

HUD Approves Moss Dam Project

The city of Kings Mountain got its Christmas present early Monday night when Mayor John Henry Moss announced to the Board of Commissioners that the Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved its request to use surplus Community Development Block Grant funds to repair the Moss Lake dam.

The board made its request in early November after the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community

Development denied a grant application to cover the repairs. That department told the city it could not receive such a grant as long as it had surplus funds in its CD program.

The city has \$422,092.79 surplus funds in the 1979 CDBG program. An extra \$18,650 from program incomes will be used to bring the total to the needed \$440,742.79.

The city was ordered several months ago by the state to bring the dam up to current national

safety guidelines. The city must continue a weir monitoring program, seal the leaking drain pipe or line it with a 48" pipe, install a low-level outlet and implement an annual inspection program.

Moss also announced Monday that the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development has approved the city's repair plans which were submitted by engineer Buck Johnson of the W.K. Dickson Company.

Johnson pointed out at several

previous board meetings that the dam met national safety requirements when it was constructed 12 years ago, but that state and national guidelines have changed over the years and must be adhered to.

In a letter written by Johnson to the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners on October 14, Johnson said the dam is an "imminent threat to public health and safety" and that "none of the known characteristics of this dam indicate that failure is in-

evitable, but it is the consensus of the City, State and Federal Engineers that the dam could fail at any time from some fault that has not made its presence known."

Johnson also stated that failure of the dam could result in "the loss of live and extensive property damage down stream."

The letters were welcomed news to the board.

"I'm glad to know it's been approved and we can get to work

on it," said Commissioner Jim Dickey. "I've always said one of the greatest assets this town has is the lake."

"I'm proud we found the funding for this project and look forward to receiving a favorable bid in January," Mayor Moss said. "Adequate water supply for Kings Mountain is very important."

Because divers must be used to line the drain pipe, the project could take about a year to complete.

Citizens Voice Complaints

Citizens appeared before the City Board of Commissioners Monday night to protest the city's charging residents for street improvements and for failing to tear down two houses on Ridge Street which were condemned in 1980.

Doytt Falls, who lives beside one of the houses owned by Apple Tree Farms, claimed drunks and other people are sleeping inside, and the houses smell bad.

"If you lived beside the house, you'd want something done about it, too," Falls told the board.

Falls said the houses had been condemned in 1980, and should be either demolished or brought up to codes standards. He said he had walked through the houses with Mayor John Henry Moss

and Moss told him they couldn't be repaired.

Falls presented a petition signed by over 50 residents of the community asking that the houses be demolished or brought up to codes standards, and asking in writing that an outside inspector be allowed to inspect the houses following renovation and give an opinion on whether or not they meet standards.

Local attorney Steve Crosby, who is a part owner in Apple Tree and represents that company, appeared before the board and said he felt the houses could be brought up to codes standards, and promised that they would be.

He said work has already begun on renovating the houses, which will be rented.

"All work will be done up to

codes," Crosby said. "We will make every effort possible to satisfy everyone. It's our opinion that they can be renovated. If not, the city can tear them down."

Crosby said he boarded the houses last week in an effort to keep people out of them. Falls, however, said that the very day Crosby boarded them, someone broke into one of the houses and spent the night there.

Commissioner Jim Childers told Falls that "I don't hardly see how we can tell a corporation how to spend its money. If they don't bring them up to codes standards, then we'll tear them down."

As for allowing an outside inspector to inspect the houses, Childers said, "you're dealing with someone's private property. You can't just go in and inspect it anytime you want to."

Crosby said he had already written a letter to Mayor Moss and Codes Director Jerry King "assuring them that every effort will be made to meet the codes."

Mayor Moss said he would instruct City Attorney George Thomasson, who was not present at the meeting, to review the city codes and respond to Falls, and assured Falls that the matter would be taken care of.

After the meeting, Falls stated that several sewage holes have been dug at the house at 403

Ridge Street and sewage runs out of them and into the driveways of people living down the street.

"We've lived with this mess for five years, and we're tired of it," he said.

"We'll get it straightened out," Crosby said.

In another matter, the board approved assessing residents of Catherine Street \$2.52 per foot for street improvements which were recently completed.

Total cost of the project was \$9,590.84. As provided by state law, the city will pay one-half of the costs and absorb the labor.

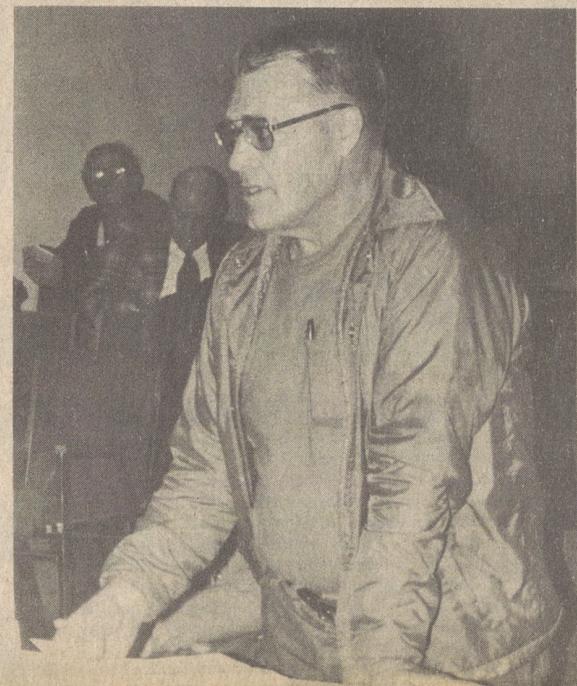
Several residents said they did not petition the city for the improvements. Mayor Moss said the petition was received in March of 1974 and contained over 50 percent of the signatures of the property owners. District Four Commissioner Norman King, who represents the Catherine Street area, said if 50 percent of the property owners request the improvements the city is bound by state law to make them.

"If the petition was received in 1974, why so many years to do it?" a woman asked. "It would have been much cheaper eight years ago."

"We have to do it as we have the money," King said. "I wish we could pave every street in town."

One resident asked that the city use grant money for such projects, but Mayor Moss said two grant applications to cover the project were turned down because the total income level of that area of town was too high to qualify.

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DOYTT FALLS
...Speaks To City Board
Ministers To Ring Bells For The Needy

Area ministers will be ringing bells for donations Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. in front of Harris-Teeter, Winn-Dixie and TG&Y.

All money received will go to the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association's Helping Hand Fund, which provides food for needy families in the Kings Mountain area.

Rev. Oscar Stalcup, pastor of Foursquare Gospel Church, is chairman of the bell-ringing project and urges all local citizens to contribute.

"With so many people out of work and the economy in the state it's in, we've had a lot more demands than usual," he said. "We really need the support of the community."

The ministers will also be at the same three locations on December 23 and 24 from 1 until 7 p.m.

"We would like to thank the management of Harris-Teeter, Winn-Dixie and TG&Y for cooperating in helping with this needy project," Rev. Stalcup said.

City Board Amends Code Of Ordinances

The Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners Monday night amended its Code of Ordinances to require that all buildings in the city be numbered.

Mayor John Henry Moss noted that the numbering is necessary to provide better fire, rescue, police and postal service. Numbers will be assigned by the U.S. Postal Service.

Homes already numbered will not have to be changed, Codes Director Jerry King pointed out, unless they are too small to see or are of a color which cannot be seen from the street.

King urges citizens to walk to the street and look back at the home. If the number cannot be read, a new number should be placed on the home.

Moss said emergency personnel often have trouble finding a home because they are not numbered. "This will benefit the homeowners," Moss said.

The code concerning numbering of buildings reads:

All buildings, houses, mobile homes and mobile units fronting

on any street or alley in the City shall be numbered in some conspicuous place on the principal structure by the owner thereof according to numbers assigned by the U.S. Postal Service; all odd numbers being on one side of the street and all even numbers on the other. The numbers are to be approximately three and three-fourths (3 3/4") inches in height, a color different from surrounding colors, and placed so that they can be easily seen from the street by police, fire and rescue personnel. Receptive numbers are preferred, but are not mandatory.

Any person not knowing his street number shall apply to the Postmaster for a number. Any person failing or refusing to put the proper number on his building, house, mobile home, or mobile unit or putting the wrong number thereon, or failing or refusing to comply with any other requirement of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

The city will begin enforcing the code on January 1, 1983.

Christmas Edition

The Herald's annual Christmas edition will be published on Thurs., Dec. 23.

In addition to regular news matter, it will include Christmas features, recipes, poems, letters to Santa Claus and greeting ads from area businesses.

Businesses wishing to place a greeting advertisement should call the Herald at 739-7496 by Friday at 5 p.m.

Deadlines for regular advertisements will remain at Tuesday at 5 p.m.

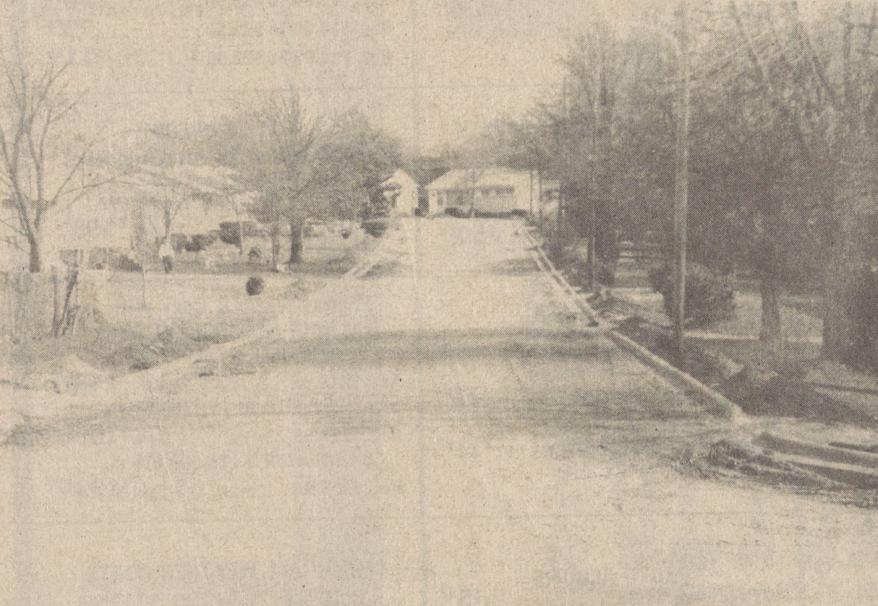


Photo by Darrell Austin

STREET IMPROVEMENTS - The city public works department is busy paving and curbing Belvedere Circle. Belvedere is one of many

streets that have recently undergone improvements.

Teachers, Students Get Free Use Of Gyms

By GARY STEWART
Editor

The Kings Mountain District Schools Board of Education Monday afternoon revised its policy on use of gyms to allow certain non-school and in-school groups free use of the facilities.

The action, which passed 4-1 with board member Kyle Smith casting the lone no vote, will allow teacher groups, Parent-Teacher organizations and adult-supervised student groups such as basketball teams to use the gymnasiums. Groups such as industrial basketball league teams, and outside-school groups using the facilities for a profit, will continue to pay a rental fee.

The action came as a result of recent protests over some groups using facilities free and others having to pay. An exercise class has been using Bethware School free of charge, and a group of teachers and other adults have used the Kings Mountain High gym for Sunday afternoon basketball games at no charge, while a youth basketball league comprised of Grover School students has been paying a rental fee to use the Grover gym.

Superintendent Bill Davis said the "public relations value" of allowing such groups free use of gyms "would be far greater than the little bit of revenue we'd receive." Assistant Superintendent Larry Allen, who presented the proposal, added that only the use of the gyms and lights would be provided free of charge. The heat cannot be used free.

Smith cast the lone no vote not because he did not approve of groups using the gyms, but because he said the policy discriminates against other groups, such as industrial league teams. "I feel like we're pulling one group aside. I'd rather see us not charge anybody," Smith said.

"For general use, we think of schools being built for the students," Davis said. "If we give free use to everyone, it's carrying the Community Schools concept too far."

Board member Paul Hord Jr., added, "the industries expect to pay. They're not affiliated with the schools like the students, PTAs, and teachers are."

gyms. Most gym use after school hours are by adult and industrial groups.

In other action Monday, the board:

Adopted a resolution of support for Governor Hunt's "Year of Public School" program.

*Appointed Donna Butler, Steve Harmon and Frankie Webster as parent representatives, Paul Hord Jr. as school board representative; and Larry Allen as administrative staff representative on the 1983-84 school calendar committee. Teacher and principal representatives will be named later.

*Accepted the resignation of Janet Sims, teacher at North School. She has accepted a guidance counselor position with the Cleveland County Schools.

*Approved maternity leaves for Anne Qualtebaum and Barbara Lail of Grover School and Donna Mintz of North School.

*Approved the employment of Kathy Brooks as Title I instructor and transferred Dorcas Beasley to North School.

*Was told that Paul Hord Jr. and Jerry Ledford attended a two-day seminar for new school board members last week in Raleigh.