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To Settle Eaton Sewer Line Controversy

Sen. Morgan Sponsors Meeting June 2

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Robert Morgan has arranged for county officials, federal and representatives to meet with officials of Eaton Corp. June 2 to iron out problems over the costs of a sewer line.

"My major concern is for the Eaton Corporation," he continued. "This company is an important member of the industrial community in our state. They are investing heavily in new plants and equipment. When present projects are completed, this company will have some nine plants operating in North Carolina."

To open lines of communication, Sen. Morgan dispatched Les Roark of Shelby to Atlanta to talk with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials. Roark was to "press for this (June 2) meeting in the hopes of getting something started," according to Morgan.

In late breaking news stories last week

Ron Tompkins, manager of the new Eaton plant near Grover, said, "we wouldn't have come here" if the company had had knowledge of the cost of the proposed sewer line to the plant site was going to be \$1,034,000 and that the industry would be expected to repay the majority of that cost.

These developments were announced late last week by Harold Duhart, project manager of the EPA, Atlanta. This organization is holding up the Kings Mountain application for a 75 percent grant on the project cost.

Duhart announced that if the application is approved Eaton must, under

federal law, along with any new industry that may tap onto the sewer line repay the grant. Repayment is interest free over a 30-year period (considered the life of the line). Fifty percent would be repaid the federal treasury and 50 percent repaid the City of Kings Mountain to use for use and future expansion of the line.

Tompkins contends no discussions were ever held with Eaton about the industry having to repay any costs of the sewer line. He said the letters of commitment from the county and city are over a year old and "I think it's up to the parties that made those promises to provide

services. I still think it's their intention to provide the services."

Mayor John H. Moss said "repayment by the industry is the law in any extension anywhere in the U.S. at this time. . . but I believe Congress will amend that."

At the same time Mayor Moss said he was still hopeful the city's application will still be approved under the old law under which the original application was made last year. Under the old law the industry would escape repayment. However, Duhart said the application is approved it will be done so under the new law, the one requiring industry to repay

grant loans.

Initial cost of the sewer line was estimated at \$500,000 and according to County Manager Joe Hendrick this cost was still believed to have been valid. He said neither he nor the county commissioners had been informed the cost would be doubled.

County Commissioner L. E. (Josh) Hinnant noted that if the federal government is going to require Eaton to repay the grant loan it may be better for the county to form another non-profit organization to build the sewer line and let Eaton's county taxes pay for it.

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OLLIE IN RALEIGH - Sen. Ollie Harris chats with Kings Mountain senior citizens from David and Oak Grove Baptist Churches in front of the Senate Building in Raleigh. The KM elders visited with Sen. Harris and W. K. Mauney, Reps. Jack Hunt, Bob Falls and Bob Jones, toured the Governor's office and were recognized while attending a session of the Senate. David Baptist senior citizens made and sold quilts to pay their trip expenses.

\$5,855,858.98 Proposed  
Utility Revenue Estimates  
Make For Record Budget

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
Staff Writer

The city commission Tuesday night tentatively adopted a record budget for fiscal 1975-76 totaling \$5,855,858.98, an

increase of \$752,190.46 over the budget for the fiscal year which ends June 30.

Public hearing is slated June 9 with formal adoption expected June 23.

The commission also tenta-

tively set the tax rate at 65 cents per \$100 valuation, same rate which has prevailed the past 10 years.

Principal increase in revenues derives from upward projections of sale of utilities, including income from the water and sewer system \$397,025 (vs. \$323,357 an increase of \$73,668); from the electric and power system \$1,150,366.92 (vs. \$955,168, a whopping increase of \$555,198.92) and the natural

gas system \$996,898.40 (vs. \$692,572, an increase of \$304,326.40). Due from other funds \$854,701.80 (vs. \$965,903), decrease of \$111,201.20.

"The city is caught in the crunch of an energy problem," said Mayor John Moss in his budget message to the board. "Even though most departments of the city have reduced operating costs for the new year beginning, Bulk of the increase is reflected in

the utility fund, though this budget reflects increased sales of utilities, the city's revenue is down \$111,201.20."

The mayor said he was pleased that in the face of higher costs of operating utilities that the tax rate remains the same.

Mayor Moss said he had written utility suppliers asking-

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At Community Center  
Senior Citizens  
Honored Today

Today is Senior Citizens Day in Kings Mountain.

To help the city's elderly residents celebrate a program of activities has been planned for the community center beginning at 10 a. m.

A registration and "getting acquainted" period" is scheduled in the Mountaineer Room until 11 a. m., according to Rev. Kenneth George, coordinator of the Community Committee on Aging and Senior Citizens, sponsoring agency.

"Following the registration period," Rev. George said, "an entertainment program is scheduled in the gym area upstairs in the community center."

The program will feature an array of local and area talent, including Rev. Gary Bryant, pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Rev. Bryant will sing and accompany himself on guitar. The Kings Mountain Senior High junior choir, under the direction of Mrs. Myrle McClure, will perform several numbers. Mrs. Mc-

Clure will accompany David Lucas, a KMSHS senior with a tremendous voice, who will do a couple of solo numbers.

Linda Ross, chorus director at Central school, will sing and be accompanied on lead and bass guitar by Ronnie Whisnant and Sherrill Toney. The latter two are teachers at Central. From Forest City Rosemary Walther, who played the lead in the recent production of "Carousel" at Barnes Auditorium, will sing a medley of songs from the show.

The finale will be an old-fashioned sing-along conducted by Rev. Allen Jolley of First Baptist Church.

At noon luncheon will be served and a number of local and county dignitaries will be on hand to welcome all senior citizens. Also representatives of local civic clubs are expected to attend.

"This is the second in as many weeks of a series of programs designed for our senior citizens," Rev. George said. "Last week the city recreation department sponsored a benefit softball tournament. We hope in the future to plan numerous programs under our committee for the senior citizens."



RONNIE HAWKINS

One Day  
He Could  
Save Your Life...

Ronnie Hawkins is an apprentice mortician and funeral director working at Harris Funeral Home. He also has an application in to become a city fireman.

He is also a member of the Kings Mountain Life Saving Crew. And has attended classes at both Gaston College and Cleveland Tech and served a year in the U. S. Army.

"I joined the rescue squad a year ago," Ronnie said. "I had worked two years at Kings Mountain Hospital as a nursing assistant and this thing about being of real help to people when they really need it just made it a natural for me to join the rescuers."

"There is a big need for such an operation," he continued. "I consider it the city's best organization because it helps people. We have 25 men who want to do something beneficial to their community."

He has taken emergency medical technician training at Tech and even with his work at the hospital, Ronnie says he's never had aspirations toward becoming a doctor.

Single, Ronnie resides at 806 First St. with his mother, Mrs. Eloise Hawkins. His father is deceased.

In Three Weeks  
Demolition Of KMRC  
Buildings Is Planned

By TOM MCINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

HUD has approved awarding a \$53,800 contract to Bradley-Jenkins Co. of Gastonia for the demolition of 30 buildings owned by the Kings Mountain Development Commission.

Gene White, KMRC executive director, said today that demolition will begin in about three weeks. "The first buildings to come down are the former Dellinger's Jewelry, Warlick Insurance and Men's Snack Shop.

"We are going to stick strictly to the contract," White said. "That means once a specific site is demolished at site will be cleaned up before the demolition crew moves on to the next site."

Once the three buildings on the north side of W. Mountain are down and rubble cleared construction on the city's third pedestrian walk will begin.

"Perhaps the most important action to take place in the next 30 days," White said, "will be the planning of a mall in the area off Cherokee St." The city has agreed to purchase this area from the redevelopment commission, but before any work can be done in the area there must be approval of a plan. To get that approval a meeting between architects, engineers, city officials and merchants in the affected area will be held. Generally, plans call for removal of all utility poles and installation of underground electrical wiring. Also con-

struction of proper storm drainage, grading, paving for parking and landscaping. Hopefully, the affected merchants will agree on a plan for renovation of the rear of their buildings to conform to the mall-type idea.

For the city's part, action is expected shortly after July 1, the date when the city's

community development funds will be available. No word has been received as yet from the applications, but thinking is the entire package of applications for the CD funds will be approved.

The second part of the Bradley-Jenkins contract

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Ward Equalization Recommended  
Staggered Board Terms  
Approved Next Election

The city commission Tuesday night unanimously approved a staggered term of office for the city council effective with the upcoming city election Oct. 7.

Specifically, this action means that the three top voters on the first ballot in the 1975 city election will serve a four year term. The low trio will serve two years. The Mayor will serve a four-year term.

Motion was made by Comm. Ray Cline and seconded by Comm. Corbet Nicholson.

Their action came near the close of a lengthy meeting.

In another matter involving the upcoming city election, the board received "for study" a report of the Mayor's Ward Equalization committee.

Chairman Carl De Vane

said his committee recommends the city utilize only two polling places and suggested voters from Wards 1, 2, and 3 vote at the Community Center and voters in Wards 4, 5, and 6 vote at the Armory.

He presented a map detailing how the wards can be equalized with all the changes effecting voters in Wards 1, 5, and 6. The breakdown of voters would tally: Ward 1, 613; Ward 2, 638; Ward 3, 740; Ward 4, 734; Ward 5, 734; Ward 6, 732.

Chairman De Vane, former President of the Chamber of Commerce, told the board that some confusion would arise at the first election if the plan is implemented but that "it will work." His committee gave an alternative voting place for

Ward 5 voters — the school administrative offices on W. Parker St.

Registration  
For Drivers  
Class Begins

Registration for summer classes in driver's education is slated for June 5 at 8:30 a. m. in KMSHS gymnasium. Classroom instruction begins June 10th and will continue through June 30th from 8 until 10 a. m. daily.

Students must be at least 15½ years old to enroll for the classes.

Blaine Froneberger will serve as instructor.

Power  
Shutoff  
Sunday

Mayor John H. Moss said again this week he wants to remind Kings Mountains there will be a six-hour power shutoff Sun., June 1 between 12:30-6:30 p. m.

The Gaston St. power substation must undergo repairs caused by vandals.

The city's electrical consultant, W. H. Little Jr., said the city's customers could facilitate restoration of power if they would limit the use of electrical appliances for at least an hour after power is restored.

In case of inclement weather this Sunday, the shutoff will be postponed until Sun., June 8.

Bicentennial

Committee Is

Now Complete

Mayor John Henry Moss Wednesday named a 40-member Bi-Centennial Committee to plan with Co-Chairmen Mrs. John O. Plonk and Howard B. Jackson the city's celebration of the nation's 200th birthday.

The Co-Chairmen said they look forward to working with the committee in developing plans for the 195th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain and the Bi-Centennial Celebration.

"Both celebrations," said the Mayor, "will refresh memories of our illustrious past and encourage us to strive for our idealistic hopes in renewed faith in our nation's future."

The mayor said he will name an honorary commission within the next few days.

Ex-Officio members of the Commission are Mayor Moss, Senator J. Ollie Harris and Senator W. K. Mauney, Jr. and County Commissioner L. E. Hinnant.

Publicity chairmen are Darrell Austin and Elizabeth Stewart of the Mirror-Herald and Jonas Bridges of Radio Station WKMT.

The full committee: Mrs. D. B. Faunce, Charles E. Hamilton, J. C. Bridges, Tom McIntyre, Mrs. Charles D. Blanton, Mrs. Aubrey Mauney, Mrs. Fred Withers, Myers Hambricht, Fred Dixon, C. A. Allison, Mrs. Ben T. Goforth, Wade Tyner, Johnny Kiser, Eugene Timms, Ron Osborne, Mrs. L. E. Hinnant, Dr. P. G. Padgett, Shuford Peeler, Lyn Cheshire, Mrs. James Going, W. S. Fulton, 111; Robert Edgerton, Mrs. John L. Blalock, Zeb Plonk, Bill Bates, Mrs. N. H. Reed, Bill Grissom, Mrs. Menzell Phifer, Mrs. Charles Neisler, Frank Mitchem, Mrs. Charles Mauney, Mrs. George Houser, Jim Guyton, Mrs. S. R. Suber, Jr., Mrs. Jack Arnette, Mrs. Ray Holmes, Rev. S. T. Cooke, Mrs. Victoria Bess, Rev. Gary Bryant and Mrs. O. O. Walker.