

KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

"Cleveland County's Modern Newsweekly"

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 28086, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1975

VOL. 86 NO. 9

Second Public Hearing Tonight

How Should The City Spend \$4,160,000?

By GARY STEWART
Staff Writer

The second public hearing giving citizens the chance to comment on how the city will spend \$4,160,000 in federal money will be held at 7:30 tonight in the city council room. Sixty citizens and city officials jammed the chambers last Thursday and a number of persons submitted ideas.

The city, because of its success with past federal grants, already has the money set aside but one of the requirements in receiving it is that the citizens be a part in planning how it will be spent. Mike Gouge, planner for the state Division of Community Assistance, was on hand to discuss the guidelines the city must follow, and noted those guidelines are:

- 1) The city must apply for the funds;
- 2) Citizens must be informed of what the programs are;
- 3) A community development summary must be made, showing a three year plan on how the community will improve itself;
- 4) A housing assistance plan must be provided;
- 5) A budget must be submitted.

Kings Mountain will receive its funds over a five-year period, receiving \$1,040,000 for each of the first three years, \$693,000 the fourth year and \$347,000 the fifth year. Gouge said the city must prepare summaries of its plans showing how much the programs will cost and where they'll be located. "And each year," he said,

"you will have to review your application, make new proposals or amendments, if necessary, and also justify that funds for programs implemented the first year have been implemented." Before citizens gave their ideas, Mayor John Moss, Redevelopment Commission director Gene White, Housing Authority committee chairman Tom Harper and recrea-

tion director Roy Pearson reviewed their programs which were originally developed under such funds as this and spoke of their needs for the future. All of their needs were presented by other citizens later, as well as new ideas. In order of their presentation, the citizens' ideas included: Local librarian, Mrs. Hazel

Fryar, requested funds to improve Mauney Memorial Library, noting that the library needs to be expanded, needs film strips, records, parking, carpeting and a room for the highly successful story hour program. "We cannot have a well-rounded city unless we think of the cultural side," she noted. Tommy Bridges, local auto

parts dealer, requested a share of the pot for planning and constructing an airport. He noted that federal and state governments would pay all but 16 and two-thirds percent of the planning costs and all but 12 and one-half percent of the construction costs. Bridges said the city's share for the planning would be only \$8,000. (Please Turn To Page 3A)

Senators To Vote No On ERA

Kings Mountain's two state senators will vote against passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Senators Ollie Harris and Billy Mauney have stated they are against passage of ERA when the issue comes to a vote in the General Assembly. Sen. Marshall Rauch of Gastonia said he will not comment on his stand at this time. Rauch supported the amendment in the last session.

"I've made up my mind," Harris said. "I'm going to vote against it. I would be in favor of a state-wide referendum on it but my mail has been run against it."

"I think it would do more damage than good," Harris continued. "For example, what would you do about foster children?"

Mauney said, "I voted against it last session, so to be consistent I guess I'll vote against it again. I believe it will interfere with state laws that protect women."

"A man is required to support his wife and children," he continued. "If that law passes, men will just leave their families. I believe in the obligation of a man to support his wife and family. I don't believe in giving him a license to walk away."

ERA has been ratified by 34 states. Only four more are required before the amendment becomes law.

YM Schools To Aid In Recreation

The board of education at its monthly meeting Thursday agreed to lend use of school recreation facilities for county-wide recreation.

Capt. Don Jones, a member of the Cleveland County Association of Government Officials (CAGO), said his group recently completed a survey on possible available facilities and they need our cooperation.

The group's goal is to obtain government money to fund a county-wide program concentrating on summer activities. It's a waste to have facilities and not get full use out of them," commented board chairman George Mauney.

In other action, the board approved a curriculum extension program for Central school so its students can see "worthwhile movies" at Joy Centre.

Set March 14 as the date for dedication ceremonies at N. Barnes Auditorium.

Turned down a request by S. A. Mauney estate to sell lots across from Central school to the school system.

Was informed that the school will receive 22 percent of the federal funds available to the county through Title 1. The school will receive 27 percent of the county 51.

Appointed James Scruggs, June Lee and Jim Harbro to a committee to take recommendations on tender changes for next year. Bill Bates is committee chairman.

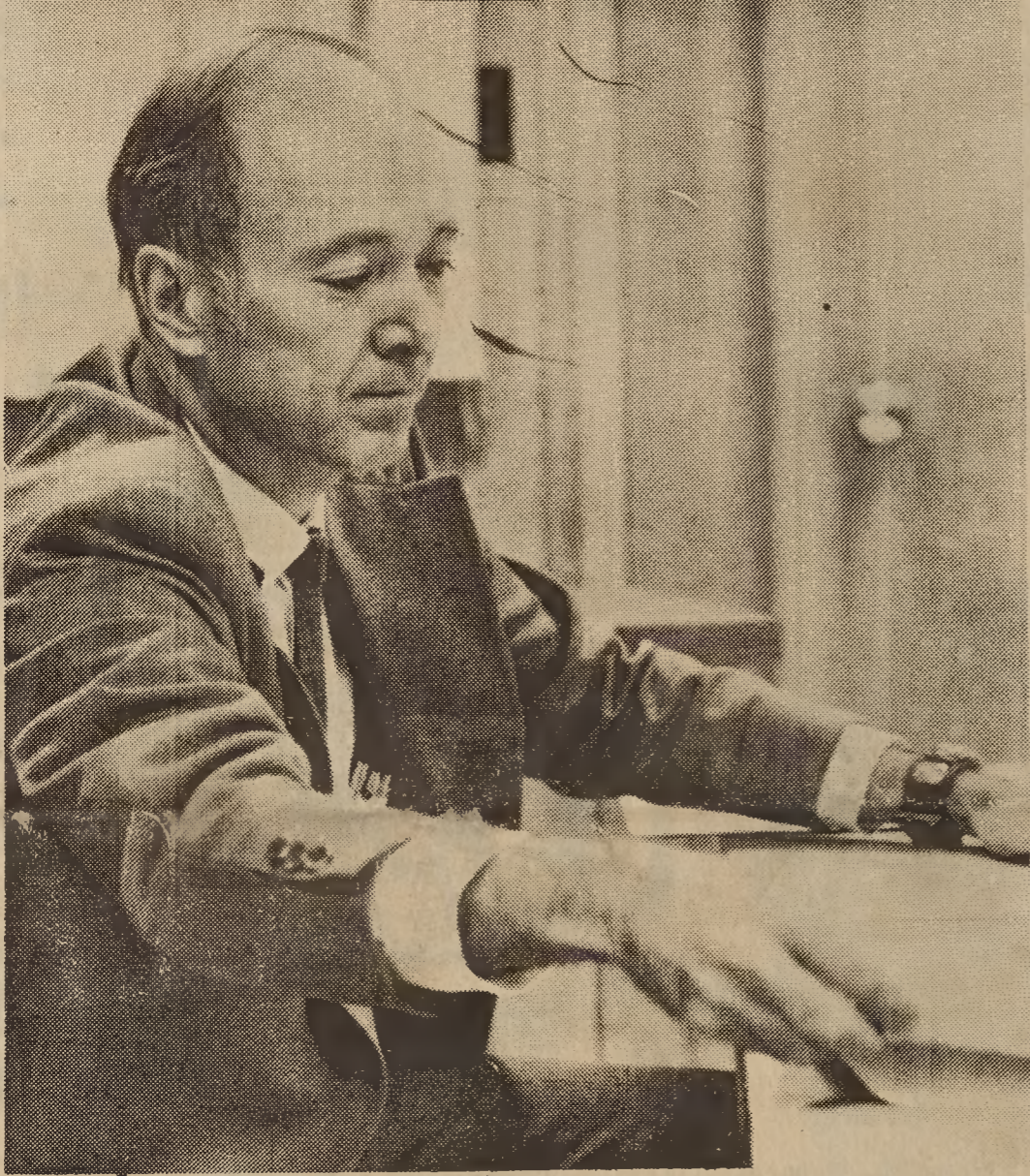


Photo By Tom McIntyre

FINALIZING REPORT- Dr. Frank Sincov, chairman of the water rate utility committee, and his group met for the last time Tuesday night to smooth out their recommendations on water fee rates which will be submitted to the commissioners Mar. 24.

Water Rate Studiers Ready To Present Recommendations

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The Mayor's Water Rate Utility Committee will present its findings and recommendations to city commissioners Mon., Mar. 24.

Nine specific recommendations for council consideration include:

(1) That the special committee approach be applied to future differences of opinion and that such committees investigate in depth matters for the city council.

(2) That the city continue to realize that industrial growth and good relations with industry are essential for city growth and welfare, and that industry also be aware of this

concern, and of its responsibilities to the community in which it is allowed to prosper.

(3) That budgets in sewage treatment and water production-distribution departments be separated. Recommendation applies only to accounting procedures and not to administration. This recommendation was previously made Oct. 4, 1974 by Fox and Ritter, Inc., city engineers. It is recommended this separation begin in fiscal 1975-76.

(4) That the water rate (which now also includes sewer charges) be altered as per a graduating table designed by the study committee. These charges essentially reduce the surcharge to large

water users and create a new rate for water users in excess of one million gallons per month without increasing rates.

The recommended table breaks from 50 percent to 20 percent surcharge at 40,000 gallons. The table includes a new rate of .32 cents per thousand gallons for all over one million gallons used in a single month.

It is pointed out that these steps will reduce water income by approximately 18 percent and committee makes no recommendations for replacing such lost revenue. It is possible this loss can be partially recouped when water production increases as the city sells water in quantity to Cleveland County, Bessemer City, or even to other sources.

The report notes that even if the 18 percent loss is not recovered, water has still been the highest percentage return utility (considering operating profit only). The new rates would mean reduced water profits, but there is no reason that water profit should be as high as it has been in the past, the report states. It is also noted that items, such as additional employees in water and sewer departments, have not been affected and perhaps this reduction will not actually represent a loss in dollars to the city.

(5) That the new rates be kept stable, at least until the new budget is adopted, and at that time be re-evaluated. If (Please Turn To Page 2A)

Council To Study Massage Parlor Act

The city commission will probably adopt an ordinance dealing with masseurs, massage parlors, health salons and clubs at its Mar. 10 meeting.

City Attorney Jack White was instructed to proceed with legal advertisement creating such an ordinance at the special Monday night meeting.

Similar ordinances are being considered by area cities, said Mayor John Henry Moss. It would be the board's duty to set the fees and to approve and revoke a license and to direct the Chief of Police to inspect the premises of any health spas, etc. and make recommendation to the city board. If the Chief recommends a license be denied, within 10 days the applicant would be allowed an open hearing before the city commission.

"It's a pretty tight ordinance," explained Attorney White who noted that among the provisions are that an applicant for a license not have been convicted of any crime, show proof of good, moral character and furnish a health certificate from a doctor for himself and all his employees, all of whose names and health certificates must be approved by the Chief of Police.

Hours of operation would be restricted from 8 a. m. until 10 p. m. and treatment of persons by members of the opposite sex and use of the facilities by persons under 18 years of age would be restricted without a written order and use of the facilities by persons under 18 years of age would be restricted without a written order directing such treatment by a licensed physician.

The ordinance would also govern operation of spas within the city.

"This ordinance would throw the duty on the Chief of Police to make strict inspections before and after any licenses would be granted", said White.

In other major business of the board, City Clerk Joe McDaniel was instructed to forward check for \$1,739.75 to

the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources in payment of a fine taxed the city in connection with a fish kill on Buffalo Creek last September.

"It hurts us all to pay fines", said the Mayor, "and we regret this happened," as he reviewed for the board a letter from Lewis R. Martin which detailed the incident.

The Mayor said a city employee working below the dam of the John H. Moss Lake dropped a ladder which permitted a flow of alum into Buffalo Creek. The fine included costs of the investigation and replacing the fish.

"We all realize", said the Mayor, "that the Department of Economic Resources is charged with the responsibility to protect our streams and wildlife of our state. I'm sure we would want them to be as diligent in protecting our water supply also."

Comm. Jim Amos requested that the mayor ask for a rebate of the fine, if at all possible, but later withdrew his recommendation.

The vote to pay the fine was unanimous.

The board also voted to let bids on a total of 18,770.1 feet

City's Tax Use Share \$35,923.34

Based on per capita distribution, Kings Mountain will receive \$34,407.78 as its share of Cleveland County sales and use tax.

In addition, according to the report for the quarter which ended Dec. 31, 1974, the city will receive an additional \$1,516.16 from Gaston County for the 490 KM citizens residing in the Gaston section of the city.

Grover's share totals \$2,181.58.

Cleveland County \$407,152.29 for distribution county-wide.

Final Drys Meeting Set Tuesday Night

Fourth meeting of Kings Mountain "Drys" will be held Tues., Mar. 4, at 7:30 p. m. at Boyce Memorial ARP Church.

Dr. Charles Edwards, chairman, said the meeting date has been changed because of a conflict and encourages all interested citizens to attend.

Tuesday's meeting will be the final gathering of "Drys" prior to the ABC referendum Mar. 18, in which 4,128 citizens are eligible to vote on the question of whether a liquor control store will be established here and whether off-premises sale of malt beverages and unfortified wine shall be allowed.

of curb and gutter improvements for the following streets: Mauney Ave. from York Rd. to Oriental; Hillside Dr. from SW End of Meadowbrook Rd.; Katherine St. from Fairview to Second; Scotland Dr. from Southwood to Lee; Somerset Dr. from Phifer Rd. to Princeton; and Southwood Dr. from Fulton to Pinehurst.

Executing agreement with Southern Railway for municipal use of the depot building, the board voted to pay a \$100 annual fee for "a broad latitude of uses" of the building and one and one-half acre of land on Piedmont avenue. The Railway would have the option to retain the properties on 30 days notice.

City Attorney White said the lease agreement is "very general", also covering a fire prevention provision.

\$154,100

KMRC Closes Purchase Deal For Bonnie Mill

The Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission concluded the purchase arrangements of the Bonnie Mill property Wednesday for a reported \$154,100.

KMRC Executive Director Gene White said the agency will advertise for bids for demolition of existing buildings on the property in the near future.

Included in the purchase, according to White, was one

warehouse located at the juncture of Cherokee and W. Gold Sts. (\$101,500); the mill and a second warehouse (\$113,650) and compensation for immovable fixtures, lights, wiring, etc., (\$26,500), and the lot where Price Taxi is now located (\$3,800).

Redevelopment plans for the property, from Piedmont to Battleground on south side of Gold St., are already underway.

To question by Comm. Amos on question of loss of tax base, City Clerk McDaniel replied that the property is not assessed on the Kings Mountain tax levy but by the state.

Charles Dunn Speaks Sunday, March 9

Charles Dunn, Director of the State Bureau of Investigation, will make the address Sun., Mar. 9, at 7:30 p. m. in a program open to the public at Central United Methodist Church.

He has served as SBI Director on appointment by Attorney General Robert Morgan since Jan. 3, 1969. Under his direction the SBI has greatly increased its size and effectiveness and is today recognized as one of the outstanding organizations of its type in the nation.

A graduate of Aoshkie High School and UNC at Chapel Hill Dunn is a former newspaper reporter and served as an assistant to former Congressman Horace Kornegay and former Governor Dan Moore. He is a veteran, a Methodist, and is married and father of three children.

Dunn is coordinator of the N. C. Law Enforcement Associations Council, Vice-Chairman of the N. C. Or-

ganized Crime Study Commission; Vice-Chairman of the N. C. Criminal Justice Training and Standards Council, and a member of the Governor's Committee on Law and Order.



CHARLES DUNN