



KMHS Graduation '96

Special Section Inside Today's Herald

Twins gave KM sports fans double dose of good times

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Approved bid brought back without their knowledge

Council members say their authority usurped

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Ward II Councilman Jerry Mullinax charged Tuesday night that Council's authority was usurped after Council let contract for a proposed Peak Generation plant last month and had to do it over again Tuesday.

Councilman Phil Hager who said he was tired of coming to a meeting to find out about something he should have been informed of in a memorandum.

"The City Manager needs to run the job and others stay out of it..."
-Jerry Mullinax

Councilwoman Norma Bridges asked what price the city would pay for the month's delay in the beginning of construction of the Gaston Street facility and Utility Director Jimmy Maney estimated that costs of not using the plant

during peak months could run about \$200,000. But City Manger Gary Hicks said the LGC must approve high dollar projects and simply said the financial package was bid too high. Mullinax, in a strong interchange with Hicks and Finance Director Maxine Parsons, said "the city manager needs to run the job and let others stay out of it until we approve it."

formation about the upcoming council meeting. "We're talking about our authority being usurped, I don't like it. Make us aware of any changes, send us a memorandum," said Hager. Hicks told Council that anytime it borrows money that the Local Government Commission has to give its approval and that Parsons was acting correctly in submitting another bid package. Parsons said only one bid was submitted initially which the board accepted at last month's meeting.

Maney said each vendor also submitted a financial package. Mullinax charged that the beginning construction date would be delayed by the move and department heads have no authority to make changes. But Hicks said the new bid tabulation approved by Council Tuesday night also has to be approved by the LGC. Hicks predicts the low bid from BB&T Leasing Corporation at 4.77 percent, 1 percent lower than the originally accepted bid, will fly.

Council to look at highway plan

Residents are being encouraged to drop by City Hall between 4-7 p.m. June 13 and preview the city's bold, proposed thoroughfare plan.

City Council will hold public hearing on the plan June 25 at the 7:30 p.m. Council meeting. If approved by city commissioners, the recommendations will go to a N. C. Department of Transportation board to possibly be included on a five year program that guides state road building, says city planning director Steve Killian.

No priorities would be set on improvements until after the informational meeting and public hearing. The proposed improvements would be built with state money.

The thoroughfare plan has been in the works for some time. Kings Mountain citizens are invited to take a look at the maps on display at City Hall.

Nine road projects are included in the proposals. Gold Street would run all the See Thoroughfare, 4-A



END OF SCHOOL PICNIC - Amanda Still, Stetson Adams and Siresse Moss, front row, left to right, and back row, Jimmy and Michael Bell, Jeremy Tucker and Brooke Baity and her father, Brent Baity, enjoy a parent-child picnic with 58 kindergarten students and their families at West School. Hilda Leonard planned the party which featured hot dogs and all the trimmings and ice cream.

Controversial rezoning request tabled again by KM City Council

East Ridge Street residents are petitioning City Council to amend a rezoning request by Mike Brown but the developer won't back down.

The controversial rezoning of Brown's property on King and Ridge Streets was tabled for another month Tuesday night after neighbors objected, among other things, to Brown's plans to put up houses on lots smaller than others in the neighborhood.

The neighborhood request to rezone to R-10 instead of the proposed R-8 would limit any new construction to single family dwellings and minimum low density of 10,000 square feet instead of 8,000 square feet.

Brown's request to rezone the former L. A. Kiser property on East King Street to General Business also came under fire.

"If two nice houses can be surrounded by businesses this sends a message to property owners that anything can happen in our neighborhood," said Sarah Rhea.

"It's legal robbery," Rhea said the entrance to the city should be inviting, "not a hodge podge" in a residential area.

"He's proposing four businesses in our back yards, a drive-through parking lot and homes on small sized lots," she said.

"Will we be looking at tree stumps and debris for the next three years?" she asked Brown.

"It looks like a bomb dropped on it." Eddie Robbs also disagreed with Brown's claim that he will build comparable housing on the back of Ridge Street.

"He's threatened to put up low income housing and duplexes if he don't get his way," said Rhea, in a letter she read to Council Tuesday night.

Rhea said she applied at City Hall for a zoning amendment, un-

Council annexes east KM property

City Council Tuesday unanimously approved the annexation of 212 residential and 546 industrial acres on the city's east side that adds \$30 million in real property tax value to the city's rolls and brings nearly \$250,000 in total annual revenue to the city.

The effective date is 13 months away.

Although some residents of the Center Street neighborhood and some industrial representatives were in the audience, there was no open discussion and the action was taken quickly by Council.

Neighborhood and some industrial objection was raised at a May 14 public hearing by those who said annexation would decrease new business in the city and they didn't need more property taxes.

Area 97-A, which includes Center and Second Streets, is mostly residential with a handful of small businesses.

Area 97-B, primarily industrial, runs from U. S. 74 south across Canterbury Road and I-85 and includes Bali, Commercial Intertech, Firestone Fibers, Sara Lee and Foust Textiles.

City planner Steve Killian said that the city had met all legal requirements for annexation. He said all costs connected with rolling services, such as fire and police, would begin by July 1, 1997.

Killian said the city's cost for providing water in Area A would run \$14,000 and for sewer services approximately \$93,000. He said the city would collect no revenue until the second year of annexation. He said the second phase of utility construction in Area B would run approximately \$252,000

See Annexation, 4-A

Hawkins: No increase in school tax

Even though Kings Mountain District Schools probably won't get all the money it is requesting from the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners in the 1996-97 budget, there won't be a school tax hike to Kings Mountain citizens, says Chairman Ronnie Hawkins.

Hawkins said the full board discussed where it would get the approximately \$95,290, the difference between the board's request for \$2.5 million for operation and maintenance costs and its anticipated funding of \$1.9 million, at an all-day work session Friday and agreed informally to use money from reserves to make up the difference.

"The money being allocated by commissioners will come close to meeting our needs," said Hawkins.

Test scores may determine placement

Incoming ninth graders at Kings Mountain High School could be assigned to certain courses next year based on their end-of-eighth grade scores.

Dr. Jane King, Assistant Superintendent for Public Instruction, is recommending that incoming ninth graders scoring 50 percentile or above on end-of-course reading tests be placed in an English I honors class instead of a traditional English I class.

King is also recommending that Hawkins said the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners is expected to act on funding, ap-

proximately \$1 million in the budget for the three Cleveland County systems, Tuesday night at the

Composition be a prerequisite for English II beginning with the incoming ninth grade class. "The staff is recommending these changes in order to establish higher expectations of our students," said King in a presentation to the Board of Education at a workshop Friday.

King talked to parents of incoming ninth graders recently about the proposal which will probably be on the agenda for the next board of education meeting.

monthly meeting. County Manager Lane Alexander is recommending a 2-percent increase in per-pupil spending for next year. The increase, if approved Tuesday, would give Shelby, Kings Mountain and Cleveland County school officials an additional \$9.83 to spend on each of the county's 16,000 students. This would mean that Kings Mountain's per pupil increase would go up from \$491.27 per child to \$501.10 per child or a total of \$1.9 million.

See Schools, 4-A

A WALKING WANDA

Walking helps KM woman stay healthy, relieve tensions of day

Wanda McAbee Wilson's friends tease her that she may have more miles on her feet than on her car.

But Wilson, an avid hiker since she was a little girl, continues walking right along and at least 10 miles every day.

The Kings Mountain woman and her eight-year-old daughter, Heather, walk to West School's second grade and back every day, rain or shine. Wanda returns home on her feet to Phifer Road and then walks back to accompany her daughter home in the afternoon.

Heather doesn't share her Mom's mode of traveling but she says she's looking forward to riding in the car to Disneyworld this summer and taking a rest at home.

Even when she was Heather's age, Wanda walked to town twice a week with her mother, Josephine McAbee, from their home in the Craftspun Mills community. The youngest in the McAbee household of nine children, Wanda was the walker in the family.

"I have always been health conscious and credit my good health to exercise," she said.

In addition to walking to school and back, Wilson hikes to her sister's home on Fairview Road, a 7 1/2 mile round trip.

Wanda never walks at the walking track, prefers ear-

ly morning walks with her daughter to talk about family activities and in the afternoon hears about school events on the brisk walk home which averages about 15 minutes a mile.

"We leave the house about 7:30 a.m. every morning on Phifer Road and it takes 25 to 30 minutes to walk to school," says Wanda who is back at school at 2:50 p.m. every day to walk her daughter back to their home.

Bill Wilson shares his wife's attitude about good health and proper exercise but doesn't join his family often on their treks to town.

Wanda, who is fit and trim, thinks she has built up an immunity to illness with her strict exercise program. She highly recommends walking as good exercise to others.

"I like to look at things as I walk and reminisce and it seems like the pressures and tensions of the day just roll off," says Wanda who often walks as much as 15 miles a day. Wanda walks in all kinds of weather but doesn't take her child out in extremely cold and hot temperatures.

How does Wanda measure her distance on her feet? After she returns home she gets in her car and rides.



Heather Wilson joins her mother, Wanda McAbee Wilson, on their daily walk to school. The exercise gives them plenty of time to talk.

York Road residents oppose name changes

York Road residents don't want their road renamed Ollie Harris Boulevard.

"Forty businesses would be affected by the change," said businessman John Dilling during a public hearing by City Council Tuesday night.

"We were told nothing in advance about this proposed change. We had to read it in the newspaper," he said.

Dilling was joined by his wife, Carolyn Dilling, Irene Moore and Coleen Philbeck in asking Council to pick another street.

"It's well and good to honor the Senator but why not name the new road that's proposed after Ollie," said Dilling.

"You're adding more expense to small businesses and not taking them into consideration."

Mrs. Dilling suggested that naming the bypass after Harris would also be a better choice.

Mayor Scott Neisler said the by-

See York Road, 4-A