

Engineers To Recommend City Adopt Duke Retail Rate

At next Monday night's commissioners meeting Bill Little Jr. of Southeastern Consulting Engineers will recommend that Kings Mountain adopt the current Duke Power retail customer rates.

The recommendation includes Duke's electric rates for residential all-electric, commercial and industrial users. The latter to be included after proper demand metering equipment is installed.

Little's recommendation includes the city continue passing along Duke's monthly wholesale fuel adjustment charge.

As of Mar. 1, 1978 Duke Power Company's rates to retail customers will be increased approximately 10 percent. Little's recommendation is for the city adopt the current Duke rates prior to the Mar. 1 increase.

"This will bring the city's rates in line with Duke's current rates, which means the city's rates will continue to be lower than Duke rates in all areas of use," Little said.

He said there would be little effect to the residential customers, but the new rate schedule, if adopted, would mean quite a bit to the local commercial and all-electric residential customers.

Currently, commercial customers using between 100 and 5,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per month are paying bills slightly higher than the Duke customers using equal kilowatt hours per month are paying slightly higher bills than Duke customers using equal electrical hours.

"Under the Duke rate these customers would be paying less than Duke customers using equal kilowatt hours per month," Little said.

Little said city customers and Duke customers comparing bills on the fuel adjustment charge have to take in consideration that the charges are arrived at by different formulas.

"Duke Power's fuel adjustment charge is based on a formula set down by the N. C. Utilities Commission," Little said. "The City of Kings Mountain's fuel charge is based on a formula set down by the Federal Power Commission. However, even though the month to month bills between the two may fluctuate up and down, at the end of the year the charge will total out to the same under both formulas."

The city customer's fuel adjustment charge for February is based on the cost of fuel used in November 1977. Duke's fuel adjustment charge for February is based on the cost of fuel used in September, October and November of 1977.

Southeastern Consulting Engineers serve about 100 towns and municipalities in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Virginia. These communities have energy supplied by Duke Power, Carolina Light and Power, S. C. Electric and Gas, Virginia Electric and Power, Appalachian Power, Potomac Edison and Nantahala Power.

Mayor John Moss said, "Our whole objective here is to cut through the red tape and get the total costs of electric power, including the fuel adjustment or coal charge, to where the bottom line costs to Kings Mountain citizens below or equal to Duke's. This is what we are going to do."

Each month posters will be erected at city hall showing typical bills for both the city's and Duke's customers for comparison, based on the same amount of kilowatt hours used.

"We want to break these costs down into simple terms to cut out the confusion to the customers," the mayor said.



PASSING THE DEED — William S. Fulton Jr. hands Charles T. Carpenter the deed to the former Fulton home and property adjacent to Central United Methodist Church. The church bought the property from Fulton to hold for future church expansion. Carpenter is on the church board of trustees. Looking on is the Rev. Robert Boggan, pastor.

Church Buys Property

Central United Methodist Church has purchased the house and grounds adjacent to the church on S. Piedmont Ave.

The Rev. Robert Boggan, pastor, disclosed the 37,912 square foot lot and the two-story house, built in the early 1900s, was purchased from W. S. Fulton Jr. for \$41,400.

"The house will be demolished," Rev. Boggan said, "probably within the next

four or five weeks. But first, we have had requests for odds and ends by church members from the house before it is destroyed."

Rev. Boggan said such things as corner posts, window frames, fireplace mantels, etc. will be removed from the house before the church trustees award the demolition contract.

"The immediate use the church plans

to put the property to is for off-street parking and playground area," Rev. Boggan said. "The property was purchased against that day in the future when the church might wish to expand."

The 137 and a half foot front will be maintained as is, according to Rev. Boggan. The trees will remain and there will be additional beautification of the property. The lot runs 275 feet.

Burlington Industries

Plant Not Closing

Burlington Industries' Phenix Plant in Kings Mountain is not closing.

That is the message delivered Tuesday night by several executives of Burlington's sportswear division at a dinner meeting at the Kings Mountain Inn.

George Wilcox, vice president of manufacturing from Greensboro, told a gathering of local business, industrial, professional and political leaders that "The Phenix Plant is a stable operation and we see no reason why the Kings Mountain plant should not continue running."

Wilcox said rumors have been circulating rapidly, since Burlington closed other plants in this area, that the Kings Mountain operation was on the shutdown list also.

"Although the Phenix plant is one of our older ones," Wilcox said, "we have found it economically feasible to make changes at the plant. We are gearing here to manufacture cotton synthetic yarns for denim clothing."

He explained that the recently closed Mayflower Plant in Gaston County was manufacturing a product that was being killed by foreign import business and that the plant could not be updated economically, so it had to be closed.

The foreign import trade "gobbling up" more than its share of the American market is one of the reasons the

American textile business is having problems, according to Wilcox. "And we cannot export products to foreign markets because the tariffs have been raised so high it is not economically sound business to continue exporting," he said.

Accompanying Wilcox from Greensboro were Max Huntley, group manager, and Barney Miller, division personnel manager. From the local plant were Neal Yeargin, Phenix manager; Mike Saunders, personnel manager, and Luther Bennett.

Stranded Motorist Helped

God Bless React

James A. Rubendall of Shelby now knows there is a Kings Mountain REACT unit in operation.

The Shelbians was stranded here early Sat. Jan. 28 with a flat tire. Rubendall could not find a service station open to change his tire nor was he physically able to attempt the feat.

Then along came Gail McDaniel, a REACT member, who had picked up the distress signal from Rubendall's daughter.

Later, REACT received a letter from Mrs. Rubendall praising "the man in the blue van" for his assistance. McDaniel was the man. Along with the letter came a check for \$25, a contribution to the unit.

In closing Mrs. Rubendall wrote, "... I have never heard of (React) it, but we

will be forever grateful. God Bless React."

REACT is made up of citizens volunteering their time to assist in emergencies by furnishing communications to the proper authorities. The local unit also volunteers its services to neighborhood patrols during the night to assist police, rescue and fire in communications in emergencies.

And during the cold weather React members have been furnishing fire wood to needy citizens, working through the KM Ministerial Association.

React maintains offices and a communications center at the KM Community Center. Emmett Moss is Captain of the local unit. The KM Kiwanis Club is a sponsoring agency.

Grover Action Quick?

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

GROVER — Mayor W. W. (Bill) McCarter thinks the town board might have been too quick to approve a resolution accepting the 201 study from John Edwards Engineering.

The mayor said he had requested Edwards return the resolution so the board could make further study concerning questions which may arise later.

"Questions like what will be the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) position be if the town decides to go to Minette Mills for waste treatment instead of to Kings Mountain?" Mayor McCarter said.

He said there is also a condition in the 201 plan that says the town agrees there will be no industrial flow released in the waste collection system. "What if we are fortunate enough to get another small industry in Grover? Does that mean we cannot accept it as a waste treatment customer?" the mayor asked.

The mayor asked if the town went with Minette for waste treatment in the beginning and a small industry came in later, could the town switch to the Kings Mountain waste treatment system?

The board agreed that it is useless to continue discussing the matter until some solid figures on waste treatment have been submitted by both Minette Mills and the City of Kings Mountain. The waste collection system planning has leaned heavily toward connecting with the Kings Mountain system for treatment.

According to McCarter, for Grover to go to the Kings Mountain system it will cost the town about \$52,000 more in the beginning — the cost of rerouting the collector line from Jake's Creek to Long Branch Creek to connect with the KM line.

The entire cost estimate for the Grover wastewater treatment system is \$908,900.

In related business Monday night, the board approved agreement to the letter of intent from Farmer's Home Administration the town must meet to qualify for a \$287,700 grant offer and a \$170,000 loan offer at five percent. The board also approved adopting a two-year loan repayment budget for FmHA.

However, the mayor pointed out, this does not obligate Grover to anything. He said it means the FmHA will put aside the grant and loan money earmarked for Grover for a period of 18 months.

The two-year budget plan sets aside \$17,000, interest payments, for the first two years of the 28-year loan if the town follows through on acceptance of the offer.

The board also discussed cutting costs on the wastewater collection system and all but ruled out cutting corners in construction. The board agreed there possibly could be costs trimmed in the operation of the system later.

The mayor also asked the question, if the trimming can be done to reduce the overall project cost, will that amount trimmed be deducted from the grants and loans?

In other business, Commissioner Tommy Keeter asked the board to consider changes in the town's water rates and tap-on fees to water customers, both inside and outside the corporate limits.

The present tap-on fee is \$100, Keeter said, "and the last tap-on we had cost the town over \$200." He suggested an increase of \$125 for customers on the same side of the street as the town's water main. But the board agreed to consider this matter further in March.

The present water rates for inside customers are \$1 per 1,000 gallons for first 4,000; 60 cents per 1,000 for next 2,000; 50 cents per next 2,000; 40 cents per for all over 10,000 gallons.

Keeter suggested a new rate of \$1 for first 4,000; 80 cents for the next 2,000; and 60 cents per for all over that amount. For outside customers, he suggested the standard \$5 per for the first 4,000, plus a 30 percent increase.

Keeter said the water deficit to the town for December 1977 was \$600 and for January 1978, \$500. He said the board is definitely going to have to make adjustments in both tap-on fees and water rates to customers.



DR. JOHN WASYLIK
... VFW Commander-in-Chief

Wasylik To Speak At VFW

Dr. John Wasylik, Commander-in-Chief of Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, will pay a special visit to Kings Mountain Fri., Feb. 17.

D. H. Brown, commander of the Frank Glass VFW Post 9811 in Kings Mountain, said, "Dr. Wasylik will arrive here about 2 p. m. and will meet local members and community dignitaries in a reception at the local post."

Brown said this is the first visit to Kings Mountain by any VFW US Commander-in-Chief and he urges local post members and auxiliary members to attend the program on Feb. 17.

During a whirlwind three day-tour of North Carolina facilities, Dr. Wasylik will have lunch at noon at the Shelby Post, then meet with KMers at 2 p. m. and attend a program at the Course Post at 4 p. m.

Brown said he has issued special invitations to Mayor John H. Moss, Police Chief Jackie Barrett, Sen. Ollie Harris and American Legion Cndr. Bob Smith and others to attend the meeting with Dr. Wasylik.

An optometrist in Sandusky, Ohio, Dr. Wasylik is also deeply involved in youth, civic, professional and veterans' activities there.

He has held numerous jobs within the VFW prior to his election as Commander-in-Chief at the VFW Convention in Minneapolis, Minn., on Aug. 26, 1977.

Dr. Wasylik is a veteran of the Korean War where he served with the 7th Infantry Division as a machine gun section sergeant. He earned the Combat Infantry Badge, Unit Citation and the Bronze Star.

Bloodmobile Here Friday

Bethware School P-TA will host the regional visit of the Red Cross Bloodmobile Friday at Bethware School.

Donors will be processed from 11 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. in Bethware Gymnasium and quota for the visit is 125 pints of blood.

Bethware School is the only elementary school in the Piedmont Carolina Blood Region of 60 counties in the two Carolinas to host the bloodbank, said a spokesman.

Blood is critically needed at this season of the year and Kings Mountain area citizens are invited to again give a pint of blood.

Dr. Blair To Lead Study

Dr. J. Allen Blair, founder of "Glad Tidings" more than 20 years ago, will lead a community-wide Bible Study Saturday at the home of Bill and Betty Moss at 1403 Grover Rd.

The study will begin at 10 a. m. and conclude at 3:30 p. m. Persons attending are invited to bring a covered dish for lunch.

Dr. Blair has been the regular speaker on the broadcast which originates in Charlotte and is aired on over 600 stations throughout the U. S., in Panama and Ecuador. He is editor of "Glad Tidings," a monthly publication, a regular contributor to the devotional guide, "Seek," and the author of numerous tracts and 10 books.

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