

# KINGS MOUNTAIN MIRROR-HERALD

"Cleveland County's Modern Newsweekly"

KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 28086 THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1975

## T. F. King In Job Controversy

# Reinstated, Then He Resigned

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Sgt. Tommy King was reinstated to the KMPD force full rank and pay in a special city commissioner meeting Friday night, then submitted his resignation to the board. His resignation was accepted with the stipulations that his personnel file be wiped clean of derogatory allegations against him and that he receive full back pay plus pay for any accrued vacation he is due.

Through the reinstatement motion, second and vote and the acceptance motion, second and vote was done three times, this entire action took all of eight minutes, then the meeting was adjourned.

However, the two decisions on the action taken Tuesday were made following two days of negotiations between city commissioners, mayor and city attorney and Sgt. King's attorney, F. Pat Cooke of Gastonia.

The reinstatement and resignation came following two sessions, one illegal and one legal, of the board and a

wait of two hours by an overflow crowd in the commissioner chambers and corridors at city hall.

Following the meeting King commented "Now, I'm unemployed." Then he announced to the news media that he "was going to file tomorrow (Wednesday) to run for commissioner in district four. After I file I'm going to pound the pavement and hunt me a job."

Just prior to the adjournment Tuesday night an unidentified man came forward to present the mayor and board with another petition supporting King and asking reinstatement. The man said there "are 400 signatures on this petition" as he turned it over to the mayor.

Tuesday night's special meeting was set on the Wednesday morning before. That afternoon Police Chief William Roper fired King from the force "in view of previous numerous complaints, personnel problems and insubordination."

Last Thursday morning Chief Roper told The Mirror-Herald

"I came to the conclusion this is my (police) department and I had steps to take, so I did it."

Roper said King came on duty at 2 p. m. Wednesday (the day he was fired) and was told he was wanted in the chief's office. Lt. Bob Hayes was also present in Roper's office. Hayes is the unit commander to which King had been transferred earlier following his demotion to patrolman following a fellow officer's report that King had taken gasoline from the city pump without authorization.

"King came on duty still wearing his sergeant shields," Chief Roper said. "I asked him where he had been since the Friday before. He said he was on regular two day break. I reminded the officer that he had had his two day break following his two day suspension, which was July 28-29. I also reminded him that his two days off (July 30-31) led into his regular one week's vacation (Aug. 1-7) and that he had been notified he was to report at 2 p. m. on Fri., Aug. 8 on Lt. Hayes' shift."

(Please Turn To Page 10A)



Photo By Tom McIntyre

ATTORNEY-CLIENT — F. Pat Cooke, a Gastonia attorney, chats with Tommy King at Tuesday's special commissioner meeting here in which the officer was reinstated, then resigned. King was fired from the force last Wednesday after this week's public meeting was already set.

## Senior Citizens Day

A special day for senior citizens is planned at the Kings Mountain Community Center Aug. 28 from 11 a. m. until 1 p. m.

The Mountaineer Room will

be jumping to the sounds of a quartet singing and musicians playing. Following the entertainment will be a free lunch.

(Please Turn To Page 2A)

## CD Grants Are Approved By HUD

By TOM McINTYRE  
Editor, Mirror-Herald

Reading a letter from President Gerald Ford here Friday, Richard B. Barnwell officially announced that Kings Mountain has been approved for a grant of \$1,040,000 under its community development act applications.

Barnwell, director of the N. C. Area Office, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), came to the city from Greensboro last Friday to present the letter from President Ford and to make the formal announcement of the grant approval.

The \$1,040,000 is the first year's grant under a \$4,160,000 hold harmless grant approved for Kings Mountain to be spread over a five year period.

In his letter to Mayor Moss, President Ford asked the mayor to ensure "Total public participation" as the community development plan is carried out. The President said the 1974 law, under which the plan was submitted "is designed to change the old system of helping United States

cities grow." He said the new act "is designed to let the cities and counties of our nation set their own priorities with maximum discretion to address problems of blight and decay in our cities and towns within broad federal guidelines."

The letter went on "approval is only the first step. I urge that you enlist all your

citizens in helping to carry out this plan. This is a new direction in federal policy and requires total public participation if it is to succeed."

The CD funds will sponsor 13 civic projects during the coming year in Kings Mountain. There were 13 applications submitted originally,

(Please Turn To Page 5A)

## New Industry Coming To Town

Buckeye Fire Equipment Company, of Cleveland, Ohio has announced plans to open a 58,000 square-foot manufacturing facility in Kings Mountain to produce commercial and industrial fire extinguishers.

Buckeye president Thomas J. Bower said, "We have decided to expand to North Carolina because of the availability of raw materials and labor and, most importantly, to better serve our customers in the Southeast."

Bower added, "We're indebted to the Economic Development Department of First Union National Bank for providing us with invaluable assistance in finding a suitable location."

The plant, located in the old Kinder Manufacturing Company at 102 Industrial Dr., will ultimately employ 125 people and begin full production Oct. 1. Buckeye will manufacture a complete

(Please Turn To Page 5A)

## One For Mayor, Four For Commissioner

# Eight More Candidates File For Local Election

number of candidates for municipal offices have filed to 19 with the filing of two incumbent commissioners Lloyd Davis, and newcomers Jonas Bridges, Tommy King, Charles Parker, and Everette Pearson.

Unannounced candidates expected to file before the Sept. 5 deadline are incumbent Mayor John H. Moss and district four incumbent Commissioner Don McAbee.

Kings Mountain Elections Board secretary Betty Mercier is on duty at city hall from 9 a. m.-5 p. m. Monday through Friday to file local candidates through the Sept. 5 deadline. Filing fee for mayor is \$10, for commissioner \$5.

If potential candidates do not find Mrs. Mercier at city hall, they can contact her at her home, 902 Monroe Ave., at 739-2192.

Kings Mountain Board of Education candidates must file at the Cleveland County Elections office, Shelby, Filing for the two trusteeships begins at noon Fri., Sept. 12 and ends at noon Fri., Oct. 3.

To date three candidates have filed for the two

education seats now held by Chairman George Mauney and J. E. Herndon Jr. The candidates are Herman Greene, Charles Mauney and Kyle Smith.

The county elections board announced today that Margaret White, 102 S. Piedmont Ave., has been appointed registrar for the East Kings Mountain precinct. Geraldine Myers, 317 Scotland Dr., continues serving as registrar

for West Kings Mountain.

The registration books are now open, with the closing date set for 5 p. m. Sept. 8. Voters may register by calling registrars and making appointments. Mrs. White's number is 739-4019 and Mrs. Myers' number is 739-9188.

Under a 1975 General Assembly law local elections judges who have been sworn in may also register voters for coming elections.

### LLOYD DAVIS

Lloyd E. Davis filed for reelection Monday.

The incumbent district two commissioner is married to the former Mary Bennett and is the father of one son, Kenneth Davis, and one daughter, Mrs. Wayne Russell, both of Kings Mountain.

The Davises, who reside at 411 Bennett St., have three grandchildren, Kenny Davis and Mark and Karla Russell.

The commissioner is a member of First Wesleyan Church.

In his filing statement, Davis said, "I am completing two years as commissioner under the John H. Moss administration. I also served two years under the Garland Still administration in 1953-54.

"One of my opponents has already stated that the present administration has accomplished nothing in the

past two years," Davis continued. "In the coming weeks prior to the Oct. 7 municipal election I will show my opponent and the public the accomplishments and progress made for Kings Mountain during the past two years."

### JONAS BRIDGES

Jonas Bridges is a former commissioner in district five,

(Please Turn To Page 5A)



Photo By Tom McIntyre

FROM PRESIDENT — Richard B. Barnwell, HUD representative, and John H. Moss display the letter from President Gerald Ford commending the city on

receiving community development block grants. The official announcement of approval for \$1,040,000 this year was made Friday at city hall.



LLOYD DAVIS



JONAS BRIDGES



TOMMY KING



GILBERT HAMRICK



CHARLES PARKER



PAUL LEDFORD



BILL SELLERS



EVERETTE PEARSON