

New City  
City Hall  
Police  
Fire  
Aging  
Cemetery  
Community Cen  
Clip And Place Ne

MAUNEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
100 S. PIEDMONT AVE.  
KINGS MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28086

## King Says Board Never Approved \$513.04 Weekly Salary

# Mayor's Vote Saves Gene White's Job

A move to fire Community Development Coordinator Gene White failed Tuesday night when the city board of commissioners split 3-3 and Mayor John Moss broke a second tie vote to retain all department heads.

Commissioner Norman King's motion to retain all department heads but eliminate the position of Community Development Office and turn those responsibilities over to the Codes Department was seconded by Commissioner Harold

Phillips and Commissioner Fred Finger also voted for the motion. King said that the board had never established that "Community Development" was a department head position and that White's job was created when he came to the city as redevelopment director and his salary was paid from federal funds. Commissioners Humes Houston, Irvin M. Allen and Corbet Nicholson voted against the motion. Commissioners Humes Houston then offered

a substitute motion that also tied 3-3 and the Mayor broke the tie, voting along with Houston, Allen and Nicholson. Voting against that motion were King, Phillips and Finger. Houston said he agreed with King's motion that all department heads should be retained but that he disagreed that the Community Development position should be eliminated.

King reiterated several times during the discussion, which followed over an hour's

executive session to discuss personnel, that if the Community Development position is to be continued by the city that the board take legal action and make White a department head. He also reiterated that the CD director's salary had never been approved by the board. He said White's salary was approved when it came from federal funds but had not been approved by the board since the salary now comes from city funds.

When board members did

not reply, White stood to ask clarification of the board's action and asked Mr. King if his motion was to end his employment with the city. King replied "correct." White then asked the Mayor to clarify the board's action and Mayor Moss said that the board's action, in a substitute motion by Houston, had retained all department heads but did not eliminate the position of community development director.

Turn To Page 5-A

GENE WHITE



## \$200,000 Civil Suit Filed Against City, Dog Warden

A \$200,000 civil suit alleging "willful assault, defamation of character and slander" has been filed by Willard (Pete) Johnson, owner of Pete's Gulf Station, against city animal warden Grayton (Stretch) Bollinger and the City of Kings Mountain.

Bollinger, who is also a certified sworn police officer, has been employed by the city for nearly 15 years.

The incident allegedly occurred at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 24, 1985 at the Cleveland County Law Enforcement Center in Shelby, according to a complaint signed by Johnson and his attorney, Lester H. Broussard, of Gastonia, and filed with Cleveland County Clerk of Superior Court.

Johnson has requested a jury trial.

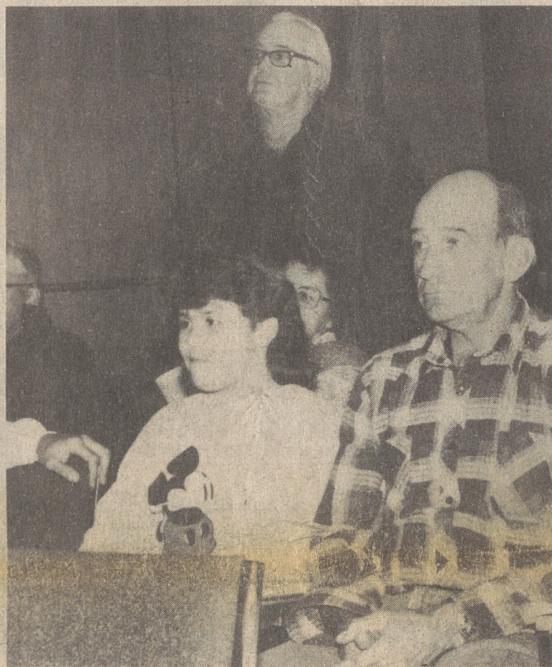
The city will file answer to the complaint in 30 days.

The plaintiff is seeking judgement in the sum of \$20,000 and punitive or ex-

emplary damages in the sum of \$20,000 and costs for alleged "outrageous, willful and reckless assault, placing the plaintiff in reasonable apprehension and fear of imminent bodily harm from a person with the apparent ability to carry out such an offer or threat of harm"; damages of \$20,000 for allegedly "suffering ridicule, humiliation, public contempt, loss of reputation, damage to his trade or business and loss of business income and damages of \$20,000 and punitive damages of \$20,000 and costs for alleged defamation of character and slander. In addition, the plaintiff seeks \$75,000 and punitive or exemplary damages in the sum of \$45,000 and costs because he suffered alleged severe emotional distress and mental anguish.

The suit alleges that Boll-

Turn To Page 7-A



See Story On Page 4-A

QUESTIONS BOARD—Dick Ware, above, questioned the city's policy on calling for wrecker service at Tuesday's meeting of the board.

# Jim Testa Purchases Franchise

Jim Testa of Kings Mountain has announced the acquisition of the Lincoln-Mercury franchise in Shelby.

It's the second new car dealership for Testa, who has owned and managed Jim Testa Chevrolet in Kings Mountain since 1981.

Testa said the Shelby dealership, which is located in the former Cline Lincoln-Mercury facility just off the Highway 74-18 intersection, will also handle Jeeps and Renaults.

Testa has leased all of the sales, service and parking facilities of the former Cline dealership and has been improving the facilities and purchasing new vehicles since acquiring the franchise on January 1.

"I've always wanted to be a car dealer," Testa said. "Buying a car is one of the most enjoyable and one of the most important things a person does during his lifetime, and I get a lot of satisfaction out of helping them do it."

In addition to the two car dealerships, Testa also owns the I-85 Truck Stop in Kings Mountain, which he leased in 1972 and purchased in 1976. He also owns a drag racing team, which operates locally, and sponsors last year's NASCAR Rookie of the Year, Kenny Shrader, on the grand national circuit.

## Teachers Want Effective Teaching Program Dumped

Many Kings Mountain teachers feel the way they're being required to participate in the state's Effective Teaching Training program is weakening the quality of education for the children of the school system.

Connie Phifer, President of the KM Association of Education, says the "mountains of paperwork" teachers must perform takes time which should be given to teaching.

Ms. Phifer said teachers would like to perform such

duties on teacher workdays, but workdays this year have been devoted to training which is required as part of the ETT program.

"We are not against training because all of our teachers have had at least four years of college, some five and some even six years," she said during Monday's school board meeting at the superintendent's office. "Many are presently enrolled in evening or weekend classes to better

their skills. Training is important, but this is one of those rare times when training will do more harm than good."

Ms. Phifer said the ETT program is required only in the 16 state school systems which are participating in the pilot program. She says ETT is "an extension" of COET, a program that has been required in Kings Mountain for the past four years. "Most of us do not believe we need to go through it again."

Ms. Phifer said teachers question whether the ETT program is really worthwhile and pointed to a recent article published by Appalachian State University which said that the program "will have very little impact on instruction in public schools. In fact, this program may institutionalize the very kind of instruction it is trying to improve."

Ms. Phifer said teacher morale in Kings Mountain "is about as low as it has ever

been in my memory" and that disruptions in the schedules are part of the blame. "Some factors causing low morale are beyond the board's control, but continually pouring on the pressure, paperwork and programs is not." She said a recent survey conducted by the State Association of Educators showed that 45 percent of Kings Mountain's teachers would choose another profession if they were choosing again, and that 84 percent would not recommend teaching careers to young people. "These figures are serious and alarming," she said.

She asked the school board to cancel Kings Mountain's participation in the program and if it decided not to do that, to at least make it voluntary and offer the training in summer instead of during the school year. "If the program has real merit and if teachers are convinced they need it,

Turn To Page 4-A

Turn To Page 4-A

## Schools Asked For \$150,000

# Indoor Pool Fund Drive Hits Snag

A committee of private citizens which has been trying to raise \$750,000 to build a school-community indoor swimming pool at Kings Mountain High School told the board of education Monday night that it has fallen short of its goal and asked the school system to pledge

\$150,000 to make the dream a reality.

The board did not commit itself to the money but scheduled a public hearing for February 3 to receive citizen input on the matter. The hearing will be held at Barnes Auditorium.

Dr. Scott Mayse, chairman

of the steering committee, said \$521,000 had been pledged or donated and \$150,000 of that amount is dependent on the successful conclusion of the fund drive. He said the committee would pledge \$600,000 if the school board would guarantee the remaining \$150,000.

The committee several months ago hired a Chicago fund-raising company to raise the \$750,000. What was intended to be a 20-week fund drive turned into a nine-month fund drive which still

## Jerry Adams Announces For N.C. State House Seat

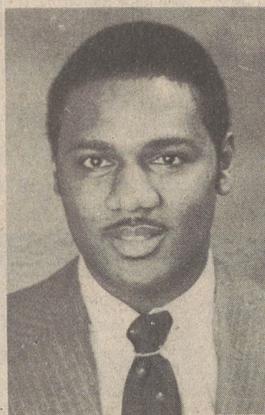
Jerry Adams, 29, has announced his candidacy for a seat in the State House of Representatives representing the 48th District, Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk County.

Adams, a native of Cleveland County, is the son of Odell Adams of Kings Mountain and the late Ruby Guyton Adams.

He challenges the three incumbent Representatives who have filed for re-election.

Adams, who is seeking the office for the third time, said he wants to see a bill introduced in the General Assembly to create an employee review relations board established in each county of the state to hear employee grievances. "Employees have a right to be heard and I think the creation of such a board statewide would be most beneficial".

Turn To Page 5-A



JERRY ADAMS

## KM's Harris Seeks Eighth Term In N.C. State Senate

Senator J. Ollie Harris, Kings Mountain mortician, will file Thursday or Friday for his eighth two-year term in the North Carolina Senate.

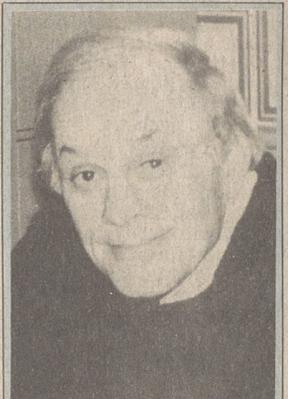
Harris represents Cleveland, Lincoln, Gaston and Rutherford Counties.

Senator Harris has served as chairman of the human resources committee for the past five years and is serving this term as vice chairman of appropriations. He also serv-

Turn To Page 4-A



J. OLLIE HARRIS



CHARLIE JUSTICE

## Justice To Speak

Charlie (Choo Choo) Justice, former football great at the University of North Carolina in the 40's, will be the keynote speaker at the Distinguished Service Award ceremonies Tuesday night of Kings Mountain Jaycees.

Kings Mountain's Distinguished Service Award recipient of the year will be honored along with Young Teenager, Outstanding Young Teenager, Young Firefighter of Year, Young Rescuer of Year, Young Educator of Year, Boss of Year and Outstanding Former Jaycee.

Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church and the awards presentations will follow the address by Mr. Justice, Cherryville insurance man.

Bobby Maner, Jaycee President, will preside