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Board To Study Water Rate Proposals

City Commissioners are expected to act on recommendations concerning water rates at the Apr. 14 board meeting. In the interim, commissioners will study and discuss the proposals submitted by the mayor's utility rate study committee.

But before the Apr. 14 date for action was set a lengthy discussion took place in which one motion to have the committee rethink and redraw the rate fee schedule to include rate reductions for residential water users was made, passed and rescinded.

Commissioner Don McAbee made the motion based on his understanding that a promise had been made to residential users prior to the construction of the John Moss Lake and plant that as soon as this was done rates would be reduced.

"This has not been done," McAbee said. "And the only

way I can consider reducing rates for business and industry is for the residential users to also have a reduction."

Commissioner Ray Cline, who was on the board prior to the lake construction, said, "I don't remember any promise like that. I do seem to recall that the board at that time did promise citizens a rate reduction following retirement of the water bond fee."

Dr. Sincos pointed out to commissioners the committee's recommendations did not "want to reduce rates for

industry back to what to where they were prior to May 1974. Instead, we suggest the increase not be as much as it was."

Sincos also pointed out that it was not the job of the study committee to make such a decision as far as reducing water rates below what are presently being used. "If you (commissioners) wish to reduce rates, then reduce them. This committee was formed to study the rates as they applied after May 1974, not the increases made prior to that time. "The residential rates

were not affected in the May 1974 increase. It's hard to make a reduction on rates that had not been increased in 1974," he said.

Commissioner James Amos asked Sincos if he didn't agree that prior to the May 1974 industrial rate increase that was a need for such an increase. Sincos said he did not agree. "But it all boils down to your point of view and a decision as to just how much profit you wish to make from a service.

"Water operation profits has been something like 90

percent while other utilities have shown less than 30 percent profit," Sincos said.

Amos wanted to know if the recommendations, if approved by the board, would not in fact lose money for the city. Sincos said it would not. He indicated it might cut down slightly on the current profit margin.

Amos said he didn't know whether the current rates were fair, but he wanted an opportunity to sit down with the full board for a thorough discussion before he made a decision. McAbee's second

motion gave Amos and the other commissioners that opportunity.

Sincos told commissioners as far as he was concerned there were no more facts for the committee to study and nothing else for the committee to consider in revamping the proposed rate fee schedule. He did commit the committee to attend any special meetings the board may have on the matter in order to fully explain the wheres and whys of the recommendations and assist in any way the board decides.



DR. SINCOX

Needs For 20 Years Long-Range Sewer Plan Is Underway

By TOM MCINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

An hour's discussion Tuesday night by City Engineer Dennis Fox informed city commissioners of the progress being made in the 201 sewer facilities planning for Kings Mountain, its perimeter and Gaston County.

This project is to set up a flexible plan for sewer updating and construction for the next 20 years and the outcome will affect to what extent, if any, the federal government will participate with funds in the future.

Fox explained that seven of the 12 steps in the planning have been completed, including delineation of planning areas; preparation of plan study; the establishment of water quality and other water management goals, a review of pollution sources, waste loads and water quality

information, inventory of existing waste treatment systems and flows, inventory of environmental conditions and estimates of future waste loads and flows.

"The planning urges each governing unit to act independently, but the overall plan will be for the ultimate and greater benefit of the entire planning area," Fox said.

In one phase of the study, for instance, Fox gave the board several alternative plans of action that could be taken concerning the McGill Treatment Plant. One would be more pumping stations to divert part of the flow to the Pilot Creek Plant on the northwest side of town. Another is to relocate the McGill plant east of I-85. Still another plan is to update the present McGill plant, but here costs might be objectionable, and yet another

plan is to go into a regional situation with, perhaps Gastonia and/or Bessemer City.

The 201 plan is to be designed to anticipate the needs in all areas of the city and perimeter over a 20 year period with updates every five years.

In the Kings Mountain case, the majority of the study will have to be applied to the northwest, west and southwestern areas adjacent to the city. Fox said the area to the south, because of its present heavy industry and mining operations, holds little chance of much development as far as the city is concerned.

Passage of such a comprehensive plan will mean a much clearer picture of where Kings Mountain possibly will grow and develop. It will also mean more stringent controls on affluent processing will be applied, according to Fox.

Leslie Hall Jr. of Hennington, Durham and Richardson of Charlotte, lead engineer for the Cleveland-Gaston complex in the 201 study, also present Tuesday night, said, "Back in the 1930's master plans were developed to take care of long range planning and they were like concrete. Not flexible at all. The proposed update every five years is to be able to handle whatever comes up without destroying the overall initial plan."

Mayor John H. Moss said, "This board has already authorized a water study in our perimeter areas to be done in association with the land use plans. Our board felt this was very necessary. The two go together."

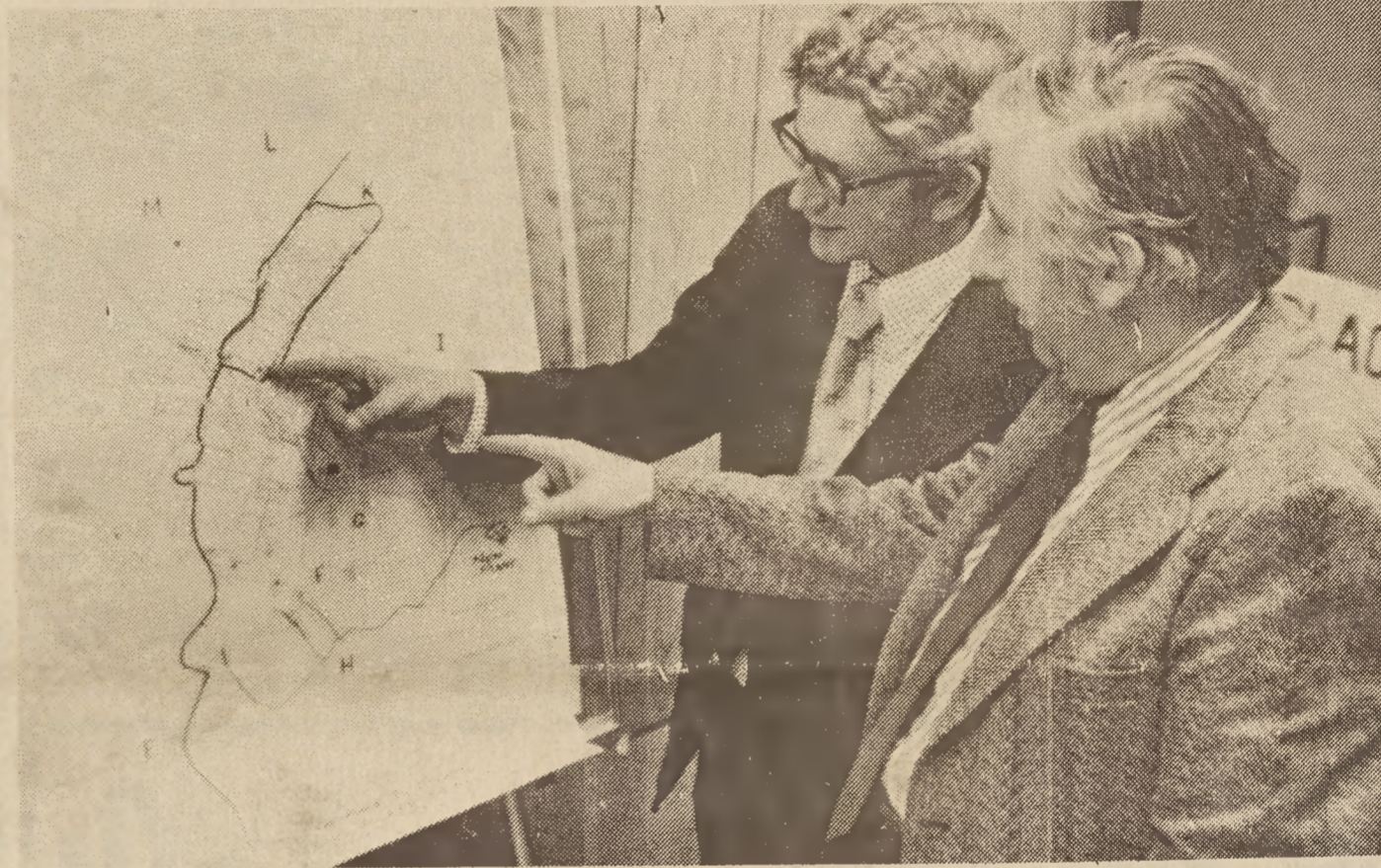


Photo By Tom McIntyre

SEWER PLANNING - City Engineer Dennis Fox discusses the current 201 sewer facilities plan study underway in Kings Mountain and Gaston County with Charles Carpenter, an interested citizen who attended Tuesday night's commissioners meeting. The plan is to ultimately affect this area for the next 20 years.

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Auxiliary To Organize

Kings Mountain Hospital Auxiliary will be formally organized next Thursday morning (April 3) at 10 a. m. at a meeting of all interested women volunteers in the Board Room of KM Hospital.

New officers will be elected

at the meeting, dues will be set, and charter and by-laws will be ready for approval by members.

Mrs. George Scharf, co-chairman of the steering committee, said all interested women are invited to attend the initial meeting.

\$20,000 Goal Set By KMUF

KM United Fund directors, moving to fight the economy pinch which has hit hard the 1975 United Fund Campaign, Monday night took upon themselves a mini-drive to raise \$20,000 within the next two weeks.

Specifically, each of the directors will call on local industry to obtain pledges while Secretary Becky Scism will address and mail 77 letters to professional people in the area who may not have been contacted earlier in the campaign by UF volunteers.

Deadline is April 14 when the officers and directors meet again for a wrap-up session at First Union National Bank Conference Room.

Bill Bates, leader of the organization effort, showed comparison figures from last year of giving by the two dozen-plus plants in the area that revealed that the UF has been hard hit by inflation, many lay-offs and closings of industry he cited as reasons for no contributions to the program.

Volunteering with Bates to conduct the campaign were

Tom Tate, Grady Howard, Scoop Peeler, John Cheshire Marvin Teer, J. C. Bridges and Jim Herndon.

"We think we can live with this realistic figure of \$20,000", explained John Cheshire, who noted that goal of the 1975 United Fund in Kings Mountain for 14 agencies is \$35,100. Of this total, only \$8,922 has been reported, meaning some of the agencies may be cut in requests for 1975, he added.

Mr. Bates said citizens not contacted by a UF volunteer may forward their contributions to Mrs. Becky Scism, UF Treasurer, PO Box 192, Kings Mountain, N. C.

"One gift works many wonders the United Way" is the campaign theme. Local beneficiaries are the Helping Hand project of the Ministerial Association, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Red Cross, KMHS Band, KM Rescue Squad, KMHS Chorus, the Salvation Army, Cleveland County Association for Retarded Children and Cleveland County Community Organization for Drug Abuse Prevention.



UF DIRECTORS MAP PLANS FOR DRIVE - J. C. Bridges, left, Marvin Teer, Bill Bates and John Cheshire plan strategy for a mini-drive all the directors will conduct to raise \$20,000 in

the next two weeks for the 1975 Kings Mountain United Fund, suffering badly from the pinch of the economy.

Rabies Clinics Here Saturday

Rabies clinics are scheduled at three locations in the Kings Mountain area Saturday by Dr. Jacob Mauney, veterinarian.

Vaccines will be given at a reduced rate, \$4, at Grover School from 9:20 until 10 a. m.; Bethlehem Fire Department from 10:15 to 10:45 a. m.; and KM City Hall from 11 a. m. to noon.

COUNTY COLLECTIONS

Cleveland County has recorded a 3.98 percent increase over the 1973-74 year in gross sales and use tax collections for the same period in 1974-75. In the previous year collections totaled \$4,715,174. For the year just past the total was \$4,902,783, an increase of \$187,609. The period runs from February to January.

Final Hearing On CD Spending Is Tuesday

Third and final public hearing for citizens to recommend how the city will spend \$4,160,000 in federal monies will be held Tuesday night at 7:30 at City Hall.

Mayor John Henry Moss is throwing out the welcome mat for "everyone to attend and present his or her ideas."

Kings Mountain will receive the funds over a five-year period, \$1,040,000 for each of the first three years, \$693,000 for the fourth year and \$347,000 for the fifth year, qualifying under Title 1, Housing and Community Development Act, 1974.

Tuesday's public hearing will follow format of the two prior hearings, said the Mayor, who said a formal

agenda has not been prepared.

He said state officials will be on hand to review the funding program "up to this point" and those who have appeared previously to make requests will be given another opportunity to review them.

The mayor said he had not been notified of any "new

requests" but welcomed any and all.

"What we anticipate," he said, "is the creation of more and newer programs that will benefit our entire community. And this is where citizen input at these public hearings is invaluable."

File Photographer Returns Next Week

With only one detour, C. W. Robinson returning to Kings Mountain Tues., Wed. and Thurs., Apr. 1, 2, 3 to shoot photos for The Mirror-Herald files.

Robinson was here last

Mon., Tues. and Wed., Mar. 24, 25, 26, but the location was changed from First Union National Bank conference room to the Kings Mountain Woman's Club. Eaton Corp. has offices set up in the bank building and Robinson had to rearrange his setup to the Woman's Club, E. Mountain St.

On Apr. 1, 2, 3, Robinson will have his camera ready from 9:30 a. m. until 5 p. m. to record the faces of Kings Mountainians for The Mirror-Herald. These photos will be used in connection with news events and will not cost the individual a single penny.

The M-H urges everyone to make an appointment and make it a point to sit for a portrait-type photo for Robinson either next Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Kings Mountainians are usually active people and they make the news. Occasions too numerous to list occurred in the past year where a photo would have enhanced the news, but in too many cases the M-H was without the photos.

Don't let that happen again in the coming months.

Have that face of yours captured on film so we can have it in our files the next time you are a headline-maker.

Foote Jumps Wages

Foote Mineral Company, Kings Mountain Operation, has announced a general wage increase for all hourly employees effective Mar. 31, 1975. This is a 13 percent adjustment in employes wages, and is complemented by substantial improvements in the total benefit package.

Foote is presently constructing a new chemical plant at its present facilities, and will begin hiring additional personnel to staff this plant in October of this year.

SCOUT CIRCUS

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Cub Pack 91 will sponsor a Circus at the Community Center Monday. The Scouts will "dress up" for the program to which the community is invited.

Sunrise Service Planned

The annual Sunrise Service, under the sponsorship of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, will be held at 6:45 at Mountain Rest Cemetery Easter Morning.

This year's service will be unique in that it is patterned after the nationally-recognized Moravian service at Winston-Salem. The basic character of the Moravian service will be experienced except for modifications to our locale. A selection of the Moravian hymns will be sung in addition to the triumphant Easter hymns of Christendom.

Rev. Robert E. Allen, chairman of the planning committee for the Sunrise service, said that "the Moravian service is a very old service which is deeply significant from a spiritual point of view. The service is one of true worship which portrays beautifully one of the most important events in the life of Christ and in the history of the world."

Leading the service will be the Rev. John C. Southern, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, and the Rev. Robert E. Lair, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church. The Brass Ensemble from the Kings Mountain Senior High School will play. David Lucas, son of the Rev. and Mrs. R. D. Lucas and a senior at KMSHS, will be featured soloist. The Brass Ensemble will play the prelude in the Moravian style of beginning at a point away from the site of the service and then move gradually to the designated location of worship. Members of Boy Scout Troop 91, under the leadership of O'Brien Brooks, will distribute worship materials.

In the event of rain the service will be cancelled.