



# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR



VOL. 3 NO. 31

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 28096 THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1974

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## Hours Cut, Pay Raised In 'After-Meeting' Action

By JAY ASHLEY  
Mirror Staff Writer

A "meeting" after the meeting of the city board of commissioners Monday night resulted in some city employees working hours to be dropped from 44 hours per week to 40 hours.

It was also discovered by the Mirror that the board approved a \$15 per week expense check to be given Roscoe Wooten, superintendent of public works.

The board actions took place after the regular Monday night meeting had been adjourned.

The action to reduce working hours apparently came from a request by Wooten concerning city employees' vacations. In the regular meeting, Wooten asked the board to clarify the city's policy of granting vacation time. At the meeting, the board voted to give two weeks vacation to any employee with five or more years services with the city.

When Wooten made his request, he mentioned his men, in the public works department, were working 40 hours per week plus four hours Saturday morning.

When alerted to the change in hours, the Mirror spoke with Ward Two commissioner Lloyd Davis. Davis said after the meeting "we (the commissioners) just put our heads together and decided to quit the Saturday morning work. It was generally felt that by the time the workers got started on Saturday, it was almost time to quit." Commissioner Ray Cline left after the meeting was adjourned.

Davis was asked why the action was seemingly shrouded in mystery. The commissioner said, "it wasn't a secret. In fact the reporters were there, why weren't you?" This reporter, who attended the regular meeting told Davis, "the meeting had been adjourned."

After phone calls, it was discovered that at least three of the four newspapers represented were not present when the board made their decisions as Davis had stated.

Davis was then asked if the commission re-convened to which he said, "we just got together."

Ward Four commissioner Don McAbee was contacted Wednesday and said, "the board has been considering dropping the Saturday morning work for quite some time. The employees have been wanting a raise, so in effect we gave them one since they'll draw the same pay for 40 hours as they did for 44 hours."

As for the \$15 per week expense money for Wooten, McAbee said, "when Roscoe came to work for the city, the last board promised him

transportation to and from home (Wooten resides in Gastonia). Later the (city-owned) truck he was driving

was taken away from him and we felt he should have some expense money to operate his auto to and from Kings

Mountain." Roscoe Wooten was contacted about the matter and noted, "the commissioners

had talked with me about dropping the Saturday morning work and when the subject came up Monday, they decided to go ahead and drop it." Wooten confirmed the fact that he had been assured transportation to and from home and said the \$15 was to cover gas and car maintenance for his personal car.

The Mirror then called Joe McDaniel, city clerk, and asked if the actions of the board had been included in the minutes of the meeting. McDaniel said, "no. Personnel matters are not put into the minutes." When asked if the actions were made in violation of the opening meetings law of North Carolina, McDaniel said the city codes provided the hours could be changed with out an official meeting.

A check of the city codes revealed Article Five, sec. 2-94 outlines Hours of Work: "The standard work week of city employees shall be as determined by the mayor from time to time." Sec. 2-97

## In Old Winn-Dixie Site Downtown Merchants Committee Opposes Kingsmont Warehouse

The Kings Mountain Downtown Merchants Committee has gone on record opposing the sub-leasing of the old Winn-Dixie location, Cherokee St., by Kingsmont for use as a warehouse.

In a letter to the mayor and commissioners, William S. Fulton, chairman of the committee, pointed out to city officials the committee members "feel in as much as this is in violation of the zoning ordinance of Kings Mountain... and is in direct conflict with the Urban Renewal program and in no way adds to the

uplifting of the central business district, and in as much as we are asking the merchants to sacrifice to improve the central business district, we feel we must go on record opposing such a move."

The letter was signed by E. Wilson Griffin Jr., vice chairman; Larry D. Hamrick, secretary; Mrs. Sue Young, Odus D. Smith, John McGinnis and Charles Blanton, committee members.

The Cherokee St. Winn-Dixie building meets code standards and will remain, with minor repairs and

facilitating to fit into the overall renewal plans. However, under urban renewal plans the building cannot be used as a warehouse facility.

The regulations of this district are intended to permit the convenient performance of functions requiring a location near the transportation and population center of a large trade area and to provide the City of Kings Mountain with a compact and efficient retail shopping, consumer services, financial and governmental center.



Photo by Jay Ashley

DISPLAYS MAP - Chairman of the KM Lake Authority, Mayor John Moss explains the city's eight foot buffer zone between lake-front property owners and the waters of the Moss Reservoir. The mayor urged the lease committee to begin study rules and regulations regarding access to the water in the Authority's meeting Monday afternoon.

## KM Taxpayers Get Fee-Break At Lake

By JAY ASHLEY  
Mirror Staff Writer

Kings Mountain taxpayers will get a break when it comes to paying fees for activities at the John H. Moss Reservoir. The Kings Mountain Lake Authority approved the "break" for city dwellers when they adopted a proposed budget presented by committee chairman Henry Neisler.

"The budget committee," Neisler said, "felt the citizens should get some break

because, after all, they are paying for the lake." He continued, "all figures are estimates that can be changed. Since this is the first time we've had to draw a budget for the lake everything is merely estimates."

The budget offered is: Revenues (estimated income)-

- Annual boat fees- \$5,000
- Daily boat fees- \$7,500
- Annual fishing licenses- \$1,000
- Daily fishing licenses- \$1,000
- Pier and/or dock permits-

- \$1,250
- Ramps- \$250
- Water use leases- \$9,000
- Total- \$25,000
- Expenditures-
- Patrol boat- \$3,500
- One employee- \$7,500
- Legal fees- \$500
- Maintenance- \$2,000
- Uniform equipment- \$500
- Insurance- \$450
- Supplies- \$1,000
- Engineer services- \$1,500
- Telephone- \$100
- Electricity- \$350

(See KM p. 2A)

## Confrontation

### Heated Words Ended Meeting

By JAY ASHLEY  
Mirror Staff Writer

Three city commissioners held an impromptu "question and answer" session last week with city consulting engineer W.K. Dickson and the session ended abruptly when Commissioner Lloyd E. Davis accused Dickson of "being a helluva long way from being an engineer."

The comment came after Davis, M.C. Pruette and James Amos asked the engineer about matters "brought to our attention from several people."

Davis and Pruette said they "understood some equipment in the filter plant at the reservoir never has worked properly."

The meeting was held in the T.J. Ellison Filter Plant at the John H. Moss Reservoir last week. The occasion was switching the pumping facilities from diesel powered pumps to electric motor-driven pumps.

Davis and Pruette arrived at the lake site while the workmen were priming the pumps and Davis commented "this is the most wasteful thing for the taxpayers I've ever seen."

The Ward Two commissioner elaborated on his statement by noting, "if the city had extended one pipe another ten feet, we could have cut into the electrical power two or three weeks ago and saved on so much diesel fuel."

Davis said he had priced an extension for one pipe and said, "it would've cost \$480 to extend and we would have saved a lot of money since electricity is cheaper than diesel fuel." He noted the diesel fuel was 25.9 cents per gallon.

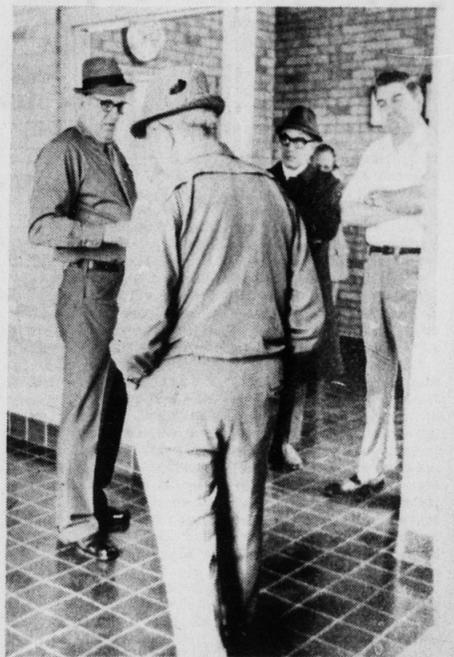
"Besides", Davis, a former superintendent at the filter

plant said, "those diesels are worn completely out. They've been at the bottom of the lake two times and there's no telling how much it has cost the taxpayers in time and money spent. I want to find out why we've been using these diesels in the first place. It would have been much more

economical to use electric motors."

Davis continued, "when I was working at the plant, me and George Moss (water department superintendent) priced two electric motors and pumps at \$6,000. I gave these figures to the mayor who in

(See HEATED p. 5A)



Photos by Jay Ashley

CONFRONTING ENGINEER - W.K. Dickson, consulting engineer for the city (back to camera) listens to questions fired at him by two of three city commissioners last Wednesday. Lloyd Davis (left), James Amos (wearing hat) and M.C. Pruette visited the plant and Dickson was queried about various equipment that Pruette said, "has apparently never worked properly."



THIS IS OFFICIAL SEAL - This reproduction of local original art work is the Kings Mountain Centennial Seal, created by Mrs. Raymond Holmes, 1003 Sherwood Ln., Kings Mountain. This seal will be used in all centennial commission correspondence, ads and booklets issued in conjunction with the city's 100th birthday celebration. For her winning seal design Mrs. Holmes has earned a \$25 savings bond. Second place winner was the Rev. Robert Allen, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, and third place went to Dee Dee Otere, Rt. 7, Shelby. \$10 and \$5 in cash went to second and third place winners. Also two reserved seats, each, to the historical spectacle to be staged at Gamble Stadium the first week in October.

## 'Blue Chip' Industry Giving City The Eye

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, The Mirror

Whether or not a \$25-million major metal working plant locates in Kings Mountain depends, to a large degree, on the community's desire to have the firm here.

The overall picture of available labor and locale will also figure greatly in the final decision. According to L.E. (Josh) Hinnant, chairman of the Mayor's Industrial Committee, advertisements offering persons in the area a confidential opportunity to apply for jobs at

the plant is already underway (see advertisement in Today's Mirror). The deadline is Sat., Apr. 13 for applications.

The "blue chip industry", which will remain unnamed until the company's officials make a final decision on locale, reportedly will employ 450 persons. One rumored location under study is near I-85 between Kings Mountain and Grover, however, Hinnant would not confirm this rumor.

Hinnant said the company is considering sites in other states at the same time. "The availability of labor, including persons experienced in

machinery and machinery operation and in the trades, as well as experienced personnel, will determine which site wins favor."

The industry plan includes wages and benefits to meet or exceed existing area standards and employment will be steady and year round in a new modern plant.

Hinnant said a great deal of work has gone into wooing the industry into considering Kings Mountain because it is the type of industry the area needs.

A final decision on location is expected within 30-40 days.

## Babe Ruth Tryouts Set

Youngsters ages 13-15 interested in playing Babe Ruth baseball this summer are urged to contact one of the league's coaches or the city recreation department.

Current plans include a seven-team league and, according to a league spokesman, if enough interest is shown a 13-year-old league will be organized.

Kings Mountain's Babe Ruthers won the state championship last summer and represented the state in the southeast regionals in Clearwater, Fla.