

# Retiring officers given revolvers

Retiring Reserve Police officers Bud Ballard and Willie Williams were honored as long-time volunteers in a resolution authorizing the award of their weapons by Kings Mountain city council Tuesday.

The resolution expressed "gratitude to the officers for their faithful service to the citizens of Kings Mountain and best wishes for an enjoyable retirement" and was signed by Mayor Kyle Smith on July 30.

Ballard will receive his service weapon, a Ruger 9MM Model 300, and Williams will receive his Smith and Wesson Model 10, .38 Special, at a retirement dinner planned by the Kings Mountain Police Department.

Williams joined the force 21 years ago. Ballard has been with the force nearly 20 years.

The board also approved higher fees for non-residents taking part in city parks and recreation activities, such as swimming or playing on ball teams, and for using city equipment.

Youth soccer players will pay 415 instead of \$10 if they live out of town.

Swimmers will pay \$1.50 instead of \$1 if they live out of town.

All players will pay twice as much as the current \$2 fee for T-

ball, pee-wee football and minor and major league softball/baseball.

Programs for senior citizens will cost the same. Aerobics will cost \$15 instead of \$10 for people who live out of town.

The new fees were effective Wednesday.

In other actions Tuesday, the board:

+Recognized Sgt. Derek Ware for his service in Desert Storm with a pin presentation by Mayor Kyle Smith.

+Tabled unanimously a request by the police department to remove shrubs and add flowers in front of the police building until conference with members of the KM Historical Association who will be located there once the new Law Enforcement Center is completed at the old post office.

+Authorized participation in the Duke Power Schedule 10 customers' group concerning Duke Power's wholesale rate increase request and agreed to fight proposed rate increases and hired at cost of \$850 legal services of Saffer, Vumbaco, Brown and Kersten of Charlotte and Spiegel & McDiarmid of Washington, D.C., rate consultants.

+Authorized engineering study by W. K. Dickson Co. for mooring

facilities and water quality issues at Moss Lake at cost of \$5,000.

+Tabled an alternative to removal of the wall at the Senior Citizens Park on West Mountain Street until City Manager Wood can confer with adjoining property owners who want the wall sand blasted and taken down and for which the city originally budgeted \$8200. Public Works Supt. Karl Moss says the city can do the alternative work for \$2,000 by caulking and capping planters and leave the wall up.

+Approved a three-year renewal of the auditing contract of Darrell Keller, CPA, at \$17,000 for year ending June 1992; \$17,500 for year ending June 1993; and \$18,000 for year ending June 1994.

+Appointed City Manager George Wood alternate commissioner to the Electricities of North Carolina, Inc. Jim Maney represents the city as commissioner and Director of Community Services Tom Howard is alternate. Utility Chairman Al Moretz said the city is pleased to be a part of Electricities and to have Wood on the board. "Just remember when Hugo came to town and we asked five of these cities to send us utility crews to help restore power," he said.

+Authorized permanent 15-minute parking in the area of the Sub-Station on recommendation of Police Chief Warren Goforth. City police have monitored traffic in the area for 90 days and Goforth said no serious wrecks have occurred. Signs are to go up this week.

+Adopted resolution proclaiming August as Cable Month in Kings Mountain recognizing Jones Intercable's sponsorship of scientific research programs for Muscular Dystrophy and other related neuromuscular diseases.

+Accepted the low bid of \$78,090.00 from Sanco for lease/purchase of a new garbage truck and approved financing with Citizens Fidelity Leasing of Charlotte at cost of \$353.63 per month for three years at interest rate of 5.695%.

+Denied waiver of water and sewer tap fees and the building permit fees for the Habitat for Humanity house on N. Parker Street on recommendation of the utility committee. Utility Chairman Moretz said the city has provided the lot for the new house and must consider other non-profit organizations making similar requests.

+Approved the final subdivision plat and changes in lot lines for Crescent Hills section 2, revision 3.

## BUDGET

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\$158,021.00 and the city garage is budgeted to receive \$130,725.00; the Aging program \$151,964.00; the Recreation Department \$272,495.00; the Lake Authority \$87,642.00 and the Community Center \$102,234.00.

The \$3.6 million budget in water and sewer includes \$1,137,526.00 for administration and debt service; \$612,304.00, water plant; \$560,283.00 for system extensions and maintenance; \$1,135,831.00 for wastewater plants; \$59,429.00 for industrial pretreatment; and \$180,787.00 for mechanical and electrical maintenance. The \$6.8 million electric fund includes \$5,589,985.00 for operation of the electric system and \$32,840.00 for the metering division. The gas department budget is \$3,367,032.00. Landfill disposal charges are budgeted at \$96,083.00.

The city anticipates revenues of \$ 4,366,889.00 from the general fund; \$243,650.00 from the Powell bill fund for street improvements; \$23,500 from the cemetery perpetual care trust fund; \$3,686,160.00 from the water and sewer fund; \$6,872,825.00 from the electric fund; \$4,107,032.00 from the gas fund and \$96,083.00 from the landfill disposal fund.

Some other features of the new budget:

Wood said the number and cost of medical claims by city employees has risen dramatically in the last three years and this represents the fastest growing cost element of the budget. Employee prescription drug card was hiked from \$4 to \$5 deductible and the per person deductible was hiked from \$200 to \$300 if a preferred provider is

used; \$500 if a non-preferred provider is used plus a \$500 per hospital admission charge if a non-preferred provider is used. While the deductibles are higher, the savings from a 19% proposed increase to 4.5% are significant for both the city and the 160 employees paying for part of the dependent coverage.

Water and sewer rates were hiked 12% so the city could begin making payments to the City of Gastonia for use of the new Crowders Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Because a mild winter (18% below average) hurt electric and gas revenues and the current fiscal year saw a recession Wood did not recommend raises to city employees.

Reduced revenues will require using fund balances to balance the past year's budget, after departmental spending was frozen.

No fund balances are appropriated in the new budget.

Commercial garbage disposal fees will be much higher due to larger volumes of waste per customer but city residents will save \$33.20 annually when compared to non-city residents.

The budget provides that once the actual Duke Power Company retail rate increase is known that the city's retail rates be adjusted simultaneously. The city purchases wholesale electricity for resale to electric customers from Duke Power. Duke officials have informed the city they will file for a wholesale rate increase in the fall to be effective in mid-November.

Funded in the budget are \$522,767.00 for "priorities" approved at a planning retreat by council in March, including \$70,000 for the Woodside/Monroe drainage project underway; \$80,000 for street overlays; and \$25,000 for improvements at Mountain Rest Cemetery to the Dilling Street entrance, for tree removal and trimming and for filling in the old fountain. A new warehouse for the gas/electric department will cost \$60,000 and a sew-

er-tie in at Cleveland Avenue to Crowders Creek was funded for \$120,000, one of the big projects in water and sewer. The board didn't fund big capital improvements such as the Police Department renovation expected to be financed for 10 years at \$90,000. A K-9 patrol officer salary was not approved and funds for dredging the swimming area at Moss Lake was not approved. The city put on hold the Cansler Road tie-in project at cost of \$75,000 and cost of upgrading two regulator stations at cost of \$40,000.

In the general fund the budget includes a federal transportation grant which helps support the Aging Center's program and a Senior Center grant which helps support the activities of the Senior center. The final year in he state DWI grant will end September 30.

The Police Department budget provides for 30 full-time positions and 15 part-time positions, including 10 police reserve members and four school crossing guards. Budgeted is \$37,500 for three new patrol cars on a rotational basis and \$36,870.00 for a new communication center on lease/purchase agreement.

Capital outlay equipment is budgeted for the KM Fire Department, which has eight full time positions and 24 volunteer firefighters paid by the hour for response. Approved is \$10,126.00 in equipment, including pagers, air packs and walkie talkies.

Public Works Administration, with a budget of \$241,400, has four positions. Including in the budget is \$39,000 for professional services for design of storm water runoff at the garage, contract administration and inspection of the Woodside/Monroe drainage project; county aerial photography project and miscellaneous engineering.

A total of 18 people work for streets and grounds department and drainage improvements are budgeted at \$73,000 with total budget, including salaries, at \$531,078.00.

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