

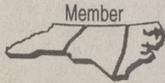


Football in the air at KMHS

6-A

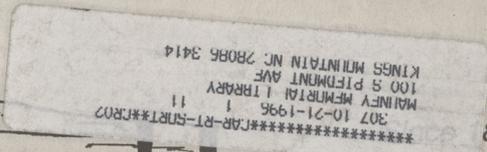
County adopts \$70.3 million budget

10-A



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Says he will 'absolutely' look at all future bids

Attorney lays down law to KM City Council

City Council took an improper vote last Tuesday when it rebid a \$2 million Peak Generation Plant project but City Attorney Mickey Corry told City Council Sunday it won't happen again.

"I absolutely want to look at all bid packages from now on before

Council takes action on them," he told the board.

"I could have said whoa but I had no information to back up my opinion," he said.

At Corry's urging, the Council voted unanimously to rescind the awarding of a low bid of 4.77 per-

cent, 1 percent lower than the originally accepted bid, to BB&T Leasing Corporation.

"I received information Friday after the Tuesday meeting," he told the full Council at Sunday's special meeting.

Although the revote on the fi-

nanacial package for the power plant was taken reluctantly by Council last week, it passed unanimously. Three Council members - Jerry Mullinax, Norma Bridges and Phil Hager - expressed concern about taking a vote again on the same project after it had already

been approved.

But both City Manager Gary Hicks and Finance Officer Maxine Parsons said the Local Government Commission had turned down a bid approval in April for financing of the new Peak Generation Power facility which city officials say

would reduce the wholesale cost of electricity to city customers and for which the city plans to issue revenue bonds to pay for the North Gaston Street peak shaving facility.

Between the April vote and May's meeting, Parsons was notified. See Attorney, 2-A

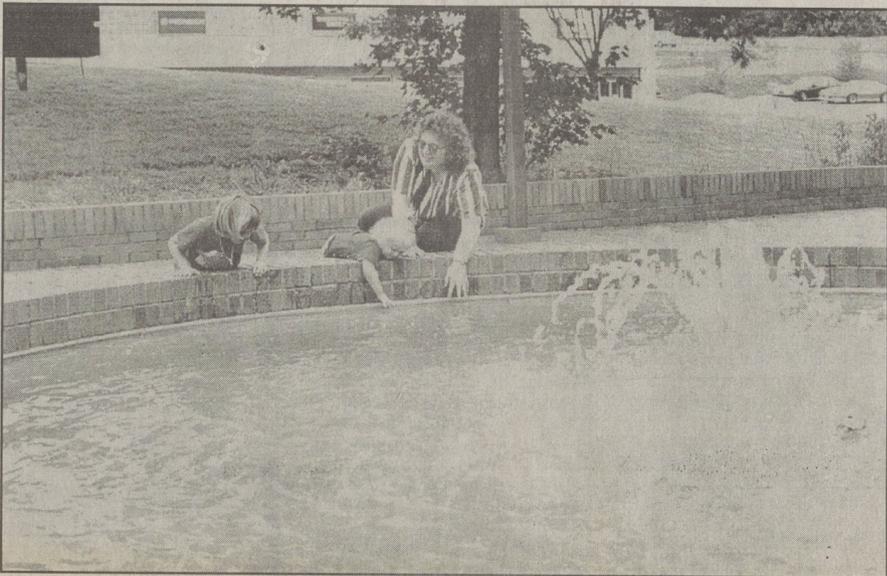
How high's the water? It could rise 10% in '96-'97 budget

Water and sewer bills could go up about 10 percent and garbage collection could be cut to once a week if City Council agrees Sunday at 2 p.m. with city administrators figuring the proposed \$19.3 million budget.

The proposed 1996-97 budget calls for no increase in the 40 cents per \$100 valuation property taxes, no increases in gas and electric services and provides a 3 percent cost of living raise to the 160-plus city employees.

Hicks said a typical combined bill would run about \$1 more monthly and outside residents would bear the bulk of the increase.

"It's a no-frills and hold the line budget," says City Manager Gary Hicks, who said the budget is up. See Water, 10-A



The City Hall fountain is a real temptation for youngsters who can't resist the water in summer weather. Kathy Martin, 4, and Rebecca Martin, 2, children of Mr. and Mrs. Don Martin, tried with no luck to get their aunt, Brenda Martin, above, to help them in the water.

Grindstaff: City needs team players

City Councilman Ralph Grindstaff didn't mince words Sunday.

"If you aren't a team player and can't communicate we don't need you," he said to virtually all City of Kings Mountain Department heads attending a special City Council meeting.

Grindstaff said City Council has no authority to hire and fire. But he said "we have ways."

Grindstaff made his remarks after questions were raised by Council as it prepared to take another vote on a bid for financing of a high dollar peak shaving plant.

"This isn't the first time I've heard comments that some employees don't communicate and operate independently about city matters."

"If I am stepping on toes I don't apologize."

Grindstaff prefaced the discussions on the upcoming budget by making four recommendations.

He said he considered it vital that the board adopt a more conservative budget than last year and include the 8 percent fund balance the North Carolina Local Government Commission has rapped the city hard for several years to maintain.

Eliminate the Kings Mountain Board of Elections office and turn those responsibilities over to Cleveland County.

Start saving money for a new Kings Mountain Law Enforcement Center.

A \$200,000 budget for Mauney Memorial Library, used by all residents of the county, is excessive, he said, suggesting that the city ask the county to share expenditures of its operation.

Mayor Scott Neisler said the city should receive in the next day or two a proposal from the Cleveland County Board of Elections to run city elections. He also said he has asked county commissioners to budget more funds for Mauney Memorial Library.

Capital outlay requests studied

Capital outlay requests expected to be approved in the proposed 1996-97 city budget are led by the city's electric department where \$475,511 is budgeted for the proposed Peak Generation plant on North Gaston Street and where \$100,000 is budgeted for a bucket truck and \$120,000 for a line truck.

The water/sewer budget includes \$110,000 for the Beason Creek Street move, \$10,000 for a Northside 30-inch project, \$40,400 for a roof for the water plant and \$40,000 for a new dump truck.

A large part of the gas budget is to be funded from revenue bonds, including the Jamestown Subdivision, the Country Creek Subdivision and the Southside expansion for a total of \$173,000. In addition, Firestone extension lines at \$30,000, the Oak Grove line extension at \$70,000 and the Highway 74 Extension Phase I at \$42,000 round out the budget figures.

A new item in the Police budget is earmarked for a design study for a new Police building at cost of \$15,000. The Police Department is also budgeted to get \$7,000 in radio equipment.

An air pack upgrade for \$1500 was okayed for the fire department but far no money has been appropriated for a new fire truck.

A request for computer equipment of \$10,000 for the library was turned down and a request of \$20,000 for building repairs at Moss Lake was cut in half.

The Parks & Recreation Department request for a computer and printer was also cut from \$5000 to \$2500 and the finance department's request for two computers was cut to one computer, copier and printer for purchasing at

See Budget, 10-A

Kings Mountain People

Sims there when you need him

Phone calls in the dead of night usually bring bad news.

This was the case at least with Lt. Curtis Sims, 33, during his early years on the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad.

It could vary, the badness of the call - from a heart attack or notification of a grinding automobile accident to a call from a woman with a splinter in her child's finger.

"The thing we had to remember after we awakened at two or three in the morning and dressed in a flash was knowing that you were helping somebody who needed it." Sims said he will never forget one experience nine years ago. The Rescue Squad got the call that a teenager hiking with a church group to the top of Kings Mountain had plunged 30 feet during a late

"...our job is to be there and give the help we are all trained to give."

-KM Rescuer Curtis Sims



afternoon thunderstorm.

"We went halfway up the mountain in the crash truck and brought the boy back in a basket," said Sims. Also assisting in the rescue were the Kings Mountain and Bethlehem Fire Departments.

The boy suffered some injuries but recuperated and is now 23 years old. Occasionally Sims hears

from the family who moved from the Kings Mountain area after the accident.

Drownings, crib deaths, and fires claimed lives and Sims said he and rescuers had seen the trauma and the pain of death. During the past 18 months Sims lost his mother and grandparents on both sides of his family.

"We all know what is to lose loved ones but our job is to be there and give the help we all are trained to give," he said.

Sims joined the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad as a rookie 14 years ago when Gene Champion was Captain.

His first real call was from a relative of a woman who had suffered cardiac arrest. At that time there were emergency medical technicians on the squad but no paramedics and women had not yet joined the ranks. Today the all-volunteer squad has three paramedics, including one woman, 8 intermediates skilled in advanced care and able to administer IVs and nine emergency medical technicians. The Squad is equipped with four ambulances.

See Sims, 2-A

KM High graduates 190 seniors

A total of 190 Kings Mountain High School graduating seniors received their diplomas during 1996 commencement exercises Friday night at John Gamble Stadium.

Principal Phil Weathers announced during the program that two seniors - Kristy Peterson and Christie Hughes - had tied for valedictorian of the Class of 1996.

Miss Peterson, who gave the valedictory address, challenged her classmates to use the knowledge they received during 12 years of schooling to pursue more goals and recounted some of the changes in recent years at the high school, focusing her remarks on new block scheduling.

"All the students on the program did a wonderful job and I was proud of each one," said Weathers who congratulated this year's senior class and said his specific remembrance of the seniors would be of their leadership roles in the school and community. He said that students won a high number of scholarships this year.



Kings Mountain High seniors march from the school to John Gamble Stadium Friday night for the annual commencement exercises. One hundred and ninety seniors received their diploma.

Brown denied permits

All 14 East Ridge Street property owners who are neighbors of the proposed rezoning area that developer Mike Brown plans to build houses have signed a petition requesting a change in the zoning from R-8, which Brown requests, to R-10.

The R-10 designation would limit Brown to building only single family dwellings in 10,000 square foot lots.

Planning Director Steve Killian turned down several permit requests from Brown this week. Killian said he was able to issue only one permit until after the rezoning matter is resolved.

Brown is also requesting rezoning of residential property that fronts on East King Street to general business to put up a bowling alley and movie house.

Brown says he has invested more than \$100,000 in the properties and plans to develop it.

The Planning and Zoning Board will meet on the rezoning matter

See Petition, 2-A