



TREE PLANTING - City crews plant 20 Foster holly trees on Cherokee Street, above, as City Fire Chief Gene Tignor, left, and Mayor John Henry Moss observe. The tree-planting project is part of a continuing beautification project in the Urban Renewal Area.

City Board Denies Trailer Park Request

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dinance under "modification and change" which states that if 20 percent or more protest the zoning change to allow the parks that a governing body does not have to grant such request.

Mr. Corry said he agreed with Neisler that the permit request was not a zoning matter but he felt the Morris had not fully met the requirements for a permit. Neisler contends the Morris has met all the criteria. He compared the permit procedure to that of obtaining a building permit. Once criteria for construction of a trailer park are met, he said, the city is obligated to issue the permit.

City Codes Jerry King said that as far as requirements to place trailers are concerned that the Morris has met requirements. He said that requirements for a sub-division are different. The Morris contend they only want to rent parking spaces, not construct a sub-division.

The City zoning board at a recent meeting voted to deny the Morris request after receiving the protest petition in which neighbors cited problems of dust and traffic. Henderson Herndon, who said the Morris property is

28 feet from his bedroom window, said he had been told that a paved road would not be constructed into the park. A dirt road would create lots of dust and my wife and I both suffer from an allergy," he said.

The city board customarily adopts the recommendations of the zoning board. Attorney Neisler contends the matter is no zoning matter and asked, "Why are we here" in his opening remarks to the city board.

Mayor John Moss explained that the board had three options to take regarding the matter: to approve, reject or table. Comm. Jim Dickey moved that the board accept the city zoning board's recommendation and disallow the permit. Before the vote was cast, Comm. Norman King asked City Attorney George Thomasson his opinion on the matter. Thomasson said the city board has the final authority on the matter, even though the zoning board had made a recommendation.

Comm. King pointed out that "we can't vote if we have no legal opinion on whether it's right or wrong. I don't want to go to court."

Neisler told the board that his clients had met all legal requirements for placing a trailer park on their property and were entitled to a permit. He said the Zoning Board's objections were made because they were of the impression the Morris project was for a sub-division. "She's not building or selling a thing. The road is 30 feet from a residence and trailer parks are a legitimate form of housing. She is entitled to a special use permit for a correctly zoned piece of property", he added.

Tootie Allen Elected New Mayor Pro Tem

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The Board also set Dec. 23 and Dec. 26 Christmas holidays for city employees and Jan. 2 as New Year's holiday and voted to give city employees an early Christmas present this week in the form of a Christmas bonus.

The Board received four bids for a tractor-trencher for the Electric Department. They were from John E. Jenkins, Shelby Ford Tractor, \$18,895; Charlotte Ford Tractor, \$19,332.59; Contractor Services, \$21,698.00; and Jones Tractor Co., \$21,400.00.

The Board received four bids for asphalt for surfacing and resurfacing of city streets from John E. Jenkins, Gastonia, \$35

per ton; Wray Construction Co. of Charlotte, \$32.40 per ton; Neal Hawkins of Gastonia, \$27.50 per ton and Asphalt Paving of Shelby, \$24.00 per ton and awarded the bid to the low bidder, Neal Hawkins Co.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Comm. Nicholson said that he believed a review of each department was in order with an eye toward performance budgeting. We are spending too much in some areas and we want to evaluate each department. "Replying to question, Mayor John Henry Moss said that when he began his first term of office 19 years ago that it was the policy of each new administration to appoint department heads for 30 days initially, evaluate them during that period and make the final appointments at the last meeting in January. "I am glad we got away from that policy", he said, but I think the board feels we need to begin this new administration by evaluating the system and emphasizing performance budgeting. Contrary to any rumors that may be circulating, the mayor says there is no hit list at City Hall. We expect no major changes in personnel," he said.

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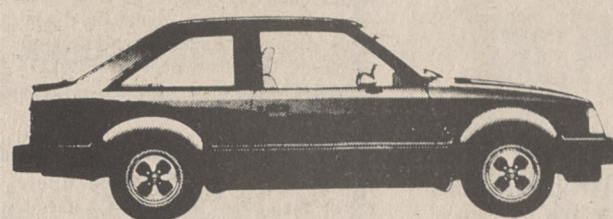
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