



CHOW TIME - Heather Wright, 9, and her sister, Lindsay, 6, right, watch their Golden Retriever Abbie feed her brood of 10. The girls are the daughters of Robert and Tammy Wright of Rhodes Avenue. Proud papa Sax is housed in a fenced area of the back yard but the puppies get plenty of tender loving care not only from their mother but from the entire Wright family who care for Abbie and family in a fenced utility room off the porch.

QUESTIONS

From 1A

Creek would have to be upgraded. This would cost several million dollars. We would have to build a new line from the Crowders Creek side of town to Pilot Creek. This would cost approximately 1 million dollars not including pump stations. Monies would have to be borrowed through General Obligation Bonds or Revenue Bonds and the rates would have to be raised before the Local Government Commission would approve the debt. This is a requirement not only for future borrowing but also to maintain payments on the 1989 water and sewer bonds. Revenue must be produced. You would still pay Gastonia approximately \$1 million a year for the minimum clause associated with the original 30 year contract.

A - Yes. The inside non-industrial rate is \$1.37 per thousand and the outside rate is \$2.00 per thousand. The inside industrial water rate is \$1.17 per thousand and the outside rate is \$1.40 per thousand. The rate charged the town of Grover and the city of Bessemer City is the inside industrial rate. Rates typically in all cities are designed to be discounted based on volume. The more used the cheaper the rate. The availability charge is also higher on industrial customers.

A - Fair. The water plant was opened in 1974. The pumps, tanks, equipment, etc., are wearing out. Even with maintenance schedules the life of a piece of equipment is just so long. The same problem exists at the Pilot Creek wastewater facility.

Q - What is the number one priority in the system?

A - A second water line into town. Imagine having only one artery in your heart and something go wrong with it. This water line is over 25 years old and has carried millions of gallons of water through it over the years. If something happened to the existing line the tank storage inside the city could only last 1 to 3 days. The water and sewer facilities need more capital improvements than any other department. I haven't addressed the improvements and needs of maintaining the lake and the dam. I hope the citizens of Kings Mountain understand the need for capital improvements. These improvements will not be cheap as evident in this year's budget. Almost \$1 million is slated for improvements this year alone and this is only the beginning. The city has cut until it can't cut anymore. We must stay aggressive and plan. If we don't a major bond issue will be the only option not only in this department but in all departments. There seems to be a false sense of security the city's problems are over. If we had millions of dollars to spend on capital projects and improvements we could bring everything up to date, but we don't. Major improvements are needed throughout the city - streets, drainage, water, sewer, equipment, etc. The City Council has tried to address these needs without very little debt to the city. Accomplishments have been made and certainly they need to be commended. It's only the beginning. If we are to maintain the quality of life we are accustomed to in Kings Mountain we must plan for the future. If we put off improvements, we will pay later. Our rates will go from one of the lowest to one of the highest just to make bond payments.

Q - How does the city's rates compare to surrounding cities?

A - I could bore you with numbers and statistics but basically cheaper than anyone in the area. This has been documented by rate studies performed by outside consultants.

Q - What does this 7% wastewater rate increase mean to the citizens of Kings Mountain if it is passed on to the customer?

A - Overall it will probably mean a 2% or 3% rate increase on sewer only. A consultant will review the rates and make a recommendation. The information will be passed on to City Council for its review.

Q - What happens if the city does not pass on this increase?

A - Since April of 1992 the city of Gastonia has passed on a 35% increase to Kings Mountain. In the past two years the city has not taken any action. The wastewater fund cannot continue to absorb the losses. Eventually if revenues are not maintained to take care of capital expenditures another bond issue will be needed.

Q - What kind of shape is our water and wastewater facility in?

Q - What happens if the city does not produce the revenue?

A - It is a violation of General Statutes and the state could take over the system or mandate the rates. The state would not allow default on bond payments. This year in the 1998-99 budget the city will pay out \$684,263 on the 1989 water and sewer bonds.

Q - Are there any differences between the inside wastewater city rates and the outside city rates?

A - Yes. The inside non-industrial (residential) and industrial wastewater rate is \$1.24 per thousand. The outside rate for the same customer classes is \$1.80 per thousand. If you have sewer only and you are an outside residential customer you pay a flat rate of \$17.70.

Q - What about water rates?

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Due to the relocation of JOE AND BETH BROCK to Arizona, Ashley's Auction will sell the contents of the Brock home along with other consignments.

Furniture: Oak Roll top Desk with full interior. Victorian walnut wash stand. Carved 3 piece bedroom suite. Unusual oak and wicker rocker. Oak sideboard. Set of oak spindle back chairs. Antique wicker bed trays. Victorian chairs. Oak claw foot table. Oak rocking chair, toy chest. Slant front secretary w/ bookcase top. Mahogany sideboard. Victorian hutch. Federal style table. Mahogany chest on chest with claw feet. Oriental lacquered, inlaid table with semi-precious stones. Oak dining room set with leaded glass china cabinet, sideboard w/ hidden slate bar top, 6 chairs & table. Organ stool. Quilt rack. Dinette set with 6 ladder back chairs. Metal baker's rack. Butcher block. Pool table. Kitchen table. Upholstered chairs. Collection of antique frames and pictures. Newly upholstered settee. Twig furniture, window seat. High chair. Lamps. Garden furniture and park bench. Metal and cement planters. **Advertising & Collectibles:** Cobalt blue Depression Glass water set. Antique mesh evening bag. McCoy Depression Glass. carnival Glass. Art Glass. Wicker baby carriage. Antique children's toys including gray hound wagon, wooden sleigh, tricycle and hobbyhorse. Collection of Hens on nests. Lance Cracker Jar with Lid. 94 Superbowl Coke souvenir. Swinson Cracker jar. Pepsi Cola bottle carrier. Bird Cage. Pottery. Black Memorabilia. 3 sets of sterling candle holders. Granite ware. Milk glass tea set. Hand painted china. Pewter. Trunks. Doll furniture. Ceramic tiled wood cook stove. 12 place setting of Signature Collection (Queen Ann) china. 8 Place setting Noritake Casual China (Plymouth). 8 Place setting Royal Dalton (Kimberly). **Household:** Talking parrot. 100% wool Karistan rug, 10'X15'. Conn electric organ. Color television. Freezer. 2 lawnmowers. Metal shelves. Workbenches, wooden cabinets, 2 man boat and trolling motor. Exercise equipment. Golf Clubs. Weed Eater. Ping Pong table. 10' step ladder. Pond kit with pump, slate, and liner. Bird Bath. **Special Interests:** 1979 Ford Pickup F150 with toolbox. 4' tractor cart by Rubbermaid.


Terms: Cash or Check; No Buyers' Premium

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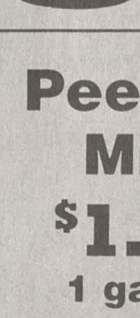


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