

PAY HIKE

From 1A

and we will try not to make increases to take care of capital needs in the next year," he told the full board.

Maney said the raises puts the city in a range to build on for the future.

"I make it clear that I have never nor will I ever give myself a raise," said Maney who said he would never recommend pay raises until there was money to pay for it.

After analyzing the available funds, Maney said the city was in solid financial shape. He said the city budgeted several transfers from utilities for the new police building but that when police enter the new building "we won't owe a dime on it."

The new pay plan clearly distinguishes between officers, for instance, in the police department, clearly recognizing salary ranges while rewarding employees for longevity.

Since last council meeting the personnel committee composed of Chairman Phil Hager, Norma Bridges and Bob Hayes have met with Maney to review salaries, comparing each position with salaries of employees in comparable positions with 28 cities the size of Kings Mountain.

Maney said the surveys reveal that Kings Mountain ranks at the bottom of pay by other cities with 10,000 population. Kings Mountain, unlike a num-

ber of cities, operates four utilities.

"It's a good plan," said Councilman Gene White, after last Thursday's personnel committee meeting.

"The bottom line is that we have to remain competitive with the private sector and municipalities," said White.

White also called for a re-examination of the number of employees and said he would call for another look at some services which could be contracted out to save costs.

The salary hike came to the forefront of discussion at last month's council meeting when Maney told council that key qualified certified employees had left the city for higher pay.

The March 7 pay raises will be the biggest substantial hike in recent years. In 1997-98 those employees who were paid under \$20,000 got a 10 percent raise; those in the \$20,000-\$25,000 category got a 5 percent raise; and those employees with salaries over \$25,000 got a 3 percent raise.

In 1995-96 and in 1996-97 employees got a 3 percent cost of living raise.

"It's time we retain the good employees we have," said Mayor Scott Neisler who called for council to develop a plan for capital expenditures in the next budget. "We may need to do a rate increase later on for capital needs because we want to make sure our infrastructure is in good shape."

City extends mills' cleanup order

Margrace Mill got a reprieve from the chopping block Tuesday night, City Council voting 6-1 to revoke its order to demolish several buildings in the landmark.

A substitute motion by Councilman Jerry Mullinax to place a two year time period on complete demolition and cleanup of the Pauline Mill properties failed 5-2.

Mullinax said Pauline Mill is in his district and said the Kelly Bunch family had taken too long to clean up the property. Joining him in his motion was Bob Hayes. Council members supporting the revocation of the order to demolish were Phil

Hager, Norma Bridges, Clavon Kelly, Rick Murphrey and Gene White.

Johnny Bunch said his family has spent "hundreds of thousands of dollars so far" to clean up the properties they bought in 1985 and asked council to give them a chance to complete the work.

No one spoke during the hearing but Bunch who said the Margrace poses no threat to the public because the property enclosed by barbed wire fence is off limits to the public.

Bunch said D. R. G. Services expects to complete the cleanup of the Pauline complex in six months and is currently remov-

ing brick and scrap metal. He said 90 percent of the burned area has been hauled off for scrap.

"We can't do this Margrace project over night but we have intentions to rebuild," said Bunch.

Mullinax questioned why it took two to three years after the city issued its first order to comply with the schedule for cleanup at the Pauline site.

"We're not asking for sympathy, just cooperation," said Bunch, who said the Margrace property is the prime project but his family intends to pursue the cleanup project of the Pauline.

"The Margrace is four blocks from my home and it's as good a faith project I've seen in 25 years," said Gene White, who said he had seen no maintenance underway at the plant since the early 1960s until the Bunches bought the mills in 1985.

By its action to revoke, the city retains its right to keep a constant inspection on the projects and to "start again" on complaints of citizens, said City Attorney Mickey Corry.

Mullinax said the order should be modified, not quashed, to give a time limit for adherence of the cleanup project.

\$6,000 clock donated for cupola

A 36 inch wide illuminated clock which chimes the hour will grace the cupola of the gazebo when it goes up downtown.

The \$6,000 clock is a gift from Caswell Taylor, a descendant of the Plonk and Patterson families of Kings Mountain.

Taylor read an article in The Charlotte Observer about the downtown project of the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association and called the mayor.

"The cupola was taken from the top of the old police station and the clock will be installed on it and rise about 30 feet in the air," Neisler said, responding to question of Councilman Bob Hayes who asked about possibility of vandalism to the clock.

Neisler said appropriate plaques will be installed to honor the Taylor descendants.

KM police to investigate citizen complaint

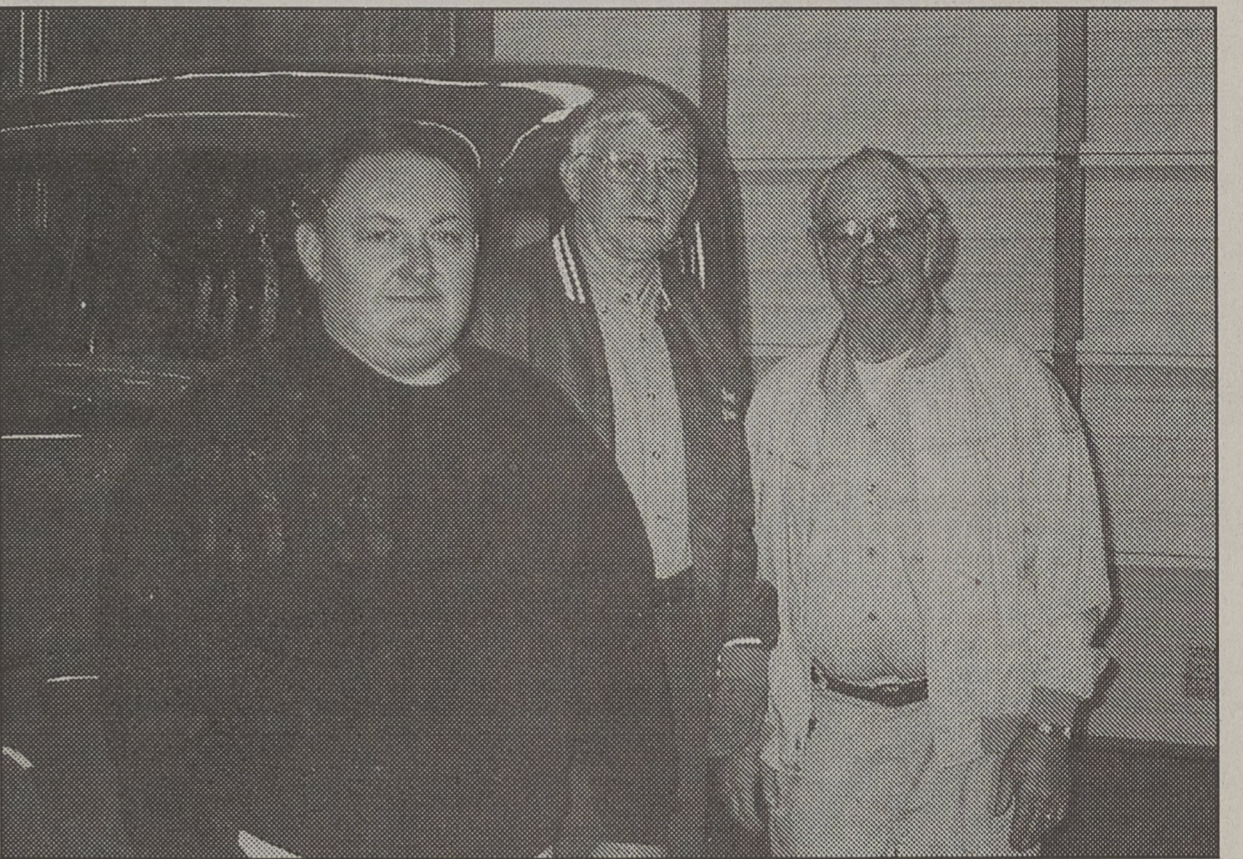
Mary Addison, 76, of S. Battleground Ave., who says police grabbed her by the arms while they were taking custody of her four-year-old grandson, filed a formal complaint February 17.

Chief of Police Richard Reynolds said his office will conduct an administrative investigation of the incident.

Cpl. Chris Moore and Deputy Shane Ledbetter of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office went to the Addison home February 14 because Mrs. Addison's daughter, Mary Wolfe, did not appear for a custody hearing in South Dakota Feb. 11.

Mrs. Addison was arrested for resisting, delaying and obstructing an officer after she allegedly refused to let police take the child from her home.

Moore and Ledbetter remain on active duty.



Raeford White (center) admires the paint job that Don Welch Jr. (left) applied to his 1940 Ford pickup. Don Welch Sr. (right) handled the wiring on the restoration project.

Outside it's a '40 Ford pickup, inside it's a hot-running Ranger

BY ALAN HODGE
Staff Writer

Raeford White of Kings Mountain has the best of both worlds with his hybrid pickup truck. A combination 1940 Ford body and 1988 Ford Ranger running gear, the red creation is a labor of love.

"This project started about a year and a half ago," said White. "I've always loved old cars and the idea to make a custom like this came to me one afternoon when I was just sitting around."

From the outside, White's truck looks like a restored 1940 model. Raise the hood, and the aluminum engine, automatic transmission, and power steering show another automotive

age. A complicated project to pull off, White has had plenty of help with the truck.

"Quay Howell helped me with the measuring and fitting of the body and frame," White said. "The wheelbase on a '40 model and a 1988 Ranger are the same."

When it came time to paint his toy, White turned to his friend Don Welch, Jr. An expert with sandpaper and a spray gun, Welch has been an auto body man for 27 years.

"It was a real challenge getting the body and paint just right on the truck," Welch said. "Putting in the oak and stainless steel bedliner was a job too. When it all comes together, it's like a creative process."

The color that White and

Welch chose for the truck is a deep, classic red with just a hint of blue.

Welch's father, Don Welch Sr., also put his skill in auto wiring into the project.

Now that the truck is nearly completion, White had a good idea what he was going to do with it.

"I'm going to show it some and drive it around town," White said. "I told the mayor he could turn out the lights downtown when I come along, because this truck is going to shine so much they won't need them."

When spring finally gets here and you see Raeford White tooling around in his little red wagon, give a toot to a man who made his dream a reality.

CHAMBER

From 1A

Another Kings Mountain business that was represented at the banquet was EdenGardens total living center.

"EdenGardens is proud to be a part of the Kings Mountain Chamber," said Denise Leonard. "The banquet was very nice as well as productive. We're ready for the next one."

Pleased by the turnout and enthusiasm, Jay Rhodes of the Kings Mountain Chamber and his administrative assistant Shirley Brutko were eager to

get local businesses involved in even more events.

"We were just so happy with the way the banquet went," said Brutko. "It was everything we wanted and more."

"It was an outstanding event," Rhodes added. "It sets the tone for us to move the city and county forward with the business community."

Kings Mountain Weather Report

	Feb. 17-23	Year Ago
Total precip.	1.46	.94
Max. 1 day	.81 (19th)	.66 (22nd)
Year to date	8.38	14.64
Min. temp.	21 (21st)	35 (20th)
Max. temp.	63 (17th, 18th)	66 (17th, 19th)
Avg. temp.	43.1	50.7

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LIMITS
From 1A

"We did vote to insert the term limits, are we going to change our minds? We took appropriate action when we added two more board members," said Gene White.

Councilman Rick Murphrey said strong consideration should be given to reappointing chairman Neisler. "There's nothing wrong with a man who is doing a good job staying in an appointment 11 years. The board is doing an excellent job running the ABC Store and I will not be intimidated if I vote to change my vote on term limits and revisit this situation."

In a related matter, White asked ABC officials to enforce its policy to prohibit anyone under the age of 21 from the premises of the local building. A resolution effective October 1, 1998 prohibits anyone under age 21 from entering the ABC Store unless accompanied by a parent.

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