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Council approves buying fire truck

The approval by City Council of a lease purchase in the next budget year of a \$236,502 pumper for the Kings Mountain Fire Department was the icing on the cake of a number of major items of equipment approved by the board Tuesday night.

Although some items in the lengthy 32-item agenda evoked much discussion from Council, the purchase of a total of \$457,000 in equipment did not.

The new pumper is expected to be delivered by Triad Fire Inc. the end of the year and will be financed over a five year period with annual payments of \$55,000. City Manager Jimmy Maney said the revenue for the truck can be generated from additional money the city will receive from annexation in June or July of this year and from savings from the new peak generation plant.

He said money for the other projects is already budgeted for capital expenditures in the current budget.

Approved were two 1997 Ford Crown Victoria police cars at state contract pricing of \$38,056 for the Kings Mountain Police Department, four 1/2 ton pickup trucks for the street department at \$61,026; a cab and chassis for the electric department at \$39,998.65; a dump truck for the water and sewer department at \$25,022; a 3/4 ton cargo van for the gas department at \$14,996 and \$40,400 for reroofing of the booster pump station, water treatment plant and main pump station.

Fun in the Sun



Shelby Baldonado, left, and her brother, Kenny Baldonado, took advantage of Tuesday's unseasonably warm weather to get in a game of basketball at the Davidson Park court. The weather is supposed to take a severe twist this morning with possible sleet and freezing rain predicted.

Schools concerned about drug responses

Kids as young as 12 admit they have experimented with drugs

Kings Mountain children as young as 12 have experimented with drugs and are heavy smokers and they admitted it in a recently released Student View, a drug prevention effectiveness survey offered county wide in grades 6-12 and paid for by a \$13,000 grant from Carolinas Medical Center.

The survey revealed that 7 percent of the boys and girls surveyed in sixth grade smoke at least a half pack of cigarettes a day but only 7 percent of the girls and 21 percent of the boys tried alcohol without problems. Among sixth graders 86 percent of the boys said they had never used any form of alcohol and 72 percent of the girls said they had not.

Forty percent of the ninth grade class of girls and 39 percent of the boys surveyed said they had never touched an alcoholic drink while 27 percent of both the girls and boys classes said they had had a drink in the last 12 months but never experienced problems with their parents or with the law. Twenty-eight percent of the boys in the same class said they had been drinking and 31 percent of the freshmen girls said they too experienced problems after they had a drink.

"There seems to be more usage as the age group gets higher," said Patsy Rountree, the school system's food service and health coordinator.

"We do have concerns," said Asst. Supt. Dr. Jane King. "But it isn't unique to Kings Mountain."

Of students surveyed in the 10th grade 29 percent of the boys had never touched a drink nor had 39 percent of the girls surveyed. But 27 percent of tenth grade boys said they had used alcohol with no problem and the rate was higher for girls at 29 percent. Thirty-five percent of the boys surveyed in this age group and 29 percent of the

See Survey, 3-A

System to study survey results

The results from a school-wide drug prevention effectiveness survey are in but it will be weeks before school officials have a chance to absorb all the data and determine if what they are doing now is effective or should be approached from a different direction.

Dr. Jane King, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, and Patsy Rountree, the district system's food service and health coordinator, said the survey results will be passed on to the Kings Mountain Health Council for recommendations.

Jimmy Hines, Director of CODAP, will be the speaker at the February 10 Health Council public meeting at 6:30 p.m. to define some areas in which parents can address at parent meetings. He released the results of the drug survey to all county schools Wednesday at a noon luncheon.

"We have strong programs in the schools such as Students Against Violence Everywhere, Students Against Alcohol and Drugs, peer mediation at both the middle and high schools and D. A. R. E. in the elementary grades," said King.

Dee Stuart, of the Minnesota-based Johnson Institute, presented the findings to the Cleveland County Substance Task Force Tuesday.

Answering the questions on the survey was voluntary and students could choose not to answer or skip any questions that made them uncomfortable. Parents reviewed the questions before hand and could opt their children from participation.

Students participating in the survey included 475 at Kings Mountain High, 397 at Kings Mountain Middle School and 25 students at Parker Street School.

KM People

Roots important to Ruth McDowell

As a child growing up in the Lincoln Academy Community of Crowders Mountain Ruth Alexander McDowell dreamed of going to Africa.

"I told my friends at school what I wanted to do when I grew up and they laughed at me because our image of Africa was terrible," said the widow of Rev. McDowell.

Mrs. McDowell's dream came true in 1947 and she was commissioned by the Foreign

Mission Board to serve as an educational missionary in Angola, West Africa.

Preacher McDowell served as a minister of the First Congregational United Church of Christ. It took a year for Mrs. McDowell to learn the language of the country and every fifth year the couple returned to their home church to give programs and to report about activities on the mission field to other congregations.

"It was a wonderful experience and a joy to help and I still have friends there after all these years," said Mrs. McDowell.

The McDowells returned to Africa to help celebrate the founding of the mission station founded by Rev. McDowell. Rev. McDowell died in 1989.

Because her roots are deep in the Crowders Mountain Community, Ruth McDowell

See McDowell, 3-A



RUTH McDOWELL

KM's City Council hoping to extend extraterritorial jurisdiction to two miles

City Council voted 6-1 Tuesday to ask the local delegation to the North Carolina General Assembly to introduce enabling legislation to extend the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction up to two miles.

Mayor Scott Neisler said if Kings Mountain is to continue to grow it needs to be able to have jurisdiction over zoning within a two mile area.

Councilman Jerry Mullinax voted against the proposal.

The mayor said he would present the resolution to Rep. Debbie Clary, Rep. John Weatherly, Senator Walter Dalton and Senator Andy Dedmon for the docket of the General Assembly this year.

City planning director Steve Killian, in a memorandum supporting the plan, said the work the city has contracted with Benchmark Inc. has been temporarily put on hold until special legislation can be passed allowing the city to have a two mile extraterritorial jurisdiction. Special legislation is required, he said, because Kings Mountain does not have a population within the corporate

limits of over 10,000. Killian said if special legislation is passed the city could proceed towards defining a two mile ETJ and drafting a zoning plan for the new area on the city's map.

In other actions Tuesday, Council:

Rezoned after a public hearing residential property of Doris Upchurch at 1210 Second Street Extension from Heavy Industry to R-8.

New Board of Adjustment member Herman Greene and Planning Board members M. C. Prucette, John Houze and Jim Guyton were sworn by Mayor Neisler.

Set Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m for a public hearing on a request from Phillip Elam to rezone property from R-20 to H-1 or L-1 at the corner of Crocker Road and Phifer Road. An industrial prospect is looking at the property for future development.

Directed City Clerk Marilyn Sellers to investigate a petition for voluntary annexation from Pulliam Investments which is

See Council, 3-A

Council tables county animal control plan

By a vote of 6-1 City Council Tuesday tabled for a month a decision on whether to enter into an agreement with the Cleveland County Health Department to take over the animal control duties in Kings Mountain.

Earlier, a substitute motion to deny and offered by Councilman Jerry Mullinax with Councilmen Jerry White and Ralph Grindstaff supporting failed 4-3. Voting against

were Council members Dean Spears, Phil Hager, Rick Murphrey and Norma Bridges. Mullinax then voted against tabling the matter.

After votin to table, Council instructed City Attorney Mickey Corry to contact county attorney Julian Wray to negotiate a "hold harmless" clause questioned by Grindstaff in the current contract. Under the one year contract, the city would also provide a truck for the ani-

mal control officer and \$1831.36 monthly through June of this year and after that \$1923.02 monthly.

County Health Director Denese Stallings called a change in animal control from the city to the county cost effective, would provide a centralized location for residents, and cut administrative costs and calls to the local police department. She said Kings Mountain is the only municipality of the county's 15

that is not under the county's umbrella for animal control. Stallings said trained personnel would be on call 24 hours a day and would readily respond.

Mullinax questioned how six employees of the county could cover the whole county. Grindstaff also questioned how the county would handle the calls made by Kings Mountain residents in the city's corporate

See Animal, 3-A



GETTING CROWDED - The children's area of Mauney Memorial Library is one of facility's the more popular places and is getting crowded. Louise Sanders, left, Children's Librarian, and Librarian Rose Turner say an expansion is needed.

Library launches fund drive

A \$300,000 fund drive for a new children's wing at Jacob S. Mauney Memorial Library was endorsed by the Library Board at a recent meeting and got the green light from City Council Tuesday night.

Librarian Rose Turner said that the money could come from community fund raising and possibly from state construction money and grants that the city staff was given permission by Council to help research.

City Manager Jimmy Maney and Mayor Scott Neisler pledged to lobby Cleveland County commissioners for additional money in support of the library. "Let them know we are serious," said Councilman Ralph Grindstaff.

Also speaking in support of the fundraising project were Library Board Chairman Dr. Jeff Mauney, who said this year is the 50th anniversary year of the local library, member Anne Corry, Councilman Phil Hager and Clayvon Kelly.

"We are bursting at the seams in the children's department where we have a book circulation of 49,409 compared to 24,868 for juveniles and 20,493 for adults," she said.

With Smart Start checkout every Thursday Children's Librarian and Outreach Coordinator Louise Sanders wheels the fun books on carts or

in story bags into the Weir Auditorium from the small storage area which houses 115 story bags, a popular program which came through grants from Smart Start.

"We only have one reading table for children who flock to the library for a wide assortment of reading materials but we are just running out of space," said Sanders.

She said the canvas story bags each have a different topic and contain books and a variety of other materials to present a teaching story program on that bag's topic. Anyone caring for a child from birth to 5 years has access to the library materials and checks the Smart Start materials out only on Thursday.

"If we had more space we could check out the materials every day and it would be more convenient for the public," said Sanders.

Turner envisions that the expansion of the library could come at the rear of the auditorium if there is enough room for parking which has also become a problem because of the heavy volume of visitors.

Resource materials from Smart Start grants and from a Preschool Resource Outreach Project and

See Library, 3-A