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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA

Public Housing Idea Protested By Citizens

GROVER - A dozen citizens appeared before the Town Board meeting Monday night to air their concerns that a government subsidized rural rental housing project is planned in Grover.

Clyde and Lucille Randle, Monroe and Viola Crawford, Estelle Tesseneer, Mrs. Grady Ross, Martha Turner, Gary Byers, Shirley Philbeck, and Commissioners Juanita Pruette, Quay Moss, Edward Philbeck and Ronald Queen told the board that a housing project is not needed and questioned Town Attorney Andy Neisler as to procedures to keep the housing project out.

Neisler pointed out that the town has no zoning ordinance and builders can request sewer and water services from the town. Comm. Queen said that he was told that Minette Mills had agreed to provide the sewer service for the proposed 32-units of housing and it was his understanding that Mayor Bill McCarter had suggested that water would be available. Water Commissioner Ed Philbeck said that he had not been contacted about the project and knew nothing of any requests for the town to furnish the water for the project. Comm. Quay Moss said it was his understanding from newspaper reports that Mayor McCarter was encouraging the project but the Mayor said that "all of this talk is a little premature."

The Mayor told the board that any proposed housing project "is not a town project" and that private contractors can build within state requirements and that he has been contacted by several developers about water and sewer. "I have made no commitments", he told the board.

Speaking out against public housing, Mrs. Estelle Tesseneer reminded the group that "We have a nice, clean town and we've got enough going on down in Booger Hollow without putting a housing project there. I'm against it." Others concurred with her remarks.

Mills Construction Company of Shelby has applied for Farmers Home Administration funds for the project which is reported to cover a three acre site on Maple Street, and if the project is approved, would cost over \$1 million. Mr. Mills had told the Herald several weeks ago that "it's a bit premature to

announce the project now", explaining that he wouldn't know whether it will be funded until the end of June. He said that the chances of the project being funded are slim but that Grover met the criteria for the project by its small population, by the fact that it's in a rural area and that the mayor encouraged him to build a project there.

Citizens at Monday's meeting said that the property is owned by Avery Hardin of Hickory who has given the Mills firm the option to purchase the land. The proposed building site is located directly in back of the home of Comm. Martha Byers and her husband, Gary.

Attorney Neisler, who spoke in defense of housing projects and elaborated on some of the good points of public housing, cautioned the board that failure to okay water for the project, if it becomes a reality, could result in a discrimination suit against the city. He suggested they take their concerns to local legislators.

Bob Hambright, local merchant, said he had approached by several builders interested in housing and remarked that competition for the FHA funds is very competitive. Mills had been quoted in a local newspaper that "securing the FHA funds would be like throwing a penny into the ocean and trying to find it...it's very much a possibility for Grover, not a probability."

In other actions the board approved backfilling and finished grading work on the right-of-way area at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Cooke. Mr. Cooke, through attorney Steve Crosby, said he would resort to litigation for damages if the city did not fulfill its obligations in completing the sidewalk construction at his house. Mayor McCarter said that he had hired someone to do the work and that if the city did not see fit to reimburse that he would be responsible for paying the bill.

Mrs. Martha Hicks Turner appeared before the board in a related matter and asked that backfilling and seeding be done on her property and Comm. Juanita Pruette contended that since most property owners had paid for their own improvements that the town had erred in its decision to "satisfy one property owner and not the others".

Mrs. Estelle Tesseneer suggested that in the future the board obtain written contracts

and let bids for street improvements and eliminate all confusion. The board said that a verbal contract was executed with Spangler's Construction Co. during a prior administration and that Spangler's did not agree to provide the backfilling and seeding. Mrs. Turner interjected that "You could have fixed all our properties with these lawyer fees you'll be paying. I could have obtained a lawyer too, but I would prefer that you abide by your word which was placed in the minutes and stick to it."

Charles Harry, Jr., treasurer of Grover Industries, appeared before the board to request the closing of a portion of Maple Street for a shipping dock to facilitate the industry's shipping department. The board tabled the matter for further study. Attorney Neisler pointed out that all adjoining property owners be notified and asked to appear at a public hearing after proper advertisement. Mr. Neisler, responding to a request from Mrs. Mary Lou Atkins, said that the town's responsibility is to clean and drain side ditches.

The board directed Attorney Neisler to write letters to property owners on Pine Street informing them that if shrubbery is growing out on the street and over the right-of-way that the city has the authority to have the shrubbery clipped and bill property owners for payment.

Upon recommendation of Comm. Martha Byers the board voted to study its insurance policies for comprehensive general liability and voted to pay for four water taps at cost of \$1,086.32. The board endorsed the Cleveland County Arson Task Force organizational plans of which Charles Forney, Jr. is chairman.

After returning from executive session, Mayor McCarter announced that the board took no action on vacation schedule for personnel.

COMMUNITY WATCH

A Community Watch will be organized in Grover on June 2 at a 7 p.m. meeting which is tentatively scheduled for Grover School.

Sgt. Pruitt of the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department, Clyde Randle of Grover, and Reserve Officer Tony Anthony will lead the organizational meeting to which all citizens of the Grover area are invited to attend.



Photo by Lib Stewart

STUDENTS HONORED - KMSHS Principal Bob McRae, left, presents a gift to Boo Robinson and Dr. Gurney Chambers, far right.

presents a gift to Jeff Lineberger at the first annual Top Ten Academic Awards Banquet Tuesday night at KMSHS.

32 Students Cited

At Top Ten Banquet

A total of 32 Kings Mountain Senior High School students were cited for academic achievements at the first annual KMSHS Top Ten Banquet Tuesday night in the KMSHS Cafeteria.

Dr. Gurney Chambers, Associate Dean of the School of Education and Psychology at Western Carolina University, gave the keynote address in which he challenged the honor students to become "Lifetime Members of the Hit Parade", alluding to the Top 10 hit songs of the past and challenging the young people to "be on the top list for a long time and avoid all negative self concepts while maintaining knowledge, intelligence or desire and motivation."

Supt. William Davis also commended the staff of KMSHS and Principal Bob McRae for the first-time program and congratulated the students.

Rev. Gary Bryant, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and Brian Norris, a senior voice student, delighted the group with two sacred numbers, 'Give It All To Jesus' and 'He Was There All The Time.'

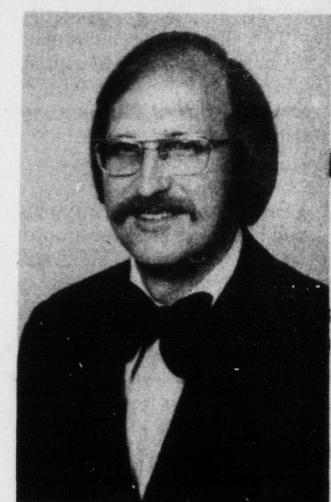
Special awards were presented to 'All A Seniors' Boo Robinson and Jeff Lineberger.

Academic awards in the form of certificates went to Sophomores Don Ayscue, Mark Cloninger, Sharon Dilling, Kevin Dixon, Joan Finger, Kelly Goodson, Joanie Hamrick, Jimmy Lackey, Clayton Ollis, and Lisa

Smith; Junors Sandy Appling, Janet Blair, Kristin Gatts, Pam Hatch, Laura Herndon, Toni Nicholson, Lisa Roark, Scott Shaw, Bob Smith, Tillie Watson and Eric Wright; Seniors Kent

Bush, Carol Edwards, Bobby Hagens, Eddie Hammett, Steve Lee, Jeff Lineberger, Eric Myers, Boo Robinson, Janice Scoggins, Kathy Stamey and Rhonda Toney.

Rev. Bryant To Paw Creek



REV. GARY BRYANT

of the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association Helping Hand Fund for several years and as secretary and treasurer of the ministers group. He has also been active in the Kiwanis Club and in activities of Concord Presbytery.

Jaycee News

Hambright Elected

★★★

Mike Neely, past External Vice President of the Kings Mountain Jaycees, was elected District Director of the Midwest Region of the North Carolina Jaycees at the Midwest Regional meeting April 24 in Gastonia.

The role of the district director is to survey conditions of area local chapters, to make recommendations for the improvement of programs, and to address the general membership of the local chapters, and to serve as a liaison between the local and state Jaycees.

Awards were presented to Alan Propst, president's plaque; Tom Franks, Jaycee of the Year; Jim Dickey Jr., External Project of the Year; Louis Sabetti, Internal Project of the Year; Doug Burch, Spark Plug of the Year; Jim Tate, Support External Project; and Tom Franks, Support External Project.

★★★

Eight Kings Mountain Jaycees attended the Midwest Regional Meeting of the North Carolina Jaycees Friday night at the Gastonia Jaycee Building.

Guest speaker for the event was John Long, President of the North Carolina Jaycees.

Attending from Kings Mountain were Myers Hambright Jr., Allan Propst, Dan Dilling, Doug Burch, Brad Tate, Larry Beasley, Mike Neely and Rick Wallace.

REVIVAL

Rev. Robert Wright of Kings Mountain will be evangelist for special services May 10-16 at the House of Prayer near Fallston.

Services will be at 7 p.m. each evening and Rev. Clyde Price, pastor, invites the community to attend.



JAYCEE OFFICERS - Pictured are new officers of the Kings Mountain Jaycees. Front row, Vice President Doug Burch, Myers Hambright, President, and Vice President Danny

Dilling. Back row, from left, Director Jim Tate, Ron Miller, Secretary and Lou Sabetti, Treasurer.