

City to discuss cemetery fees, annexation

Two controversial items on the City Council agenda for Tuesday night are expected to get public attention.

City Council postponed from the recent meeting a decision on lowering of the cemetery fees adopted July 1. Council also said it would make a decision on the proposed annexation of 857 acres which some residents opposed during a public hearing July 29.

Frances Sarvis, of Linwood Road, said all families in the proposed area on Linwood Road are strongly opposed to the annexation because majority

of the residents are on fixed incomes and cannot financially afford it.

Ricky Hall, who owns a lot in the area, said at last week's meeting there may be some obvious benefits to annexation but not at this time for these residents. Hall said that the families signed a petition opposed to the annexation due to reasons of health and finances.

The areas being considered for annexation also include Highway 74 Business West, the golf course area and Waco Road area.

Ward 2 Councilman Jerry

Mullinax said he would propose at Tuesday's meeting that the city cut its recently adopted cemetery fees by 60 to 67 percent.

Some other Council members, he said, may favor phasing the increase over a period of several years.

But Mullinax said the city is charging too much for opening and closing of graves if it sticks to the proposal made in the budget which would have upped fees for inside-city residents from \$125 to \$400 and for outside city residents in the Kings Mountain school district

from \$150 to \$450. He said he will propose that the fees go up from \$125 to \$200 for inside-city residents and from \$150 to \$225 for residents who live in the Kings Mountain school district.

Under the July 1 new rates Kings Mountain citizens would be paying more for this service than their neighbors living in Cherryville and Bessemer City but less than those owning lots in privately owned cemeteries.

Last week Council authorized City Manager Jimmy Maney to bring a new proposal with cost comparisons and kept the old fees intact until revisions could be made.

Obituaries

PRISCILLA MELTON BELMONT - Priscilla "Prissy" Melton, 58, died July 29, 1997 at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of Norma Mayhew Guyton of Kings Mountain and the late Otto Guyton. She was retired from Southern Bell and was a member of First United Methodist Church, Gastonia.

In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, Harry Melton of Belmont; sons, Todd Melton and Chris Melton; and daughter-in-law Debbie; brother, John Banks Guyton; three grandchildren, a niece, and four great-nieces.

A memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Roger Miller, Dr. Joseph Seymour Jr., and Dr. Larry Wilkinson at 4 p.m. Saturday, August 2 at First United Methodist Church.

A graveside service was held on Friday, August 1, at Mountain Rest Cemetery, Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to American Red Cross Gaston Chapter, 190 S. Oakland Street, Gastonia, NC 28062.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

DWIGHT FOSTER KINGS MOUNTAIN - Dwight Foster, 50, 800 Gantt Street, died July 31, 1997 at his home.

A native of Cleveland County, he was the son of the late Betty Foster Dellinger. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Grady Foster. He was retired from China Grove Textiles in Gastonia and was a member of the Rough Rider Dune Buggy Club in Shelby.

He is survived by his wife, Laverne McNeely Foster of Kings Mountain; sons, Jimmy Foster of Bessemer City, Bobby Foster of Andrews, and Shane Helms of Kings Mountain; daughter, Dustie Phillips of Kings Mountain; sister, Trina Whitaker of Kings Mountain; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Gene Leigh and Bruce Davis at 2 p.m. Monday at Cherokee Street Baptist Church. Burial was in Westview Gardens, Bessemer City.

MILDRED LANE SHELBY - Mrs. Mildred Nance Lane, 64, 2930 Sheree Lane, died August 3, 1997 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Cleveland County, she was the daughter of the late Ben and Dollie Ellis Nance. She was a homemaker and a member of Family Praise and Worship Center.

She is survived by her husband, Jack "Cookie" Lane of the home; son, Keith Lane of the home; son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Lisa Lane of Shelby; daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Steve Millwood of Montgomery, Texas; daughter, Sherry Lane Cranor of Shelby; sisters, Inez Lankford of Shelby and Louise Buff of Grover; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Harold Camp at 2 p.m. Wednesday and Family Praise and Worship Center. Burial was in Patterson Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

THELMA H. WARLICK BOONEVILLE - Thelma Hicks Warlick, 79, 107 Coram Avenue, died August 2, 1997 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte after a lengthy illness.

A native of Little Mountain, NC, she was the daughter of the late John Wesley and Gertrude Bolick Hicks and wife of the late Heyward P. Warlick. She was a retired part owner of Carolina Transport.

She is survived by her sister, Vernon Baker of Charlotte; three nephews and one niece.

The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Steve Bass at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Harris Memorial Chapel, Kings Mountain. Burial was in Mountain Rest Cemetery, Kings Mountain.

Harris Funeral Home, Kings Mountain, was in charge of arrangements.

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BellSouth wants to offer long distance service

By 1998 BellSouth officials announced Tuesday the company may be able to provide long distance service.

J. Billie Ray Jr., president of BellSouth's North Carolina Operations, announced Tuesday during a Charlotte press conference that the company has asked the North Carolina Utilities Commission to agree that the company meets competition standards set by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

If the NCUS concurs, BellSouth will petition the

Federal Communications Commission for approval to offer long distance services to North Carolina customers next year.

Ray said BellSouth is the only local telephone company in the state which is not allowed to offer both local and long distance services to customers.

Ray said BellSouth has met all legal requirements to facilitate local competition. He said the \$80 billion United States long distance market is dominated by three companies which control about 90 percent

of the market. "During the past decade the three have raised prices virtually in lock-step, even as regulators reduced their costs for completing calls," he said.

Ray said Bell South's entry into the long distance market will generate more than 30,000 new jobs and boost the state's economy by \$43 billion by the year 2006.

Rex Adams, vice president of Bell South Long Distance, said BellSouth has complied with the required 14-point checklist, submitting hundreds of thou-

sands of pages of documents, one of the largest and most comprehensive regulatory filings ever undertaken by the company in the state. He said competitors will oppose the move because, he said, BellSouth will market residential and small business customers and offer better rates.

The NCUC will take 120 days to complete its work on the request. BellSouth then will be able to file its petition with the FCC, which has 90 days under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to issue a ruling.

Grover Council ponders closing railroad crossing

GROVER - The closing of the Carolina Avenue railroad crossing could be in the future but for now Town Board will try to negotiate with the State Department of Transportation for a change in traffic patterns.

"The state says it's the most

dangerous crossing and one just waiting for a bad accident to happen," said Mayor Ron Queen but Council members say the closing would result in a bottleneck of traffic on Main Street.

The Council will ask the state

to restrict the busy crossing from trucks.

City Attorney Mickey Corry said it's complicated to close crossings and Council could consider adopting a resolution to the Department of Transportation to lower the lim-

its and restrict trucks and buses because of the length and because the Carolina crossing is too steep.

The board appointed Tim Huffman to the Grover Planning Board and authorized

See Grover, 4-A

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