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Public hearing to examine sewer project

A public hearing next Saturday will focus on a local project that could result in the extension of city water and sewer service to some 20 homes from Arnold Heights to Shepherd Hill, and some 20 homes on the East Union Road. If the project goes through, around 30 homes will be annexed by the City of Carlisle.

The hearing will also accept public comment on a grant application for replacement of the heating system at the Community Center located at the old hospital.

The total cost for the East End Project, as the water and sewer extension is being called, is estimated to cost around \$40,000.

Mayor Frankie Hudson, Councilman Clarence Cord and Blue Grass Area

Development District representative Don Hassall appeared before the fiscal court at last Wednesday's regular court meeting to ask for the court's cooperation on the project.

Hassall told the court that although the city had initiated the East End Project and planned to annex the area if the work was completed, the project would have to be the official applicant on all federal grant proposals because the land involved was still located in the county.

The court agreed to hold a public hearing before making the grant request. The hearing will be at the courthouse at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 3. Such a hearing is required before applying for HUD grants, which are hoped to provide the major funding for the project.

Hassall told the court that a survey of the area would be made in addition to the public hearing, and that if the people in the area did not want the water and sewer service or the accompanying annexation, the grant application could not be made according to federal guidelines.

Hassall also reminded the court of a \$15,000 commitment that the county made to the project three years ago when it was first brought up. The court credited that remainder less than one-half cent, and although they took no action on the matter, they reminded the city representatives that times are much different now than when that commitment was made.

If the project is supported by the

residents of the area, the city is hopeful of obtaining the money to finance the project from several sources.

They will apply for a HUD community development block grant in the amount of \$25,000.

The city would take out a loan from FFA/FA for \$10,000 at 1 1/2 percent interest.

Customer assessments of \$70 each for persons looking onto the city system.

The city would also seek the old \$15,000 commitment from the fiscal court.

At the time the project was first brought up a survey of the people in the area showed that 80 percent of them were in favor of the project.

Magistrate Harold Mitchell ques-

Audit shows city finances in good shape

Most revenues have stayed more or less the same," he told the council, "but expenses have gone up. Your revenues just have not kept pace and you are in a bind to do this or that in the future."

He said Sullivan said that deficient reserves in certain utility accounts have been largely required levels, and have created a situation where the city is forced to pay up on all bonded accounts in violation of the law. Sullivan told the council that, while it is not a violation of bonding ordinances, utility funds should be used to cover operating costs of the utility systems. Sullivan told the council that they should think about such a politically unpopular measure of raising revenues in the future as a payroll tax.

Monday night's rough draft of the auditor's report also suggested that the

city attorney, Stockton Wood, is still having trouble hammering out an acceptable contract with the consulting firm that the city council authorized to begin preliminary work on a gas line replacement project for Carlisle.

At an earlier meeting, Wood had expressed concern over a clause in the contract that would obligate the city to pay up to \$15,000 for the initial work on the project. At Monday's meeting he said he was also concerned about issues like the city's liability and inspection responsibility for the project.

Fogus told the council that it would indeed cost around \$15,000 for the initial work (based on a \$700,000 estimate for the total project cost). But he reiterated earlier figures that

certain passages of the contract were in a manner that he needed clarification on.

"I've got to look at how to protect the city from the legal ramifications" of the contract, Wood said.

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showed the total and unaccounted for gas in the city system to be coming around \$400,000. That, Fogus told the council, amounts to a loss of over \$20,000 once his group first tight with the council Feb. 2.

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Chamber is revitalized to lead economic program

The local Chamber of Commerce will be revived in the county's fight for future economic development, it was decided at community meetings Tuesday night.

The Blue Grass Industries dining room last Thursday night.

Within the chamber, a separate Economic Development Board will be established to deal exclusively with promoting economic and industrial growth in Carlisle and Nicholas County.

A seven-man interim board of directors was established at the meeting to provide direction for the new chamber and to establish criteria for selecting future leadership for the chamber and the development board.

Nicholas Valley Manager John Burke, who chaired the meeting, said he would like to see a more active role in interest groups in the community involved in the revitalization effort. He said that the leadership needed to be comprised of individuals from the retail sector, the agricultural sector, the industrial sector, etc.

The interim board is composed of Donnie Vaughn, Bruce Soward, Doug Garrett, Larry Willis, Jimmy Smith and Bill Clark.

The interim board will have the local chamber would be increased significantly to fund the Economic Development Board.

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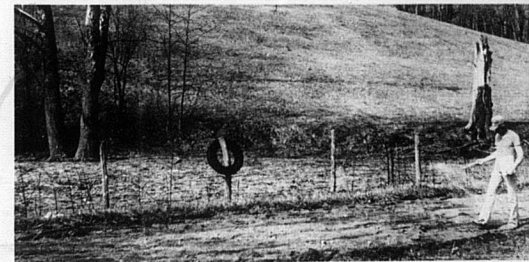
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Two days of warm, sunny weather brought out the tobacco farmers to sow their beds, a sure sign of spring. Here, Cecil Duncan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Duncan, puts the ammonia nitrate down, just prior to sowing the seed along

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