

# COUNCIL

From 1A

"I will not vote for Stewart and Cooper. That's the reason I'm taking it off the agenda," he said.

Guyton cast the lone dissenting vote when the matter came up as an individual agenda item.

The Rotary Club has pledged that it will sponsor those improvements as part of the club's centennial project.

Johnnie Bynum asked council to reopen Groves Street because she wants to sell property there for development. Barricades were placed there approximately two years ago due to alleged criminal activity.

The street was never officially closed, therefore,

reopening it would not require a vote by council. However council did vote to have it reopened if the police chief and city manager would approve the matter after an inspection.

Council members unanimously appointed Kathy Anderson from the Kings Mountain Comfort Inn to the Tourism Development Authority.

Council unanimously approved an ordinance which would allow new employees to participate in the retirement plan after one month instead of six.

Unanimous approval was given for an industrial incentive grant to Commonwealth Tube Enterprises.

City Planner Steve Killian asked council to approve a \$3,500 budget amendment

to pay a consultant to analyze providing sewer services to Westover residents. The consultant would also give an opinion on the competitiveness of a CDBG grant application for that project.

Gene White questioned what the economic impact would be if Spectrum Dyed Yarns moved a portion of its operation to Central America. Mayor Rick Murphrey who is a vice-president at that company replied "I don't think I would down my largest customer."

The textile company is the city's largest water customer.

The council recognized librarian Rose Turner who is retiring after 20 years. During her tenure the library gained 41,000 books.

Circulation went from 27,000 in 1983 to 79,000 this year. Visits jumped from 16,000 in 1983 to 30,000 this year and the children's program grew from 76 programs serving 687 children to 833 programs this year serving 5,901 children.

Out going council members were given a chance to make remarks.

Dean Spears apologized to council members he may have offended over the years or recently. During last month's meeting Spears told Gene White that his comments on the Cleveland County Economic Development Commission were stupid.

During White's comments he said that the two had "shaken hands. We're friends."

# TESTA

From 1A

members on the cases against Johnson and several other video poker operators in a closed session during Tuesday night's council meeting. All Corry would say publicly is that the city negotiated with Johnson and other video poker operators that day and hoped to reach an agreement Wednesday morning. No information was available at press time.

During Monday night's board of adjustment meeting, two major issues threatened to keep Testa from obtaining a conditional use permit for his Kings Mountain Truck Plaza. A portion of the parking lot is less than 200 feet from a private residence and a business across the road, within 200 feet, allegedly operates video poker machines.

Testa agreed to fence in the offending portion of his parking lot, using it exclusively for trailer storage.

The board ordered Testa not to operate his video poker machines until the lot was built.

The approval of Testa's permit will keep any business within 200 feet from obtaining a permit to legally operate the machines.

In other business, video poker operator Ken Hamrick's conditional use permit was held over until the January 20 meeting. Hamrick was unable to

attend because he had been in an automobile accident earlier that day, said Don Young who appeared on his behalf.

Hamrick operated three video poker machines legally at the Silver Villa until he missed the annual reapplication deadline for the conditional use permit. Instead of applying for a renewal, board members required him to go through the initial application process again.

Board members told Young that Hamrick is violating the law if he is currently operating the machines. Young said this would cause a financial hardship for Hamrick.

"They're operating outside the ordinance. If he can't operate inside the ordinance, I'm not sure we can approve them. I'm speaking for myself," board member Ron Humphries said.

"Tell him to unplug the machines," Kelly said.

Builder Tommy Hall's request for a variance to build within setbacks was continued until the January meeting so more information could be obtained.

Clarence and Mary Philbeck's request for a variance allowing them to build a carport was also continued.

Humphries was up for reappointment to the board of adjustment but did not get the needed majority of votes during Tuesday night's council meeting. Jim Childers was appointed to that board.

# ALCOHOL

From 1A

Spears declined to comment.

While the official agenda for Tuesday night's meeting was not released until after press time last week, both White and incoming councilman Jerry Mullinax made it public early last week. The item was placed on the agenda before the swearing in of the new board.

Mullinax spoke out against both changing the

ordinance and placing it on the agenda before the new board was sworn. He circulated a letter to area churches informing them of the upcoming vote.

During Tuesday night's council meeting, Jane Martin and Pastor Eddie Gray spoke against changing the ordinance to allow alcohol. Gray told the council that alcohol can ruin lives. He also said that Kings Mountain did not need to try to be like Charlotte.

Serving alcohol in public buildings first became an

issue during a Veteran's Day reception at the Kings Mountain Historical Museum Nov. 11. The building is owned by the city and leased to the museum. Alcohol was served at the reception which was co-sponsored by the city and the museum.

Guyton reported the serving of alcohol to Kings Mountain Police who directed the matter to city attorney Mickey Corry. Corry told officials that the city ordinance forbidding alcohol consumption applied to

all leased buildings. Museum officials said they were not aware of the ordinance.

The City of Shelby does not allow alcohol to be served on any of its properties. The City of Gastonia only allows alcohol to be served at Sims Park and the Schiele Museum. While Cleveland County does not have a written policy, it is understood that alcohol is not permitted on its properties, according to the county manager.

# GASTON

From 1A

district transfer, that transfer is valid for the length of time a student is at his or her school. Students must reapply when they progress to the next level of school. Gaston County approves transfers for one academic year at a time.

Gaston County Superintendent Ed Sadler said his board has not dis-

cussed the issue yet.

"Our board would be pleased to have dialogue with Cleveland County people when we get to that point," Sadler said.

The Department of Justice could make that decision for the local boards, Sadler said.

The Department of Justice is currently reviewing the merger proposal to decide if it is in compliance with federal Voting Rights Act requirements. Their decision

is expected by Jan. 11 or 12.

Kings Mountain District Schools board member Michael Smith said he would endorse Gaston County students continuing to attend their current schools regardless of what the boards decide. He called this a "sit in" and acknowledged that it would be illegal but looked to the Civil Rights era as a precedent.

Smith said he would like local leaders to take a more

vocal role opposing the merger. If the merger does take place, Smith said Gaston County should either move its county line outside Kings Mountain city limits or the portion of Kings Mountain inside Gaston's lines should be de-annexed from the town.

Smith said the merger would create complicated funding issues regarding what school services the city now funds.

# LUMINARY

From 1A

Although the luminary project is spearheaded by James Belt Ministries, Belt said it is a "community project that couldn't be done without the people of Kings Mountain, and some from out of town."

Belt said one volunteer comes all the way from Myrtle Beach, SC each year to help light luminaries.

Approximately 20 boy scouts from First United Methodist Church in Gastonia also volunteer as a community project. A lot of corporate sponsors have joined the effort, also.

Although Belt, Tonya Jackson and Andi Brown were busy this week putting out the first of the luminaries, he said more milk jugs are needed and urges citizens to drop them off at containers at Harris Teeter and Greenskeeper, both located on East King Street.

Members of the volunteer team invented a jug cutter for this year so jugs don't have to be cut by hand. The cutter is a motorized wheel with razor blades and a jig to guide the jug. It cuts about 50 jugs in three minutes.

Motorists viewing the display will enter and leave the cemetery at the King Street gate beside the cemetery business office. Kings Mountain Police will be directing traffic.

Admission is free but donations will be accepted to help defray expenses.

"We're trying to make it bigger and better," said Belt, "but at the same time we want to have time to do it right. You're looking at about four weeks of work to make this a success."

"It's inspirational," he said. "People have different stories to tell every year about what it means to them, and that's really what it's all about."

# TRAILS

From 1A

The central trail will run near N.C. 161 leaving town and then veering west around City and Davidson lakes. The western trail will run a similar route. Both of these trails would connect with what is now called the Ridgeline Trail.

The Ridgeline connects Crowders Mountain to the two Kings Mountain parks. One mile of the seven-mile trail has been completed. Construction started in the fall.

"We're real excited about ya'll wanting to link up with us," said Joe Sox, superintendent of Crowders Mountain.

How to get trail users

across Interstate 85 was an initial stumbling block though it appears to be resolved. The Foote Mineral Bridge may be used. Also, a pedestrian crossing is planned for the proposed NC 161 intersection.

The city owns some of the land where the proposed trail would run. Other major parcels are owned by the Boy Scouts, Foote Mineral and the Martin Marietta company.

There are a few private land owners along the proposed route as well. Early indications are that land owners are open to discussing granting trail easements, according to Tripp Hord of the City of Kings Mountain. If cooperation cannot be secured, the trail will be re-routed. No land will be claimed by right of

eminent domain, Hord said Thursday night.

Trail easements could be used to keep the land in the owner's possession while granting public access. This could include property tax and other incentives for land holders.

Ron Altman, director of the Catawba Lands Conservancy, gave a presentation on conservation easements which are similar to trail easements. He recommended trail planners try to secure easement adjacent to the trail to keep the view scenic.

Bill Lane of the National Park Service asked for pub-

lic input on whether the trail should be paved or left natural and whether it should accommodate cyclists in addition to hikers.

"We want feedback from the public," Lane said.

The city opened a 1.1 mile historical trail Thursday afternoon. It begins at the Barber Cabin and winds through downtown and the Central School district. Organizers have applied to the Kings Mountain Trail and Tourism Authority for grants to fund the signs. This trail is considered the beginning of the Gateway Trail. Maps are available in the city planning office.

# KM WEATHER REPORT

(Compiled by Kenneth Kitzmiller)

	Dec. 10-16	Year Ago
Total precipitation	2.13	.93
Maximum one day	1.00 (10th)	.79 (10th)
Month to date	2.72	3.13
Year to date	84.38	44.31
Low temperature	28 (11th)	26 (14th)
High temperature	59 (10th)	65 (16th)
Average temperature	40.6	42.2

**Early Advertising Deadlines for Christmas**

Due to the Christmas holiday, there will be early deadlines for advertisements running the week of December 24 & 25. Classified display and line ads for all papers (Belmont Banner, Mount Holly News, Cherryville Eagle, Bessemer City Record and Kings Mountain Herald) are due by 12 noon Friday, December 19. Classified ads running only in the Cherryville Eagle, Bessemer City Record and Kings Mountain Herald are due Monday, December 22 by noon. Regular display ads for all papers are deadline Friday, December 19 by 4pm. Ads only running in the Cherryville Eagle, Bessemer City Record and Kings Mountain Herald are deadline at 4pm Monday, December 22.

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