

Audit

From Page 1-A

to achieve with a small staff, even with computers.

Nothing came to their attention, the auditor said, that caused them to believe that for the items not tested the City of Kings Mountain was not in compliance with laws or regulations with which could have a material effect on the city's general purpose financial statements.

"You're doing a good job and the prompt is-

suance of a financial report is commendable," he said.

The audit report covers the period July 1-June 30, 1988. The auditors began work on Sept. 9 and in four weeks reported their findings to City Council. "Certain word changes in the pages of financial highlights and the recommendations for strengthening internal accounting which your City Manager agrees with and is following through on," were highlighted by Trost in a short presentation Tuesday to City Council.

Bond

From Page 1-A

Several citizens asked questions during the long hearing on the proposed project led by David Pond, engineer with W.K. Dickson Company. Both Pond and Wood, responding to questions, said that EPA requirements are that sewer systems be self sustaining and the cost of KM's water and sewer operations are now subsidized through revenue from electricity and natural gas sales.

"To generate this type of money, we're looking at, will cost the city payments of \$461,210 each year for the next 22 years," said Wood, but both he and Pond said the city is already applying for low interest loans and that the report of the rate study agency in November and the revised project costs, (which were in the neighborhood of \$16 million) would determine the additional rate hike.

Being scrapped from the project are plans for an expansion of the city's water treatment plant capacity and construction of a second water line from the treatment plant to Kings Mountain which several citizens objected to and wanted to know why the total package was not included.

Uneasy over indebtedness and cost estimates forced the city utility committee to take a look at what must be done first, said Al Moretz, chairman of the utility study committee which also included Councilmen Humes Houston and Fred Finger. "I'm glad to see this turnout and hear input," he said.

"You have my vote for a bond referendum," exclaimed at least three men in the audience. One citizen said the city needs additional 36 inch transmission line from Moss Lake to town to parallel the existing 24 inch line. "What if there's a breakdown?" asked Vernon Smith. Included in the original project estimate was \$7.5 for the cost of expansion of the city's water treatment plant capacity and construction of a second water line from the T.J. Ellison Treatment Plant.

Pond told the Council that the \$500,000 the city is spending at the proposed Crowders Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant is a good expenditure. "You can't build a plant for that," he added.

"What if the Crowder's Creek deal falls through? Why can't Kings Mountain use that money which was allotted us in the first place?" asked one citizen.

Pond explained that Kings Mountain is committed via an agreement with Gastonia to make a one time payment in January 1989 of \$500,000 and that figure is included in the bond issue referendum which ment that Kings Mountain citizens would be paying interest on the money for 22 years. However, he explained, that the interest is below 8 percent for a tax exempt entity and that as the city attracts industrial customers that Kings Mountain will be paying off the amount with cheaper dollars. "The new industry when it comes in, will also be helping to pay off the bond issue," said Wood, which drew comments from several citizens who wanted to know why the \$500,000 could not be spread over three years to pay. Wood said, there is no way Kings Mountain can come up with \$500,000 up front with a total fund balance of \$900,000 and a \$16 million operating budget. "That's why we decided to lump it in the bond issue," he said.

"Where are we going to get big industry to use that amount of water?" asked one citizen who later said he wholeheartedly agreed with Council and would support the referendum.

"Let's face it," said Moretz. "We can't get industry without water. Which comes first, the chicken or the egg?"

"What if the Crowders Creek project with Gastonia fails?" asked another citizen. Wood said Kings Mountain's only alternative would be to expand the Pilot Creek Plant, which the city is under court order to clean up by 1990, and upgrade McGill Plant on a short term basis. Wood was optimistic that the Gastonia-Kings Mountain-Bessemer City-Gaston County Crowders project will be ongoing. He said the state agrees with the four municipalities that the entire project amount is worthy. "There is a difference of opinion with the federal EPA but negotiations are still underway and Gastonia officials are going to Atlanta, Ga., Friday for a meeting with EPA officials on the project." Crowder's hit a snag again recently when the EPA announced it was cutting the grant by \$3 million.

Wood said the fact that the city authorizes the sale of bonds does not mean that the city would have to sell \$9 million worth. And Pond reiterated that although this is the last year for federal grants that a revolving loan was available and the city was applying for such a loan. He explained that the original federal grant of \$13 million to Crowders Creek Project was based on the participation by the four municipalities and that Kings Mountain got a high rating because of its need for improvements in the sewer system. Councilman Moretz explained that the grant period application ended Sept. 30, and agreed with Pond that the trend is away from grants to low interest three percent loans.

Jeff Gregory cautioned the Council that they should be open with the people and said he was glad to see the Council has been open. Look at our neighbor Gastonia. Voters retaliated for some reason. They knew they needed a courthouse but wouldn't vote for bonds. I think it's time Council annexed big businesses not paying their fair share but getting city services," he said.

Vernon Smith asked if Kings Mountain would be a customer of Gastonia when and if the Crowders Creek project is completed. Wood said that the city will pay the same rate as the inside Gastonia industrial rate.

"Have we forgot about a second lake for Kings Mountain?" asked Smith.

Councilman Moretz said a second lake is in the works now. Cleveland County officials have been discussing a lake site in the northern part of the county to accommodate the Upper Cleveland County Water District.

"We haven't tapped half the capacity of Moss Lake, so now is not the time to expand our current reservoir," said Moretz.

Smith reiterated what other citizens had said that a bond issue is needed to fund improvements but that industry now getting city services and outside the city should pay their fair share.

Wood estimated that the city will double its principal at 8 percent and the cost of the \$9 million bonds will amount to \$18,460,400.

Pond said that the city has ongoing problems at its sewage plants operating at 90 percent capacity. The Pilot Creek expansion is mandated by the state, he explained, and includes sludge handling facilities.

The \$9 million bond issue will pay for improvements to the electrical system, the city's share of the Crowders Creek project, a 2 MGD expansion of the Pilot Creek wastewater treatment plant, plus sludge handling facilities, miscellaneous water treatment plant improvements, 5 MG water storage facilities and spillway replacement at Moss Lake.

"We had to trim back," said Moretz, who said the city would conduct another public hearing in two weeks on proposed improvements to the electrical system. "Sewer and electrical system improvements can't wait," said Pond.

A public hearing on adoption of a revised boundary line for the city's one mile perimeter also drew a round of discussion from the audience and city staff member Gene White explained that the city was not annexing, only defining the line using tax maps and geographical boundaries, even giving up a little bit of territory for the sake of clarity. City Attorney Micky Corry, responding to questions, said the law gives a buffer to cities to control orderly kinds of development and that the establishment of the boundary line meant that the city would enforce codes in the mile perimeter areas just as it does inside the city. Responding to a question, White said the primary revenue now would come from building inspection fees. Those living in the mile perimeter area would not get city services unless they were annexed, he explained. Becky Cook, chairman of the Board of Elections, asked if the one mile area was an addition to the satellite-annexed areas of town and White said the one mile area extends from the primary city limits only. "We're just protecting what's already in the city," he said.

Councilman Moretz said he had served on the city zoning board and had worked with the old zoning maps which were confusing and that the action by the board was in compliance with existing zoning ordinances.

Photographs Are Needed

W.T. Jordan, editor of the North Carolina Archives's Civil War Roster Project, is seeking photographs of soldiers who served in the 49th, 50th, 51st and 52nd N.C. Regiments for inclusion in Volume XII of "North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster."

Information also is needed concerning the histories of those regiments and the soldiers who served in them.

Persons who furnish photographs that are chosen as illustrations will receive a free copy of Volume XII. Photos must have been taken at the time of the war and must depict the soldier in uniform.

A free copy of Volume XII also will be given to anyone who furnishes important materials such as letters and diaries written by members of the four regiments.

Among the units for which rosters will appear in Volume XII are two Cleveland County companies: Second Company B, 49th Regiment (known as the Cleveland Mountain Boys), and Company G, 49th Regiment (known as the King's Mountain Tigers).

Jordan's address is Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh 27611.



Photo by Lib Stewart

PRESENTATION — William L. Woolard, left, first vice president of Lions International who will be president in 1989, presents a 55 year award to Joseph Wright of the Shelby Lions Club at Tuesday night's 50th anniversary of the Kings Mountain Lions Club at the Holiday Inn.

KM Police Report Wrecks

Kings Mountain Police cited Mary Short Morrow, 290 S. York Road, with improper lane change after a 1988 Chevrolet she was driving hit a 1981 International School Bus operated by Norma Jordan Black of 32 Carolina Garden Apartments.

According to police, the Cleveland County School Bus was turning left with the Morrow vehicle attempted to change lanes. No one was injured.

A 1980 Honda operated by Mickey Edward Leach, Route 1, Grover, backed into a 1978 Chevrolet operated by Myetta Womic Oates, Route 5, on Oct. 8 at West Gate Plaza. Damages were estimated at \$250. Leach was cited for improper backing.

A 1983 Ford operated by Rhonda Jean Willis, Route 2, Grover, rear-ended a 1984 Chevrolet operated by Cleveland County Deputy Pauline Stevens Bridges, 1058 Davis Road, Shelby, on Oct. 8th, on King Street doing \$900 damage. Willis was charged with following too close.

A 1987 Mazda Truck operated

by Lester William Jackson, 215 N. Sims St., rear-ended a 1984 Buick operated by Alice Moore White, 116 N. Cansler St., doing a total of \$150 damage. White was turning into Cornwell Drug Store off Kings Street when the accident happened.

Ptl. Rena Rikard charged Michael Anthony Bullova, operating a 1970 Ford SW, with hit and run, DWI and no operators license after his car struck a 1988 jeep belonging to Eric Dean Partou, 821 Church St., in the parking lot of Dairy Queen. Ptl. Deborah Hullender assisted in the investigation.

Terry R. Glover, Gastonia, reported that his 1976 red Corvet was damaged by a hit and run driver in the parking lot of Harris Teeter. Estimated damages were \$800.

A 1983 Chevrolet operated by Charles Richard Johnson, 606 Landing St., hit a stalled car owned by Pamela Rose Keenum, of Gastonia, on King Street, Oct. 5. The 1977 Fiat was being pushed by a passenger, according to Johnson, who said another vehicle swerved to miss the passenger and car and caused him to hit the car doing \$250 damage to his vehicle.

'The Murder Room'

At Lincoln Theatre

The Lincoln Theatre Guild will present "The Murder Room" a hilarious comedy by Jack and Sharkey on October 20, 21, & 22 at 8 p.m., in the Lincoln Cultural Center located on the corner of East Main and Cedar Streets in Lincolnton, N.C.

Advance tickets may be purchased at Lincoln Music Center for \$4.00/adults, and \$2.50/students/sr. citizens. The tickets will be \$4.50 and \$3.50 at the door. For more information call 735-4621 or 732-2924.

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