

■ CITY COUNCIL

Council approves \$900,000+ in capital projects

ELIZABETH STEWART
lib.kmherald@gmail.com

City Council approved spending over \$900,000 for capital projects, made application to the Local Government Commission to approve \$599,980 for the Moss Lake Spillway rehabilitation project and approved \$85,000 for storm

water improvements for a grand total of over \$1.5 million last Tuesday.

In a related action, the board awarded bid to Strickland Waterproofing in the amount of \$520,140 for the spillway project pending approval of the LGC.

City taxpayers will be paying for the \$34 million borrowed from the state re-

volving fund to fund major water system improvements, some of which are under way. A 7 1/2% water and sewer increase to utility customers began in 2013-14 and will continue for two more years.

Paving of streets that were impacted by the construction of new waterlines is under way and those funds come from the city's general fund, not from the water and sewer project funds.

The total cost of spillway repairs at city-owned Moss Lake is \$599,980, which includes construction repair and the engineering cost. The bid award was to BB&T Governmental Financing with an interest rate of 2.59%, contingent upon LGC approval. Sun Trust Equipment Financing & Leasing Corp., with a low bid of 1.64%, was awarded the bid for \$307,846.68, the cost of equipment for the electric department and storm water department.

City Manager Marilyn Sellers said that many projects in the storm water fund can be completed in-house at a lower cost with the proper equipment. The \$85,000 appropriated included \$47,520 for a dump

truck purchase, \$25,000 for upgrading the shed at Public Works for equipment to be stored and \$12,480 added to the Sharon Drive project. A 55-foot hydraulic articulating device will be purchased at cost of \$230,467 for the Electric department from Altec Industries, the low bidder.

In other actions, city council:

- + Recognized electric

employees Dean Causby and Chris Welch for completing all four levels of the lineman career development program and successfully passing their final exam to

See COUNCIL, 8A

White fears grouting pipes could be grave error

Retired city planning and economic development director Gene White asked city council to delay, even if the state approves, the grouting of pipes under the dam at Moss Lake because "it could be the gravest error committed since the dam was constructed in 1968-72."

He made the remarks during the citizen recognition portion of the Tuesday night meeting.

White said that if the pipe is grouted it would rule out forever any possible low level drawdown of the city-owned lake. Engineers have told city officials that the main source of a leak under the dam at Moss Lake is a valve in the end plate in the front toe of the dam and under 80 feet of water.

City council has approved \$175,000 to fix the leak by grouting the pipe full to eliminate the potential for water flow. White said the 60" pipe was lined and grouted in January 1983 due to damage in the original building of the dam. "The 560' pipe is in perfect

See MOSS LAKE, 8A

Debate continues on benefits, detriments of possible casino

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A standing-room-only crowd listened to 10 people, six who asked city council to withdraw support of a proposed Catawba Indian Nation resort/casino, two who stated support of the casino project, a former city department head who questioned how the city plans to stop a leak at Moss Lake dam, and a woman who wants support for bringing a Math Academy to Kings Mountain.

Each had three minutes on the agenda during the citizen recognition of the Sept. 30 regular meeting at city hall.

David Dear, former county manager and a leader

in the Cleveland County Development Partnership, thanked council for its vision and support of the Catawba Indian project. He told the board a substantial majority of Cleveland County citizens are in support of jobs this project will bring. "The decision is not yours, not locally or state, but rests with the Bureau of Internal Affairs in Washington, DC," he said. "Some are criticizing this project but we can't let it hamper us because of economic development that could bring to our area, not just money but potential businesses that could make Cleveland County home," he added.

Dear read excerpts from a Shelby Star editorial under date of Aug. 16, 2013,

"Casino, Hotel would create jobs, businesses" in which the Star editor voiced wholehearted support of efforts to land the project. He asked that the full text of the editorial be included in the minutes of the meeting.

The casino project could be a very significant source of tax revenue for all of Cleveland County, said Don Peeler, Shelby realtor who spoke in support of a commercial resort that would bring 4,000 jobs and a payroll invested in the local economy.

Naomi Toberson, 107 Sellars Road, Marie Jackson, 565 Lake Montonia Rd., Beauford Burton, 322 Margrace Road, all of Kings Mountain, Tim Stalcup, 145-1 Hicks Road, Grover, Karen and Noah Clarke, 35 Drewery St., Shelby, presented concerns they have about a casino coming to Kings Mountain.

Toberson said the city council has held 74 regular council meetings from July 2008 to August 2014, addressed 112 times by citizens, of which 36 citizens spoke about liquor license issues, another four were concerned about crime and drugs, and 34 have been concerned about the council's position on inviting a gambling casino to come to this area.

"In the course of the last six years, more than 66% of the times that citizens have addressed the council for any reason they have come to express their concern regarding businesses which make a profit by preying on citizens," she said.

"I believe it is a mockery for this council to proclaim our proud heritage as we celebrate the 234th anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain on one hand, while refusing to factually represent our citizens on the other hand." She continued, "You enthusiastically and emphatically express your strong support of the casino, please enthusiastically and emphatically express your strong support of the citizens of this community, rather than for an outside organization whose business model can only wreak havoc on the life, liberty and happiness of the citizens of this community."

Burton began his remarks by apologizing to council for previously questioning their Christianity.

"I do still question your understanding of what God expects from us when it comes to standing against evil in its many forms and particularly the proposed casino," he said, adding, "I have told you before that I've seen the damage casinos do and the way they do it, their methods are uncaring about downfall of the people they lure into addiction. A casino acquires money like a parasite lives by sucking value from an unwilling or unknowing host."

Stalcup said that all costs and profits are from the losses of other people. "Even when someone wins it doesn't create profit, it creates even more losses from the community. We are

See CASINO, 8A

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Kings Mountain City Hall, 101 West Gold Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086, or
Rep. Tim Moore, 305 East King Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. The deadline is no later than October 31st.