



City employee Betty Mitchell stresses employee concerns during a budget hearing by City Council Tuesday night.

CHILDERS

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red, Neisler blasted the proposed preliminary budget which has been on the table since June 1.

"We've met for three months wrestling with money problems that don't exist," he said.
Councilwoman Norma Bridges,

who has also been outspoken in her criticism of the budget, said she would not support the proposed budget. She called for a public apology from officials of the Local Government Commission.

"Why were the LGC people in town in the first place?" asked Bridges.

"They said the city was bankrupt. They were supposed to be here to help us, not ridicule us," she said.

SCHOOL

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planning strength in numbers and have been told that the State Department will look more favorably on a county-wide effort."

McRae said the school would serve 100 to 125 students and predicted that 25 to 35 of them would be from Kings Mountain. He said a small student to teacher ratio would allow students to catch up and make a smooth transition back into the regular classroom or workplace.

He said the school would also implement violence prevention programs, programs to improve attitude toward school, and increase attendance and reduce the drop-out rate.

"I bring this item to you with a lot of optimism and a lot of hope," McRae said. "If we get the entire grant it will fund the program. We can handle it with less money but would have to scale it down." McRae said there is enough money available to average \$100,000 for each school system in the state.

Board member Ronnie Hawkins said he had some concerns about how students will be chosen, but said he supports the program. "It would fit perfectly with our goal for at-risk students. It seems whatever we do they don't quite make it."

McRae said a lot of students who "cause a lot of problems" behave and achieve successfully in a smaller environment.

In other matters Monday, the board:

- Approved its goals for the 1994-95 school year. In order they are: 1, Expect results of performance on all state measures of achievement to be at or above the North Carolina average; 2, Evaluate the support program offerings for at-risk students and make needed changes; 3, Conduct a thorough study of the system's reading program to include recommendations for improvement; 4, Promote positive, effective communications to inform and involve parents and community.

- Approved the Vocational Education Plan for 1994-95. Director Betty Gamble said the system offers four programs and six classes in the Middle School and six programs and 376 courses in the High School, and the total enrollment is 1,558.

- Approved the Chapter I plan for the year. Director Jean Thrift said due to population figures of the last census the system has lost almost \$200,000 over the past two fiscal years and the budget is now down to \$340,000. She said several

Fire department to test siren

Kings Mountain Fire Department will test the city's emergency siren Saturday at high noon.

Fire Chief Frank Burns said the siren will go off at the Kings Mountain Police Department as an early warning system in the event of an actual severe weather problem.

Saturday's siren blast will be a test only.

Water project reviewed

The plans for running water to 25-30 homes on Dixon School Road and water and sewer to the NC Rest Area and Welcome Center on I-85 are in design review in Raleigh, according to Tom Howard, the city's Director of Community Services.

Howard said he checks on the status of the city/state project weekly with the North Carolina Department of Transportation which has allocated a \$968,513 grant for the project over \$1 million.

Kings Mountain's share is \$98,550 plus the \$40,000 cost of Rest Stop sewerline pump station.

An ordinance establishing the capital projects fund is included in the 1994-95 budget prepared by Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons.

Once the state reviews the plans and the city completes the state's recommendations on any changes, the project will be advertised for bids, said Howard.

Howard said the city is closing out on real estate transactions for the Rest Stop area.

According to budget figures, the engineering and inspection costs for the project will be \$155,000; legal fees and easements, \$13,000; Welcome Center sewerline, \$203,247; Rest Stop sewerline, \$351,259; Rest Stop sewerline pump, \$40,000; Rest Stop waterline, \$246,007; Rest Stop waterline betterment, \$58,550 for a total of \$1,067,063.

Howard said that another prospective community water customer, Chestnut Ridge Community, has notified city fathers they don't want city water.

FIREWORKS

From Page 10-A

ment with Fundy Enterprises for concession rights at Moss Lake Snack Bar.

Councilman Guyton said he objected to only one bidder on the project and said that other vendors should have had the opportunity to bid. He said the city should not bypass the lake commission before giving them the opportunity to discuss the proposal.

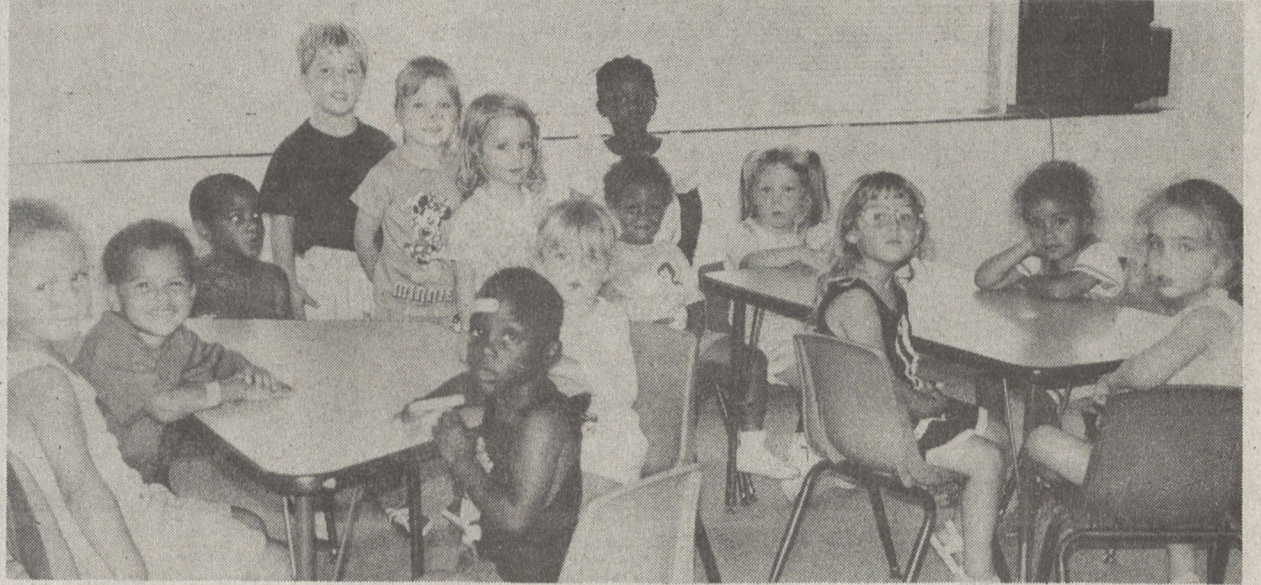
Joe Smith, a member of the Lake Commission, suggested that the proposal should have also been advertised in the Shelby Star.

Councilman Jerry White made the motion that the board approve a one year lease pending the approval by Moss Lake Commission.

Councilman Dean Spears cast the "no" vote.



Wendy Sisk, center, grant coordinator for the county's new Smart Start program, presents a check for \$6,000 to Trinity Day School director Eleanor Scism, right, and lead teacher Paula Hopson to be used for student tables and other equipment.



Pupils in Trinity Day School's first summer program are pictured at the new tables which replace worn desks. Money for the tables was provided by Smart Start, the new Cleveland County program funded by the state in which two local day care centers will share in grants.

Day care centers get grants

Two area day care centers are among first recipients of grants from Cleveland County Smart Start.

Trinity Day School on Phifer Road received a check for \$6,045 Monday for study tables, floor covering, playground equipment and air-conditioning units.

Little Angels Christian Day Care of Grover will receive a check for \$3,000 on Friday.

Wendy Sisk, grant coordinator, said that the two local award recipients are the only day care centers that applied from this area.

Cleveland County is one of 12 counties funded by the state this year.

"We are excited," said Trinity Director Eleanor Scism.

"Trinity Episcopal Church is a small congregation and could not afford to provide these things and

we would price ourselves out of the business by charging the parents more," said Scism.

Twenty-six three and four-year-olds are participating in the first summer day care program at Trinity. The Day School, established in 1954, serves 35 children during the regular school year.

Scism said the school will participate in a "paper doll campaign" to write letters to local representatives encouraging support of Smart Start again next year.

"We can tell the state that this means much to our students," said Paula Hopson, lead teacher in the three-year-old class.

Scism said that the present desks are oversized and the new tables will enhance the emphasis centers for special projects. She said the new air-conditioners are needed during the hot summer months and

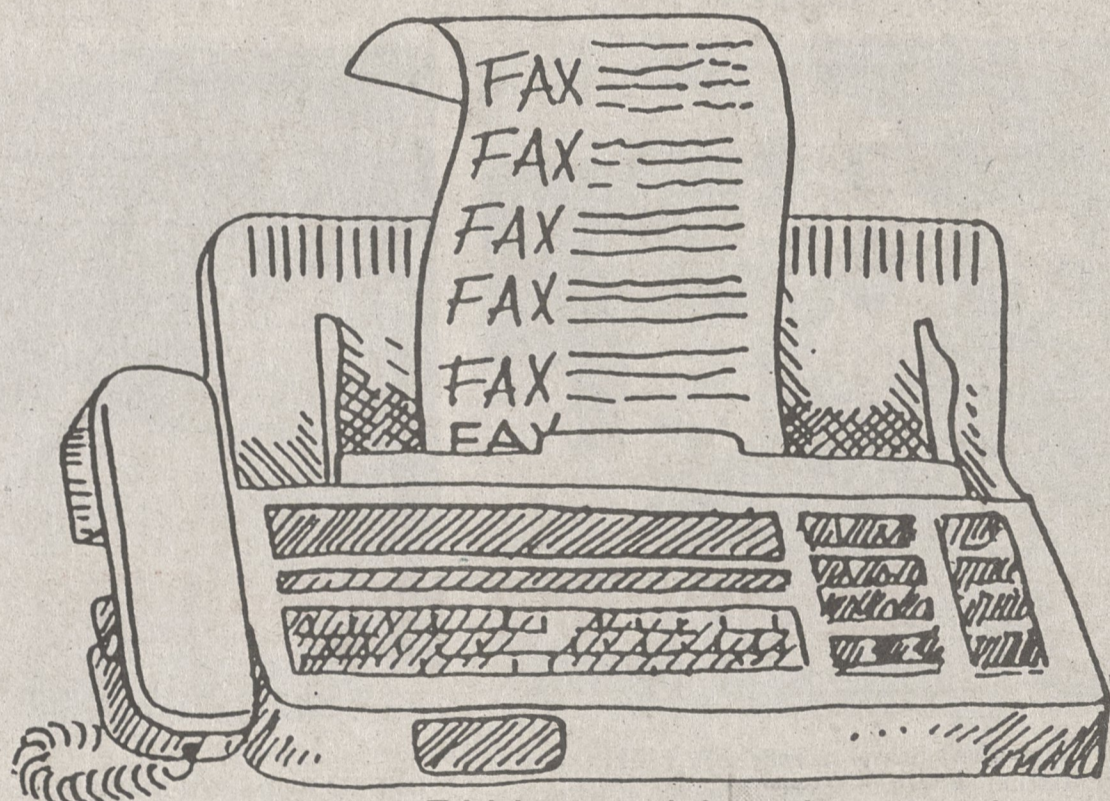
there is a critical need for new playground equipment and for new carpeting and bathroom flooring. She said the facility has only six swings that must be shared by 35 children.

Scism said the grant recipients are required to complete a self-assessment environmental rating, accept any child who is recommended by the Department of Social Services if there is room, develop an educational site for parents and pass state regulatory child care guidelines.

Sisk, a 1993 graduate of UNC at Greensboro, took the new position with Cleveland County in January. As a youngster she was active in the class for four and five-year-olds at Trinity.

"I was just delighted to see all the many things going on for kids," said Sisk.

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