



SWORN IN—Newly-elected Kings Mountain commissioners took the oath of office Monday at the council chambers of the new City Hall. Administering the oath is Ruth Dedmon, right, clerk of Cleveland County Superior Court. Left to right, commissioners are Humes Houston, Jim Dickey and Curt Gaffney.

Rate Hike 'Hardship' For KM Senior Citizens

The Kings Mountain Board of Commissioners Monday night approved a 12.1 percent electrical rate increase, effective December 1.

The increase was necessary because of a 15 percent increase announced by Duke Power last Friday.

The Duke increase is subject to approval by the State Utilities Commission. If the full 15 percent is not approved, the difference will be refunded.

The city's residential rates will rise nine percent because of Monday's action and residential all-electric rates will rise 12.3 percent. Commercial, Industrial and Housing Authority rates will rise 15 percent.

The rates are in line with Duke Power's retail rates, Gordon N. Drum of Southeastern Consulting Engineers of Charlotte, told the board.

But the commissioners expressed concern for consumers and disappointment that utility rates are increasing at such a rapid pace. This was the second utility increase in less than a month.

"Is there anybody we can protest to?" Commissioner Jim Childers asked.

"I agree," added Commissioner Jim Dickey. "We were notified last Friday that it was effective December 1. I think the State Regulatory Commissioner should give us some help."

Mayor John Henry Moss said he would ask City Attorney George Thomasson to write a letter to Duke Power and ask that the city be notified "in adequate time" of any future increases. Meanwhile, Moss has appointed a special committee to study a pay plan for senior citizens and particularly those senior citizens who are living on a fixed income. The committee members are Moss, commissioners Corbet Nicholson, Humes Houston and Dickey, and the committee will meet for the first time Thursday.

"I'm concerned with the way the increases are just dropping in on us," Moss said. "I look at this as a terrible hardship for senior citizens and we want to work to develop a plan to relieve this hardship."

Moss said the committee will try to develop a plan "to even out the payment" of utilities for senior citizens.

Moss said Transco, the city's natural gas supplier, has an increase coming soon "but it ap-

pears it will be small enough for the city to absorb it," he said.

In other action Monday night, the outgoing board:

*Authorized execution of a contract with A.M. Pullen Co., Certified Public Accountants, for an audit of the City's Community Development Block Grant fund for October 1, 1980 until September 30, 1981.

*Approved advertising for pumps, controls and fittings for water improvements in the northern end of the city.

*Authorized advertising for flooring of a basketball court at the National Guard Armory, which is used by city youth basketball teams.

*Approved December 24 and 25 and January 1 as holidays for all city employees.

*Approved a Christmas bonus for city employees based on tenure of service.

Following the oath of office for recently-elected commissioners Humes Houston, Jim Dickey and Curt Gaffney, the new board of commissioners:

*Appointed Commissioner Houston as Mayor Pro Tem. He was the leading vote-getter in the October election.

*Set the second and fourth Monday nights as board meeting nights.

*Re-appointed Joe McDaniel as city clerk and treasurer, George Thomasson as city attorney, W.K. Dickson Consultant Co. as city engineer, and re-appointed all department heads.

*Designated First Union National Bank, First Citizens Bank and Trust, First Federal Savings and Loan, Home Federal Savings and Loan and Branch Banking and Trust as fund deposit institutions.

*Approved the appointment of Roy Pearson Jr. as a city fireman.

*Approved a resolution authorizing application for water system improvements under the Clean Water Act.

*Cancelled the December 28 meeting because of the holiday season.

TO DECORATE TREES

The City of Kings Mountain last week planted two 25-foot high American Holly trees on Battleground Avenue as a part of its on-going downtown beautification program.

Mayor John Moss said the Public Works Department will decorate the trees with light Christmas decorations today, and they will be more heavily decorated in future holiday seasons.

Herald To Publish Tuesday Next Week

Because of the Christmas holidays, the Herald will publish on Tuesday of next week.

The paper will include the traditional Christmas greeting advertisements from local merchants, as well as late shopping specials.

Because of the early publication, it will be

necessary to move all deadlines for news and advertisement back two days.

Deadline for advertisements and social news will be 5 p.m. Friday and the deadline for sports and regular news will be 10 a.m. Monday.

What's Happening

Sertoma Award

The Kings Mountain Sertoma Club's first annual Sertoma Service To Mankind Award banquet will be held Thurs., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at Hank's Steak and Chicken Ranch.

Dr. Harris Blair, a club member and retired minister, will be the speaker for the evening. Dr. Blair is well-known for his humorous but meaningful sermons and speeches.

The climax of the evening will be the presentation of the club's Service to Mankind Award for 1981.

Any persons interested in attending should contact Lynn Welborn at 739-3325.

Church Of God

The Kings Mountain Church of God at 111 East Parker Street will present the Christmas play "To All People" Sunday at 7 p.m.

The play is being directed by Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Whetstine.

A children's program will begin at 6:45.

Free Concert

Kings Mountain junior and senior high bands will present a free concert on Thurs., Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. in B.N. Barnes Auditorium.

Participating will be the Kings Mountain Junior High eighth and ninth grade bands and the Kings Mountain Senior High Blazer Band.

The program will consist of traditional band music and music of the holiday season.

The bands will be under the direction of Donald Deal and Chris Cole.

The public is invited to attend.

Toys Needed

Kings Mountain Fire Department is still in need of new and used toys to distribute to needy children at Christmas. Any persons interesting in donating toys, or money to purchase parts to repair used toys, are urged to call Chief Gene Tignor at 739-2552.



FIREMAN OF YEAR - Willard Yarbrough, left, a volunteer with the Kings Mountain Fire Department, is awarded the Fireman of the Year Award from Chief Gene Tignor during the annual Fireman-Police Christmas dinner

Photo by Ronnie Hawkins Tuesday at the Kings Mountain Depot Center. The dinner is sponsored each year by Senator Ollie Harris, Billy Mauney, J.C. Bridges and Glee Bridges.

Commissioners Attend Detroit Meeting

Three Kings Mountain city commissioners recently attended the National League of Cities meeting in Detroit.

District One commissioner Jim Childers, District Four commissioner Norman King and District Five commissioner Bill Grissom, who completed his term of office this week, attended the event.

One of the main topics of discussion was Community Development and UDAG grants, both of which face an uncertain future.

"There is still a lot of indecision in Washington," noted Commissioner Childers. "The block grants are going to shift to the states and ultimately the states will administer the grants."

However, a timetable has not been established so it's anyone's guess when the states will be assigned that responsibility.

"The federal government has cut a lot of the regulations, and there are very few restraints on them as far as Washington is concerned," Childers pointed out. "As far as what restraints the state will put on them and what criteria the state will use to award the grants, I don't know."

Childers said the larger cities are concerned about the UDAG grants, a program for industrial development for which the federal government allocates \$1 for every \$3 put up by the cities.

"Larger cities are also concerned about mass transportation funds, and I can understand their feelings," Childers said.

Mrs. Jack White's Mother Dies

Mrs. Ruby Lattimore Cline, 82, of Fallston, mother of Mrs. Jack (Dorcas) White of Kings Mountain died at 12:15 a.m. Wednesday after being struck by a car.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at New Bethel Baptist Church by Rev. Don Ledbetter. The family

received friends from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday night at Stamey's Funeral Home.

The widow of the late Edward Cline, Mrs. Cline was a member of New Bethel Baptist Church, the Women's Missionary Union, and Fallston Woman's Club.

She was the daughter of the late George and Dorcas Packard

Lattimore.

In addition to Mrs. White, she is survived by one other daughter, Mrs. Dwight (Dorothy) Hord of Lawndale; one brother, Boyd Lattimore of Shelby; one sister, Mrs. Everette Spurling of Fallston; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

the future.

One was a portable hydraulic bucket, which he says could be put to good use in public works. It can be pulled behind a pickup truck and be used for replacing lights, trimming trees, and for other projects in compact situations.

"Right now, we have to run a big bucket truck for those type jobs," Childers said. "It would save us from moving a \$50,000 piece of equipment to replace a light bulb."

The other piece of equipment which impressed Childers was a rapid rail garbage collector, a truck which has an arm on the side which picks up containers, dumps the garbage and sits the container back on the street.

Childers predicted it would cost the city about \$100,000 to get started in that program but it would soon pay for itself in lower labor costs and more efficient service.

"It's a one-man operation," he said, "and if the economy keeps on the way it is going is something we need to look at."

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JUNE LEE

June Lee Is Elected Education Board Chairman

June Lee was elected chairman of the Kings Mountain Board of Education and Bill McDaniel was elected vice-chairman at the board's December meeting Wednesday afternoon at the School Administration Office.

Mrs. Lee is beginning her second six-year term and McDaniel is in the midst of his first term.

Mrs. Lee succeeds Marian Thomasson, who was defeated in the November election.



JERRY LEDFORD

Jerry Ledford, who was elected to his first term in November, was sworn into office.

In other business, the board: *Approved Paul McDaniel as interim teacher at East Elementary School and John Howe as a teacher at Kings Mountain Junior High. Howe replaces Greg Paysour, who was elected assistant principal of Central School at the November meeting.