

Kings Mountain Herald

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1989

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA



Photo by Gary Stewart

IN THE SWIM OF THINGS - The new indoor swimming pool at Kings Mountain High School officially opened this week and members of the Sharks Aquatics Club and others interested in learning to swim are already taking advantage of the facility, which will be used for school and community activities. Left to right in this photo, Sarah Dilling, Paula Eckerd, Nathan Mayse and Marie Mayse of the swim team practice. For information about community swimming programs at the pool, contact David Hancock, Kings Mountain Recreation Director.

KM Council To Consider King Holiday

Kings Mountain City Council, at its regular February meeting at city hall last night finalized action on the Feb. 7th bond vote, heard a request from over 35 citizens that it grant city employees a paid holiday next year for the King Holiday and accepted at no charge a proposal from the State of North Carolina to assist in records keeping.

The actions were among those taken at a short - 42 minute - session at which two members were absent and City Clerk Marvil S. Chappell, Jr., absorbed nearly half the time in reading the required "legalese."

"We want you to give your employees the opportunity, with a day off work, to appropriately observe this national, state and county holiday," Rev. M.L. Campbell, of Kings Mountain, told council in reference to the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.

"It is the duty of all to observe this day," said Clarence Brantley, of Shelby, president of the Cleveland County unit of the NAACP.

Mayor Kyle Smith thanked the two representatives of the large group attending and council voted to refer the request to the personnel committee for study. "This committee is already in process of up-dating and reviewing holidays and policies," Mayor Smith reported.

Council received a report from the elections board on results of the Feb. 7th bond vote and approved a resolution declaring the result. (See story on vote canvass.)

City Manager George Wood told council of the opportunity afforded by the state to record and maintain all city records. Council approved adoption of a resolution to accept the states offer, which is provided at no cost to Kings Mountain.

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Engineering Consultant To Work On Improvements

A week after Kings Mountain voters narrowly approved a \$9.2 million bond referendum, the city is moving ahead with plans for upgrading and expanding city utilities.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, voters approved a package which includes \$3.8 million for sewer improvement, \$3.6 million for water improvements and \$1.8 million for electrical improvements.

"We're now in the design and planning stages," said City Manager George Woods. "The council has authorized the W.K. Dickson engineering firm in Charlotte to draw up a design plan for the expansion of the Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and the sludge handling equipment."

"The same firm has also been authorized to develop the design work on the clear well and emergency generator at the water plant."

"We're working with Southeastern Engineering Inc. of Charlotte, to get a proposal for design work on the electrical improvements," Woods said.

These two firms have been the city's consultants for a number of years, according to Woods.

The sewer projects include court-ordered sludge handling equipment at the Pilot Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and expansion of the plant capacity by two million gallons per day.

The water projects include a five million gallon storage tank and repairs to Moss Dam.

Electrical projects will include improvements created by constructing a new substation and upgrading voltage.

"We can't do anything about Moss Dam until the state finishes its inspection and gives us a final report on what we have to do," Woods said.

The sewer bonds also included \$500,000 as Kings Mountain's share of the cost of construction of the regional Crowders Creek Waste Treatment Plant. "The only thing we have to do in this regard is produce the funds," he said.

Woods said that it is a little premature to be talking about actual costs and exact completion dates on the projects.

The total bond package of \$9.23 in utility improvements had been scaled back from an earlier proposal of \$12 million. Originally, improvements had totaled over \$16 million.

Facility Plan Revised

Kings Mountain's Board of Education approved a revised plan for school facility improvements at Monday night's monthly meeting at the Superintendent's Office.

The original plan approved in 1987 required \$10.3 for improvements, but higher construction costs and newly-discovered asbestos problems which will require almost a million dollars have caused the money needs to rise to \$11.7 million.

Kings Mountain can still accomplish all its building goals, however, if the April school bond referendum in Cleveland County passes, Supt. Bob McRae said. The improvements can be made in five to seven years with bond approval, but without approval it may take 15 years.

Whether or not the bond passes, McRae pointed out,

Kings Mountain Students Score High In State Test

Kings Mountain students scored almost twice the state average on recent State Writing Tests for sixth and eighth graders, Asst. Supt. Larry Allen reported at Monday's monthly meeting of the Board of Education at the Superintendent's Office.

Kings Mountain sixth graders improved by 10 percent over the previous year and eighth graders, even though their scores weren't as high as sixth graders, also showed much improvement.

"We have a lot to be proud of," Allen said. "We've continued to improve over the past four years and every year, the number of students scoring 3.0 or above has increased and the number scoring under three have diminished."

Over 71 percent of KM sixth graders scored over 3.0, compared to 36.4 in the state and 41.2 in the region. Only 2.6 percent of KM sixth graders scored below 2.0, compared to 14.7 in the state and 11.9 in the region.

Over 61 percent of KM's eighth graders scored between 3.0 and 4.0.

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Teachers To Decide Grading Period

Pool Dedication March 5

Kings Mountain school and community leaders still plan a March 5 dedication of the Katherine Neisler Natatorium at Kings Mountain High School even though the pool has not officially been handed over to the system by the contractors.

Asst. Supt. Larry Allen told the board of education at Monday night's meeting that there are still several minor corrections to be

made at the pool, but he "hopes" that the pool will be turned over to the schools within two weeks.

Allen said members of a special committee named to oversee the operation of the pool drew up a list of "things still to be taken care of" and he hopes they'll be done this week. After that, he said the group will inspect the pool again and make another list, if necessary, for

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Kings Mountain school teachers will decide soon whether the system will stay on a six-week grading report schedule or return to a nine-weeks grading system.

Director of Curriculum Jane King, chairman of a special committee selected to propose interim grading reports if the system returns to a nine-weeks grading system, presented the proposals to the board at Monday night's meeting at the Superintendent's Office. The proposed reports were accepted and will be forwarded to teachers who will make the final decision on whether to return to a nine-

weeks grading system.

Carol Wheeler, Jackie Hope, Hilda Kiser, Joe Rountree, Judy Gibson, Jim Owens and Priscilla Mauney served on the special committee with Mrs. King.

The committee talked with many teachers, and Supt. Bob McRae said he talked with a number of parents, to see which grading system they preferred. "The parents really had no preference as long as there is an interim report if we return to a nine-weeks period," McRae said.

Proposed Cost of Kings Mountain Schools Improvement Plan

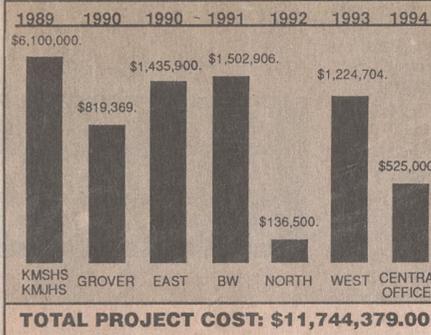


Chart by Joy Day



Photo by Willie Williams

IMPROVEMENTS MADE - This photo shows some of the improvements to the boat landing at Moss Lake. A new wall has been added to make the area stronger and give more room for boaters to load and unload. For details, see page 8-A.

COMMUNITY FACTS

