

Ponder attends Council meeting

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

Before the City Council meeting on May 27, Kings Mountain will welcome its newest addition: recently hired city manager, Phil Ponder. A reception will be held at City Hall from 5-6:30 p.m.

"Everybody's welcome to come to welcome Phil to our city," said Mayor Rick Murphrey.

Ponder will officially take up the position of city manager during the meeting. Interim City Manager Jimmy Maney will officially enter into retirement.

In the meantime, Ponder is taking time to learn about the city. He was present at the City Council meeting Tuesday night to learn about current issues facing the city. Since he lives nearby, he has been able to meet with Maney and learn from him before taking over the position.

Ponder has 15 years of municipal experience already. He was the assistant county manager for Gaston County for three years and has served as the equipment services and transit administrator in Gastonia since October, 2001. Previously, he served as city manager of Mount Holly for seven years and as assistant city manager of Albemarle for five years. He is a

graduate of High Point College and University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he earned his MPA degree.

Maney announced his retirement in December and agreed to stay on as interim city manager until his replacement could be found. After several months of taking and review applications and interviewing candidates, the City Council announced its decision to hire Ponder on April 16.

In other business, the City Council:

--rejected the bids for the public works generator, which were received on Tuesday, April 1, due to the grant money not being available until after July.

--approved a budget amendment for Mauney Memorial Library to appropriate \$13,375 for library designated funds to cover expenditures in supplies, purchasing card charges, and books and materials. The money came out of the general fund and the current year revenues.

--approved a budget amendment for gas system improvements at the I-85/161 interchange.

--accepted the certification of sufficiency and approved a resolution fixing a date of a public hearing for

May 27, at 7 p.m. on the question of annexation regarding a voluntary non-contiguous annexation petition as received by the Kings Mountain District Schools.

--approved a resolution of support for sustainable environment for quality of life.

--set the date of May 27, at 7 p.m., for a public hearing on a request from Ronnie Whetstone to rezone property at 1549 North Piedmont from Residential R-20 to General Business.

--approved a resolution by the City of Kings Mountain as required by the North Carolina Rural Center for the release of funds.

--set the date of June 24, at 7 p.m., for a public hearing regarding the Municipal Service District.

--set the date of May 27, at 7 p.m., for a public hearing to discuss the proposed budget for the City of Kings Mountain for Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

--approved a request from Kings Mountain Country Club to buy water at a bulk rate for four months at a cost of \$5,000 to irrigate the fairway.

--recognized two employees, Lori Hall and Tripp Hord, for their recent completion of educational programs.

--encouraged citizens to come and

sign the "Support Our Troops" banner, which is going to be in City Hall for another week before it is sent to Iraq.

--voted to send the request from Yancey E. Sturgeon to rezone the property located at 1361 Center Street from Residential R-10 to Heavy Industrial back to the planning and zoning board for further discussion.

--adopted an ordinance to accept the request of Paul R. Suman to rezone the property located at 125 Wild Horse Lane from Residential R-10 to Conditional Use Residential R-20.

--adopted a resolution to enter into a non-annexation agreement between the City of Kings Mountain and the City of Gastonia, an agreement which was actually part of the renegotiated Crowder's Creek contract.

--adopted a resolution approving the revised engineering for the preliminary plan for Coman Estates Subdivision and the extension of the water, sewer, and streets.

--appointed a city representative to fill the unexpired term of Dwight Dixon, who moved out of town, on the Moss Lake Advisory Commission.

DEATHS

DON SALDO

GROVER - Don Saldo, 59, 1128 Cleveland Avenue, died April 28, 2003 at his home.

A native of Dorchester County, MA, he was the son of the late Theodore Arthur and Frances Rakofski Saldo. He was a machinist and attended First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Weathers Saldo of Grover; sons, Chris Saldo and wife Lisa and David Saldo and wife Wendy, all of Grover, and Terry Saldo and wife Christy of Kings Mountain; daughters, Donna Thompson of Kings Mountain and Nancy Loveday of Shelby; two brothers, one sister and nine grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted by Dr. Tony Fulbright at 3 p.m. Wednesday at First Baptist Church. Interment was in Grover Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 237, Grover, NC 28073.

Harris Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

BOB KINGERY

SHELBY - Robert Andrew "Bob" Kingery, 77, 605 Peach Street, died April 27, 2003 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Chicago, IL, he was the son of the late Harry Heil Kingery and Clotilda Ginter Kingery. He was also preceded in death by an infant twin sister and infant baby brother.

He was a sales representative and branch manager for Alcan Aluminum and sales engineer for Batchelder Blasius. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois in Champaign, where he received a B.S. degree in Business Administration and was a member of Delta Chi Fraternity.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during World War II and in the Korean Conflict. He was awarded the Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon with one Bronze Battle Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Battle Star and two Overseas Service Bars. He retired in the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

He was a 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He was past president of the Kings Mountain Rotary Club.

He was a member of Saint Mary's Catholic Church.

He is survived by his wife of 51 1/2 years, Joan Murray Kingery; daughter, Pamela Kingery Peters of Cary; son William Kingery of Newberry, SC; and sister-in-law, Nomi Murray MacKimm of Shelby.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Saint Mary's Catholic Church. A rosary was held Tuesday at 6:30 at Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home with Father Eric Houscknecht officiating.

Memorials may be made to the National Parkinsons Foundation, 1501 N.w. 9th Ave., Bob Hope Road, Miami, FL 33131.

Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Tourism Development Authority meets

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain Tourism Development Authority met Tuesday afternoon.

The next deadline for applications for a tourism grant is June 30. The earliest the grants will be awarded is July 15, although the grant period runs from July 1 to December 31. Applications are currently available. For more information, contact Shirley Brutko or Tim Waters at the Chamber office at 704-739-4755.

Several members of the Kings Mountain Tourism Development Authority attended the governor's conference earlier this month. Shirley Brutko, who attended the conference, said she

learned about agro-tourism and thinks there is more that Kings Mountain can do to promote projects like Kildeer Farms and the Corn Maze.

The committee discussed a possible website for the city. Tim Waters, president of the group, said that the city could be integrated into a larger county website, which would lower the cost for the city. The Chamber of Commerce and the hospital have already expressed an interest in becoming part of a county website.

Ellis Noell, special events director for the city, has had

a logo designed for use on city-related pamphlets instead of the city seal. The group will discuss the logo more in the future.

Donna Williams, a member of the tourism development authority, suggested perhaps putting a campground on one of the city's lakes. The Moss Lake campground is out of the way for many people, so maybe a campground nearer to the freeway would be more convenient, she said.

Approximately 10-12 sites and a bath house would be enough at first. One

employee and seasonal hours would be sufficient to run the campground.

"Everyone's asking for it," said Brutko. "People will walk up to me in town and say, 'Why don't we have a campground? When are we going to get one?'"

Councilman Carl DeVane said the city has explored the idea of having a campground in the past and found that a lot of liability concerns for the city exist. He suggested exploring a professional franchise, like KOA, for the area.

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IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 3 YEAR OLDS AND 4 YEAR OLDS FOR THE 2003-2004 SCHOOL YEAR. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE PRESCHOOL AT 704-739-4917

I-85/161 bridge to be replaced

BY ABIGAIL WOLFORD
Staff Writer
The North Carolina

Department of Transportation is considering awarding a highway improvement contract to replace the bridge located on NC 161 at I-85.

The bridge replacement in Kings Mountain is just one part of a larger project, which includes work in six different counties. The project will replace bridges in Boone and Holly Spring, as well. In addition to the bridges, the project will also

involve widening part of NC 191 north of the Blue Ridge Parkway, resurfacing a stretch of US 70 in Swannanoa, and resurfacing sections of US 25, US 64, Grove Street, and Main Street in Hendersonville.

The biggest part of the contract is a \$66.6 million contract for widening part of the I-85 Durham Bypass to eight lanes. The contract is the final part of the of the project that began in 1993

with the widening of the bypass from the Orange County line to the US 70 bypass at Cheek Road, east of Durham.

The transportation board will meet today to discuss the contracts, which total \$94 million. Board members meet at 9 a.m. in room 150 of the transportation building at the corner of Wilmington and Morgan Streets in downtown Raleigh.

Benefit planned for Buchanans

A benefit professional wrestling match is scheduled for Friday, May 16 at the Kings Mountain National Guard Armory.

All proceeds from ticket and concession sales will go to Tim and Carol Buchanan, who are expecting quadruplets.

Admission is \$8 at the door or \$6 in advance, or a donation of one bag of diapers per person. Advance tickets are available at Cash Pro in Kings Mountain or by calling 747-3068.

Matches include a ladder match between The Handsome Stranger and Jailbird, a rematch for the Foothills Championship Wrestling world title between Chad Colt and Thunder, and a main event Bunkhouse Stampede battle royal.

Our Restaurant serves delicious meals! I get great food and good company with my friends here (at the Summit).
And the parties...oh, those parties!
-Summit Resident Mae Sue McGill

Everyone is invited to attend our special events.
Calendar of Events for May 2003
RSVP to 704-739-6772

May 4
Promised Land Gospel Group 2:30pm
May 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, 26, 29
Bingo 2:30pm
May 6, 13, 20, 27
Computer Class 2:30pm
May 15
Happy Hoofers Dance Group 2:30pm

704-739-6772
kristia@carolina.rr.com
1001 Phifer Rd.
Kings Mountain, NC 28080
Across from Kings Mtn. Middle School

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