

# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

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## \$105,000 For Construction

# Bonds Approved For Peak Shaving Plant

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The city will issue \$105,000 in bonds to construct a gas peak shaving plant. The commissioners approved the measure following a public hearing Monday night.

The \$105,000 in bonds will be supplemented by an FHA grant of \$90,000 to construct the plant on Deal St. adjacent to the city water works.

As explained by Mayor John Moss, the peak shaving plant will process propane air mix with natural gas in tanks of curtailed gas supply to the city's customers. The mayor said the propane air mixture will add 25 percent of the natural gas supply into the system.

W. D. Edwards, the city's gas consultant, said the peak shaving plant will benefit the city's customers in times of extreme cold during the current program. Transco's gas supply for this coming year will be low and at this time there is no way of telling exactly how much natural gas will be available to Kings Mountain customers.

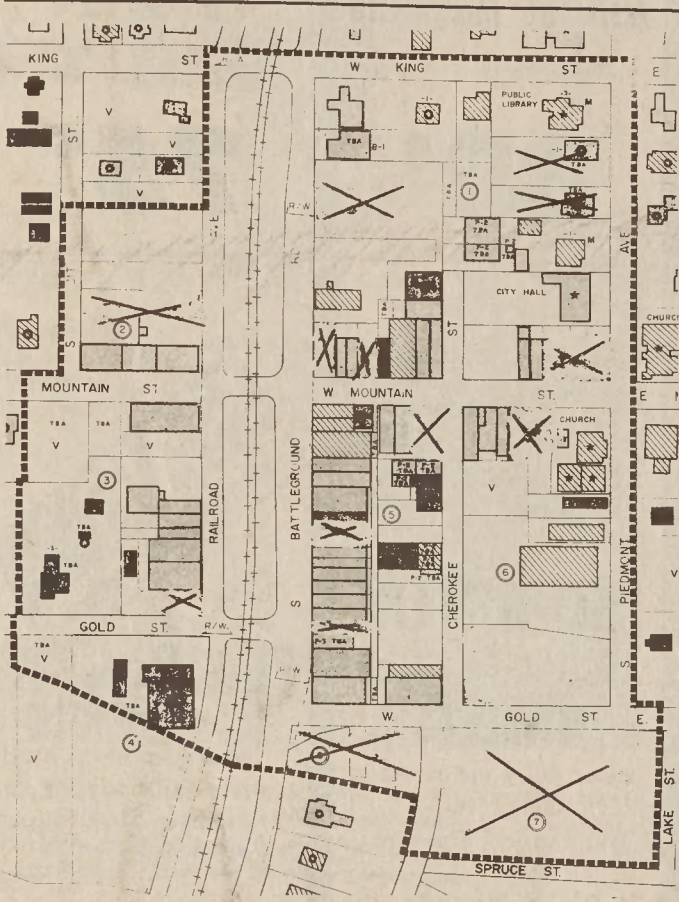
The propane air will augment the natural gas," Edwards said. "Practically any gas system in the country has a supplemental propane. Propane is the safest method. Under a railment program a supplemental supply is the way any system can remain viable."

Edwards said it takes about 100 gallons of propane to make heat equivalent to 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas and propane costs about 18 cents per gallon.

The total estimated cost of the plant is \$190,000 and will need one man to operate the equipment and the compress-machinery. Edwards said the plant can be fully automated, "but thus far no system has had the guts to do it. Most systems want the security of a man on the job to keep an eye on the machinery."

The Deal St. site has been selected because that is the principal point in the city where natural gas is received from Transco's line. Mayor Moss said it is much simpler to mix gas and propane at this principal point for introduction to the city system.

Sealed bids on construction of the peak shaving plant will be received at city hall Aug. 1.



**REDEVELOPMENT AREAS** — This map shows existing buildings in the downtown redevelopment area and the areas marked with the large X shows the properties where new business structures will be constructed.

## Blanton Is Chairman Rebuild, Revitalize Is Downtown's Theme

Response to the announcement of formation of a committee for rebuilding and revitalizing downtown Kings Mountain has been tremendous, according to Mayor John H. Moss.

Charles Blanton, owner-operator of Kings Mountain Drug Co., has been named chairman of the committee and commented, "The response has been from businessmen and citizens and it looks as if the project will get off the ground rather quickly."

Both Blanton and Mayor Moss said "We are talking about seeing action on the project in about 90 days."

The committee will actively seek business to settle in the downtown area in new buildings constructed through Small Business Loan Association funds to suit tenants. And the businessman will have the option of becoming a lessor or buyer of the property and building.

"This committee will take a positive approach in selling downtown Kings Mountain as the place to set up business," the mayor said. "There is a lot going for the project, the appeal of ample parking under development and the proposition of a general theme and design to be followed in the development of new business structures as well as updating existing structures."

Blanton said it is difficult to state exactly how much property will be available under redevelopment for the building sites because of the areas set aside for parking, and the businessman will have the option of becoming a lessor or buyer of the property and building.

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## Gas Tap Apps Are Taken

Applications for gas taps will be taken beginning at 10 a. m. Fri., Aug. 1 at the utility window at city hall.

A total of 70 taps are available with a limit of two taps per residence. There will be 35 available for existing structures and 35 for new construction.

Applicants must live within the city limits and be in an area where existing gas lines are installed. A deposit of \$25 per tap is required with the first 100 feet of line costing \$75, plus \$1 per foot thereafter.

## Interested In Starting JC Chapter?

An organizational meeting is planned tonight at 7 p. m. at the Royal Villa to reestablish the Kings Mountain Jaycees.

Mike Stewart of Charlotte, member of the North Carolina Jaycees, will preside at the meeting.

"We hope Kings Mountain can again join the 285 other communities in North Carolina that currently enjoy Jaycee chapters," Stewart said.

Young men from 18 to 36 are invited to attend the meeting tonight for particulars. The Jaycees is an organization dedicated to community involvement and self-improvement.

For more information call Mike Stewart at 629-2282 or 739-7507.

### KIWANIS MEETING

The Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club meets tonight at 6:45 at the KM Woman's Club for dinner, a film program and check presentation of \$500 to the Rev. Frank Shirley and the Rev. Glenn Boland for the ministerial association. The Interclub Committee is expected to give members an activities report.

## Amos, Houston

## Two More Candidates In Commissioner Race

James Amos, incumbent commissioner, and Humes Houston, a political newcomer, have announced intentions of filing for the October municipal election commissioner's race.

Amos became commissioner of district (ward) five two years ago as a member of a clean sweep ticket which opposed the old incumbent board.

Houston is seeking his first municipal post by popular election.

Commissioner Amos is the son of Mrs. M. C. Amos and the late Mr. Amos. He attended Mars Hill College, St. John's University of Brooklyn, N. Y. and earned his BS degree in accounting and business administration at UNC-Chapel Hill.

He has 20 years experience in controllership and production planning. He now owns and operates The Little Moo in Kings Mountain.



JAMES AMOS

Amos is a member of First Baptist Church, is a Mason, former Kiwanian, a member of the KM Country Club, a former director of the KM Chamber of Commerce. In World War Two he served with the 84th Infantry Division in Germany where he became a disabled veteran.

Locally, Amos has membership in the American Legion, VFW, Amvets and Disabled Veterans Organization.

He is married to the former Elizabeth Holland of Gastonia and had two children, Suzanne, in graduate school at the University of Kansas, and James Jr., senior at Wake Forest University. The family resides at 409 Edgemont Dr.

In his filing statement, Amos said, "I have endeavored to represent all citizens of Kings Mountain and to vote my convictions based on, not only my judgment, but the considered judgment of all the constituency."

"I shall continue this policy and maintain an open door to anyone who wishes to influence my vote," he continued.



HUMES HOUSTON

"However, no one will tell me how to vote."

Houston, 56, is manager of Kings Mountain Drug Co. and has been a resident of Kings Mountain since 1923. His father, H. H. Houston, was secretary-treasurer of the Phenix Mill.

A graduate of Kings Mountain high, Houston entered the U. S. Army in 1941 and retired from military service in 1969 with the rank of Major — CE. During his service he was awarded the Bronze Star (first oak-leaf cluster) for exemplary conduct in ground combat against armed enemy as a first lieutenant 302nd Infantry Regiment. He was also awarded a Bronze Star for heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy in Germany.

He also received four European battle campaign stars with 94th Infantry Division, Third Army.

Houston organized the local National Guard Co. as HQ & HQ Co., 3rd Bn, 120th Infantry,

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**SUPPORT BLACK LEONARD** — This group of citizens, led by Mrs. Margaret Harbison, stood and read a support resolution for Public Works Director Black Leonard during Monday night's commissioner meeting. The comments sparked a lengthy discussion between citizens and commissioners.

Photo By Tom McIntyre

## Pros, Cons Aired Leonard Discussed Again In Commissioner Meeting Call Gas Department For Help

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

The controversy over Public Works Director Black Leonard continued at Monday night's board of commissioners meeting when about 20 citizens stood in Leonard's support.

There was one anti-Leonard voice from the audience, Jean Holden of Rhodes Ave.

Margaret Harbison started the dialogue by reading from a prepared statement which included praise for Leonard's work as the public works director for the city.

The "praise Leonard" speech sparked comment from several individuals that resulted in putting at least two commissioners on the spot with demands of explanations about why they were against the public works director.

This came after Mrs. Janie Kincaid stood to ask the board make a motion and vote on support for Leonard. Commissioners Ray Cline and Corbet Nicholson did not vote for support of Leonard and Commissioner M. C. Pruette, after some hesitation, did vote in favor. Pruette later qualified his hesitation by saying, "I'll support Leonard as long as he does his job. I don't expect people to support me if I don't do my job. Mr. Leonard can expect as much from me."

Commissioner Cline said, "I didn't vote to support Leonard because he was hired when I wasn't here. I had no opportunity to check into his background and qualifications before he was hired."

That comment brought a question from Joe Hord, a citizen in the audience. "He's been on the job for 18 months now. You mean you still haven't had time to evaluate his ability on the job?"

Commissioner Nicholson said "Pruette and I made a request through the mayor for Mr. Leonard to do something and he refused to do it. He said it took six men to tell him what to do."

Again Hord commented, "And for that you're going to hold a grudge against the man for the rest of his life?"

Mrs. Kincaid kept the pot boiling by stating, "I think we have a right to know what it was you asked Leonard to do that he didn't do."

Mayor Moss intervened with "it was a personnel matter. Corbet and Murray asked about the disposition of a city employee who had been suspended. The commissioners wanted to see the man reinstated. Eventually, the employee was reinstated."

"Then the situation was ultimately resolved," said Hord. "The man is back on the job. If that's so then I see no reason for anyone to carry a grudge."

Hord also suggested that Cline was "running from his responsibilities" by not voting either for or against Leonard in confidence vote instead of not voting at all. "I hope

you're not letting the election coming up interfere with your responsibilities as a commissioner now," Hord said.

Earlier in the discussion Mrs. Harbison's statement termed Leonard as "a man of integrity, interested in Kings Mountain and its people, who always acts quickly and courteously." She also asked the statement be read into the meeting minutes.

In his opening comments Hord said, "You men backed him 18 months ago when you knew he had no qualifications for the job, but you said you would work with him. It's a bit ridiculous to have a man on the job 18 months, then start saying that he isn't qualified to do the job."

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The Kings Mountain Gas Department has asked citizens who find they have accidentally severed gas lines to call the department (739-2351) immediately for repair service.

Citizens are also asked to under no circumstances try to plug the broken end of the gas line with objects. Broken lines are to be left alone. One gas department employee has suffered injury to a hand while trying to remove a stick from a broken line. Gas pressure blew the stick into the hand.

Gas workers urge citizens not to try to hammer objects into the broken pipe because a spark can ignite the natural gas causing injuries from explosions and fire.



RICHARD BYERS

## One Day He Could Save Your Life...

A Kings Mountain native now living in Grover, Richard Byers has been a member of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad for the past three years.

Employed at Vulcan Materials Co., Blackburg, S. C., Richard got interested in rescue work through his late father, Paul Byers, then a Cleveland County Deputy Sheriff. When he was about 12 Richard served as mascot for the Grover Rescue Squad.

Now he said he feels "the rescue squad is one of the most valuable volunteer organizations in the community. I'm grateful my father got me interested in this work."

Richard is married to the former Susie Dover and has one son, Richard Jody, 4. They reside at 203 Price St., Grover, and are members of Temple Baptist Church.

Richard is the son of Mrs. Frances Byers Greene.

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