

RETREAT

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ital reserve is built up in the Cemetery Perpetual Fund and since there is a shortfall of \$235,000 in the water/sewer fund that \$80,000 be transferred from the \$172,000 in the cemetery fund to the water and sewer fund. The board said it would freeze street resurfacing budgeted under the Powell Bill Fund until July and transfer \$95,000 of the general fund street expenditures to the Powell Bill fund in lieu of the resurfacing. Since the gas fund is the healthiest fund of all, \$61,000 would be transferred from the gas fund balance to the water and sewer fund. The board approved the recommendation and will present a budget amendment at the April 27 council meeting that would reflect the changes in the fund balances.

Wood said that the shortfall in the water and sewer fund is attributed to higher payments to the City of Gastonia for the Crowders Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant and not as much usage as anticipated from one local plant. He said the city had frozen work on the two dams and those cuts of \$150,000 have reduced the shortfall. Wood said that all other funds appear to be on target, with some minor adjustments.

He told the board that in order to cover the shortfall that monies would have to be transferred from other funds and budgeted expenditures frozen.

Wood told the board that warm winters resulted in money losses for Kings Mountain last year since utilities is the city's biggest money-maker. The state took away state collected local revenues and reimbursements and the city's bond debt on big ticket improvements such as the Crowders Creek Waste Treatment Plant made last year's financial picture bleak at budget time.

Last year the city did not pay cost of living raises to employees but gave merit raises.

Wood told the board that this year's financial picture has improved and he hopes the raises can be given this year but that everything depends on bids for medical insurance.

Department heads presented budget priorities all day Friday and Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon board members began deliberating on the requests which had been displayed on big flip charts in the college conference rooms. Board members marked the approved requests after voting on priorities, matching each priority with available money.

The priority polls will be used by the city manager and staff to draw up a budget for approval by council members.

Wood said he was highly pleased with the retreat and praised the department heads and Council. It was the city's third retreat.

The requests which hold top priority by Council include:

Aging Department - increase the Senior Center program coordinator's hours from 20-30 hours for increase in salary to \$7,200, which includes insurance.

Cemetery Department - All requested projects were funded, including replacement of a 1981 truck at cost of \$16,500; installation of standard curb and gutter beginning at the intersection of Hillside Drive and Rosedale Drive and running parallel with Potters Field at cost of \$4,000; continue improvements in the old pool area at cost of \$3500; and \$500 for a new gas external flame light for Veterans Garden.

Mauney Memorial Library - bar codes scanner at cost of \$2500 and \$500 work station for the circulation desk. The board indicated that if more funds are distributed by Cleveland County that they will begin renovation of the upstairs at the library at cost of \$6,116.00.

Planning & Development - \$4,000 for a computer plus software and \$10,000 to finish the land use plan and begin planning and zoning ordinance update and \$1600 for the city's cost on the thoroughfare contract with the state.

Finance Department - Four chairs and a calculator at cost of \$575. and \$500 for one walkie-talkie for meter readers.

Moss Lake - Promoted part time clerk at Moss Lake to a full time position at additional salary cost of \$7,000.

Sanitation Department - Lease purchase of a truck but won't take delivery until spring of next year and will make one quarterly payment of \$7,657. in the next fiscal year.

Public Works - \$75,000 garbage truck in a lease purchase agreement for three years and a leaf machine at \$48,000 for a lease purchase agreement of three years.

The board talked about buying a

multi-purpose fire truck with ladder on a lease purchase agreement but indicated that might have to wait along with improvements in the proposed law enforcement center until next year's budget.

Economic Development - Gave \$2,000 for use on a sign project with Cleveland County EDC.

Electric - Funded money to cover the arbitrage payment to the IRS on the bonds

Gas Department - Bought one service truck at \$11,500; arbitrage payments of \$14,850 on bonds; Line extension \$73,000.

Water and Sewer - one time payment of \$118,000 to IRS for arbitrage payments to the IRS on 1989 bond issue and \$12,000 to repair a sewer problem on Tate Terrace;

Water Plant - \$5,000 to replace two filter control units at the water treatment plant; \$7500 for a drying bed shed so that it can be used in inclement weather; \$155,000 for minor design corrections and constructions on two dams if the state requires that the dams be repaired next year.

General Fund - The Gold Street traffic signalization project was approved for funding; \$90,000 in street resurfacing out of Powell Bill. \$2,000 for changing the sign from Governmental Services Facilities to Kings Mountain City Hall; and \$2,000 to the Cleveland County Arts Council, which will entitle them to a matching grant from the state.

Personnel - budgeted money for a pay plan study and to continue an employment assistance program at \$14,000 and \$2500;

Parks and Recreation new roof for the Community Center will cost \$82,000;

Police Department - three police cars at \$39,000.

SUPPLEMENT

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The proposed tax would up the supplemental tax from 17 cents to 18 cents a year per \$100 valuation. The ban on student fund raising would not apply to Kings Mountain High School and school festivals.

"The strongest concern I have is for the safety of the children," McRae told the school board at Monday night's meeting.

"We need to get out of the selling business and the one cent tax is the vehicle to do that," said McRae.

Vice-Chairman Priscilla Mauney said the state accreditation team has also recommended that the present policy stop.

McRae said that PTO groups do a great job in organizing fundraisers but now they want to become more involved in other activities. "They should be allowed to do other things," he said.

Peeler asked how the money would be divided and McRae suggested a base amount plus a per pupil amount.

The policy would not exclude adults from raising money through raffles, etc.



Judy R. Whisnant rehearses North School music students for a program on North Carolina heritage. The students at all elementary schools are learning about instruments before the April 20 performance by the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra.

Gold is declared winner

Almost five months after the November 3 county commissioner election, Sam Gold is taking office as the third new member of the board.

An examination of ballots Thursday by the Cleveland County Board of Elections confirmed the recount, which indicated Gold won the seat from incumbent Charlie Harry by 74 votes.

Harry, of Shelby, executive officer of Grover Industries, conceded the election Friday afternoon and withdrew his request for a second recount because of the results of the examinations of ballots.

Gold was in Kings Mountain Saturday morning with county

commissioner Ralph Gilbert for the 20th anniversary celebration of Hardee's of Kings Mountain.

The Cleveland County Board of Elections examined almost 20 percent of the ballots cast in the November election, but failed to uncover a single vote for either Gold or Harry that had not been counted during the recount.

Gold is expected to be certified by the North Carolina Board of Elections sometime this week.

Other recently sworn members of the commission, all Democrats, are chairman Cecil Dickson and E. T. Vanhoy, both of Shelby.

Company to walk for MOD

Commercial Intertech employees are gearing up for the annual Cleveland County March of Dimes Walk America April 17 by sponsoring a local promotion to help raise funds.

Grace Rohm, of the local plant, is distributing 1,000 shopping bags this week with the Walk America logo and advertising a shopping spree held in conjunction with

Plonk's General Store. When shoppers shop Plonk's from now until April 17 the store will donate 10 percent of the purchases to the March of Dimes. Plonk shoppers are reminded to take the shopping bags to the store with them.

Mayor Scott Neisler is honorary chairman of the campaign which seeks to raise funds in Cleveland County and North Carolina to fight birth defects.

ROAD

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The other option would run the road west of Dixon School road as it intersects with Dixon Road and 216 and in a straight line to below Compact School.

"We really can't pinpoint the locations until the workshop," said White.

Anyone wanting additional information on the workshop may contact Ed Lewis, DOT and Environmental Branch, Box 25201, Raleigh, 27611 or telephone 919-733-3141.

NCDOT will also provide reasonable accommodations, auxiliary aids and services for any qualified disabled person interested in attending the public workshop. To request that service, contact Lewis seven days prior to the workshop.

Band receives superior rating

The King Mountain High School Blazer Band received a superior rating in Grade VI at the South Central District Contest Festival held at Shelby High School April 1-2.

The band played March Onward by Luthold, Incidental Suite by Claude Smith and Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral by Richard Wagner.

The band is under the direction of Christopher H. Cole.

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