

Council approves curbside collection policy

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

Kings Mountain City Council Tuesday night amended its code of ordinances to provide changes necessary to move to curbside garbage collection.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said containers are on order and the new collection system will begin taking effect as early as July 10. All of the 4,000 containers will not arrive at the same time, he said, but service would begin for each household the week following the delivery of its container. All containers should be in place during the week of July 17.

The new ordinance includes a broad description of the garbage, trash, debris and junk items that will be accepted by the city, and penalties for violations.

Maney said city staff will personally deliver the containers and a packet of general information about rollout collection and pickup schedules, which will also include a copy of the amended ordinance.

Each packet will also contain samples of two tags the city will use to ensure a successful curbside collection program. A red tag entitled "Sorry" will tell residents why their garbage wasn't

picked up on a particular date; and a yellow tag entitled "Please Help Us" will tell customers how to correct certain problems.

Maney said collection dates will be Monday through Thursday - one day per week at each residence. When holidays fall on Monday, schedules will be moved up one day with customers receiving pickup the day following their usual service. When holidays fall on weekdays, those customers' pickup will be the following day. Thanksgiving and Christmas pickup schedules will be posted in local newspapers.

Yard waste will not be collected during holiday weeks.

Many items that customers have been illegally placing at curbside over the years will no longer be accepted by the city. Large, bulky appliances will be picked up at curbside provided prior arrangements are made with the sanitation department. A list of all items that will be collected as well as those that will not be accepted are included in the ordinance that will be given to each customer.

Roll-out containers must be placed at the curb no later than 7:30 a.m. on the day of pickup; and must be removed from the curb by midnight of the same day.

The ordinance includes special pickup provisions for the "physically and elderly" disabled who cannot roll their containers to curbside. However, a doctor's verification is required and the requests will be monitored by city staff.

Maney said the city will be lenient the first "couple months" to iron out any problems, but will not allow the new system to be abused.

"If a person can cut grass or wash cars, etc., he can take the container to the curb," he said.

"We do not want any citizen that is physically or elderly disabled to have a problem getting their container to the curb, and we'll work with them."

In a related matter Tuesday, Council approved the purchase of an automated refuse collection truck (mechanical arm truck) at a cost of \$145,315.

After the initial cost of going to curbside collection, the system is projected to save about \$180,000 a year, it was pointed out in the recent budget work sessions.

Maney said with the present backyard collection system, the city must operate three crews of a driver and two garbage pullers, or nine people. With annexation effective next week, the old system would have required an additional crew, or a total of 12 sanitation employees.

Public Works Director Jackie Barnette said by going to curbside pickup, one crew will be eliminated immediately; and when a second automated collection truck is purchased (possibly in a year) the only persons going into yards to pickup garbage will be for the special requests (elderly and physically handicapped).

In other action, Council:

■ Was asked by Ellis Noell, president of the Kings Mountain Business and Professional Association, to look into the possibility of purchasing the lot at the corner of East Gold and Cherokee Street for a greenway to connect City Hall and Patriots Park.

■ Was asked individually - not as a board - to financially support the parents group "Save Our Schools" in its lawsuit against the Cleveland County Commissioners' school merger plan.

■ Adopted an ordinance to

amend capital projects funds for the swimming pool, law enforcement building and Davidson and Jake Early park improvements.

■ Adopted an ordinance amending the fiscal year 1999-2000 budget for operating and capital expenses.

■ Set a public hearing for July 27 to amend the zoning ordinance to make video game arcades a conditional use with special requirements.

■ Set a public hearing for July 25 to receive input on a request from James Carroll to rezone property located at 605 North Piedmont Avenue from Residential R-8 to General Business.

■ Approved a resolution directing the City Clerk to investigate a voluntary contiguous annexation petition from MPB Development.

■ Set a public hearing for August 29 regarding the Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation for zoning of portions of the 2000-G annexation area.

■ Set a public hearing for August 29 for a public hearing regarding an ordinance expanding the city's extraterritorial planning jurisdiction to two miles in the Highway 29 corridor industrial area (Area III).

■ Amended the March 28 incentive grant agreement with Commonwealth Industries to change location from 707 Broadview Drive to the Johnson Development building on I-85; and also authorized assignment by Commonwealth of the incentive grant agreement to Aluminum Tube Enterprises, LLC.

■ Approved a budget amendment authorizing the Electric Dept. to carry forward

funds from fiscal year '99-00 into fiscal year '00-01 for a street sweeper in the amount of \$117,205.

■ Approved a budget amendment authorizing the sanitation department to carry forward funds from fiscal year '99-00 budget into fiscal year 00-01 budget for a down payment on the lease purchase of an automated sanitation truck in the amount of \$25,000.

■ Heard a report from Recreation Director Tripp Hord on the July 4 celebration set for Tuesday from 3-9:30 p.m. on the Deal Street ball fields behind the YMCA. All activities are free except for the swimming pool events. There is a \$2 admission fee to the pool.

■ Heard an update on codes enforcement on King Street from Codes Director Holly Galloway. Galloway said some properties which have been cleaned up may be on the market soon, and that another building which was recently vacated cannot be occupied again until it is brought up to codes.

■ Set a public hearing for July 25 on a Community Appearance Standards Ordinance. Galloway said the ordinance draft is designed to provide a minimum appearance

standard for the city and its ETJ. She said Council will decide whether the official ordinance will include the ETJ

■ Approved an ordinance amending the zoning map to rezone property in the Mountain and Gold Street areas from Residential R-6, Residential R-8, and G-B to RS-6, RS-8 and O.

■ Approved rezoning property owned by Dr. and Mrs. George Plonk (Old Home Place Road) from H-1 and R-10 to Conditional Use R-20.

■ Authorized the demolition of houses located at 402 and 404 North Battleground Avenue.

■ Adopted Cleveland County's 10-year updated solid waste management plan.

■ Adopted an ordinance levying a tax on gross receipts derived from retail short-term lease or rental of motor vehicles.

■ Appointed Tom Wright, Mike Bolt, Ken Davis, Raeford White, John Bumgardner and Roger Goins to one-year terms on the John H. Moss Lake Advisory Committee.

■ Heard an update on street paving projects from City Manager Jimmy Maney and Public Works Director Jackie Barnette.

GAS

From 1A

at current prices rather than 89 cents per gallon."

Though drive-offs are not as common in Kings Mountain as they are in places like Chicago, Dover and her employees are still exercising increased caution.

"If we don't know the person who wants to fill their car up, we make them pay before we turn on the pumps," Dover said.

Punishment for stealing gasoline up to \$100 worth is a misdemeanor in North Carolina but can result in up to 120 days in jail for repeat offenders. It's also a misdemeanor in South Carolina, but the fine jumps to \$500, 30 days in jail, and possible suspension of the offender's driving license.

Questions about the high price of gas abound. The new jump at the pump is blamed on refinery capacity problems, tight inventories, and stricter environmental regulations. The rising price of crude oil is also a factor. Prices for black gold recently hit a 10-year high at \$34 a barrel. This was up from the \$10 a barrel price in 1998. The Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel decided recently on a moderate increase in production with a target price of \$25 per barrel. Hope is that with increased production by OPEC, prices could begin to drop in a few weeks.

New regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency have also had a hand in higher gas prices. On June 1, the EPA required cities with the worst ozone pollution to begin using a reformulated gasoline that costs more to produce. Even though the reformulated gas is only supposed to cost five cents more per gallon, refiners say blending problems have resulted in higher production costs.

WATER

From 1A

City officials feel everything will go as expected, but they are waiting until after the July 4th holiday to begin the tie-in effort, just in case there is a problem and parts have to be secured.

"We're on schedule," noted City Manager Jimmy Maney. "Everything should go according to plan and it should be in place by the weekend. By the following Monday the tank should be cleared and industries ready to start back up."

When the water is shut off at 6 o'clock Wednesday morning, the city will have 7 million gallons stored at its tank at Public Works. With all area industries shut down for the holiday, that should be plenty of water for residential use under normal circumstances. The city is asking residents to be conservative in case an emergency arises.

The contractor, Crowder Construction of Charlotte, has been busy for months laying the new pipe and preparing for taking the line under Muddy Fork Creek. The old line, which was constructed in the late 1960s, includes a 90-degree bend at Muddy Fork, and that has been the source of most of the line's breaks over the past several years. The bend will be elimi-

nated by the new line.

Engineer Al Moretz of Moretz Engineering, said water is pumped through the line at up to 180 pounds of pressure per square inch, and that bend has taken the brunt of the water pressure over the years. A recent water line analysis revealed that rest of the 24" inch line should serve the city well for another 15 to 20 years if properly maintained.

The city's long-range goal is to replace a section of approximately 3,000 feet each year for the next 10 years, thus creating a 36" main line to town and having the old 24" line as a back-up.

The city is planning to replace a section near the Public Works Department during the next fiscal year. Maney said bids should be awarded in September and construction could begin in mid-October. The project will cost about \$400,000.

"Eventually we will tie-in with the line coming from the Water Plant," he said.

When completed, Moretz said the new line would allow Kings Mountain to triple its water capacity if it expands its water plant.

"If we need to expand the water plant within some time frame, you couldn't get water to town with a 24-inch line," he said.

Kings Mountain Weather Report

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	June 21-27	Year Ago
Total precipitation	.15	.89
Max. one day	.15 (26th)	.50 (25th)
Year to date	23.98	20.38
Low temp.	64 (22nd)	63 (22nd)
High temp.	95 (21st)	88 (26th)
Avg. temp.	81.4	75.1

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