

Halloween Trick-or-Treat

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Council accepts modular home

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Carlisle City Council, acting without a public hearing from the Carlisle Planning and Zoning Commission, amended the city ordinance on the definition of a legal Carlisle dwelling unit to include modular homes at the regular meeting of the City Council Monday night.

City attorney Skip Watson said the recommendation he waited for by the Planning and Zoning commission concerning the modular home issue has not reached him. According to defined procedure, Watson said, the planning and zoning commission was to hold the public hearing within 60 days of receiving a request of a recommendation from the city council. The time limit had passed and, Watson said, he was not certain what to do about the hearing except to go ahead and act without the commission's recommendation.

"We notified them in August," Watson said. "But I have yet to hear anything on the matter. I discussed this matter with other planning and zoning attorneys and they suggested we go ahead with the ordinance."

Council left matters of the ordinance to be drafted by

Watson while members entered into a lengthy discussion of another matter concerning mobile homes located within the city limits.

There was considerable confusion over the reading of an ordinance which states basically that mobile homes located within sections of the city zoned Residential 2 or 3 were allowed to remain in those areas. But if the mobile home were to be destroyed or the original owners of the home were to move out, a new mobile home may neither be replaced nor can new residents legally occupy the mobile home already located there.

Councilman Ronnie Clark pointed out that if his reading of the ordinance was correct, there are already several mobile home residents within the Carlisle city limits in violation of the ordinance.

City supervisor Gayle Vandlandingham clarified the ordinance for all council members. According to the ordinance, the only sections of Carlisle where a new mobile home may be located are in these sections zoned R4. More precisely, the only section of Carlisle zoned R4 are along Race and McCracken street areas.

Other areas rated R3 or R2 can't have new mobile homes located in the area, but the council allowed that mobile homes that pre existed the ordinance may remain.

Clark was one of the ordinance's most vocal critics, stating that in many places where people live in mobile homes, they are in poor shape, falling down, or basically rotting to the ground.

"I don't find it fair to those residents that we force them to live in poor conditions because they can't replace their mobile home with another."

"They would have to spend money they don't have to build a house."

"Now if we talk about trailers, a mobile home may not be as nice as a house, but it is sure a lot better looking than an old, rotting trailer on a lot," Clark said.

Council members agreed that the 1976 ordinance didn't seem to meet common sense needs of people without the income to buy houses. But there was concern expressed about maintaining a standard on Carlisle housing.

Action to amend or drop the mobile home restrictions were not taken at the council meeting. However, in a vote to add the term modular home into the city definition of dwelling unit was passed unanimously by the council.

Board sets sheriff's tax rate

By Pam Howles
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County School Board decided to continue paying the Nicholas County Sheriff a 4 percent tax rate for the collection of school taxes at the school board meeting on Monday night.

Nicholas County School Board Attorney Billy Hopkins had talked to Sheriff Charles King and had analyzed the tax rate as it affects Nicholas County and decided with his computations the tax rate should be set at 4.34.

The state says the tax rate has to be between 1.54 percent.

Hopkins contends it is no matter the amount of the sheriff is collecting, he will still send out the same amount of a bill.

Nicholas County High School Superintendent Covert Gilbert said, "The sheriff has done an outstanding job sending out the bills, collecting the taxes, and has always been willing to help us out at the school."

The 4 percent would only equal \$2,500.

The board felt the cost of living had gone up and it wouldn't be right to cut the tax rate of collection after all these years.

The board voted 4-1 to approve the use of the Master Card for the superintendent and board members only for only for trips the board would make.

David Smet made the motion and was seconded by Hall. Rammy Vice and John Claver voted against the motion.

The Nicholas County Site Based Management Council has recommended a tennis team be started at the high school.

The council had said that Jim Lally has shown interest in coaching the team.

The board decided to authorize the high school to have a high school tennis team.

Nicholas County High School Principal Greg Reid has requested a sound system be put in the high school.

Reid said Gilbert if there would be an emergency he can not contact all the rooms in the school.

Reid checked into the cost and the lowest bid was \$6,336 from General Sound and Electronics.

The board decided to purchase the system, because if there would happen to be a problem all the students need

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Football Homecoming Queen

The Carlisle Mercury/Pam Howles Photo
Keri Lee Barton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Barton, was crowned Nicholas County High School Football Homecoming Queen Friday night by Keri Tuppen during the hall of the Bluejackets game with West Carter as Nicholas totaled 24-6 victory. Barton was escorted by Jason George.

Pet food answers complaints

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — General managers of Griffin Industries appeared before the Carlisle City Council Monday night to address complaints made at the last council meeting about alleged odors reported coming from the Bluegrass Pet Foods facilities as it opened its operations in September.

Rick Elrod and Doug Bunker said they had received second hand word complaints being lodged about odors emanating from the processing plant located next to the Nicholas County landfill.

Elrod asked that those who have complaints to lodge against the practices or performance of the Pet Foods company should direct those complaints to them.

"If people go through the city to complain about us, we have no time to act. We don't know what the situation was or how it can be corrected," Elrod said.

However, Elrod did not

deny the initial complaints lodged against the Pet Foods company. He explained that at the start, there is some lag time before they are able to report their first shipment of processed stock, that of dead farm animals.

But he doesn't anticipate future problems. The slaughterhouse they refurbished as base of operations for processing has been equipped with refrigeration units and a means to flush their steel trucks with rinsing water to remove the potential for noxious odors to accumulate inside the truck.

"We do our best to be a responsible member of the community," Elrod said. "That means we are open to complaints and will do our level best to alleviate the problem."

The processing room they have provides a needed service to farmers. Without them, farmers have no practical use at all for their dead stock, he said.

"The plant in Carlisle

presently services a 16 county area and employs three people at the moment. We anticipate we'll need about five as our production progresses, but no more than that," Elrod said.

Council members expressed their sincere welcome of the industry to Carlisle, but there were some concerns expressed by council member Ronnie Clark and by Waste Water treatment supervisor Gene Kelley.

Clark voiced some of the complaints he had received from people about the operation of the plant, noting that he drove past the plant one evening and saw a steaming corpse being just inside the loading bay doors.

Elrod said the processing cannot commence without the bay doors being closed. They day except to receive carcasses and only opened at dusk when closing procedures begin. But every precaution is made to ensure odor from the plant is kept to an absolute minimum.

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The Carlisle Mercury/Pam Howles Photo
Propper Tim Layne investigated a single vehicle, injury accident at 2:30 p.m. October 13 on Skidway Creek Road. Jeffery T. Mitchell was operating a 1980 Ford Mitchell was transported to the Nicholas County Hospital where he was admitted with a head injury.