

City Applies  
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Dickey said the tower would be a 15x15 foot facility with steel bars designed to keep trash out and was assisted by the engineer in elaborating on mechanical workings of the hydro plant, indicating the devices that would be used to ensure the stability of the lake environment by drawing water from various depths, by mixing oxygen in the water and by avoiding temperature changes. The engineer said that without the devices there would be a fishkill for up to 10 miles downstream but with the devices fishing downstream from the lake would be greatly enhanced.

Responding to questions from Mayor John Moss, Mierck said that people had voiced concerns that possible fluctuation of the lake level would have impact on piers and docks on Moss Lake.

"There will be virtually no fluctuation in the level of the lake," said Mierck, who said that "any fluctuation in the lake should be limited to 6 to 10 inches, not dramatic drops like Duke has at Lake Norman. "People won't even notice it unless they're out there measuring it," he said. "I doubt that folks who live on the lake will even know there is a hydro plant there."

Mierck said the hydroelectric operation would result in a slight drop in the lake level during the week and a slight increase in the level on weekends. He said that fixed docks would not be affected by the fluctuation.

Clayvon Kelly questioned the cost of the proposed facility and Mayor Moss said the hydro committee would work closely in reducing the proposed cost of \$1.3 million. Comm. Dickey said that he had worked with textile plants run by hydro and found there was low maintenance involved in their operation. Mierck emphasized that equipment, when run properly, should last for years and said there was very little wear to the turbines. Dickey pointed out that Duke Power had operated hydro plants in Marion and on the Yadkin River as early as 1898 and 1921 with very low maintenance.

The engineer estimated that it would require up to six months to construct the power house and then about 14 months for the unit. He said that with turbine prices dropping, he felt that the cost would be reduced. As soon as the license is filed, the engineer suggested that the city begin steps to locate financing of the project, decide whether or not to pursue construction of a used unit, and let your congressman know you have filed, he added.

Comm. Norman King asked if the city would build the transmission line and Mayor Moss replied that the city would run the line. Moss estimated that levels of energy efficiency would approximate 85 to 86 percent and that costs could be reduced with equipment selection.

Dickey pointed out that the reservoir at Moss Lake contains 1350 acres with 55 miles of shoreline and 13 billion gallons of water. The lake is 840 feet long with 99 feet of water.

The licensing application will be submitted by the city to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as soon as the one remaining downstream study is completed.



SENATOR HELEN MARVIN

Teachers  
Attend  
Workshops

A crowd of 230 retired teachers and school personnel including 16 from the Kings Mountain area attended a workshop Tuesday in Shelby which emphasized security for retirees and older adults.

Five-term Senator Helen Marvin of Gastonia pointed to what she called "the most accomplishments ever by the N.C. General Assembly for children and for education, noting that the 1984-85 General Assembly appropriated \$2.2 billion on a K-12 budget which represented 24.3 percent increase over the last year and 45 percent of the operating budget for community colleges, up 16.8 percent and to the University system, up 19 percent from last year. She also said that salary increases to teachers during the past two years were the highest ever in the history of North Carolina and that the General Assembly also took care of the disparity in the masters pay schedule of teachers and unthawed a freeze which gave most teachers a four half-step 9.6 increase in pay while funding basic education programs giving equal access to education to all students and developing a CORE curriculum for all students which set the standards for students and staff promotions.

Attending the meeting from Kings Mountain were Margaret McCarter, Annie Roberts, Lib Gamble, Picolla Blalock, Mrs. Lewis Hovis, Julia Plonk, Mrs. W.T. Weir, Myers Hambricht, Juanita Goforth, Merle McClure, Ann Corry, Ruth Mitcham, Lina Owens, Mrs. Carl Logan, Ethel Crook, Mrs. E.W. Neal, and Mrs. Helen Van Dyke.

The Legislative Committee of the Cleveland County Chapter, an affiliate of both the N.C. Retired School Personnel and the American Association of Retired Persons, sponsored the workshop at Shelby Elks Club on the theme, "Shouldn't We Be Looking Ahead?" Miss Ezra Bridges presided at the morning session and Rev. Dwight A. Costner, president of the Cleveland County Chapter, presided at the afternoon session. Beverly H. Morrison, Regional Field Manager for Prudential AARP Insurance Program, Washington, D.C., led a morning seminar on group health insurance. Also on the afternoon program were Robert C. Ogden, Director of Social Work, Linda Rudicil, registered nurse, and Vickie Borders, registered nurse, all on the staff of Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

City Tackling Drainage Problems

"The city is doing something besides studying the problem of surface drainage."

This was the statement of Commissioner Humes Houston in a progress report to the city board of commissioners Monday night. Houston chairs the committee.

Describing what he called a "multi faceted program," Houston told citizens attending the meeting that "Kings Mountain is not in the landscaping business" apparently referring to threatened lawsuits due to problems created during heavy August rainfall of seven inches and cited a N.C. statute that "flow of water in its natural direction from the higher to lower elevations must be allowed to do so."

He said that most areas of housing (subdivisions) provide legal drainage easements along side, back and/or front lot lines but that many property owners are not aware of these easements and block the natural flow of drainage.

"The Aug. 18-19 flooding clearly demonstrated that even the best system available can be overwhelmed for at least a short period of time," said Houston.

"In past and less populous days, runoff was easily handled through natural and clear-cut direction in established ditches, drainage ways, etc. As populations grow in concentrated areas, more surface is paved over and traditional drainage ways are restricted or eliminated. Increased and quickly-generated volumes of water cause highly visible, but short-lived problems,

resulting in damage and expense. This was clearly demonstrated August 18," he said.

Other factors during the past 40 to 50 years have contributed to drainage problems, Houston pointed out.

Piping was put into place many years ago which adequately carried existing flows, but which presently may be inadequate in severe and sudden rainfall. Railroad drainage in some areas is a similar problem and must be corrected as well.

The City is presently engaged in a multi faceted program in an all out attack on the drainage problem, said Houston.

A fundamental examination of the problem is being carried out to obtain a permanent solution.

This means that all major flow areas will have larger,

better engineered, and better maintained drainage patterns which will handle sudden large water volumes.

Houston cited two visible examples of this program may be seen on both sides of Cleveland Avenue between King Street and the Community Center. Old inadequate pipes were removed and the drainage ditches have been properly constructed. Property owners cooperated with the city in this effort.

Other ditches which are causes for greatest damage potential are being surveyed and scheduled for corrective action.

Sewer lines in areas where

known backups into structures have occurred are being fitted with check valves to prevent future backups.

City administration asks for and welcomes citizen input.

City administration will continue to address this situation and follow up with action until drainage problems are under control.

The city will work in compliance with N.C. Statutes on surface drainage.

The City asks that citizens observe and report situations where drainage problems may occur; such as obstructed ditches, stopped up storm drainage grates, or broken pipes, added Houston.

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