

Grandma to receive high school diploma

3-A



Graduation

1-C

Business man says city is picking on him

8-A

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Council terminates engineering department

Proposed budget includes property tax hike

A preliminary 1994-95 city budget being prepared by Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons will call for an 8 percent hike in the water and sewer rates and a four cent raise in ad valorem property taxes.

The budget will also call for no cost-of-living raises for the city's 160 employees and no merit raises.

The budget, as proposed, will include one week of overtime pay and one week's Christmas bonus for employees and reduces the city's cost from 45 to 40 percent the share of employee insurance.

In recent work sessions, Council slashed \$500,000 from the budget, including the elimination of 20 full

time positions which had been recommended in the budget for next year. Department heads recommended that the vacancies not be filled. One person's job in the water department was eliminated and one meter reader quit. Friday night Council closed the engineering de-

See Budget, 8-A



HOWARD

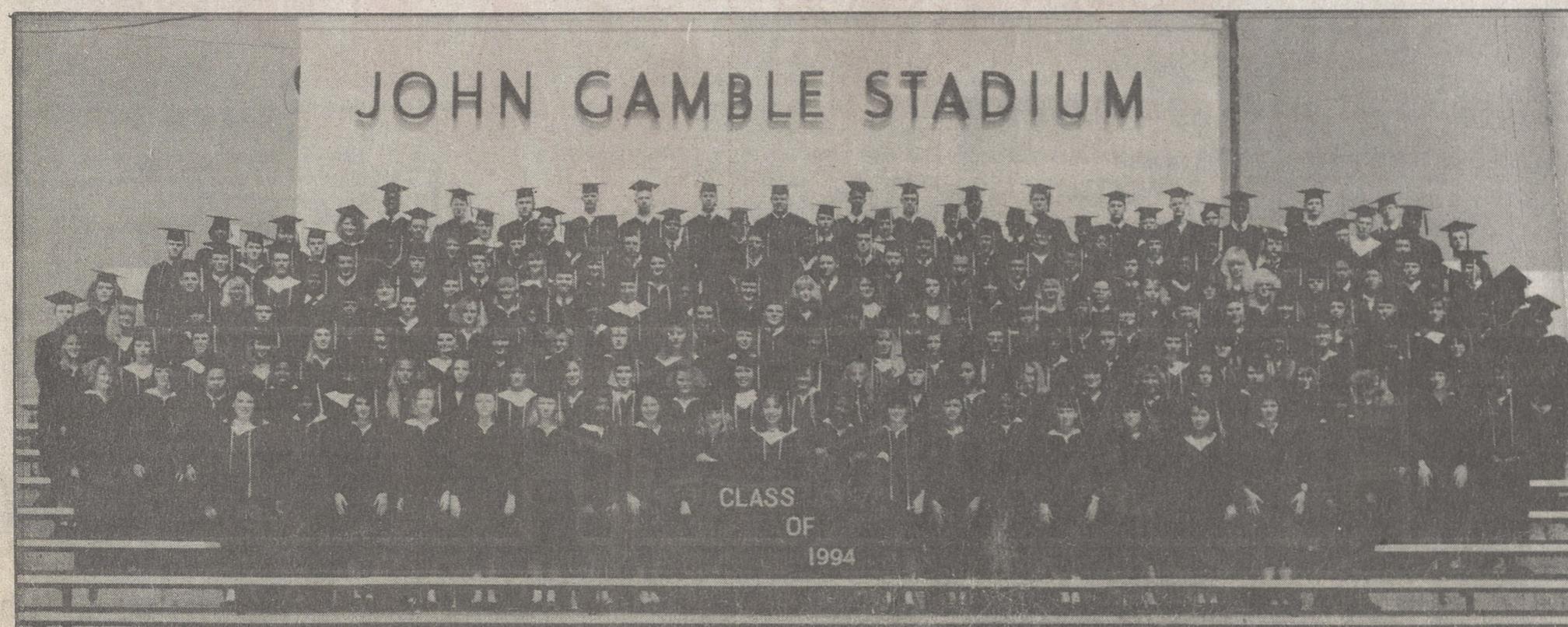
Tom Howard, the city's engineer and Director of Community Services, was given notice Friday night by City Council that his job is terminated on July 1.

The closing of the city engineering department, which also includes the position held by Howard's administrative assistant Ashley Chambers, came on a 4-3 vote by Council and only after a heated debate.

"I've been studying the city budget," he said. "The time and it's obvious that no major projects will be funded in the next year or two and I think it's in the best financial interest of the city that we don't need the Department of Community Services and there is no reason to employ an engineer and have an engineering department," said Councilman Jerry White in his motion to eliminate the engineering department.

"We won't be doing engineering because we won't be able to spend any money anyway," said White.

See Howard, 8-A



Kings Mountain High Class of 1994 to graduate Friday

Moss Lake sand project results in property dispute

Although condemnation proceedings are underway by the city to build a road over a man's property at Moss Lake, Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons says that the city is probably in the middle of a family property dispute that probably won't be settled for sometime.

Parsons said \$30,000 for the road is included in next year's budget.

Council members say they have concerns about the project which began last October when Council approved an agreement with Delta Aggregates, a subsidiary of John

Jenkins Co. of Gastonia, to take sand and silt from the lake at no cost to the city except the right-of-way to get the big cranes to the site to haul out tons and tons of sand.

In the agreement, the sand is free to Delta Aggregates.

City planner Gene White said the sand removal project could take 10-15 years.

In the meantime, Shelby attorney Charlie Horne, said the city has condemned a 60 feet right of way owned by his client, Carver Wood Jr., on the northside of Buffalo Church Road. Wood's old

homeplace that he currently rents. He said the city has given Wood 60 days to remove his pine trees.

Wood maintains that an existing road, once used as a cart path in the 1920's and 1930's, is there and he has no problem with the city upgrading and using it to get to the dredging area.

However, if the city moves ahead with plans to cut another road Wood's eight feet tall pines trees along the 60x600 feet right of way will come down.

"This is a big operation out here and we don't want to hold the city up from doing the dredging but we

can't help but wonder if all this was done for governmental purposes only," said the attorney.

Gene White, city planner, took the idea for dredging to former city manager George Wood and City Council last October after he said he had tried for some years to find a way to remove the sand from the lake the least expensive way.

White said he let the project out for bids but the only bidders who offered were Robert E. Lee and Delta Aggregates. Lee had no barge and Delta's arrangement, according to White and the presentation to City Council last fall, would

save the city big bucks.

Council approved last fall a 10-year agreement with Delta to give Delta the sand in return for the removal from the lake but the agreement stipulated that Kings Mountain would obtain the right of way.

White said that officials of the Department of Transportation looked at the site and Carver Wood's proposal and said that heavy equipment coming out into the road at Buffalo Church would pose a traffic hazard. He said the DOT recommended cutting a new road instead.

A third race to be decided is the race for Judge, Court of Appeals, between Elizabeth C. McCroden and John M. Tyson, Democrats.

Cashion, in a letter this week to No. 4 Township residents, reminded that 20 percent of Cleveland County's people live in this area. She said she has been criss-crossing the area and seeking a heavy vote in Grover, Bethware and Kings Mountain.

Myrick says that Cleveland and Gaston Counties supported her heavily in the May Primary and she is counting on their support Tuesday. Myrick was in Kings Mountain Thursday for a crime prevention seminar at the American Legion building and on Tuesday night for a drop-in hosted by supporters at the Woman's Club.

The Cleveland County Volunteer Fire Department will be posting election night results.

One stop absentee voting will be

See Election, 8-A

City to cut gas rate for industrial customers

The three major gas customers of the city - Anvil Knitwear, Clemonst and Spectrum -- were back on city gas Tuesday after the city utility commission voted Monday night to recommend to City Council next Tuesday to match the fuel charge that industry said they could get at a lower cost plus a six percent efficiency factor.

Under the agreement with the utility commission and representatives of five industries at the meeting, Utility Director Jimmy Maney sent meter readers to the plants Tuesday morning to record readings and turn on the pumps.

The proposal goes to council

Tuesday and is expected to draw no opposition. A fourth member of Council, Rick Murphrey, was at Monday's meeting but only the three members of the utility board, Chairman Jim Guyton, Phil Hager and Dean Spears, cast a vote.

Murphrey asked local industry if they planned to cut back on and they agreed.

"This is good news because we are losing \$5,000 a day," said Murphrey.

Representatives of Anvil, Clemonst, KMG Minerals, Spectrum and Ruppe Hosiery were in attendance.

Utility Director Jimmy Maney

said he agreed with industry that the city's gas rate is not competitive with No. 6 fuel oil but said that Kings Mountain can't raise the gas rates to residential users to make up the difference.

Led by Maney, the group looked at a tier rate which would price gas at \$3.65 for the first 2,000 mcf through the meter. For a small industry this would mean that if it used 2,194 mcf's in a month's period that 194 mcf's would be billed at the fuel oil cost. Using this formula, the city would lose about \$108,000.

Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons said a facilitation charge

would comprise the 6 percent cost Kings Mountain will impose but she was not sure how the gas engineers would structure the rates. Maney said the advantage of a facilitation charge is that if an industry turns off the gas the industry would be charged.

Maney said the staff had no clear cut recommendation. He said the city needs to cut the transfers from the utility funds to the general fund to keep the losses down.

"That's not your problem," he told industry leaders.

Councilman Phil Hager said he didn't like the idea of penalizing the small users to benefit the city.

"Smaller users who didn't burn 3,000 mcf's a month would not qualify for the tier package," he said.

"There's a gamble any way you look at it," said Maney but he reiterated that the rate increases could not be passed to other classes, such as commercial and residential, and noted that Spectrum, which spends over \$1 million with the city for gas during a year's time, planned to revert to fuel oil the week of July 4 and had turned off the gas a week ago, following Clemonst and Anvil Knitwear which turned off

See Gas, 8-A

Williams to lose Chamber job

Lucille Williams, the "Girl Friday" of the Kings Mountain Chamber of Commerce for 31 years, is leaving her position June 1.

Directors of the Cleveland Chamber have phased out the office manager position effective with a move of the Chamber into new offices on the second floor of Kings Mountain City Hall.



WILLIAMS

Williams, a Kings Mountain native and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Doc Camp, cut her teeth on filing and making credit reports as an assistant to the late Ida Joy in the old Merchants Association office in 1963. Williams had worked briefly for lawyer George Thomasson and it was while working in the law office on the second floor of the Thomasson building downtown that she met Mrs. Joy and other tenants of the office complex. She said those businessmen were among the first members of the Chamber.

Quickly, she was on a first name basis with local merchants and it was natural for her to stay in that position after Mrs. Joy retired. When the Chamber of Commerce merged with the Merchants some years ago Lucille continued to work for each organization. She moved with the Chamber to the Lynch building and in recent years has operated out of the red caboose at the Depot Center.

"I've done it all from bookkeeping to credit reports, to answering the telephone, etc.," said Williams, who said she was disappointed and had assumed that she

See Williams, 5-A



Michael Bell, President of the Kings Mountain High Senior Class, welcomes worshippers to baccalaureate service Sunday night at Barnes Auditorium. The KMHS Class of 1994 will receive diplomas during commencement exercises Friday night at Gamble Stadium.

King Mountain Chamber was merged with the Cleveland Chamber effective April 1. Peggy Bridges, President of the Cleveland Chamber, said that a member from the Shelby staff will probably work part-time in this office and also part-time in Shelby, primarily on membership, and that tie-in telephone lines from the branch office to the main office will provide easy communication for local people.