

Offer made to Commercial Intertech

United Dominion Industries has made an offer to Commercial Intertech Corporation to combine the two companies through purchase of outstanding common shares of stock.

"Our focus on trying to buy the outstanding common shares is due to the synergies that exist between the two companies," said Robert L. Shaffer, Charlotte media spokesman.

Shaffer said United Dominion has increased the price to be paid pursuant to its cash tender offer for all outstanding common shares, including associat-

ed preferred share purchase rights of Commercial from \$27 to \$30 per share or 57 percent more than TEC Shareholders closing price on June 27 when United Dominion first publicly announced its acquisition proposal.

"We have had no word from Commercial Intertech," Shaffer said Wednesday.

"Our interest is to acquire good, solid businesses because we are interested in growth," he said.

Commercial Intertech operates a local plant on Canterbury

Road in Kings Mountain.

United Dominion also responded to the plan announced Friday by Commercial Intertech's board of directors to thwart United Dominion's offer by repurchasing up to 2.5 million common shares and spinning off 100 percent of the company's Cuno Division.

"In our judgment, buying back its shares in the open market Friday from primarily large institutional investors and arbitrageurs is strong evidence of TEC management's and board of directors' clear intentions to entrench themselves further

rather than to afford all shareholders an opportunity to decide the future direction of the company," said William R. Holland, United Dominion's chairman and chief executive officer.

"We are confident that Commercial shareholders will conclude that United Dominion's cash proposal offers significantly more value and considerably less risk than the leveraged alternative proposed by Commercial Intertech's management and board of directors."

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Utilities Committee to discuss garbage issue

The city's utility committee will tackle the controversial garbage issue Monday night with an eye to recommending to the full City Council July 30 on who will collect the garbage, a private contractor or the current city sanitation crew.

City Council at the June meeting charged the committee to review a privatization contract Council has already awarded to Cleveland Container of Shelby.

The bidding procedure has been questioned by several Council members and one of the three bidders for the project.

Privatization would mean rollout containers provided by a contractor and announced garbage pickup once a week.

Public Works Supt. Karl Moss said the change would also mean savings to the city which needs to buy two garbage trucks estimated to cost \$190,000. He says he needs to hire three more people now and that one of the city's three trucks is down this week.

Moss said the automated service by a contractor would not displace the city's sanitation staff. He said qualified people would be retained by the contractor.

He said the contract provides that citizens would be provided a 90 gallon rollout container plus an 18 gallon recyclable container free and would be asked where they wanted to have their garbage picked up, either their driveway or curb, and they would be given a pickup schedule. Senior citizens and those handicapped may still get the backyard pickup upon certification by the city manager.

Moss said that rumors have been flying that those unable to use the rollout containers would have to get a doctor's certification of their illness. "That is simply not so," he said.

Moss said the proposed 10-year contract would provide once a week pickup to 3,450 households plus commercial businesses. Since a contractor has an automated fleet of trucks, he would be able to return to an area if a resident is missed on pickup day or go a second time to a residences in event of a funeral, etc.

"The contractor has told me that he will coordinate with citizens the best place at their residences for them to place the containers," said Moss.

Moss said that 85 percent of the calls coming into Public Works support the new rollout containers. He said people feel the concept will mean a cleaner town.

Moss predicted that a contractor for the city's sanitation service would be putting close to \$450,000 in the operation the first year due to costly automated equipment.

Last month Councilmen Ralph Grindstaff and Jerry Mullinax attempted to rescind the contract with Cleveland Container but their motions were denied by Mayor Scott Neisler after City Attorney Mickey Corry said the discussion should be an agenda item

at the July 30 meeting of Council. The board then agreed to send the matter to the utility committee for its recommendation.

Councilwoman Norma Bridges, a member of the utility committee which includes Councilmen Phil Hager and Dean Spears, said all Council members received a copy of the privatization contract this week.

"I had not seen a copy of the contract before this week and I am anxious to review it," she said.

Bridges said she has received several complaints from citizens who question the city's policy with regard to disposing

of recyclables.

"I was told by one resident that he had been sorting his recyclables and placing them at the recycling center at the Community Center but was told that 'all the recyclables went in with the regular garbage that went to the landfill.'"

She said the citizen who complained to her had started taking his recyclables to the Midpines Recycling Center on Margrace Road.

"Citizens don't need to go to the trouble to sort out plastic and clear glass and keep it separate from household garbage if it doesn't get to the right place,"

she said.

But Moss said that for the most part the recyclables his crew sees are contaminated, meaning that once clear, green or amber glass is broken and mixed that it is contaminated and must be included with the regular trash hauled to the landfill.

"Recycling is strictly volunteer and if citizens segregate it according to the product the city crews take it from the bins at the Community Center and at Parkdale Mill site and haul it to a separate location at the Cleveland County Landfill.

Sanitation crews have put bins out for paper which is picked up by a service at no cost to the city.

DUKE

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Kings Mountain is getting on the ground floor in the market by plans to build a new peak shaving plant at its North Gaston Street substation. Maney said the combination of the plant and the city's innovative SCATA system will mean a savings of \$750,000 a year but estimated the money would be used for the first three or four years to pay for the plant.

Maney says it's up to City Council what it plans to do with a large settlement, which he says he cannot disclose until after the contracts are signed.

And he says it's Council's decision on the percentage of reduction to customers.

But he says customers can be pleased that the contract locks them into an agreement that means no rate increases for the next four years.

"We will have to evaluate our rates to find the final reduction and since we already have a customer data base and SVBK recently completed a rate study that should be easy," said Maney.

Maney said the reduction would be broken down into the different customer classes: residential, small and large commercial and industrial with certain percentages applied to those classes and that weighed against the information and research before the actual dollars and cents and savings are presented to Council for a decision.

Hopefully by the winter period electric customers will get some even better news," he said.

Since Kings Mountain is not a member of a power agency the city was not locked into a contract with Duke and was in a unique position to put out a national request for a proposal for alternative power suppliers, Maney explained.

"The old way of doing business on the electrical market is over," said Maney who has led an aggressive plan which pursued legal counsel to initiate a suit.

"We have to be competitive

and remain competitive as a wholesale supplier to retain our existing customers because the day is coming with deregulation when those customers can go out and choose their own supplier," said Maney.

There is no retail wheeling at the present time, but Maney sees that in the future a major chain could decide to buy its power from a supplier from Texas, for instance, and then pay Kings Mountain only for transmission.

"That's the next step and we have to be on top of it," said Maney.

Maney calls Kings Mountain's deal with Duke a matter of survival.

"It's not a matter of how much revenue we make but keeping what we have," he said.

Lower rates are possible with peak generation, voltage regulation and incentives to customers.

"If we don't plan ahead we will lose our utilities and our customers," said Maney who commended City Council for giving him the opportunity to move ahead with a soon-to-be constructed peak generation plant for which the closing of the contract with the financing agency, BB&T, is set for Friday at 8:45 a.m. at City Hall.

Maney said that the date for groundbreaking for the plant will be announced soon.

"The city has positioned itself as second to none in regards to small cities in the state because of its aggressive support in negotiations with Duke, the peak generation facility, the SCATA system and other innovative ideas," he said.

Not only will residential customers benefit from innovative rates but industrial customers can be offered time of day use rates in which the industries curtail their uses during peak periods and save dollars.

Maney is excited. He has seen many changes in the gas and electric utilities over the years but he feels good about "a once in a lifetime opportunity to help seal a small portion of our future."

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