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Board Tables Decision

Water Rate Stays Same, At Least Til New Budget

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The chairman of the mayor's utility rate study committee, isn't happy over the city commissioner decision to delay action on adopting a new rate and surcharge until July 1.

Dr. Frank Sincox, who guided the committee through numerous fact-finding meetings in late 1974 and early 1975, said Monday night he had promised a firm decision on the matter.

At a meeting in March commissioners asked for the delay in order to further study the committee's report. The board members indicated in the March meeting that a firm decision one way or the other would be reached by the April meeting.

The study and committee recommendations include changes recommended without further delay to give the outside heavy water users some relief.

The discussion which preceded the action was a continuation of the one begun at the board's Mar. 25 meeting when Dr. Sincox presented the final report.

The report's recommendations included rebates to industrial water users hardest hit by increased rates, altering of the city's water rate schedule and reducing the surcharge to large water users (from 50 per cent to 20 per cent surcharge for users of over 40,000 gallons of water per month) and creating a new rate for water users in excess of one million gallons per month. The lowest rate in the report's recommendations would be 32 cents for over one million gallons per month. The present rate for 500,000 to one million gallons is .5225 cents.

At the request of Commissioner Jim Amos, city consulting engineer Dennis Fox, who also served on the study committee, reviewed the findings of a preliminary engineering report completed prior to the committee's deliberations and read an item from the Federal Register dated Feb. 11, 1974 relating to user charges and industrial cost recovery which stated quantity discounts to industrial users wasn't acceptable.

Asked by Commissioner Murray C. Pruette how Kings Mountain's water prices "stack up" with surrounding cities, Fox replied "with respect to water and sewer rates combined, I would think Kings Mountain is very competitive, especially with its inside the city rates."

Dr. Sincox said the present rate is "above everybody else's but Shelby's" and that the proposed 32 cent rate (for heavy users, over one million gallons) is "competitive."

commodity" - was something the city had an "available" quantity of and that "the more we can sell, the better off we can be."

Commissioner Lloyd Davis commented, "We've only got a four million gallon plant (treatment plant) and we've got to enlarge" it; "that's going to cost some money. We've got plenty of water but we've got to get it ready for the people before we can start pumping it."

Amos said he opposed cutting the .5225 rate "for anyone for any purpose; I feel if this rate of .5225 is acceptable to other outside users I feel this board should not cut the basic rate." The matter of whether or not to reduce the surcharge should be the one for the board's "comment" and "conjecture," he said.

Pruette said he would be in favor of altering the surcharge, reduction of the cost

of the first 40,000 gallons to 85 cents (presently 95 cents).

Dr. Sincox stated the "surcharge should not be a mechanism to gain or lose more money" - that it was not a "punitive" measure for those living outside the city limits.

"The outside surcharge is a question in everyone's mind," Amos stated. "In my opinion, the city should recover its total cost and no less from inside and outside users of water

and sewer." Discussion then shifted to definitions of costs - a matter which occupied much of the water rate study committee's discussions. Buford Defore, representing Spectrum Textured Fibers, firm hardest hit by last May's water rate increases, elaborated on fixed and variable costs and pointed out that the .5225 price was not substantiated by the study committee.

At KM Country Club

Chamber-Merchants Banquet Is Monday

The annual Chamber of Commerce-Merchants Association meeting will be held at 7:30 p. m. Mon., Apr. 21 at the Kings Mountain Country Club.

Presiding will be William (Corky) Fulton 111, who was elected president of the merged organizations at a directors meeting last week.

Under the bylaws drawn to cover the new group, the general membership is no longer required to approve new directors and officers at the annual meeting. They did this when returning mail ballots recently approving the bylaw changes and suggested directors.

Fulton was elected president by the directors on Apr. 8. Also elected were Lyn Cheshire, president-elect (same as first vice president); James Dickey, second vice president; and Bill Grissom, secretary-treasurer.

At the dinner meeting Monday the Rev. Russell Fitts, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, will be guest speaker. Rev. Fitts is a noted humorous after dinner speaker. He recently recorded a comedy LP with many of his favorite stories. The LP is entitled "Fitts of Laughter."

Tickets for the dinner meeting are \$5 per person.

'Carou-Sale' Set

By KM Merchants

Kings Mountians will see the beginning of what is planned as a continuing arts program for this area when the musical play "Caroussel" plays here Apr. 26-27 at Barnes Auditorium.

Produced by the Performing Arts Guild (PAG), "Caroussel" numbers in its cast six Kings Mountians.

To promote the show and to show support for the proposed Kings Mountain Arts Council, local merchants are planning a big sale next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

"This 'Carou-Sale' will employ some of the same techniques merchants used and found successful during the Centennial celebration last year," said Corky Fulton,

president of the Chamber of Commerce-Merchants Association. "Such things as sales personnel working out on the street with tables and racks of merchandise. Too, we hope to have strolling musicians and a large carousel ride to be set up beside Neisler Brothers on Battleground Ave."

In next week's Mirror-Herald shoppers can readily identify the participating merchants by the "Carou-Sale Specials" clearly specified in their advertisements.

"Numerous Kings Mountians have often remarked about the good feeling and good time they had here during Centennial week last year," Fulton said. "And have asked when something with all that excitement was going to happen again. Well, next week's activities on the streets, the bargains in the shops and the musical 'Caroussel' at Barnes Auditorium will come as close as any."

KMUF Nears Finish

Kings Mountain's United Fund Campaign is heading up to the finish line.

Cash-in-hand and pledges neared the \$16,000 mark this week, with some gifts yet to be reported by campaign solicitors.

"We want to wrap up the campaign Apr. 28th", said Chairman Bill Bates, and anticipate we will top our \$20,000 goal.

"It looks real good", said Bates, who was elated that the lagging campaign had picked up steam.

Directors of the KMUF several weeks ago volunteered to do the solicitation work for the campaign, badly hit by pinch of the economy when several mills curtailed and workers found themselves in unemployment lines over town.

Mr. Bates encouraged volunteers who had not turned in their final reports to do so as soon as possible.

Directors will meet on Apr. 28 to make final reports of the drive which supports 10 causes.

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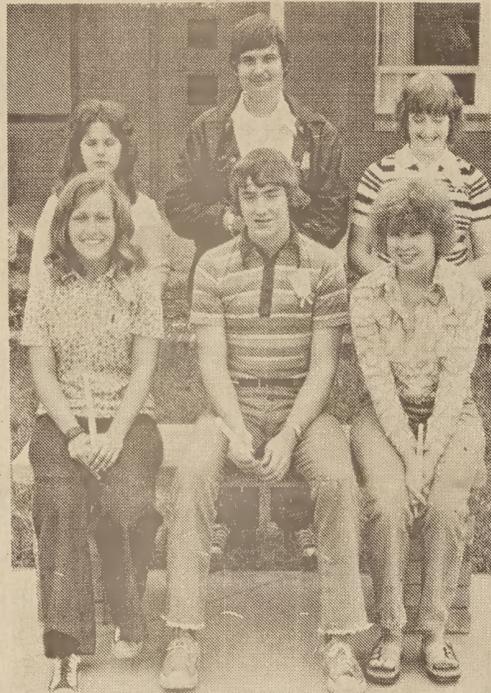
Condemnation Suggested Rights Of Way Purchases Stalled By Two Owners

A notice of condemnation proceedings is being sent to Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hamrick following right-of-way purchase negotiations failure.

City Attorney Jack White told the city commissioners Monday night that rights-of-way negotiations are about two-thirds completed from the city limits to the Eaton Corporation site for installation of sewer lines. But, he said the offer along the Hamrick's 2,000 feet of property has been refused.

Under new laws, White said, the city could take possession of condemned property "much faster than under the old laws."

White said a second smaller property owner, George Peel-



Photos by Tom McIntyre

NEW HONOR STUDENTS - Last Thursday morning 12 Kings Mountain Senior High students were inducted into the National Honor Society by scholastically averaging a 3.4 grade level and for being outstanding in character, leadership and service. Above, seated l. to r.: Cindy Swofford, Perry Hambricht and Ann Rowell. Standing, l. to r.; Karen Hambricht, Greg Dixon and Penny Greene. Below, seated; Kaki Mauney, Tommy Bridges and Donna Smith. Standing; Jane Campbell, Barry Poston and Elizabeth Eaker. Induction in the NHS is the highest honor local schools offer any student.



Photos by Tom McIntyre

er, "won't talk to us under any conditions about a right of way." The board approved sending Peeler a written offer with a certain number of days to reply. Then, White, suggested condemnation proceedings begin if no satisfactory results have been made.

In other action, commissioners: -- approved an amendment to the engineering contract on the 201 sewer facilities plan giving federal agencies access to records and reports on the project plans.

-- approved a request from George T. Ruppe for a change from R-20 to R-10 on 6-plus acres on Phifer Rd. adjoining the junior high property.

Board sent the request on the zoning board for a recommendation.

-- heard and denied a motion from Commissioner M. C. Pruette to pay the chairman of the elections board \$75 monthly and the board secretary \$50 monthly. Commissioner Ray Cline objected to a motion on the grounds a special committee (himself, Jim Amos and Luther Bennett) was going to meet to discuss salary for elections personnel.

-- heard a request from Rev. Ansel Center, representing the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association, that the commissioners see to it laws against illegal drug and alcohol sales in Kings Mountain be enforced.

KMRC On The Move

With 30 more buildings to come down, parking lots to build and land to landscape, the Kings Mountain Redevelopment Commission staff says that downtown redevelopment is "really moving now."

Dean McGinnis, assistant director of the staff, said that he is negotiating a demolition contract to tear down the 30 remaining buildings in the redevelopment plan.

"We should have the old Bonnie Mill on Gold Street down by the end of the summer," McGinnis said. "I guess we have 10 or 11 businesses still escated in those 30 buildings that have to be relocated within the next 900 days or so, (the limit on the demolition contract). I know where half to three-fourths of those businesses will be relocated."

McGinnis conceded that the downtown project is now about three years behind schedule, but said things will start moving as soon as the contract for demolition is let.

"We've started our renovation of downtown by getting store owners to place more emphasis on the back down entrances to their businesses - where we are going to have shopping center-like parking," McGinnis said.

"Also, we now have a sign code for the downtown businesses. There can't be any signs painted on walls. Signs over the door can't flash or rotate or be oversized, and they can't hang out over the sidewalk."

The budget for the downtown project is \$1.7 million with the City of Kings Mountain funding one-fourth of it. The big grant comes from federal tax money.

McGinnis said that the second part of the redevelopment plan - the Camslar Street residential project just northwest of the downtown area - is on schedule.

"There were 245 families in this area and 169 of them had to be relocated. The rest could stay where they are," McGinnis said. "We've relocated about one-half of those who need to be, I guess. And we've had no trouble, problems or complaints from the people living there."

McGinnis said the plan for this area has just recently been drastically changed and must be approved by the Commission board and through public hearing. After the plan is approved, then the streets, water and sewer system have to be redone, houses torn down, others renovated and a park built.

The project is scheduled for completion in December 1976. Included are four public housing projects with 90 units. About 30 of those will be specifically for elderly people. We have put them right next to downtown in our plan so that they can do their shopping easily," McGinnis said.

McGinnis said that the Redevelopment Commission is tapping Farmers Home Administration money, both to finance new homes for displaced homeowners in the project area and help pay for remodeling of homes left there.

McGinnis said that federal capital grant for the Camslar Street project is \$2.7 million, with the City of Kings Mountain paying a one-fourth matching share.

"The public housing units will be fact within a year," McGinnis said. "We're at the point now that we can really get these plans underway."

Lake Opening For May 3-4

By TOM McINTYRE
Editor, Mirror-Herald

In its first meeting in several months the Kings Mountain Lake Authority officially set the seasonal opening of the John Moss Lake and heard reports fishing and possible funding for recreational development.

Boating, swimming and skiing will officially begin at Moss Lake on Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4. Mayor John H. Moss, chairman of the authority, said notices are already being sent out to license holders of last summer about renewals. To date 15 boating, three fishing and four family plan licenses have been renewed.

"Because of the economic downturn since last year," Moss said, "we haven't been able to go as far as we had hoped in our lake use planning. However, we have had a lot of encouragement, such as the promise of additional buoys to mark the lake channels for safety, preparations to pave the new lake access

area and continued support in policing the lake by the State Wildlife Resources Commission in addition to our own city police."

Moss said there is a plan to publish brochures and maps of the lake and the facilities as a guide to users. Another proposal is to use one of the public service jobs to put a fulltime supervisor at the lake.

Moss also asked for another meeting with the authority prior to the official opening in May to have Gardner Gidley of Winston-Salem, an outdoor recreation planner, come and explain the work he has done for the Moss Lake and what he can do in the future.

The mayor told the authority that a large power company

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RANCE HENDERSON

Bloodmobile Visit Set For Monday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will visit Kings Mountain Mon., Apr. 21 at the Community Center from 11 a. m. until 4:30 p. m.

The goal this trip is 190 pints, the amount donated last month at the high school.

Co-chairmen Bill Grissom and Lyn Cheshire said, "The students put us over our goal for the first time in several years. Now it's up to the citizens at large to follow the standard set by their kids and make this visit a success."

ON PANEL - Rance Henderson, former Kings Mountain, was in Washington, D. C. Apr. 9-11 serving on the review panel for the Model Secondary School For The Deaf. The son of Mrs. Ray Henderson of K.M., he is director of the N. C. Schools For The Deaf.