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Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



CHRISTMAS TREE AT LIBRARY - The two photographs made at Jacob S. Mauney Memorial and its 40 feet tall white pine Christmas tree illustrates if you view the Library from one direction, top photo, the 30-year-old tree does not obscure the beautiful renovation but, below, does. The Library Board after protests from citizens, withdrew request to the city to cut the tree.



Library Halts Tree Removal

Library Board Chairman Grady K. Howard, Sr., told City Council Tuesday night that he wanted to "diffuse the electricity in the air" as he asked for a delay of his group's plans to request the city to remove "The Tree", a white-pine-symbol at Mauney Memorial Library.

Protestors present at the meeting, meantime, dwindled "to a precious few" as the song goes, but were represented by petitions signed by 1,228 people, according Mrs. Denice Talbert who handed them to Mayor Kyle Smith.

"How long will the delay be," Mrs. Talbert asked Chairman Howard as he was making his presentation to council. Mr. Howard responded, "I don't know right now," as he told the audience... "we will get expert opinion on the life of the tree and will further announce more complete landscaping plans for the grounds...we want the library to be as attractive as possible."

A KMSHS student with a group of three students told the group that her friends "were in favor of keeping the tree."

Mr. Howard, after requesting the delay, went into a presentation of the history of the library and noted the recent successful effort to raise some \$300,000 from the public "when folks didn't think we could do it", for the expansion project now nearing completion.

"We will have open house at the facility in December," he announced, "and we sincerely request the tree-petitioners to join friends of the Library and put your considerable energies into assisting the nine-member library board and the staff in making the library a truly great place of learning for the community."

Mayor Smith said, as he complimented the

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Howard New KM Engineer

Tom Howard, a retired Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is the new engineer for the city of Kings Mountain.

Howard recently retired after 22 years of military service, working on heavy construction projects and as manager of city and community engineering work at home and abroad for the Army.

A native of Virginia Beach, Va., Howard received his undergraduate degree in engineering from Virginia Military Institute and a graduate degree from the University of Missouri. He is a registered engineer.

Howard said one of his most interesting assignments in the military was serving as the Directorate of Engineering and Housing for the Army in West Germany. In the position he was responsible for all the utilities and public works within the military community of his area.

He said he wanted to relocate to this area because of the quality of life, as compared to the highly populated area of Woodbridge in Northern Virginia where he and his family are moving from. "I also wanted to get back to this type of engineering



TOM HOWARD

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City Services Utilities To Meet Demand For 10 Years

Bill Little, senior vice-president of the city's consulting electrical engineering firm from Charlotte, told council in public hearing Tuesday night that the K.M. system will be able to service current load and some growth for the next 10 years with proposed improvements.

The public hearing was conducted in conjunction with the city's upcoming bond election, which will ask citizens to approve \$1,811,500 in distribution improvements. Total of the bonds sought is \$9.2 million.

"After these improvements have been realized and the system, which is now in almost-critical disrepair, settles in, Kings Mountain will be able to double it's load with addition of required hardwood to structures completed under the current project and at a fraction of the cost for such increase starting from

scratch," Consultant Little told the group.

"This plan really has the city looking forward," he continued. He presented an updated electrical distribution map and a chart, which are available for public inspection at council chambers at city hall at any time for persons wishing to learn more about the project.

Sam Tessenair, an interested citizen who attends many council meetings, asked Mr. Little about tree-trimming... "can the city's crews not do the job cheaper than a contractor?" Mr. Little said that tree-trimming is a maintenance activity and that anything that helps in line maintenance will help keep the system at peak condition and will save money.

"We calculate reduced purchase costs to the system (Duke Power demand charges) at \$48,000 annually if you follow this

plan," he claimed. "And there will be other money saved by operating the new system efficiently," he continued.

"We just had to spend \$10,000 for G/E contacts at the Gaston St. sub-station to stay on line," Director Maney told group. "And that is just to keep up, not make a major improvement," he said.

In other action council: ...adopted ordinances to rezone property of Elizabeth Lynch at the corner of Falls St. and Cherokee St. S. from general business (GB) to residential-office (R/O) to provide for single-unit condos; and of Lloyd Laws at the corner of Linwood Rd. and Second St. from neighborhood business (NB) to R-6 residential to better conform with the neighborhood. Mr. Jim Claffee of First Federal spoke for Mrs. Lynch and said there would be no high-rise on the property.

...appointed Donald L. Parker

to another five-year term at the request of John L. McGill, chairman of the housing authority.

...authorized City Treasurer Marvin S. Chappell, Jr., to open a checking account at First Citizens Bank & Trust Co., for the new employees cafeteria plan.

...ordered permanently closed a gravel lane named Glenn St., which is sub-standard in width and not located on the ground as per county tax map plat, with the approval of owners Marvin Black and Gordon Bolin. The area formerly connected Grace St. and Church St.

...approved final plat for Logan Park sub-division on Margrace Rd., south of the mill, which also approves a requested variance on road width and construction, Attorney Andy Neisler represented his firm at the meeting.

...set date of Nov. 22nd for public hearing on voluntary an-

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City Water Meter Repair Underway

A "rain delay" of all things, has speeded up the city's project to replace inoperative water meters for some commercial and residential customers.

Scheduled for an off-week and a chance to replenish supplies for the job, crews were back at work Monday on the 7-day-per-week effort. The announced schedule for R&L Gray, Ltd., the Pawley's Island landscape and grading contractor, is: work two weeks and off one.

Last Friday's downpour allowed a weekend off and a trip to their S.C. warehouse for more supplies. Completion is now expected Nov. 7.

The events did little to slow down Tommy King's schedule -- he is the city's inspector for the work and must approve each installation.

"These four crews are very efficient and know what they are doing," Inspector King said. "They have had experience all over the U.S., he added, stating that the first crew digs the hole, the second (plumbers) install the new meter and re-connect the line, the third covers and the fourth does the landscaping."

Meantime, with little rain in sight, R&L's crews have a shot at completing the project several days sooner, according to Walt Ollis, director of water and waste-water services for the city. The contractor's crews work from dawn to sundown.

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Area Residents Asked To Join City

Letters to citizens who are presently receiving city services and whose property is contiguous to the city limits are to go into the mail next week with information that the city will waive established fee of \$100 for voluntary annexation now.

M.E. (Gene) White, city planning and economic development director, said that Kings Mountain has established annexation as a high priority and is now going ahead with plans to do so.

He also said that, "often a significant population living in the developed urban fringe beyond the city limits receive most of the benefits of municipal tax dollars (employment opportunities, streets, major thoroughfares, utilities, parks, schools, libraries, and associated cultural facilities, etc.) while not bearing any financial responsibility for these services. This is perceived as unfair to all other taxpayers. The city is making great strides in providing better management and services to all citizens. As an incentive, the city will waive the \$100.00 application fee."



CHANGES-The 16 shot capacity Ruger semi-automatic pistol, above, will be the new handgun carried by city police, replacing the 357 Smith & Wesson, below.

Police Switching To New Handgun

Kings Mountain's police department will be switching to a new semi-automatic handgun on Nov. 1 that will increase the firepower each officer carries while on duty.

The department will be converting to a 9 mm semi-automatic Ruger P-85 that has a 16 round magazine. This will replace the Smith & Wesson model 65, 357 magnum pistol that has been the department's standard handgun for more than a decade. It has a six shot capacity.

Patrolman Keith Williams did the research that led the department to switch to the new model.

The Ruger is a double action automatic pistol that offers a very efficient and easy to use design with less recoil.

Patrolman Williams says that statistics show that when a policeman is forced to use his handgun today that it is not uncommon for the officer to expend 20-30 rounds of ammunition, compared to three to four 10 years ago.

The change has come about, Williams said, primarily because of drug traffic. "Drug

dealers may be carrying valuable contraband and they carry automatic, state-of-the-art weapons."

Another reason is that persons who are using drugs or alcohol are much more difficult to stop when police have to use force, so

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