

## GROVER

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an employee a weeks' vacation after six months of employment and two weeks' vacation after five years of service. The new plan would also remove any accumulation of vacation time.

In other business: Councilmen Spivey and Sides volunteered to co-chair a special committee to study the water rate schedule. The mayor apologized to citizens for a water shortage recently. He said that Grover and Kings Mountain had agreed to split the cost of water run through the system by Kings Mountain when the valve froze and the water tank overflowed. In a related action, the board bought a new control for the 33-year-old tank at cost of \$1930.

A large audience gave the board a round of applause when the mayor announced that after two years new lights have been put up on Main Street. "They look good and I'm proud," said Queen.

The board voted to spend \$3760 from budgeted funds to repair a sidewalk and voted to cut trees too close to shelters at the Grover Park for safety reasons.

City Attorney Mickey Corry was asked to review the town charter and outline the responsibilities of the Council at the request of Robbie Sides. "We're not wanting to be Department heads but we would like to help the mayor with some of his responsibilities," said Sides.

"We want to see where we could be appointed to take some of the work off his shoulders."

Sides said that in recent administrations the council members had served as chairmen of streets, police, etc.

The board tabled a request by Jimmy Hensley to do repairs on the city's first fire truck.



1993 Radiologic Technology graduates from Cleveland Community College received a 100 percent passing mark on certification board examinations recently. Left to right, front row, Tonia Dawn Anthony, Kimberly Jean Durham, Minnie Carter Greene and Crystal Harris Bishop. Back, department head Joann Schilling and Jacqueline D. Peeler.

## LAKES

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Guyton called both the City and Davidson lakes "a liability for the city."

"We never use Davidson Lake," said Guyton.

"These dams are a sticky situation but we're going to have to do something about them in the next budget year."

"It scares me when we think of the expenses we could incur when the same thing happens at Moss Lake," said Guyton.

"We're talking millions." Councilman Phil Hager also alluded to the upcoming costs for removing color from creeks and possible state mandates concerning dams.

Guyton said that Moss Lake will be paid for after next year but a \$150,000 payment must be included in next year's budget. Funds also have to be budgeted, he said, for the dam repairs at the city lakes and also for a No. 3 aeration basin liner which he said is another high dollar item.

Wood said the state requires the dam repairs for reasons of safety, a nationwide concern since the flooding in the Midwest and failing levees caused by washout of dams.

Jerry Cook, Regional Engineer from the Division of Land Resource's Mooresville office,

said trees and bushes growing on Davidson dam and all outgrowth must be removed. He said his inspection found seepage on the downstream slope of the dam and soil erosion in the emergency spillway and down the right abutment. Slides and slumps were noted along the upstream slope at two elevations and numerous slides and slumps were noted on the downstream slope including around the piezometers. The concrete wall of the emergency spillway arches has cracked and is undermined under the roadway. Cooke said it appeared that small animals had burrowed under the wall between the two arches. Sedimentary deposits were noted below and at the weepholes near the downstream end of the arches.

Cook said the Davidson Lake dam is listed in the Intermediate Hazard category because a dam failure could result in significant property damage downstream. He said any excavations or major repair work in the dam must be approved by his office before any work is done.

Director of Community Services Tom Howard said that the water level of Davidson lake has been lowered to 10 feet for reasons of safety.

Howard said the state mandates on City Lake dam repairs were handed down last March. He said both lakes were inspected recently.

## BUDGET

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savings in the current year: \$30,000 from electricity savings from the water and sewer plants if usage stays at the decreased levels; \$25 increase in Moss Lake land leases (from \$125); \$28,708 by freezing two water and sewer positions, plus benefits, for the entire year; \$50,000, one time savings in medical insurance; \$4,000 by postponing cemetery landscaping and eternal flame; \$13,056 from the promotion of new building inspectors at lower salaries, plus that position was vacant for several months; \$7,500, by postponing the addition of sludge drying bed roofing at Ellison Water Plant; \$380, postage savings in the Aging Center newsletter consolidation; and \$5,465 cut from the infiltration and inflow work.

"If we save money and the usage goes up, we'll have the best of both worlds," said Wood, who warned there is no assurance that the usage of water and sewer has bottomed out and will now, at worst, stabilize and, at best, increase back to normal levels from last year. He said

January's usage is higher than last year's and is in line with what was budgeted.

Murphy commended Wood and department heads for using a positive approach and a good exercise in business in reviewing their budgets and looking for ways to cut.

"We need to always look at ways to cut spending before increasing rates," he said. "Makes a lot of pride in a city when we work together."

Mayor Scott Neisler echoed Murphy's remarks, adding that "we don't want to sugar coat because the water and sewer fund must stand on its own."

"We owe it to the citizens to look at all avenues before automatically raising rates."

Wood said the city will track water usage on a daily basis and keep the board informed.

"It looks like we only cut about \$17,000 out of the budget," said Councilman Spears.

Wood agreed that the majority of cuts are savings in fund balances.

Councilman Phil Hager reminded that \$50,000 in fund balances is mandated by the state.

"We're all monitors of the fund balances and we'll work with the manager," said Murphy.

## PETITION

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Local industry, led by Spectrum, the city's biggest water user, is fighting a proposed 9 percent increase in industrial water rates which was suggested at the January meeting to close the gap in a shortfall in the water/sewer fund.

The petitioners say citizens on a fixed income can't afford increased utility rates and commended City Council for refusing to increase the water rates at the January meeting and for trying to find ways to avoid the increases.

"This is the first time in 10 years we've seen this support from the Council," said Tesenair.

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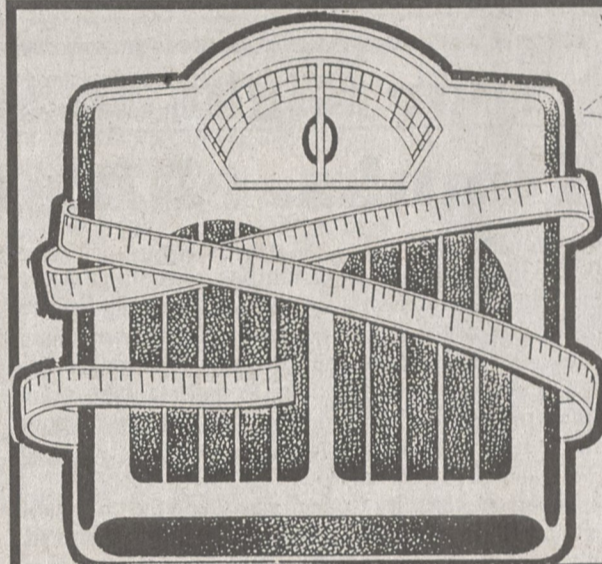
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