

City council hears more casino talk

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The Kings Mountain City Council met Tuesday to approve a handful of infrastructure measures, schedule a public hearing on a possible zoning change and tweak a five-year capital improvements program.

But before the council's regular business could get under way it heard from a number of citizens opposed to a proposed Catawba Indian casino.

"The jobs won't be worth it," said Grover resident Tim Stalcup. "Jobs are paid for by millions in gambling losses."

Stalcup was joined by half a dozen others who directly questioned the city council's and the mayor's judgment in throwing their support behind a proposed casino. The city council last year signed an open letter of support for the project. At-large council member Keith Miller has said he is opposed to the casino and has appeared at every meeting of the Kings Mountain Awareness Group, a local organization that has sought to raise awareness about what it sees as the negative impact of a regional casino in Kings Mountain.

As has happened at previous council meetings, many of those took to the

podium to make a plea to the council to rescind its support of the development.

"A casino is like a drug," said Johnathan Coffee, of Shelby, who said that gambling leads people to resort to embezzlement and other crimes. "I ask you - how can that be good for this community?"

The Catawba Indian tribe's application to put land near the Dixon School Rd. I-85 exit is pending with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In its regular business, the council authorized awarding a bid for engineering services for the Stormwater System Mapping Project to Joel E. Wood and Associates. Following a July 26 bid conference, Joel E. Wood Associates was picked over four other firms.

The council also authorized awarding a \$299,600 contract to Katalyst for Data Center Infrastructure that will "virtualize, centralize and update servers". And it adopted a resolution awarding financing for Data Center Infrastructure updates to city servers to BB&T in the amount of \$299,600 with an interest rate of 1.85 percent with a financing term of five years.

The panel moved to schedule a public hearing during the Sept. 30 city council meeting for zoning



Mayor Rick Murphrey, at right, presents Sharon Eaker with a plaque recognizing her 25 years of service with the City of Kings Mountain.

ordinance text amendment. It adopted a resolution to amend the 2013-2018 Fiscal Years Capital Improvements Program for additional sewer project. Scheduled a public hearing during the Sept. 30 city council meeting to discuss changing the zoning designation for a property located north of the intersection of Shelby Rd. and Countryside Rd. The city is considering changing the zoning from Residential to Light Industrial. Stanley and Dorothy Joyner have asked the city to consider rezoning the property, which sits on 9.04 acres.

The council also voted to spend \$27,378 to install security cameras at Mayor Rick Murphrey Children Park and Patriots Park. Council members wished

fellow councilman Howard Shipp a happy birthday (Wednesday).

Mayor Rick Murphrey congratulated American Legion Riders and their fundraising efforts. He also declared Aug. 21 American Legion Riders Day in Kings Mountain.

The city is looking ahead to a Patriot Day service at City Hall on Thursday, Sept. 11. A month later, on Oct. 11, the city will play host to the Gateway Festival, a day-long fall festival that celebrates Kings Mountain being designated by the National Park Service as the "Gateway City" to all three area parks.

Four city employees were recognized for their long service at Tuesday's meeting. Sharon Eaker, ad-



Mayor Rick Murphrey, at right, presents Willie Inman with a plaque recognizing his 25 years of service with the City of Kings Mountain.



Mayor Rick Murphrey, at right, presents Beverly Moschler with a plaque recognizing her 25 years of service with the City of Kings Mountain.

ministrative assistant with the Department of Aging, has worked for the city for 25 years. Willie Inman, an equipment operator, is a 25-year veteran. Beverly

Moschler, the city's Finance Director, also has 25 years. William Sipe, an auto mechanic crew leader who was not in attendance, was recognized for his 15 years.

Free on Three: Trike festival comes to KM



N.C. Brotherhood of the Third Wheel president Jim Annon stands next to one of many trikes he's built. Photos by Dave Blanton



Don Embler of Thomasville navigates blindfolded through a bucket-dragging contest on Saturday at the East Coast Trike-In.

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All manner of funky three-wheeled vehicles were streaming over area roads this weekend for the East Coast Trike-In, held at Hound's Campground on S. Battleground Ave.

Trike enthusiasts traveled from as far away as Florida and Kentucky to catch a glimpse of what their fellow road warriors had built and modified in the last year. A trike is any three wheeled street-legal vehicle. They are often modified from motorcycles, but can be built by hand. They often use air-cooled VW engines, but many have been built around the engines of other compact and full-size cars. The number of variations is

nearly infinite. Saturday's judging including 14 classes of trikes.

The event was sponsored by the N.C. Brotherhood of the Third Wheel, a group that boasts about 100 members. Participants rolled into town on Friday - many using campers and other kinds of RV for their extended stay in Kings Mountain. Saturday featured a morning parade through downtown Kings Mountain, a judged trike show, awards, games and raffles.

For Jim Annon, who is the president of N.C. Brotherhood of the Third Wheel and a Kings Mountain resident, trikes are mostly all about fun and ingenuity. He uses a stock Volkswagen drive train to power his black two-seater, which has

a long extended Harley Davidson front fork. But there's another reason he favors trikes over their two-wheeled brethren.

"My wife is scared to death of motorcycles," Annon said, adding that his trike gets every bit of 40 miles to the gallon. "But on this thing, she'll ride for hours."

Traveling to Kings Mountain from haul Newberry, S.C., was no big for E.L. Smith, who said he drives his monster trike all over the southeast and has logged tens of thousands of miles along the ribbons of

interstate that run through the region. Smith was the owner of the most high-powered trike at the weekend gathering. He built his 12-foot long trike around a huge 582 horsepower Mopar engine.

"It's different," said Smith while sitting comfortably in his vehicle's broad front seat. He says he can't brag on the gas mileage, though. His "Lightning Trike" only gets about 10 mpg.

While some of the trikes were small and minimalist, others were the products of elaborate design dreams that

are aimed to catch the eye of others. Tim Nine said his "Roman Chariot" has been featured in magazines and newspapers all over the country. The front tire sits under the front two feet of a full-size carnival merry-go-round horse while the back end is bucket shaped and roomy like a chariot. The chariot-styled trike is powered by a 1993 Nissan 4-cylinder engine.

Whether they're stock trikes or vehicles modified over years, some of the rides on display at Hounds Campground over the weekend were works in progress.

"One day it's gonna be pretty," said Judy Bethel, who lives in Spartanburg, and said she's still putting the finishing touches on her trike, which for now she has nicknamed Ug. "But right now it's Ug."

Library, SASI partner up

Mauney Memorial Library and the Southern Arts Society are partnering this fall to present a trio of classes. Wednesday, September 10 - Turn Clay into Something Cool. Wednesday, October 8 - Get to Glazing. Wednesday, November 5 - Pickup Fired Piece and talk about what you learned. Classes will be held at the Southern Arts Society Depot from 5:30 until 7:30pm for each session. Students will need to commit to all three classes. Space is limited so contact the Mauney Memorial Library today to reserve your place. 704-739-2371 option 3.

JOHN BRIDGES

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