

Committee set to review the utilities extension ordinance

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

A review of the current utilities extension ordinance and developer rebates were the two dominant topics at the City of Kings Mountain's Utilities Committee meeting Monday at City Hall.

The committee voted unanimously to recommend to City Council at its June 26 meeting to reimburse Newton developer Wright & Associates at the current rate of 50 percent for utilities extension at its Crocker Road subdivision for phase three of the development.

While the committee will recommend funding for the Crocker Ridge phase, it will review its current utilities extension ordinance at its next meeting.

The third phase consists of 21 lots out of 106.

Robert Johnson, a representative of the Newton company, said the development will target entry level home buyers.

Part of the recommendation includes a review of the ordinance which is scheduled to take approximately 90 days.

Also in the recommendation, the city will not honor other commitments during the review phase.

The committee will discuss the review at its July meeting. Currently the city rebates the developer 50 percent for sidewalks, curbs, gutters, water and sewer. It also prorates that amount according to the houses built.

Other rebates include half of the total street costs.

Committee member Gene White said the city needs to stop issuing the rebates.

"It's time to put a stop to it," White said.

City Manager Jimmy Maney said the original thought behind the rebates was to create more activity but, the city could be losing money if it continues to fund them at the current rate.

"You can't continue to do these or you'll be broke," Maney said.

Maney said the city could possibly be paying \$1 to \$2 million a year if it continues to reimburse at its present rate.

Other cities offer rebates for some of the extension cost, but not all.

A sheet from the City of Kings Mountain's Planning office said Shelby will reimburse the developer half of the cost for stone and asphalt for streets, but for sidewalks, curbs and gutters the rebate varies by geography up to 100 percent.

Morganton reimburses 50 percent for curbs and gutter costs.

In other business • The committee heard a presentation from Global USA, the new Kings Mountain internet service provider.

Maney said he has talked with Dr. Deepak Gerlot about the city offering internet service through Global USA.

The issue will be studied further.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

These are some of the children waiting to be adopted in Cleveland County. To find out how you can adopt, foster or be a friend, come to the Families for Kids rally on Saturday, June 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the Cleveland Mall.

Families for kids Rally brings emphasis to the "invisible" ones

Adoption is a strong wish among the 12 children in Cleveland County.

There is an urgent need in Cleveland County for adoptive families foster families who will take teenagers and special friends who can spend regular time with a child in foster care.

Children awaiting adoption, for the most part, have remained invisible to the community and that is changing. Cleveland County Department of Social Services is about to launch its community awareness campaign, which features the faces and voices of the "waiting" children as well as foster and adoptive families from Cleveland County.

"The children don't want to remain silent and nameless," Kathy Kaylor, Social Work Supervisor for DSS. "More than anything they want a family. Their chances increase dramatically when they have the opportunity to be seen and heard."

The campaign titled "Anything is Possible With Love" will kick off with a Families for Kids Rally, Saturday, June 23 at 2 p.m. at Cleveland Mall in Shelby. One of the new programs to be introduced is the Friend's program. "We need supportive individuals and families to become special friends to some of our children in foster care," Kaylor said. "Some of these children would benefit greatly, from a special friend to talk or visit with on a regular basis."

"We are encouraging individuals and couples to come to the rally and learn about some of the children waiting to be adopted," Cleveland County DSS Director John Wasson said. "We will introduce our new video featuring some of our children waiting to be adopted and foster and adoptive families who are making a difference in their lives. We celebrate our foster and adoptive families

for the committed love they are giving our children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned and hope they will educate and inspire others from our community to do the same."

Rev. Charles Reed, Director of Community Services, Kings Mountain Baptist Association will host the rally. The rally will feature a local children's choir, Mark and Amy Dempsey, adoptive parents from the community, a personal story about being adopted by Angela Bell and her adoptive mother and the new video release.

"There is something everyone can do," Kaylor said. "If you can't foster or adopt, you can volunteer as a special friend to a child who is waiting. It takes all of us to raise our children." For more information, call

Cleveland County DSS during business hours at 704-487-0661, ext. 200, or during extended hours at ext. 210.

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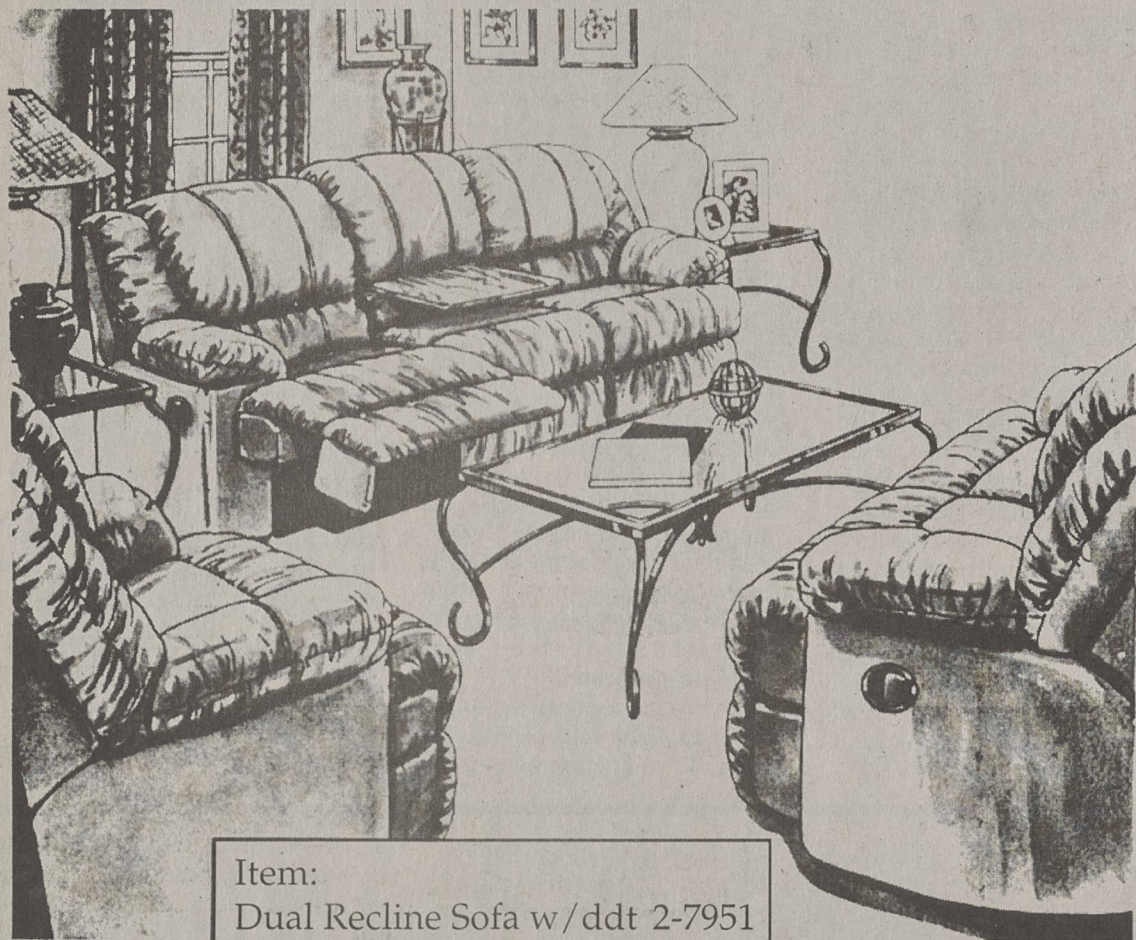
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Threath arrives for duty at Seymour

Air Force Airman 1st Class Tonya L. Threath has arrived for duty at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, NC.

Threath is an operations manager with the 4th Civil Engineer Squadron. She is the daughter of Allan M. and stepdaughter of Ann M. Foisey of Grover.

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