

BILLS

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He said the new schedule would give the city a smoother cash flow and cut down on potential losses.

The Council also agreed that the late fee would be \$10 on residential customers (the same as it is now) and one percent for delinquent bills over \$1,000.

The Council also agreed that, beginning sometime next spring, the city will go to a "cycle billing" system in which half of the city's customers would be billed on the 15th of the month and the other half on the last day of the month.

"All utilities are doing this to even out the work load, improve cash flow and hold down bad debts," Wood said.

In another matter Tuesday night, the Council approved a new medical insurance policy which will require employees to pay 45 percent of their dependents' coverage. Wood said only six cities in the N.C. League of Municipalities still pay a portion of dependent coverage, and indicated that Kings Mountain will have to gradually require employees to assume those costs.

"Several years ago Kings Mountain was paying 90 percent of dependent coverage," he said. "We've been trying to get it down because medical costs are astronomical."

Finance Director Jeff Rosencrans pointed out that the city pays over \$600,000 for medical coverage and collects property taxes of about \$900,000. Wood said that adding in other insurance charges such as workman's compensation, the city is paying almost \$1 million per year for insurance.

The City Council stopped short

of taking action on requiring employees to pick up an additional 10 percent a year until dependent-paid coverage by the city is phased out.

"If things level out maybe we can level out," said Mayor Scott Neisler, "but the way it is now we have to reduce our cost of dependent coverage."

"We need to take a look at this every year and see what kind of impact it has on employees," Councilman Phil Hager added.

Councilman Jim Guyton said paying dependent coverage is giving married employees a benefit that single employees do not receive. "The fact that some are married and some are single doesn't have anything to do with their employment," he said.

Wood said the city is still paying \$148,000 a year toward dependent coverage. "We can't keep absorbing 15 and 20 percent increases," he said. "The cost has gotten out of hand and we can't keep eating it."

"Our health insurance is within \$300,000 of the property taxes we collect," said Councilman Al Moretz. "You can't let health insurance eliminate jobs."

In other action Tuesday, the Council:

■ Authorized staff members to begin suggesting streets that need to be paved under a Community Development Block Grant program that would provide \$90,000 in matching funds. Paving would have to be done in low to moderate income areas.

■ Approved the purchase of a \$13,000 used garbage truck to be used to make trips from the city's trash compactor site at Public Works to the county landfill. Wood said purchasing the truck would allow the city to discontinue the use of a private container service and save money in the long run.

The Council approved a 2.7 percent increase in water and sewer rates

Council members said increasing rates is not a popular thing to do, but is necessary because of rising costs.

"I hate seeing everything go up," said Norma Bridges. "Two percent isn't much but when everything's going up two percent it's going to hurt some people."



LIL MR. SHELBY - Houston Brent Phillips, five-month-old son of Brent and Debbie Phillips, won the title of Lil Mr. Shelby in a pageant at Cleveland Mall recently. He is the grandson of Gail Phillips, Barbara Moss and the late Roland Moss Jr., and Alfred and Anita Phillips.

City accepting fireman applications

The city of Kings Mountain will be accepting applications for the position of volunteer fire fighters May 24-28 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Applicants must be in good physical condition, possess a valid North Carolina driver's license, be at least 18 years of age and live within two miles of the city limits. Final candidates must take a drug screening as well as a physical agility test.

Applicants must possess a high school diploma or GED.

BODY

From Page 1-A

Law enforcement and rescue personnel searched the woods for several days, but to no avail. Members of Mrs. Black's family found the body Friday about three miles from the spot where the two went into the woods.

Special Agent Dan Crawford of the State Bureau of Investigation said he will not know the cause of death until the State Medical

Examiner's Office in Chapel Hill makes some kind of ruling. A Gastonia newspaper reported that Black had been shot, but Crawford said that has not been determined.

"The body was decomposed and it takes a little longer for them to do their examination to determine the cause of death," Crawford said. "It could take a week to 10 days."

Crawford said the body was found about a quarter of a mile off Van Dyke Road near the South Carolina state line. The body was identified by using medical records and physical markings.

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	May 12-18	Last Year
Total precipitation	.50	0
Maximum one day	.50 (13th)	0
Year to date	26.70	20.21
Minimum temperature	51 (13th)	55 (13th)
Maximum temperature	87 (17th, 18th)	87 (17th, 18th)
Average temperature	70.9	66.5

RATES

From Page 1-A

"The commercial rate is still below what other cities are charging," Wood said. "We still subsidize our cost out of the general fund."

Wood said the county has increased landfill fees from \$19 to \$23 per ton, and is considering going to \$28 per ton.

The new rates are effective June 30.

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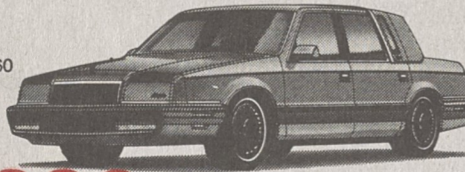


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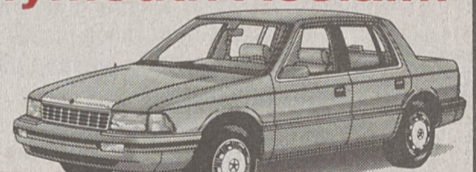
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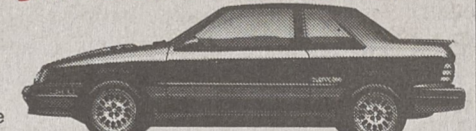


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