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WATER EVERYWHERE!

Rate increase is stopped

A capacity crowd of concerned citizens attended Monday night's meeting of the City Council. The fate of the recently proposed water and sewer rate increases was utmost in their minds as they listened to Chamber of Commerce president, John Burke present a report on his analysis of the recommended rate increase survey conducted by Bluegrass ADD.

The following is an excerpt from his presentation: "After a careful analysis of the Water and Sewer Survey done by the Blue Grass Area Development District the Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce would like to recommend that the rate increase proposed by the City Council of Carlisle be postponed.

"We agree completely with the principles Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) has stated in its survey as they relate to budgeting capital reseve expenditures. Our differences in projected O & M expenses are based strictly on judgement. Our judgement in this matter is no better than BGADD and we feel that their estimates may not be entirely out of line.

"The only major point of disagreement is in the formula used to determine needed revenues, and we would like to continue discussion with BGADD on this matter.

"The survey done by BGADD is correct in its analysis that the sewer system is losing money. The water system is at the point that if it does not show a loss this year, it will very shortly. We must point out however, that all three utility systems show a positive net income. If an increase in rates are needed to put the sewer and water systems on a break-even basis then it would follow that the gas rates could be adjusted downward."

His bottom-line recommendation is, "Postpone the proposed rate increase until such time that BGADD can make a Gas Survey, recommendating reasonable rates for operation of the gas system. The timing should be such that implementing the new rate structures should take place as close to the end of the fiscal year as possible."

Don Hassall, Kathy Figlestahler and Doug Rigsby of BGADD attended the meeting to answer any questions Council members, or citizens might have. Hassall informed Council, in answer to a question, that at the current water and sewer rates, the City would lose $111,000 in Fiscal 1984.

City Superintendent Gayle Vanlandingham suggested that Gas Management would be able to conduct a gas survey if Council wishes, after he acquires a survey cost figure.

Councilman Lester moved to table the vote on the water/sewer rate increase ordinance. A roll call vote carried the motion with Councilman Barton voting against the motion. Lester also moved to have a special called meeting Monday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. with Vanlandingham to discuss a gas survey and who could and should conduct it.

Annexation vote

Another important issue received a unanimous affirmative vote. That issue is the annexation of Mockingbird Lane, Oriole Street in Kennedy Heights, and a few houses in Arnold Heights. A revised blueprint will be drawn up and Attorney Stockton Wood will have the ordinance ready for vote at the March meeting. After the ordinance is printed in **The Mercury**, residents of the affected area have 60 days in which to draw up a petition protesting the annexation. If 50 percent of the residents sign such a petition, the issue will appear on the next general election ballot. It takes 75 percent of the voters in the proposed annexed area voting against the annexation to defeat the issue.

Proposed park money

John Burke discussed with Council the financial situation of the proposed recreation facility planned on U.S. 36 near the county farm. The facility will cost an approximate $100,000. Ten acres of land was deeded to the county three years ago with a five-year time limit in which to develop a park. A land and water conservation grant is possible on a 50/50 basis between the federal government and the Nicholas County Recreation Park Board. As president of the Chamber of Commerce, Burke expressed the intimate interest the Chamber has in the proposed facility. Ball fields, a horse show ring, picnic areas and a pavilion are envisioned to make up the facility. Burke reported that the Fiscal Court has pledged $10,000 in money, and $20,000 in in-kind labor. Burke asked the Council if it could come up with $20,000. After much deliberation, Council agreed to give $2,000 in 1984 and $2,000 in 1985, both amounts to come out of Revenue Sharing. Councilman Barton voted against the motion. Burke informed Council that part of the money needed would hopefully be generated from the private sector. The project is conditional, depending on the approval of the grant.

Trash bid awarded

Hobart Crump of Millersburg was again awarded the bid for city trash pickup at $1,300 per month for a two-year period, with the city paying the dumping fee. This is the 12th year Crump has serviced Carlisle. The only other bid was from Turley Service for $2,500 per month.

Other business

Betty Baton informed Council of the standing water condition on the sidewalk in front of the home of Mrs. Della White on Broadway in Henryville. In severe cold weather, a solid sheet of ice covers the sidewalk and street directly in front of her home. Broadway is a state maintained highway, and the State Department of Transportation has to give the city permission to do the necessary work to alleviate the situation.

Barton requested that Council look into the cost difference between renting city employee uniforms from Bourbon Laundry at a cost of $285 per month as is now done, or buying uniforms and having them cleaned at the local dry cleaner.

Council gave Clerk Tapp permission to borrow $140,000 on a short term loan to pay bills (especially Columbia Gas' bill).

J. B. Laytart and Norman Wills asked Council why the condemned bridge in Dorseyville could not be repaired, replaced, or a weight limit posted with a "travel at your own risk" sign put up, and therefore allow traffic to go over the bridge. Mayor Hughes replied that it was a strong state recommendation that the bridge be condemned. Councilman Barton, who recently visited the State Department of Transportation in Frankfort, stated that the City needs to write a letter of intent informing the Department of the bridge condition and that the city is prepared to pay 20 pecent of the replacement fill.

Several citizens who attended the meeting complained about high water and gas bills for last month. Vanlandingham offered to check meters.

Capacity crowd

The City Council meeting room was filled to capacity Monday night, with the proposed water/sewer rate hike drawing most of the attendants. Forefront seated at desk is City Attorney Stockton Wood. Council members are seated at long table to the left. Right, from center, are John Burke, Doug Garrett, Chamber of Commerce, and Don Hassell, Kathy Fighestahler and Doug Rigsby of BGADD. — Mercury photo.

Viewing her lake!

Mrs. Della White stands in front of her home on Broadway in Henryville. She can't walk on the sidewalk in front of her home due to the water which stands there every time it rains. Water also runs under her house; and because the water spills over into the street, every time a car passes, water splashes onto her porch. — Mercury photo.

Keep lid on gas prices

According to a new study released by Project Independence, the average residential gas consumer in Kentucky would save $215 over the next three years if Congress passes legislation to keep the lid on gas prices. The total residential savings for the state would be $147,660,200.

The report compares the three-year cost (1984-86) of current law versus the savings represented by the Natural Gas Consumer Relief Act, a bipartisan bill co-sponsored by over 170 members of Congress.

"It is clear that consumers cannot afford the continuation of current natural gas policies," said Jerry Smith, director of Project Independence.

"Prices are already beyond the reach of many residents. Consumers need price relief and the only way they can get it is if Congress acts now to control runaway prices."

The Natural Gas Consumer Relief Act would lower gas prices to January 1982 levels, extend price controls for two years, and require that pipelines purchase the least-cost gas supplies available.

Under current law, prices are allowed to rise each month and most gas is scheduled to be decontrolled on Jan. 1, 1985.

"Consumers should contact their member of Congress immediately to let him or her know the necessity of passing the Natural Gas Consumer Relief Act before the end of this winter," said Smith. "If Congress fails to act, prices will go up another 25 percent to levels that gas users can ill afford."

The study was based on the latest information available from the Department of Energy and government price forecasts.

CIRCUIT CLERK CLOSED MONDAY

The Nicholas County Circuit Clerk's office will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of President's Day.

Serves 30 years

Matthew Kennedy, second from left, is pictured receiving a 30-year certificate of service from Eugene Letcher, chairman of the Nicholas County ASC Committee. The presentation was made at the committee's meeting Thursday morning, Feb. 9. Kennedy retired from the committee last year after serving for 30 years. He also received a plu. Also pictured are, third from left, James Neal Wood, vice chairman, and Bobby Brady, member. — Mercury photo.

Underway

FHA/HERO Week activities

The Nicholas County chapter of Future Homemakers of America is joining in a celebration of national FHA/HERO Week, Feb. 12-18.

This celebration, a part of Vocational Education Week, is an annual event which gives FHA/HERO members an opportunity to show their background in home economics and how their participation in Future Homemakers of America help prepare them for the future.

The 71 members of the local chapter have planned different activities for each day to call attention to the Future Homemakers of America chapter. The following activities were planned:

Monday, Feb. 13 was Officer Appreciation Day. Cupcakes were given to each officer.

Tuesday, Feb. 14 was Member Appreciation Day. Valentines with candy were given to each member.

Wednesday, Feb. 15 was Teacher Appreciation Day. Mints were given to each teacher.

Thursday, Feb. 16 will be Administration Appreciation Day. FHA pens and thank you notes will be given to each administration official.

Friday, Feb. 17 will be Red/White Day when all officers and members will wear the FHA colors.

As part of FHA/HERO Week, the third annual "Love Tree" has been posted in the school hall and people have purchased valentines to display on it. Valentine "kisses" of chocolate candy were also purchased by the students.

Proceeds from these two annual activities will go toward the local FHA scholarship which is given annually to a local outstanding FHA member planning to further the student's education.

Future Homemakers of America is a national vocational student organization with two kinds of chapters, FHA and HERO. FHA chapters lmphasize consumer homemaking education. HERO chapters emphasize home economic related occupations. There are 12,500 FHA/HERO chapters and 600,000 members nationwide.

FHA Week is under the direction of chapter reporter, Sheila Caskey.

PVA OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY

The PVA Office will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of Washington's birthday, which is a state holiday.

Two automobiles destroyed by fire

Two automobiles were destroyed by fire during the past week, Nicholas County Fire Chief Woody Wilson reported.

On Feb. 7, at 11:45 a.m., the county department was called to the scene of a fire on Cassidy Creek Road which destroyed a 1977 Chevrolet Caprice owned by Paul Graves. The car reportedly backfired, catching the carburetor on fire.

Two mornings later, a 1980 Ford Pinto owned by Lloyd Gilvin caught fire under the hood about 7:45 a.m. Mrs. Gilvin had started the car and went back to the house. When she returned, minutes later, the car was on fire.

Each vehicle was a total loss, Wilson said.

No house fires were reported in the county during the past seven days, he said.

Burley sales remain light in 9th week

Volume of sales remained light during the ninth week of burley tobacco auctions, reports the Federal-State Market News Service. This week, regular scheduled sales are set for Cynthiana, Lexington and Shelbyville.

Gross sales for the week ending Feb. 9, including a clean-up sale at Greeneville, TN on Friday, Feb. 3, totaled 8,244,222 pounds and averaged $170.20 per hundred. This average is down $3.31 from the week before.

The season figure stands at 224,680,604 pounds averaging $177.29. For the same period last season (36 sales days) 844.9 million pounds averaged $180.61. Resales amounted to 134,020 pounds last week and 35,977,807 pounds for the year.

POST OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY

The Carlisle Post Office will be closed Monday, Feb. 20, in observance of President's Day, a legal holiday.

There will be no mail delivery or postal service of any kind. The lobby, however, will be open for the deposit of mail.

Persons with late news or advertising for the Feb. 23 issue of The Mercury are asked to bring these items to the Mercury office to insure inclusion in next week's paper.