

# Kings Mountain Herald

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Kings Mountain, N.C. 20c

## Bloodmobile Here Monday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at First Baptist Church Monday from 12 noon until 5:30 p.m. for the annual Kings Mountain community visit. Collection goal is 100 pints. Mrs. Martha Scruggs, director of the Bloodmobile, said the Red Cross is in an emergency status

for O-negative and O-positive blood and in a tight status for B-positive and B-negative. "We are asking all of the citizens with those types of blood to come, but we are in need of every blood type," Mrs. Scruggs said.

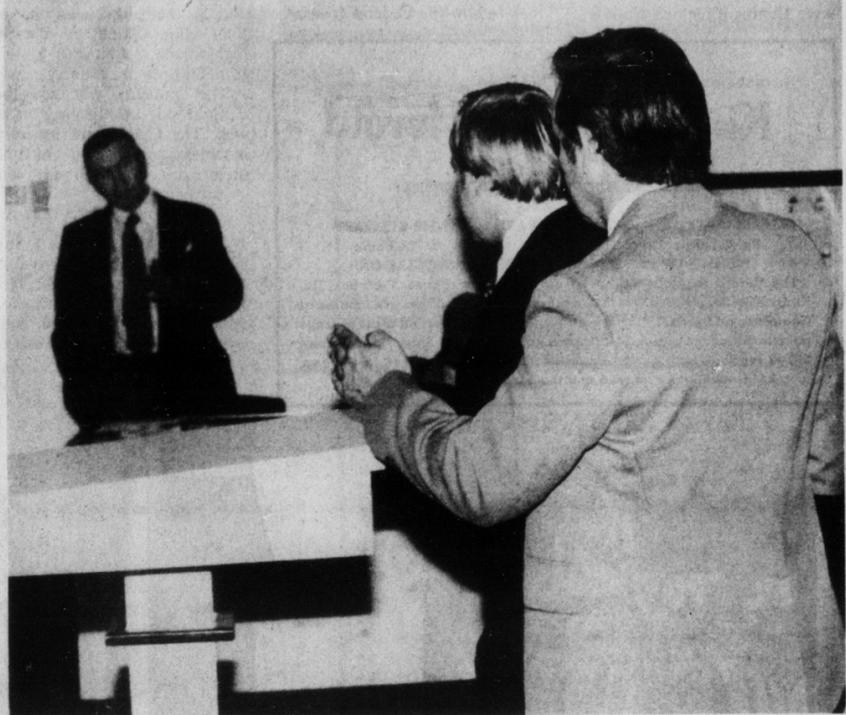
## Huffman Airs Complaints, But In Executive Session

By GARY STEWART  
Co-Editor

Kings Mountain commissioners, in a 4-3 vote decided by Mayor John Henry Moss, denied allowing a city employee to air grievances in open meeting Monday night, but following a two-hour executive session gave him a unanimous vote of support. Ted Huffman, supervisor of the Public Works Department, and his attorney, Andy Neisler, tried to appear before the board to answer charges that Huffman had used city equipment and city employees while he was constructing a new home in the Dixon Community. Huffman said the charges had been made by two employees whom he had terminated nine and 18 months ago and Neisler appealed to the board to hear Huffman's answer because "street rumors" were being circulated. During the executive session, Huffman produced cancelled checks and signed affidavits proving to the board that city employees who worked on his new home did so after their city workday was over. After returning to open session, Mayor Moss told the

crowd, which included a large number of Public Works Department employees who had come to support Huffman, that the board had "received statements from Ted Huffman relative to his concerns, after which the board accepted his explanation as information and the board was unanimously satisfied." The board then voted unanimously to accept Huffman's explanations. Huffman, who has worked with the city for three years, requested to be heard in open session, he said, because he had been unable to air his grievances through other procedures. City Attorney George Thomasson protested loudly against Huffman doing so in open meeting and told the board that "the General Statutes of North Carolina require personnel matters be discussed in executive session." Thomasson and Moss pointed out that the proper procedures for Huffman airing his grievances would be either through the personnel committee, which consists of commissioners Humes Houston, Norman King and Jim Childers, or in an executive session.

"I would like to air my grievances here in public because I have not been allowed to do so at any other time," Huffman said. Three commissioners - King, Childers and Bill Grissom - favored handling the matter in open session. The other three - Corbet Nicholson, Humes Houston and Jim Dickey - voted to go into executive session. Mayor Moss then broke the tie to go behind closed doors. The board did, however, allow Huffman and Neisler to sit in on the executive session, during which time the charges were discussed candidly, according to Neisler. Neisler said he did not interpret the open meetings law to mean that personnel matters were "required" to be handled in executive session, as Thomasson said. "The open meetings law says they may be handled in executive session, but doesn't say they have to be," Neisler said. "But," he added, "it was probably better. We wanted to have it out in the open, but in executive session we could be more candid. It was a lot easier to carry on a discussion." Huffman and Neisler returned from executive session with big smiles on their faces, indicating they were well-pleased with what went on. Huffman later gave the following reasons for requesting to be heard by the board: "Serious charges and accusations have been surfacing for the past several weeks concerning my integrity and honesty. Most of these charges were being brought about by former employees of the city, who had previously been terminated for various reasons. "In turn, two of the commissioners were following up on these charges, with the assistance of the Mayor, without having confronted me at any time with any of the charges. "This is why I came to the board of commissioners meeting seeking an open meeting ... to produce evidence that I was not guilty of any of the allegations. However, the open meeting did not come about because of the Mayor casting the deciding vote to go into executive session. "During the executive session, I produced all the necessary documentation to convince all board members that I was not guilty of the aforementioned allegations. "I am completely satisfied with the way the matter was handled and I will continue to work with all board members and the mayor to perform my job to the best of my ability."



Ted Huffman, right, Andy Neisler try to air grievances in public, but City Attorney, George Thomasson, left, protests ...

## ACT Supports Bobby Crawford

The board of directors of the Cleveland County Association of Taxpayers in a special meeting Tuesday night in Shelby voted unanimously to support write-in candidate Bobby Crawford in his appeal for a new county commissioner election. Crawford, who along with Duran Johnson and John Caveny Jr. barely lost a recount recently, filed a petition in Cleveland County Superior Court Tuesday calling for a new election. Meantime, John Caveny Jr. of Kings Mountain, who was reportedly considering withdrawing as a candidate if a new election is ordered, said after the meeting that "Last night I was given facts that I was not previously aware of and some ideas I had not previously considered. I am convinced that my statement to the Shelby Daily Star last week was premature and I support the appeal."

The petition, which was drawn up by Crawford's attorney Tom Kakassy of Gastonia, asks the court to review the decision of the state elections board calling for a recount rather than a new election and asks for a new election. The filing of the appeal will block the taking of oaths for re-elected commissioners Jack Palmer, Coleman Goforth and Hugh Dover slated for Monday. Petitioner alleges that the defects in voting procedures, as well as in the ballots employed in the election of Nov. 4, 1980, are so substantial and are to such an extent in violation of State Statute, as to render the decision and Order issued by the State Board of Elections insufficient, as a matter of law, to remedy the substantial defects as alleged by the petitioner. Specifically, petitioner complains of the following defects: •The machine and hand ballots prepared by the Cleveland County Board of Elections were deficient in that voters who wished to write in the names of candidates for County Commissioner were provided insufficient space to do so, in violation of G.S. 163-140 a. •The voters who marked straight tickets and then attempted to write in the names of unaffiliated candidates, such as Mr. Crawford, were denied the opportunity by the tabulators to have their votes counted; paragraph 4 of the decision and Order of the State Board of Elections insured that this violation of G.S. 163-70(a) was repeated in the recounting of the ballots. •Paragraph 7 of the decision and Order of the State Board of Elections specified that, "Where a voter marked the straight Democratic circle and also wrote in some, but less than three, names for the office of County Commissioners, such ballots shall not be counted for any of the candidates whose names were printed on the ballot or for the candidate or candidates written in." Petitioner alleges that this provision, again, violates G.S. 163-70(a). Petitioner alleges that the amount of votes disputed is sufficient to change the results of the election in question.

## Without Proper Receipt, KM Woman Is Evicted

By GARY STEWART  
Co-Editor

Cleveland County deputies, acting on a court order, Wednesday morning evicted from Pine Manor Apartments a Kings Mountain woman who claims her rent was paid up through January, but to a former manager who is no longer employed by U.S. Shelter of Greenville, S.C., which manages the 100-unit complex. Deannier Epps, who had been living in the government-subsidized apartment for two years, said several other tenants had done the same, but were also facing eviction. Mrs. Epps, who has four children and a niece living with her, produced a cash register-type receipt for \$300, which was signed by the former manager, but included no indication of what the \$300 was spent for. Another tenant, Terry Feemster, claims she paid the ex-manager \$209 for two months rent and utilities, and later paid the same amount to avoid eviction. Virginia Sims, current manager, refused to answer questions concerning the evictions. But attached to her office wall was a two by three feet poster copy of the official receipt form, which stated the tenants must have an official receipt that "looks like this." Gary Hediger, vice president



Terry Feemster, left, Deannier Epps

of U.S. Shelter, said his company is investigating the allegations against the former manager and that auditors and company officials were at Pine Manor Wednesday to hear any complaints. Hediger said one tenant had produced a receipt and was credited with paying the rent. Twenty others, he said, could not produce a valid receipt and paid. "We are more than happy to let them stay if they produce the receipts," he said. "We want them there because it's costly to us to evict them. "We manage property all over the country, and this is not the first time something like this has happened," he added. "That's why we put the sign up there, so everybody can see it. Mrs. Epps and others earlier talked to local magistrate Jim Dickey to see what could be done about their problem, and Dickey suggested they report it to the police department. Robert Dodge, detective with the Kings Mountain PD, also talked with several tenants, but said he has not received any complaints from the management of Pine Manor. "The state won't extradite the man for a misdemeanor," Dickey said. "And I won't issue a warrant for a felony unless it has been investigated." The General Statutes of the State of North Carolina defines both larceny by an employee (GS 14-74) and embezzlement of property received by virtue of office or employment (GS 14-90) as felonies. Both Dickey and Dodge said the receipts shown them were written on adding machine-type paper and did not indicate what the money was paid for.



Belongings put outside apartment ...

**CORRECTION**  
A story appearing in the Thurs., Jan. 22 edition of the Herald concerning the resignation of Rev. Kenneth George as Director of the Kings Mountain Program for the Aging contained a sentence which stated the Advisory Council voted unanimously to request that an employee of the program be dismissed. The story should have said the council asked that the employee not continue in the Aging Program. Rev. George said this week that "I am not in any way desiring to go back as director or to continue in city employment. My main concern is for this one statement to be corrected because the Advisory Council and the Director of the Program did not request that anyone be terminated from city employment. "I hope this clears all matters and the Kings Mountain Aging Program continues to operate for the good of our elderly citizens," he said.