \$32,440.74.

All items needed were based on unit pricing and Commissioner Jim Childers' motion included the stipulation that any additional items above the R-96 job estimate be sold the city at the same unit price. And further that should the project require less than the estimate, the fee be reduced accordingly.

Part of the material is expected to be delivered late this week and the complete contract in two to three weeks.

The R-96 project is estimated to be completely entirely by early spring of 1977.

Police Radios Purchased

Motorola of Charlotte will receive an order for 16 personal portable radios to be used by the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Four sealed bids on the units were received by Chief Earl Lloyd Monday and he recommended the Motorola units as the best for the job.

The 16 units will cost a total of \$16,545.60. The city's share of this cost is five percent. The other 95 percent of the cost will be paid from federal and state funds under an LEAA grant program.

Chief Lloyd made application through the Region C Criminal Justice Division last month for 22 units. He told the board Monday that LEAA grant money was not available for all 22 units. The department has six serviceable units at present.

Delivery of the new units will be within six weeks and parts and service are available through Grinnell in Charlotte.

Parking Meters On Sale

Following an example from other municipalities, the Kings Mountain Commissioners voted Monday night to sell on a first come, first serve basis the 50-60 surplus parking meters now in storage.

The meters were removed from city streets about three and a half years ago and have been stored since.

The meters will sell for no less than \$15 and are available through the city clerk's office.

What can you do with a parking meter? According to the commissioners some people use them to make lamps and other oddities. One KMer even has an old meter installed in his bathroom to limit patrons to 10 minutes parking.



CUTTING THE RIBBON - Uncle Sam (Sidney Hodgins), Miss North Carolina - Susie Proffitt, Mayor John H. Moss and Dick Ellis, director of the N. C.

Photo By Tom McIntyre
Bicentennial Commission, officiated at the dedication of the new Kings Mountain Parking Plaza last Friday morning during the three-day Battle of KM celebration.

And then came rain...

All events for the 196th anniversary celebration of The Battle of Kings Mountain were all set... and then the rains came.

Inclement weather knocked off the Belks-Plonk-Fultons fashion show set for 3:30 p. m. last Thursday...

...Forced the rocking chair marathon contestants into the community center (after the rockers were deluged no less than three times by rain)...

...Forced the Kings Mountain National Military Park visitors center to move from the park to the city, indoors at Barnes Auditorium...

...Forced Jack Ford to cancel his visit to the park...

...Forced cancellation of the Kings Mountain Jaycee sponsored Bicentennial parade on Friday...

...Forced street dances planned for Thursday and Friday nights indoors at the community center...

...Forced the senior citizens band program and auction indoors at the community center...

...Postponed the Friday night football game to Saturday night to compete with the Bicentennial Ball at the armory...

...And cancelled the sky diving exhibition and the free balloon rides on Saturday.

At first glance it would appear the three-day celebration met with total disaster. And yet there was still a great deal of activity going on and more participation than would be expected because of the weather.

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KMHS Ranked In 10th Spot

Kings Mountain's Mountaineers are ranked as the 10th best 3-A team in the state in this week's Greensboro Daily News grid poll.

The Mountaineers, 6-0, are one of eight Lexington 3-A teams in the state. Lexington, 7-0, is the top-ranked club.

KMHS will try to maintain its lofty perch among the state's elite with a victory Friday at Shelby.

Doug Mayes To Speak Saturday

Doug Mayes, the editorial voice of Jefferson-Pilot Broadcasting, will be guest speaker at Saturday night's annual ladies night banquet of Fairview Lodge 339 AF&AM at Masonic Temple at 7 p. m.

A veteran Carolinas radio and TV newsmen, Mayes is still seen conducting WBTV's "On the Square" people interviews.

Mayes is a 33rd degree Mason and Shriner and this year is serving as Potentate of Oasis Shrine Temple of Charlotte. In this capacity Mayes travels all over the country on behalf of the shrine and the Surners Hospital for Children.

George Melton is Master of the Lodge.

Gaston Student Fees Will Be Increased

Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education Monday night upped the annual fee for Gaston County tuition students to \$100 effective with the 1977-78 term.

The fee had been raised from \$60 annually to \$90 annually during the board's August meeting.

Motion by Trustee Marion (Mrs. George) Thomason stipulated that the fee be paid in two installments, one for each school semester. Mrs. Thomason said she didn't want to see any hardships placed on parents.

Supt. Donald Jones made the recommendation that the tuition be raised because he said the system would lose several thousands of dollars in allocations as a result of requirements of the new fiscal control act. Under the new act, the State Department of Public Instruction requested the number of students living outside the county and school district (26 last year). That number was deducted from the appropriation by the county, causing a .75 percent loss in total allocation.

Mr. Jones said that he had met with parents of out-of-district pupils and felt the \$100 fee would meet their approval and is in keeping with fees charged by Gaston County and Shelby city systems.

Wray and Alma Plonk, whose property sits on the county line, on Cherryville Rd., appeared before the board and expressed the hope that "the fee won't be increased any more than \$100." "Once a child gets established in a school here, it's heart breaking for her to move to another," Mrs. Plonk commented.

In other action: Asst. Supt. Bill Bates gave an evaluation of the Title I program and noted that \$138,000 was spent in

the program involving 637 children last year. Five professional staff members, 15 aides and one clerical program were employed.

Test results in the Title I reading programs in grades K-6 indicated an average gain in all grades although some grades showed more definite gains than others. Two kindergartens were operated last year, at North and Grover plants. This year the Title I program has added one reading lab with Carole Parker as teacher and one reading aide for a total cost of \$149,000. Bates expressed the hope that reading labs could be created at all levels from kindergarten through senior high.

The board voted to sponsor three students for the Presidential Classrooms for Young Americans in Washington, D. C. with participants to be selected by a five-member committee chosen by the high school principal and heard that the state schools board association had suggested a number of activities for its International Understanding Project and were then introduced to Mlle. Gisele Lariot, 22, of France, teacher's aide to Mrs. J. L. Raymer in the high school French department under the Amity Aide Program which enables foreign teachers to observe the American educational system first-hand. Mrs. Raymer accompanied Mlle. Lariot to the meeting.

The board also endorsed an anticipated move from the WNCSSAA to the statewide N. C. High School Athletic Association. The 10 teams in the conference would compete for state championships and would include four from Cleveland County, three from Rutherford County and three from Gaston County.

Bethware School Dedication Is Set

Dedication of the handsome, new addition to Bethware School has been set for Oct. 31 from 2 until 4 p. m., it was announced at Monday night's board of education meeting.

Members of the Board will assist in the formal dedication and the community will be invited to inspect the facilities, which include classrooms and a new lunchroom.

Refreshments will be served during the open house.

In other actions involving school improvements, the board authorized additional lighting at John Gamble Memorial Football Stadium estimated to cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Supt. Don Jones, making the recommendation, reported an hour-long outage during Saturday night's football game and noted it was the second outage since the opening of the stadium. He praised the city-lighted tennis court adjacent to the stadium and portable generators from the KM Rescue Squad for providing auxiliary lighting. Jones

The board authorized Supt. Jones to proceed with bids for a new dishwasher for Grover School and readvertise if another expected bid, the third, does not arrive.

Supt. Jones reported that bids for aluminum covers for seats at the stadium will be opened at a later date, noting that seats on the home side of the stadium will be in gold. Asst. Supt. Bill Bates reported that 80 percent of materials for covered walkways for Bethware and Grover plants are "in hand" and that construction on covered walkways at Grover plant are now underway. Bates reported that all furniture has been received for the new Bethware School addition.



DOUG MAYES