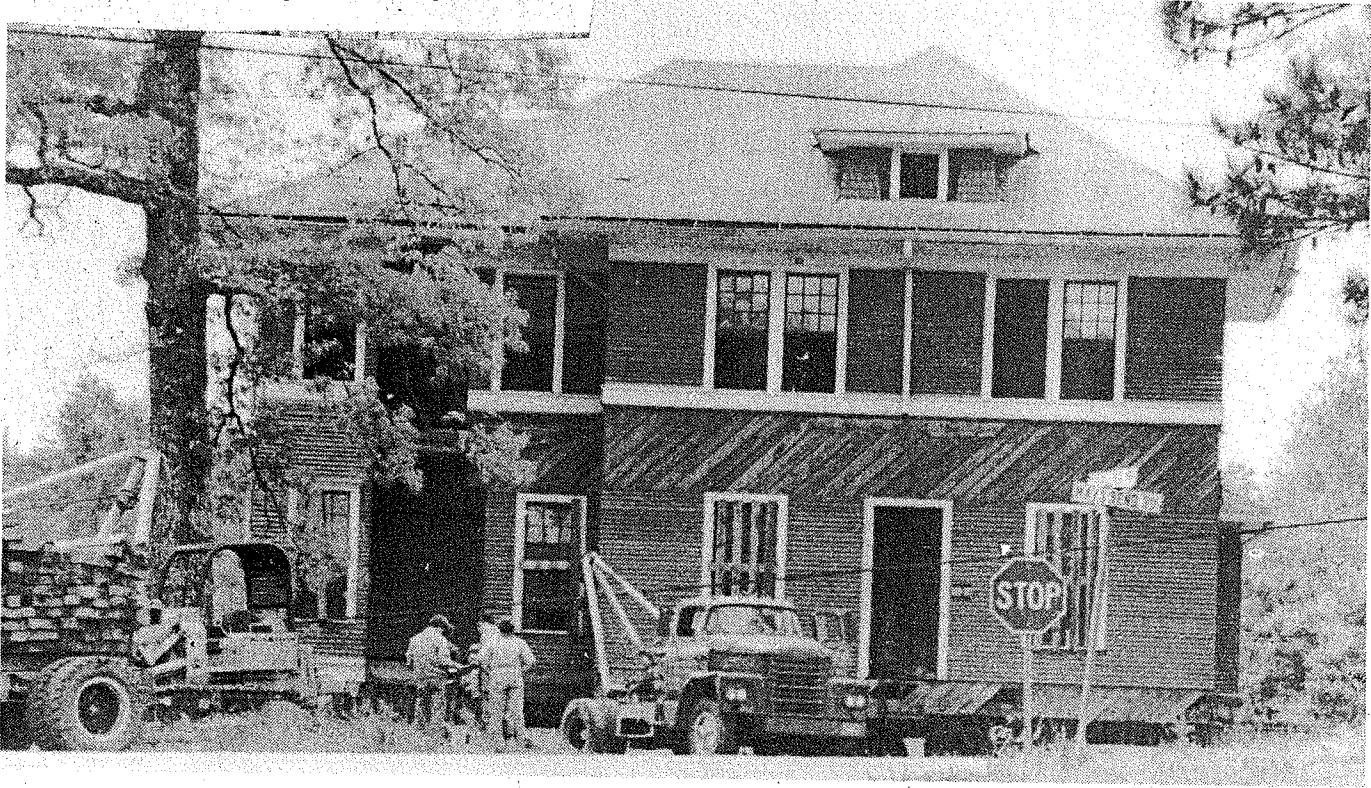


THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF PELL CITY, ALABAMA
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND
THE DEDICATION AND OPEN HOUSE
OF THE

PELL CITY CIVIC CENTER

SUNDAY, THE TWENTY-SEVENTH OF JUNE
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIX
AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
PELL CITY CIVIC CENTER
PELL CITY, ALABAMA

OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. May 1, 1975



Old Cropwell Home Gets A Reprieve

The turn-of-the-century Roberson home in Cropwell seemed a grand old lady doomed to the fate of all things lying in the path of progress. Doomed, that is, until Pell City Real Estate Agent Barbara Ferrell decided fate could be cheated. And cheat it she did Monday as three story, 300-ton house found a new resting place barely three miles from the site where a new civic center has been set to rise in its place. Mrs. Ferrell's odyssey began several weeks ago when a city spokesman announced that the ancient structure would have to go in order to allow construction to begin on the new Pell City Civic Center. After feverish eleventh-hour negotiations between Mrs. Ferrell and the city, word came that she would have her chance to save the home. Mrs. Ferrell managed a one-week stay of execution from the contractor and then, last Thursday, saw the first indications that her dream might

come true. With the help of a Cullman house-moving firm, she saw the house lifted from its original foundation and then, on Friday, watched (in between frantic conferences with the movers, and representatives of utilities who had to see to it that power and telephone lines were safely moved or cut) as the building ambled down Golf Course Rd. to its new home. "I wasn't sure how to go about a thing like this," Mrs. Ferrell told The Observer after the triumph, "I just knew somehow it could be done." In all, six trucks provided steam for the move, while two bulldozers were employed to clear obstacles and pack down the path as the structure detoured across a field on the final leg of the journey. "Now all I have to do is figure out how much it's going to cost." (Estimates are in the \$25,000 range) "Regardless, I'm convinced it was worth it." (Photo By August Lehe)

'They' Powerful

Editor, the Observer:

Recently, I have been taking a petition around town, protesting the membership requirement to the Civic Center. I found out some surprising things. Some of the people do not care how the city spends the tax money. Some of them supported my cause, but were afraid to sign the petition.

I could never find the person responsible for their fear. Seems his only name is "they." "They" built the Civic Center for the big shots in town. "They" can do anything they want to and there is nothing we can do about it.

I'd like to meet "They." He sure has a lot of power. Maybe he could explain to me how a public building, built with Federal Revenue Sharing Funds, can be operated like a private club. Even if it were legal, which I doubt, it is still morally wrong to keep anyone from using the Civic Center simply because they do not have the money to buy a membership.

"They" could also explain to me how the American Dream can work, if the people don't care. When I finish my education, I hope I can go into partnership with "They." With my caring about the welfare of ALL the people and his power, we can make this county such a great place to live, the young people will have no desire to leave.

TRACY SCOTT
Rt. 3 Box 589A
Pell City

Park Plan Approved

The final measure plan of a proposed Pell City-St. Clair County Recreation Park has undergone all government reviews and has been approved by the local sponsors.

The water-based recreation park is a Coosa Valley RC&D project measure which will be funded on a 50-50 cost-share basis, with 50 % coming from RC&D funds and 50% coming from the City of Pell City and the St. Clair County Commis-

sion. The City-County share can be made up of land, in-kind services, etc. The park site is located at Cropwell adjacent to the Pell City Civic Center.

The measure plan was approved by the St. Clair County Commission on Tuesday, February 8, by the Pell City Council on Monday, February 14, and by the St. Clair County Soil and Water Conservation Department on

Wednesday, February 16.

The next step for the park is the letting of an A&E contract to an engineering firm to design the basic facilities. After the A&E contract has been awarded and the park facilities designed, the next step will be to obtain bids for construction. It is hoped that construction might be able to begin in 1978.

The recreational facilities for the park include group shelters, picnic areas, nature trails and nature study pier, boat dock, fishing pier, boat launching, tennis and multi-purpose courts, and a primitive camping area.

The total estimated cost of the park is approximately \$707,300.

Rec Director Takes Gardendale Post

Pell City Recreation Director John Brigham Monday ended nearly a two-year association with the City of Pell City, following the announcement Monday night by Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon that Brigham had resigned as head of the city recreation paving the way for his acceptance of similar post with the City of Gardendale.

In a statement released Tuesday to the St. Clair Observer, Brigham said he had resigned, effective Dec. 29, in order to accept the post of recreation director at Gardendale.

During Brigham's tenure, the city launched more than two dozen recreation programs and began construction of a half-million dollar lakeside civic center at Cropwell, which is scheduled to open its doors to the public early next year.

In informing the Pell City Council of the move, Mayor Nixon told the council that the city was losing a valuable resource with Brigham's departure and expressed the hope that a successor could be named in time to ease the transition.

Brigham told the Observer that he felt he would be leaving the city department in a "strong" position.

"I've enjoyed working in Pell City and would like to thank the mayor and the city council for their support during my stay. I also want to thank all the sponsors, coaches and volunteers who helped me during these many months.

"I feel like with the completion of the new civic center and the many new programs now being offered by the city, I will leave Pell City with a very strong recreation department," I am confident my departure will not hurt the city," Brigham said.

Mayor Nixon indicated at Monday night's council session that the search for a new director and a civic center manager was already underway.

New park complex eyed—

Rec. center could be moved to new construction site

By LOUIS MURO
News Editor

The Pell City Council is "debating" whether to purchase a stretch of land in Cropwell to be used for the location of the proposed \$600,000 Civic Center, THE NEWS has learned.

A city spokesman said the land would be ideal for the location of the Civic Center and a better "long-term" investment than the current proposed site near Avondale Mills.

The council will decide sometime this week whether to go ahead with the purchase of

the new land or to begin construction on the site near Avondale Mills. "It's according to how long it will take us to get the land," the spokesman said. "The contractor is ready to begin building and if it takes too long we'll have to start building on the site already picked out."

The council met in executive session Thursday night to discuss the matter but did not decide whether or not to purchase the land. A decision will be made early this week.

The spokesman pointed out several advantages to the location in Cropwell as opposed to the location on U.S. 78. The

city already owns 82 acres at the Cropwell site, adjoining the property sought, and the land is much more conducive to building than the Avondale Mills site. "The Avondale Mills sight is real low and it would be harder to build on," the spokesman explained.

The site at Cropwell would be a better long-term investment, he said, because of the possibility that a city park could be built to go along with the Civic Center. The city is looking into the possibility of setting up the park through matching funds from Coosa RC&D.

The spokesman said construction on the center would begin immediately after the council has decided one way or the other on where to put the center. C.D. Wilson & Sons, Inc., Ashville, was low bidder on the project at around \$600,000 and was awarded the contract by the city.

City Grants Civic Chorus Use Of New Civic Center

BY AUGUST LEHE

Officials representing the Pell City Civic Chorus came away from Monday night's city council apparently disappointed, after receiving lukewarm response to a request seeking to establish the new civic center as a permanent chorus rehearsal facility.

Speaking on behalf of the chorus were Civic Chorus Director Ron Partain and chorus officials George Williams and Ken Goodman.

The chorus proposal, as presented to the council Monday night, involved use of the civic center dining hall as a rehearsal room, at no cost.

"We are not asking for free use of the civic center for concerts. We will be happy to pay a rental fee on those occasions when citizens are charged," Partain told the council. "But we feel we have been supported too long by a few churches."

"An organization with as broad a cross section of citizenry and support as the chorus should be recognized as a civic group and supported by its community," Partain added.

Williams added that the chorus would be willing to donate a piano to be placed permanently at the center, in addition to risers and lighting equipment, which would be gradually acquired by the chorus in the coming months.

"We are 130 strong and are now looking for a permanent home for rehearsals," Williams

told the council.

Williams said the center dining room would be required only on Monday evenings between the hours of 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m. Williams and Partain, however, agreed that the chorus would give up the night under "exceptional circumstances" and would limit rehearsal night attendance only to members of the chorus.

Partain said the chorus had achieved such rapid recognition

that concert invitations from Montgomery and Washington, D.C. had been extended.

After council members expressed misgivings about making an exception for one particular group, Partain responded that the civic chorus was an "exceptional exception," considering its makeup and the fact that cities several times Pell City's size are rarely able to organize a civic chorus.

"We would be flexible about this thing and would recognize the need for give and take," Williams told the council.

Following a brief discussion, the Council voted unanimously, on a motion by Councilman Paul Turner, to grant the request for a 90-day trial period.

The vote followed a final plea by Partain, Williams and Goodman asking that the chorus be given a definite answer Monday night.

In other business, the council: --Agreed to improve a street at Lee's Landing, after a delegation of residents appeared before the council protesting the condition of the street.

--Authorized the architectural firm of Cobb, Benton and Adams of Birmingham to proceed with the drawing up of construction specifications for the renovation of downtown Pell City.

--Authorized the mayor, city clerk and council members to attend the convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities set for Saturday, May 15, through Tuesday, May 18, in Birmingham.

City Borrowing Again To Cover Recreation Costs

For the second time in as many months, the City of Pell City will borrow \$10,000 to cover costs of operation of the Park and Recreation Department.

The Council approved the action at its regular meeting Monday night. The loan will be made by the Peoples Bank for a term of six months at 5 percent interest.

A similar loan was made early in May for a 30-day period and was repaid from the City's general fund. This loan will be repaid in the same manner.

Ken Goodman, president of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce, asked the Council that work on the downtown redevelopment project be planned so that the street and sidewalks would not be closed or blocked during the month of December, since this month's sales are so important to the merchants.

Goodman was advised that the entire street would not be closed at any time but work would be done on one side of the street at the time. The Council could not give Goodman a definite time on

the bids or plans for the work schedule, but will contact the architectural firm and discuss the time schedule and Goodman's request with them.

Mayor Hugh Williamson presented a letter of guarantee from the Alabama Development Office for \$20,000 to be used on the Pell City water system. The funds will be issued after the new fiscal year starts on October 1. Plans are to submit a request for additional funds at that time.

Councilman Joe Sawyer asked the Council to investigate the possibilities of grant funds available due to the drought.

The Council examined a map of the area included in the extension of the city limits of the Johnny Smith Subdivision and was advised by the city attorney that he relied on Johnny Smith to obtain the signatures of all the property owners. The Mayor had been contacted by Bruce Etheridge about extension of a water line to serve his property. Investigation revealed that Mr. Etheridge had not signed the petition to be brought into the city limits and the matter was turned over to the city attorney.

In other business Monday night, the Council:

--Approved a road block by Rescue Squads for a Cystic Fibrosis fund drive.

--Approved installation of a

"stop" sign at the entrance of the road that runs from The Country Store to the Cropwell Baptist Church.

--Approved the employment on a trial basis of Sam Dunavant to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Dennis Meeks in the Fire Department.

--Approved the installation of a "No Trucks Allowed" sign on Frances Street.

--Adopted a resolution requesting the Alabama Development Office, State Planning Division, to arrange technical assistance in zoning and subdivision regulations physical development and to obtain Federal Urban Planning Assistance Funds in the amount of \$5,000 to aid in defraying the costs of the work. The City will make available local matching funds of \$2,500 to pay those costs not covered under the Program.

--Heard a report from City Attorney Billy Church that he felt the attendance requirements for councilmen could be deleted without having the legal effect of giving a raise in salary to the councilman. He said he felt that deletion of the word "attended" would not violate the state law against giving a raise to public office holders during the term of their office. An ordinance will be prepared, adopted and advertised deleting the word "attended" from the existing ordinance.

Pell City Council grants permit for carnival to benefit softball

By JOEY KENNEDY

The Pell City City Council granted a permit for a carnival on 19th Street, turned down a request to dig a ditch for water lines for the Boy's Ranch, and moved to place speed bumps on 4th Avenue North, at its meeting Monday afternoon.

Richard Herndon, a Pell City citizen, addressed the council and asked that he be given a permit to have a "mini-sized" carnival in a lot at the corner of 19th Street and 17th Avenue South to

help raise money for a girls' softball program in the area.

Herndon said that J&J Amusements would provide rides and entertainment for the carnival which he plans to hold April 3-8.

There was some discussion concerning the type of games that would be played at the carnival but a representative of J&J Amusements told the council that if they did not like any of the games provided that those games would not be used.

The carnival will include assorted rides including a ferris wheel.

In other business, Mayor Hugh Williamson read a request from the Boy's Ranch asking that Pell City use its equipment to dig a ditch for new water lines at the ranch.

The Boy's Ranch recently moved its main office and water lines are needed.

Councilman Joe Sawyer suggested that the council donate some money towards rental of a ditch digging machine since city equipment could not be used outside the city limits.

The council concurred.

About 1,200 feet of digging is needed.

The council voted to place speed bumps on 4th Avenue North to slow traffic in that area.

Also, Lamar Williamson, chairman of the Retail Promotions Committee of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce, asked the council to allow signs to be placed in the downtown area noting that the business district is open.

Road work by the Alabama Highway Department has one section of the street torn up.

The council agreed to check with the Highway Department about placing the signs but refused to help pay for the signs.

Finally, Councilmen Joe Sawyer, Forest Walls and Paul Turner will be in Washington D.C. Monday attending a hearing on the Coosa River Navigation Project.

The hearing is being held by the Congressional Sub-Committee on Appropriations for Public Works.

City, County discussions center on planned park

At a meeting held Tuesday evening, members of the St. Clair County Commission and the Pell City Council were presented with a tentative plan of action on the proposed St. Clair County Park.

Officials of the Soil Conservation Service were on hand for the meeting to discuss park plans with the county and city leaders.

The park, to be built on an 80 acre tract of land adjacent to the Pell City Civic Center, will cost an estimated \$600,000 to \$700,000. Pell City and St. Clair County will furnish 50 of the amount in kind and resources. The remainder will be put up by the Soil Conservation Service.

The planned recreation park is being called the most extensive undertaking by SCS in St. Clair County.

The tract of land to be utilized for the project is adjacent to and east of the Civic Center. The location is at the intersection of Highway 34 and old U.S. 231.

The park will be within the City Limits of Pell City and will front on just under 3,000 feet of shoreline on Logan Martin Lake.

Plans call for construction of parking

areas, access trails, nature trails, a fishing pier, tot-lots with playground equipment, boat launch and docking pier, group shelters, picnic tables, primitive campsites, and a control booth. The picnic area will consist of some 50 concrete picnic tables, and 25 metal grills.

The group activity area to be constructed will include a multipurpose court for basketball and volleyball, and a double tennis court.

Under this plan, the Pell City Council would be responsible for operation and maintenance of the park and also with overall operation of the facility.

This proposed plan of action was presented in three phases.

The first would include construction of roads, grading, laying of pipes, etc.

Phase II would consist of supplying water to the site, along with electricity and lighting.

Phase III is divided into two parts. Both of which would be handled by contractors. Part A would include construction of comfort stations, picnic tables, and entrance gates.

Part B calls for construction of the tennis court, camping circle, fishing pier, boat ramp, and access trails.

This plan that has been presented by the SCS is for study by the city council and county commission.

ce a plen, -s approx. the actual construction could begin next year.

Brigham resigns Rec. post

Pell City Parks and Recreation Director John Brigham has resigned his position effective at the end of the month to assume a similar position in Gardendale, THE NEWS has learned.

Brigham, 26, has been the director in Pell City since June of 1974. A replacement has not yet been announced.

"I've enjoyed working in Pell City," Brigham said early this week. "As I stated when I came here, it takes three years to establish a good, full time recreation program. And I believe a fairly good foundation has been laid during the 1 1/2 years I've been here," he explained.

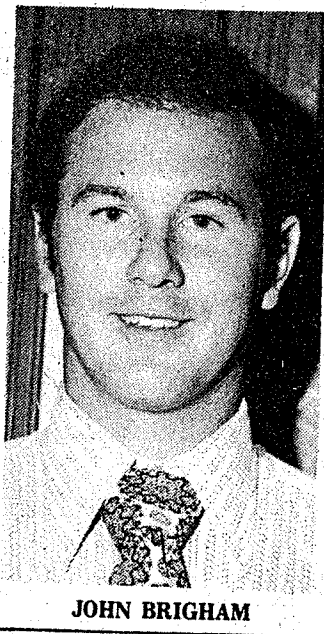
Brigham added, "Within one year after the completion of the

Civic Center, Pell City should have as good a recreation department as possible for a town its size. And I still believe that when it's finished, the Civic Center here will be one of the nicest in the State."

Brigham was hired as full time recreation director after the City Council made the decision to build the \$600,000 complex, which is expected to be completed next spring.

"I've enjoyed working with the Mayor and Council," the recreation director remarked. "And I'm sure they'll find someone qualified to take my place. The transition to a new director will not be as difficult at this time of year because there are no major programs in

(See Brigham Page 6A)



JOHN BRIGHAM

Brigham

(Continued from Page 1)

progress," he noted.

Brigham said he would like to thank all the volunteer coaches and parents that have helped in the program. "You can't have a

successful recreation program without such help," he noted. "I would also like to thank all the businesses that sponsored teams. And Avondale Mills has

been very cooperative in helping our baseball program."

Brigham will assume duties in Gardendale at the end of December.

The recreation program in Pell City has undergone unprecedented growth since Brigham took the reins. A Pee Wee football league was created in the fall of 1974 with six teams

and grew to 10 teams in the fall of 1975. The summer baseball program also experienced growth during the two years, with more teams and more players participating.

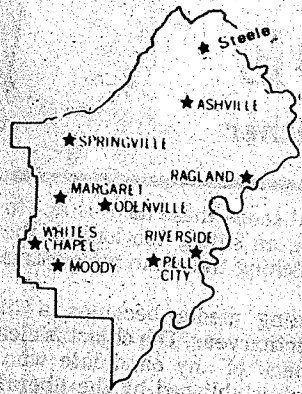
Brigham also introduced for the first time an elementary girls softball league, a Tee-Ball League for 5-and 6-year-old boys, a Men's basketball league and a high school basketball league. The Men's Softball League also improved, with more teams than ever last summer.

Also introduced were a gymnastics program and a cheerleading program for girls that involved more than 200 girls in each of the programs. Brigham was also in charge of the Senior Citizens program.

The recreation director was also instrumental in landing a 13-year-old Babe Ruth State Tournament last summer that drew players and persons from all over Alabama.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon and members of the City Council praised Brigham on the job he did in making the announcement at Monday night's City Council meeting. They also discussed a replacement at the meeting. (Details elsewhere.)

Brigham was graduated from Hanceville High School in 1968 and from St. Bernard College in Cullman in 1972. He was an assistant recreation director in Cullman before coming to Pell City. He was married recently to the former Rose Watlington of Pell City.



ST. CLAIR COUNTY

A Newspaper Dedicated to

VOLUME SIX--NUMBER TWENTY NINE

PELL CITY, ALABAMA THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1964

For Redevelopment—

Pell City Gets

COLUMN 1



BY BOB CORNETT



Recreation Center Almost Complete

Years of planning and hard work by Pell City officials and civic leaders are about to reach fruition as the new Pell City Civic Center nears completion. Interior work and landscaping continues in preparation for upcoming events set for the civic center following the April 1 opening. Built at a cost of more than a half-million dollars, the center is already a model for similar buildings planned by other communities. (PHOTO BY AUGUST LEHE)

Mayor Nixon were given Pell City and Congress grant for The grant for Development by the city of the day. "We are Tuesday to complete which will be underway Mayor Nixon with the prepared grant on construction mayor report. "Final of course."

Okay. Front and center, Dill Nixon, Paul Turner, Bam Cox, Harvey Watson, Charlie Lockridge, and Al Walls. Take a well deserved bow, you guys. The news is good coming from City Hall this week and you deserve an accolade, as opposed to the slings and arrows to which you are more accustomed. For you new people in town, the names above belong to Pell City's mayor (Nixon, not to be confused with Tricky Dick) and city council members. And they're due pats on the back because of the headlines you'll find to the right of this column. Namely, the announcement, rally, of a whopper-size HUD grant which will help finance the badly needed cosmetic surgery for downtown Pell City. Plus, their indication at council meeting Monday night that they would seek to install a full-time mayor or city manager in the near future. Both these items could be found at the top of any thoughtful things-Pell City-bad-needs-to-do list, and the city leaders are due credit for their insight in bringing them to fruition. These and other items they have in the works are in keeping with the irresistible magnet-Pell City-moving mood currently pervades the area and are reflections of good leadership. As the British are often wont to say, "Good Show!"

Pell City residents die in separate drowning mishaps

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Jimmie Davis identified the victims Monday as Billy Frank Haynes, 38, Rt. 1 Box 48C and Kenneth Eric Haynes, 15, same address. The incident happened around 11:30 a.m., according to authorities. Davis said the youth apparently fell off the floating device and began calling for his father on shore. The father, dressed in short

pants, swam into the lake but was unable to calm his son, the coroner said.

St. Clair County Sheriff's Deputies Gene Newman, Charles Wells, Larry Williamson and Lewis Brown were on the scene along with Riverside police officers Buck Rowe and Bobby Schrader. Also assisting in the search were members of the St. Clair Emergency Rescue Squad and the North St. Clair Rescue Squad. The bodies were recovered by the rescue squad members some 100 feet from shore and in 10 feet of water some four hours later at 4:25 p.m.

Tatum of Florida; Mrs. Sara Overton and Mrs. Helen Barber of Birmingham; and one brother, Dewey Haynes of Pell City.

The funeral services for the (See Drownings Page 8A)

enables its use for fuel in plants designed for this purpose.

Gordon Comer, Coosa Forest Products Manager, estimated the cost of the new facility in excess of \$1 million. "We expect to employ 10 people when we start up the center early next year," said Comer. "We estimate the center will require the support of some 35 loggers to supply wood to the facility. The construction of this plant will assure area landowners of a continuing market for their various timber products."

The project will be funded by St. Clair Co. source of wood Pines operat Development; recreation fac derway on a land donated Clark to the to 1973. The land public high a properties, is through the jo Ashville Park Board and the Board of Edu

Council tables system issue

Council at to do system, hat will i who it the air regular y night oblem- much of at was meeting- ched to stem to ks until s of the known- ed one system ith the up the system. position when ed the n they e to two o delay till the could be get the stomers ted and ited will ilie told d coun- had met- s of the Works d a Mr. out that

the officials told him that the percentage of increase on Moody's water bills would be 46 per cent to 50 per cent if Birmingham took over the system. That's 46 to 50 per cent above what the customers are paying now, he explained.

Also, Sollie said that Birmingham would require each meter to have a pressure regulator paid for at the expense of the customer. Costs of

Funeral services for the elder Haynes were held Wednesday at 2 p.m. from Mt. Carmel Church with burial in the adjoining cemetery. Rev. Roy McKee and Rev. C.J. Isbell officiated.

Haynes is survived by his widow, Mrs. Virginia Isbell Haynes; two daughters, Virginia Nanette and Nancy Wallace Haynes; two sons, Johnny and Wallace Haynes, all of Pell City; three sisters, Mrs. Mary

Five Pell City businesses by rash of break-ins, vand

Pell City Police Chief Ruble Bowlin said Tuesday that a rash of burglaries and vandalism that hit Pell City businesses over the weekend are under investigation.

Bowlin reported that hardest hit was Birmingham Recon Center, where merchandise totalling close to \$4,300 was taken, including a 1973 Dodge pickup truck. Unknown burglars also broke into Pell City Auto Parts where an undetermined amount of merchandise was taken. Bowlin said an attempt was made to break into CISCO Auto Parts on

U.S. 231 South but the persons involved were apparently scared off.

Also, a window at Lynn's TV Service and S were shot at weapon, caus (See Vand

Moody fireman to for city council p

Charles J. Christian, Jr., a lieutenant in the Moody Fire Department, has qualified to run for Place No. 4 on the Moody City Council.

Christian, 39, is a native of Montgomery and has been a resident of Moody for the past two years. He lived in Birmingham for 25 years and is currently employed as Operations Manager for U.S.A. Oil Corporation in Birmingham.

Christian is married to Moody City Clerk Kay Christian. They have four children: David, 13; Chris, 12; Scotty, 9; and rin, 8. All attend schools in Moody.

Christian is a member of Grace Church in Birmingham, a member of Lions International Moody Chapter and a member of the Moody Fire Department, a post he has held for two years.

Christian served in the military as a paratrooper and is certified in the state of Alabama as a practical nurse. He was the organizer of the new Moody Emergency Rescue Team and serves as captain.

Christian said, "I have served



CHARLE

Public is invited—

Civic Center dedication begins Sunday at 2 p.m.

The public is invited to the grand opening and dedication of the Pell City Civic Center Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The \$700,000 facility, which is located just off Highway 34 in Cropwell, will be dedicated to the late Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon and the Pell City Civic Chorus will provide entertainment. refreshments will be served.

Persons will be able to view the facility from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

as part of the Open House. The Pell City Council has agreed to dedicate the facility to Nixon, who was put much effort toward seeing the building become a reality. A plaque will be presented to be put in an appropriate place in the Civic Center.

The facility has been in the planning stages since early 1974. Construction was held up on several occasions but finally began in early, 1975.

The Center is considered one of the finest in Alabama and is complete with gymnasium, elevated jogging track, game rooms, kitchen and arts and crafts room. The Civic Center also has a dining roo with the capacity to seat some 300 persons. The facility has a regulatio size basketball court and stage area and has shower rooms for men and women. Offices are also included for city personnel and the building is 16,000 square feet.

City Abolishes Park, Recreation Board, Eyes Possible Gas Shortage

After several months of study and planning, the City Council of Pell City took final action Monday night to abolish the present Pell City Park and Recreation Board and replace it with an appointed committee.

The Council unanimously passed an ordinance which abolishes the old Board and authorized the mayor to appoint a new committee which will be

made up of council members. The committee will function in the same manner as does the Police Department, Fire Department, Utilities Department and other city departments.

The Mayor did not announce the committee appointments at Monday night's meeting.

In other business, Pell City businessman Ed Ash discussed

with the Council the Pell City Industrial Park and was asked to make a detailed report at a later meeting on how much the City has spent on the Park, how much is needed, how many acres involved which need site improvement, etc.

A mobile home ordinance was discussed and the Council decided to secure ordinances from other cities of comparable size to Pell City and have a proposal ready within 60-90 days.

Councilman Paul Turner discussed some of the bills which are now before the Alabama Legislature and the Council voiced its opposition to a collective bargaining bill for public employees and to the bill which would require cities to publish a financial statement, including salaries of employees.

Several councilmen said that they did not object to publishing a financial statement, similar to that now being published by the County, but that they did object to publishing individual salaries. They noted that salaries are a matter of record and may be checked at the City Hall at any time by interested citizens.

Councilman Bam Cox discussed the recent petition for pay increases from the Police Department and said that his committee now has received schedules of pay from Mountain Brook, Leeds, Sylacauga, and Childersburg and that a meeting of the police department and finance committees would be held, probably this week, to study the petition requests.

An off-premises beer license was approved for Borden's Inn in Pell City.

A possible gasoline shortage for city vehicles was discussed and Councilman Forest Walls suggested that if the present supplier (Standard Oil) could not promise the amount needed for the year, that there was a recourse available through legislation. City Attorney Edwin Holliday commented that he did not believe that governmental agencies were going to be deprived of needed gasoline.

Mayor Nixon said that the City now has 500 gallons of gasoline in one tank and 250 in another. He said he had contacted the local dealer on Monday and was told that the City would have enough gas as the situation stood at that time.

Complaints about speeding on the Truss Ferry Road were discussed and Police Chief Ruble Bowlin was instructed to place a 35 miles per hour speed limit sign on Truss Ferry Road and to use the radar gun to enforce that speed limit and the present 50 miles per hour speed limit on the Pell City Country Club Road. The Council also stressed that improper mufflers violations on vehicles inside the city would be strictly enforced immediately.

The Council approved the

City—

Continued From Page 1.

Ruble Bowlin to investigate the possibilities of securing a resuscitator for the fire department, or some type of emergency equipment, and if necessary, to buy the equipment. Councilman Cox pointed out that the expenditure would be worth it if...

Studies new building—

New recreational director named by Pell City council

The Pell City Council Monday night took another step toward increased recreational programs by approving the hiring of a new recreational director and continuing research on a new recreational facility.

In a unanimous decision, the council agreed to hire John Brigham, who will terminate employment as an assistant recreation director for the City of Cullman and assume duties here within two to three weeks.

"I have talked with him as have other members of the council and we feel he is well-qualified for the post," council member Forrest Walls told the council. "I recommend that we give him a chance and see what he can do," he added.

The council, after concluding their regular order of business, took up further study of a new recreational center. Further developments will be announced later according to Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon.

In other business, the council approved a bid from Harry Harless Co. of Birmingham on several sections of fire hose. Total cost of the new hose was set at near \$1,700 with final specifications and equipment to be checked by the fire chief and commissioner.

The council also heard from Pell City radio station owner

(See Director Page 9-A).

Director

(Continued from Page 1)

Fate Gossett who requested that an alley behind his residence be opened. The council moved to open the alley as soon as the land could be surveyed.

It was noted that final preparations for the opening of the new city shop building were almost completed and discussion was held concerning the gas tanks recently acquired by the city. The council moved to sink two, 4,000 gallon tanks and wait on sinking two, 2,000 gallon tanks until it was determined that they could obtain enough gasoline to hold them in the ground.

The council also discussed the sale of between 30-50 water meters and meter boxes to the Wattsville Waterworks Board. The council agreed to sell each meter and base for \$25 each and discuss the taking over of the meters with the board at the next meeting in Wattsville.

According to councilman Charles Lockridge, the taking over of the meters by the Wattsville Board would "almost double" those residents water bills. "I cannot see doubling the water rate to 30 or 40 homes just to provide water to a few," Lockridge stated.

Mayor A.E. Nixon pointed out that the lines there were inside the police jurisdiction and might be some problem with allowing the Wattsville Board to accept the customers.

City attorney Billy L. Church was instructed to look into the matter.

The council also authorized

Council plans new recreation center

The Pell City Council Monday night approved a move to acquire an architect to draw up plans for a new city recreation center to be located in the area of the present city softball and baseball fields.

The new center, as yet only in the talking stages, will contain a basketball court, meeting rooms and game rooms. The council voted to go ahead with plans to build the new facility (See Council Page 7-A)

(Continued from Page 1)

and to contact the League of Municipalities for plans of similar recreation buildings.

The council also heard from Perry's Standard Station owner James Perry regarding the city wrecker business.

"I want to ask the council why we cannot have part of the city wrecker business on a rotation basis," Perry asked the council. "We have all the necessary licenses and other requirements," he said.

"The way you have it set up now, where the policeman informs the person involved in a wreck of the wrecker services available, puts the officer in a position of jeopardy," Perry said. Perry said he had found the system worked out by the council at their last meeting to be unsatisfactory.

"The position of the council is that the wrecker business will be handled the way the committee recommended it to be handled," Mayor "Dill" Nixon told Perry. "That's the way it will stand."

In other action, the council approved a bid of \$1,706 for a new tractor and mower for the recreation dept. — provided the equipment meets the approval of the parks and recreation committee.

The council also discussed the installation of a speed breaker

on 4th Ave. N. and decided to go ahead with action against T.L. Harmon for parking his trucks at a location in a residential area.

After hearing from Industrial Board member Ed Ash, the council approved the board's purchasing a building to be used for the expansion of industry. Cost of the proposed building would be \$60,000 or \$3 per square foot.

After a discussion between Mayor A.E. Nixon and Councilman Harvey Watson — parts of which are carried elsewhere in this newspaper — the council approved the installation of two new street lights and adjourned until their next regular session.

City Borrowing Again To Cover Recreation Costs

For the second time in as many months, the City of Pell City will borrow \$10,000 to cover costs of operation of the Park and Recreation Department.

The Council approved the action at its regular meeting Monday night. The loan will be made by the Peoples Bank for a term of six months at 5 percent interest.

A similar loan was made early in May for a 30-day period and was repaid from the City's general fund. This loan will be repaid in the same manner.

Ken Goodman, president of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce, asked the Council that work on the downtown redevelopment project be planned so that the street and sidewalks would not be closed or blocked during the month of December, since this month's sales are so important to the merchants.

Goodman was advised that the entire street would not be closed at any time but work would be done on one side of the street at the time. The Council could not give Goodman a definite time on

the bids or plans for the work schedule, but will contact the architectural firm and discuss the time schedule and Goodman's request with them.

Mayor Hugh Williamson presented a letter of guarantee from the Alabama Development Office for \$20,000 to be used on the Pell City water system. The funds will be issued after the new fiscal year starts on October 1. Plans are to submit a request for additional funds at that time.

Councilman Joe Sawyer asked the Council to investigate the possibilities of grant funds available due to the drought.

The Council examined a map of the area included in the extension of the city limits of the Johnny Smith Subdivision and was advised by the city attorney that he relied on Johnny Smith to obtain the signatures of all the property owners. The Mayor had been contacted by Bruce Etheridge about extension of a water line to serve his property. Investigation revealed that Mr. Etheridge had not signed the petition to be brought into the city limits and the matter was turned over to the city attorney.

In other business Monday night, the Council:

--Approved a road block by Rescue Squads for a Cystic Fibrosis fund drive.

--Approved installation of a

"stop" sign at the entrance of the road that runs from The Country Store to the Cropwell Baptist Church.

--Approved the employment on a trial basis of Sam Dunavant to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Dennis Meeks in the Fire Department.

--Approved the installation of a "No Trucks Allowed" sign on Frances Street.

--Adopted a resolution requesting the Alabama Development Office, State Planning Division, to arrange technical assistance in zoning and subdivision regulations physical development and to obtain Federal Urban Planning Assistance Funds in the amount of \$5,000 to aid in defraying the costs of the work. The City will make available local matching funds of \$2,500 to pay those costs not covered under the Program.

Heard a report from City Attorney Billy Church that he felt the attendance requirements for councilmen could be deleted without having the legal effect of giving a raise in salary to the councilman. He said he felt that deletion of the word "attended" would not violate the state law against giving a raise to public office holders during the term of their office. An ordinance will be prepared, adopted and advertised deleting the word "attended" from the existing ordinance.



When the judge speaks

Judge Holladay spoke to a crowd of several hundred who turned out for opening day of Pell City Lakeside Park.
PHOTO BY STEVE DRUMMOND

Recreation in Pell City the new civic center

BY MARCI VANDERGRIFT
Recreation Director

Recreation in Pell City has come a long way in the past four years' with the Pell City Civic Center facility and with the Civic Center complex which is now underway. Recreation is truly considered a highlight for the area.

The Civic Center itself includes game rooms, a conference room, gym, stage and indoor jogging track.

The Civic Center complex will include four softball fields, a concession stand, a multi-purpose field with an outdoor track and four additional tennis courts. Also to be added will be a large parking area.

Under the supervision of the recreation department are the two city swimming pools.

With the facilities now in existence, the recreation department is able to offer a wide variety of programs ranging in age from three to senior citizens.

Some of the programs that have been offered include tennis, swimming lessons, slimnastics, Arabic dancing, baton twirling, gymnastics, little league baseball, basketball, volleyball, square dancing, civic chorus, art classes, peewee football, senior
(See Civic Center page 10)

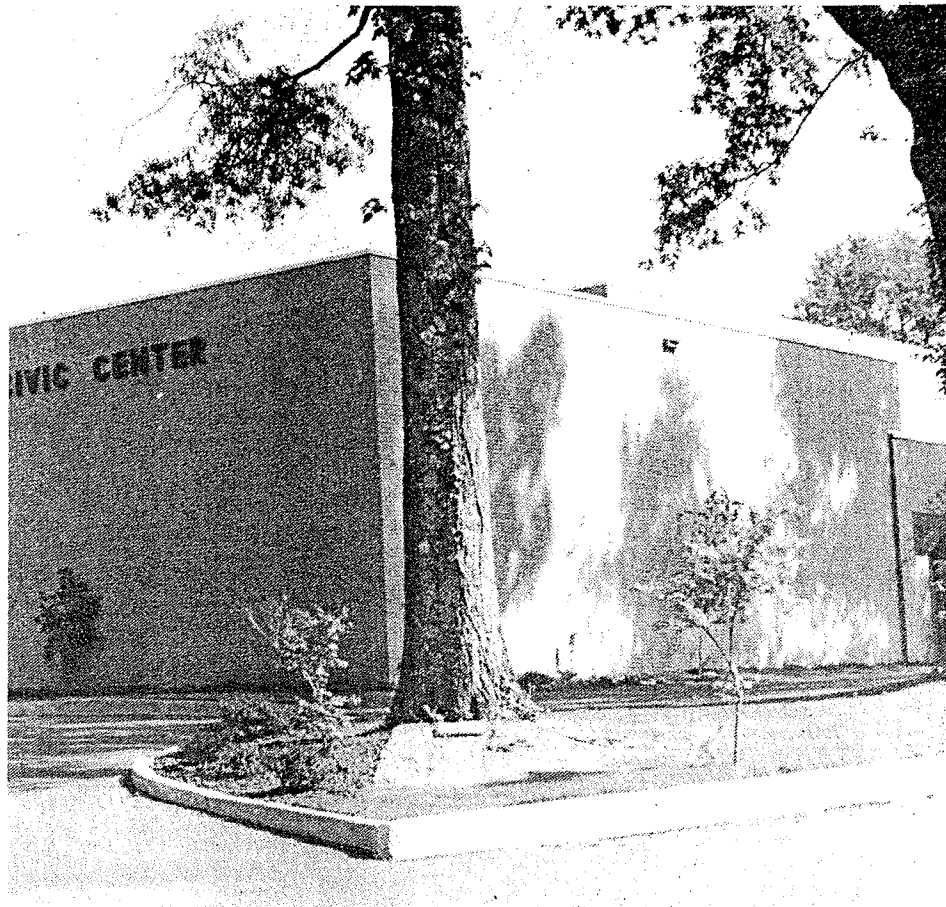


Pel

Birmingham Manuf

Spring

Il City starts at nter complex



Il City Civic Center

Manufacturing Company
Ill. Al

Civic Center

(Continued from page 9)

citizens meetings, tumbling tots, weight watchers, Ballet Barre', piano, guitar, macrame and plaster crafts.

It is the intent of the recreation department to always offer and provide programs that interest the public, but many times people complain about lack of certain programs.

When programs are offered there are not enough people signing up to participate, then it is impossible to provide the program. The blame falls on the people public, not the recreation department.

Recreation has come a long way in four years but not without some adversity. It is too easy for people to sit back, uninvolved and

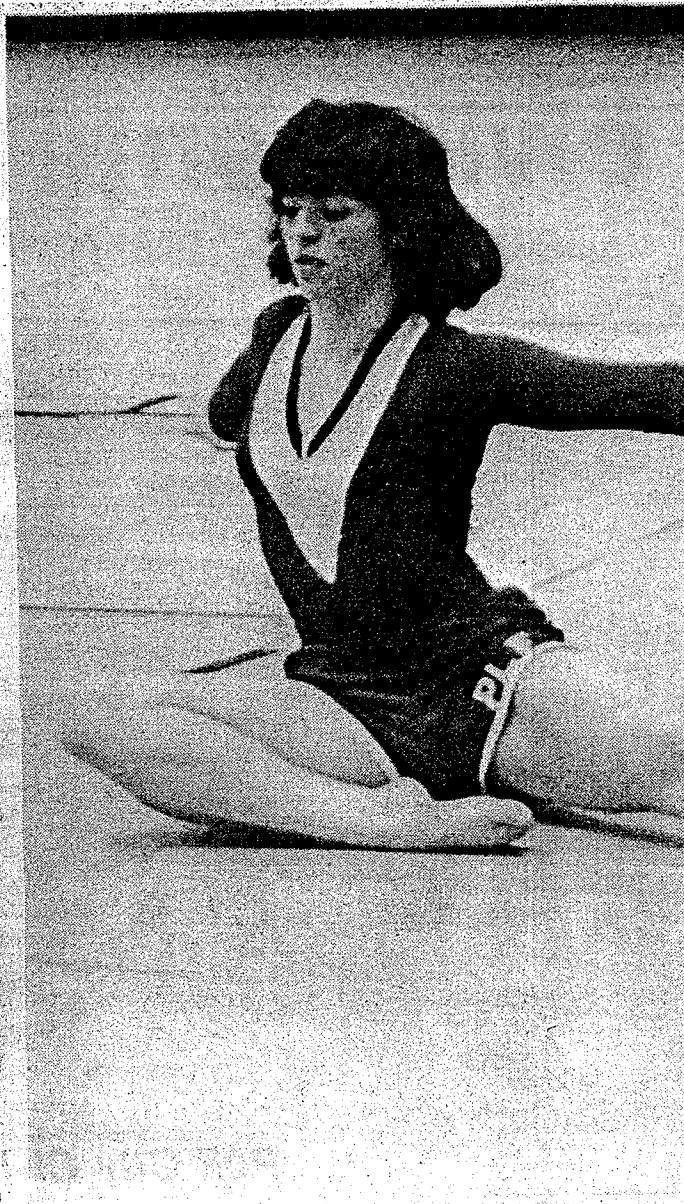
complain.

The Pell City recreation department is up to par and in manqkes, advanced and more organized than other area departments.

Rule enforcement and discipline are key factors in making the program and keeping it running smoothly. Without ontro, authority, backing from city officials and appreciation from the public, it will not stand—progress will decline.

As the recreation director for the city of Pell City, I believe in believe in recreation and see its unlimited potential.

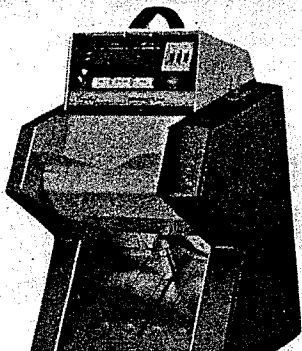
We have come a long way and hope to go a lot farther.



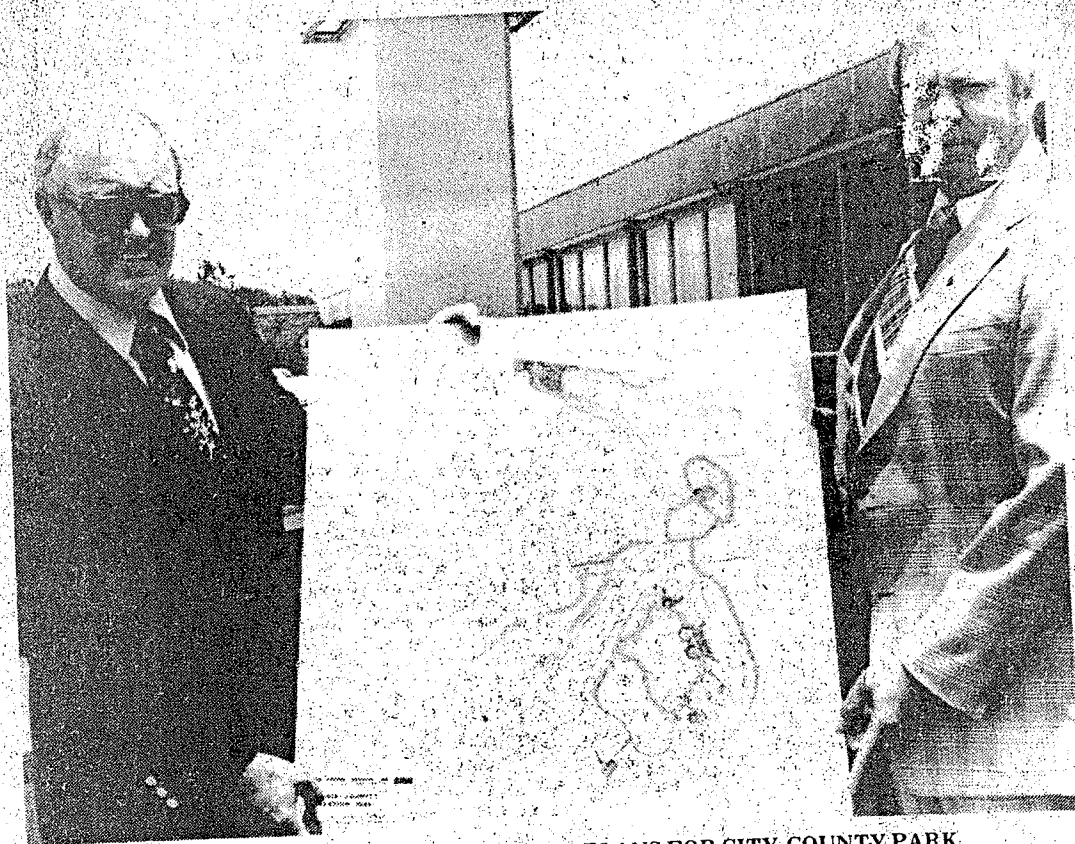
Director Marci Vandergrift

Gymnastics Just One Of I

**BRANDT, THE LARGEST
MANUFACTURER OF MONEY
HANDLING SYSTEMS**



IS PROUD TO JOIN THE PELL CITY AND THE



MAYOR WILLIAMSON DISPLAYS PLANS FOR CITY-COUNTY PARK
 ...Incoming Rotary President Ray Miller (R) looks on

Park Construction Will Begin In Fall

BY BOB CORNETT

Work will begin this fall on the Pell City-St. Clair County Recreation Park, a \$600,000 family-type park on Logan Martin Lake adjacent to the Civic Center, which is a joint project of the city, the county commission and the Soil Conservation Service, Mayor Hugh Williamson said Tuesday.

In a "progress report" talk to the Pell City Rotary Club, Mayor Williamson said construction should take about nine months and that he is hopeful it will be ready to open to the public by next summer.

Located on a 70-acre lake-side site behind the Civic Center, the park will feature a primitive camping area, strategically-placed comfort stations (rest rooms, showers, etc.), nature trails, boat launching ramp, fishing piers, boat slips, a huge parking lot which will accommodate 50

cars with boat trailers, large, elaborate picnic pavilions, two double tennis courts, a basketball court and other facilities.

Williamson stressed that the entire area will be enclosed in fence and that security will be maintained by a full-time custodian at the entrance to the park.

"This will be a family-type park and there will be no overnight camping," the Mayor said. He said the park will close at night.

He said the city's cost will be about 25% of the \$600,000 but said there would not be that much cash outlay.

"Most of it will involve in-kind service on our part, such as providing the water lines and electrical service, and we will be given credit for having paid for the property.

"The cash outlay will be for the construction of the buildings.

He said the County Commission's responsibility will be in

--The city beautification program. "We are about three weeks behind schedule on that project at the moment, but I firmly believe that when it is finished, it is going to be something that everyone will be proud of. We hope to finish by about the middle of August, but I believe Labor Day will probably be a more realistic date.

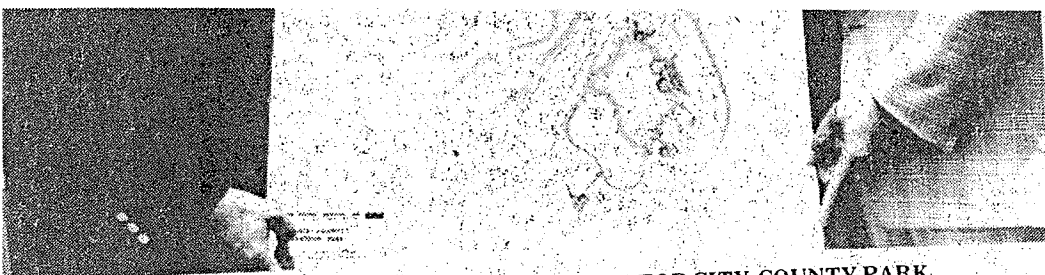
--Providing sewage to the Glenn City area and to the Harrisburg, Whitesville and Park Hill areas.

--Selling the city gas system to Alabama Gas Corporation. "We are in negotiations with them now and they assure us they have a plentiful supply of gas to furnish to industrial and

continued on Page 2

residential customers. We are at the limit of our allocation under our present arrangement, and we view this sale as our only hope for attracting new industry and new businesses.

--Providing an adequate sewage treatment plant. "We hope to be able to begin construction soon on a primary treatment plant. We are in line now for a federal grant to finance such a plant."



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"Most of it will involve in-kind service on our part, such as providing the water lines and electrical service, and we will be given credit for having paid for the property." "The cash outlay will be for the construction of the buildings."

He said the County Commission's responsibility will be in building and paving the roads, etc.

OTHER AREAS of progress that the city is involved in at the moment, the Mayor said, include:

-The city beautification program. "We are about three weeks behind schedule on that project at the moment, but I firmly believe that when it is finished, it is going to be something that everyone will be proud of. We hope to finish by about the middle of August, but I believe Labor Day will probably be a more realistic date."

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continued on Page 2

--Providing an adequate sewage treatment plant. "We hope to be able to begin construction soon on a primary treatment plant. We are in line now for a federal grant to finance such a plant."

--Construction of a softball complex behind the Civic Center. "Construction is under way now on two softball fields for use by our men's and women's softball teams, and we are talking with the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (which will provide 50% of the money) about financing two more softball fields and maybe a field with a track around it for track and field-type activity."

In a question and answer session following his talk Mayor Williamson said ALA GASCO's rates are "slightly less than those we are presently charging gas customers."

There's no one to call outs in Pell City

BY SUZANNE CRITTENDEN

News-Aegis News Editor

"I just want it to be known that I think the city handled the problem of getting umpires for the little league baseball teams very poorly," Alderman Joe Sawyer said at Monday night's Pell City City Council meeting.

"We talked about it and talked out it and now its too late to do anything about it. Teams are having to forfeit games because there aren't enough umpires to officiate the games," he added.

About two months ago the council agreed to look into the possibility of hiring professional umpires at a cost of \$6 per game.

"The Park and Recreation Department and the council met and decided to forgo the hiring of these umpires," Councilman Raymond Cox told Sawyer.

"You mean the council voted to do something and then it was stumped at a private meeting?" Sawyer quickly responded.

Cox explained that it had not been a private meeting and that Sawyer had apparently been out of town when the meeting was conducted.

Mayor Hugh Williamson made the recommendation that the council plan to hire professional umpires at the start of next year's season.

"Why don't we do it right now?" Sawyer asked.

He added that next year's season would roll around and that "the council will drag its feet and we'll end up with nothing again."

At present, Rod Hollis, Coach Gerald Grogan and Sunny Pike are calling the games.

"I really think these men are doing a good job with as many teams as there are," Councilman Forrest Walls said.

In other business pertaining the park, the Recreation Department reported to the council that for \$6,200 the city could

The council decided to study the lights further before coming to a final decision.

In other action, the council:

—Approved the hiring of Gary A. DeWeese as a new police officer.

"We'll start him on a 12 months probation like we do all city employes. Sooner or later we will have to send him to school," Cox said.

—Reviewed a price of \$11,650 to have the sidewalk on the north side of the Court House redone so that it will be similar to the downtown develop project which stops on the corner of 18th Street.

—Discussed the problem of people playing on the county radio.

"We know who's doing it and if it doesn't stop," Councilman Charles Lockridge said, "I think we ought to call the FCC and let them handle it."

The county radio is used to notify the fire, police and rescue departments of emergencies.

—The council also approved the distribution of warnings and the eventual ticketing of those person who continue to block fire lanes in front of businesses. According to the warning, cars parked in such fire lanes will be towed away.

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"I really think these men are doing a good job with as many teams as there are," Councilman Forrest Walls said.

In other business pertaining the park, the Recreation Department reported to the council that for \$6,220 the city could purchase and have installed high-lights at the city tennis courts.

Four aluminum polls would be erected with one 1,000 watt light secured to the poll at approximately 40 feet about the ground.

(See Pell City Page 2-A)

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Pell City Council meets

BY MIKE MOSER
News-Aegis Editor

Pell City Council met at the Civic Center to discuss the city budget for the upcoming year and to hold a hearing with the City Planning Commission but ended up hearing a report on the Civic Center before the hearing.

City fathers will have to meet again—probably next Monday night after the

regular council meeting—to discuss the budget.

The Director of the Civic Center activities, Marci Vandergriff, reported to council on the various activities that the center has been involved in during the past year.

She told councilmembers that most of the programs were highly successful but there had been some programs that had been offered on request of citizens that

were later cancelled due to lack of participants.

Among programs that have been successful were little league baseball, pee wee football, the basketball program, volleyball and softball.

The softball, basketball programs were for both men and women from a variety of age groups. In addition to this the center has designated a 'free time' or open gym when those who

are not in the org gram can use th for things like baskets, running track and for pla pong and other ga game-room

There has been both a morning an slimnastics progr gymnastics clas tumbling tots prog The center is al senior citizen square dancing cl

Meets at Civic Center

due to are not in the organized program can use the facilities for things like shooting baskets, running on the track and for playing ping-pong and other games in the game-room.

There has been offered both a morning and afternoon gymnastics program and a variety of tumbling tots program.

The center is also used by senior citizen groups, square dancing classes and

civic chorus, programs that are not under the civic center staff but are open to citizens of the community.

Programs that have been offered which were cancelled due to lack of participation macrame class, cake decorating, home-made bread and tennis classes.

A special project that the center participated in this past summer was a Day Camp which was used to provide summer recreation

for 30 children who otherwise could not participate in a summer program.

In an effort to open lines of communication the center staff will be preparing a bulletin board to announce events and will also be providing the local press with a weekly summary of events for the week.

Over 2,500 persons in the Pell City community are members of the Civic Center.

Council opens grassing bids

It was one of those 'short and sweet' council meetings Monday night at Pell City with city fathers acting on a hand full of proposals before adjourning the 20 minute meeting.

Bids for grassing two ballfields behind the Pell City Civic Center were called for with only one bid offered. Pending a followup check, the bid will be awarded to Washington Seed and Grass of Springville. Cost for making the improvement on the five acre area was listed at \$4,875.

In other action, council received requests for speed breakers on 34th St. just Hwy 78 and on Truss Ferry Road with both requests to be investigated and surveyed before formal action.

Council also approved Charles Livingston, 22, as a firefighter replacing R. B. Graham who will be retiring at the end of the month. Livingston had been employed with Suburban Ambulance Service and is a certified EMT.

Little League program under the park and recreation department was commended by council for another successful year with four teams in state tournament action and a fifth team eligible for a state berth.

City Makes Plans For Park, Softball Fields At Center

Soil Conservation Officer Rod Goode told the Pell City Council at its regular meeting Monday night that an architectural and engineering contract should be let at an early date for the proposed city-county park on the Civic Center site at Cropwell.

Goode said that this phase of the park will cost an estimated \$30,000 which will come from local and RC&D funds.

Mayor Hugh Williamson told the Council that the Soil Conservation Service has also set the grade stakes for the four new softball fields at the Civic Center.

In other recreation-related action, the Council agreed to install eight new poles at a cost of \$125.00 each on the Farm League Baseball field at Avondale Park.

Larry Camp was present at the meeting to discuss Truxmore garbage truck and demonstrated one of the vehicles to the Council after the session.

In other action, the Council--
--Agreed, subject to the recommendation of Finance Chairman Paul Turner who was unable to attend the meeting, to give \$1,000 to the Jefferson - Blount - St. Clair Mental Health Authority.

--Purchased an advertisement in the Winston 500 program.

--Approved the locating of two street lights in Dellwood II Subdivision.

--Heard a letter of appreciation from Principal Moree for recent police work involving the break-in at Coosa Valley School.

--Agreed to view a demonstration of a Terrain-King tractor at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

--Instructed City Clerk Bettie Scott to get copies of dog leash ordinances from Centerville, Sylacauga and Alexander City for study by

the Council.

--Police Chief Ruble Bowlin announced that city officer Floyd Brown had resigned to take employment with the Sheriff's Department.

--Authorized the mayor to submit an application for a

\$6,000 planning grant to be matched with \$3,000 local funds.

--Referred to the Police Department a request from C.J. Goodwin of the Rescue Squad to hold a road block.

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. March 31, 1977



local and road funds.
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Old Turner Saying...

A man begins to cut his wisdom teeth at about the same time he bites off more than he can chew.

Park's demise dissatisfies 1

By DAVID HAYNES.

PELL CITY — Mayor Hugh Williamson and members of the City Council expressed their dissatisfaction Monday with the county's recent decision not to go ahead with a county-city park project.

Williamson even hinted the city might resort to legal action on the issue, citing "binding" documents signed by county officials in the planning phases of the project.

The park has been on the drawing board since the mid-1970s, and was to be a joint project of the city, county and Soil and Conservation Service. About three weeks ago, when unexpected SCS funds were offered for the project, both the city and county were told they had until Aug. 22 to make a decision on whether to go ahead with the project.

The City Council promptly approved a measure assigning Williamson as contracting officer for the city at the next council session. The commission, however, balked at its regular meeting.

At a later called meeting on the matter, a motion to go ahead with the project died for lack of a second.

Although a majority of commissioners have said individually they favor the project, none would second the motion because commissioner Paul Manning, in whose district the park would be located, would not endorse it.

The funds went to another project and the park was declared dead for now.

Monday was the first council meeting since then, and each councilman indicated his disappointment with the county's action, or inaction, on the matter.

Williamson said the three county representatives who met with city and SCS officials to finalize plans for the project about three weeks ago "indicated that their action would be affirmative."

Williamson said he could understand the other commissioners holding back if the project under consideration was one that affected only Manning's district. But he said the park would be a countywide project.

Councilman Charles Lockridge commented: "It wasn't a thing in the world but more of the same old county politics."

He said commissioners should remember they are elected to represent the entire county and aren't just road commissioners anymore.

Williamson promised to present the city's views on the project at Tuesday's commission meeting in hopes they would "see the error of their ways."

The city fathers set license fees Monday for retail and wholesale table wine licenses to be effective in October.

Williamson changed his original recommendation that city licenses be

half the state price after pointed out that a business premises beer and table pay a total of \$600 licensing alone.

For the retail license, recommendation went down to \$50, which was approved by council also approved recommendation that wholesale distribution be set at \$300 for the first review next year.

Prentice Fomby appealed council to request the parking lot be fenced in from parking there described the spot as a said fencing would problem.

He also asked about presented to the commission seeking additional sewer the Glenn City area.

The council took no fencing proposal, but an engineer still is assessing project and that rejected on the engineering because they were too

ifies P.C. Council

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aid fencing would alleviate the
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He also asked about a petition he
resented to the council July 14
eeking additional sewer hookups in
he Glenn City area.

The council took no action on the
encing proposal, but Williamson said
an engineer still is assessing the sewer
project and that recent bids on one
sewer project in the area were
rejected on the engineer's advice
because they were too high.

A bid from Thompson Tractor Co. of
Anniston on a Caterpillar D5-B
bulldozer for \$69,960 was approved on
Dr. Joe Sawyer's recommendation. He
said of the bids received, the Thomp-
son bid was the only one to meet
specifications.

The bids were opened Aug. 15 at 3
p.m., which was not a council meeting.
Other bids received were from Joe
Money, \$56,142; Alabama Machinery,
\$65,192; Case Power and Equipment,
\$58,457.

In other business, the council:

—Approved off-premises table wine
licenses for Smith Tackle, Bill Oden
Grocery, Howard's Country Store and
Coosa Valley Grocery. Also approved
was a lounge license application for
the sale of wine, beer and liquor at the
Hilltop Lounge (formerly
Workingman's Club).

—Agreed not to participate in a
Personnel Appeals Board set up by the
State Legislature in St. Clair County.

—Approved the purchase of a 1965
International Truck from Robert F.
King of Weaver for \$3,500. The truck
will be used to pull a lo-boy for hauling
road equipment.

After several delays— Sunday, March 30, 1975. THE ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS

Construction to begin this week on center

After several delays that have lasted for several months, construction on the proposed \$600,000 Pell City Civic Center will begin late this week or early next week, THE NEWS has learned.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said the Center would be built at the Cropwell site as soon as preliminary plans are finished. Contractors are currently in the process of finishing the topography map, which should be finished by the middle of this week.

"After the topo map is finished, it will take about two days to get it corp drilled and ready for construction," Nixon said.

C.D. Wilson & Sons of Ashville will construct the Civic Center after being awarded the low bid of about \$603,000. The Ashville firm has estimated a completion time of 10 months, which would put completion of the center around February, 1976, barring any major delays.

The latest delay in constructing the building came

when the Pell City Council began looking into the possibility of changing its location from the land near Avondale Mills to the Cropwell site. The city hopes to have the Center as the main center of attraction in a City Park of the future in Cropwell. A grant from the Coosa Resource Conservation and Development project will be applied for to pay for the park on a matching grant basis.

The Mayor has cited the fact that the city already has property adjoining the Cropwell site and it is also better suited for construction as reasons for moving the construction site.

Council Hears Plan To Save 'Roberson House'

BY AUGUST LEHE

A spirit of community action seemed to fill Pell City Council Chambers Monday night, as two delegations appeared before a regular session of the council asking for "council support" of their separate projects.

Appearing first before the city governing body was a delegation of young adults headed by Cliff Morrison, chairman of the Pell City Council on the Arts and Humanities.

Morrison asked that the city cancel plans to either tear down or move the old Roberson House (also known as the "White House"), located on the construction site of the new city civic center until his group has an opportunity to attempt to renovate the building.

Morrison said the arts group had access to both free labor and materials and could restore the house with an expenditure, from private sources, of less than \$3,000.

"We don't see where the problem is with leaving the house where it is," Morrison told the Council. "We have plans to bring it up to liveable standards, at no expense to the taxpayers," Morrison said.

Pell City Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon indicated to Morrison that the house might "obstruct the view" of the new civic center and also expressed the fear that leaving house on the present site, which places it within the civic center parking area, might call for new plans and construction changes which could cost the city thousands of dollars. Several members

of the council suggested that the city donate the house and a nearby piece of property to the group, provided private funds could be raised to finance the moving of the century-old structure.

Morrison replied that the

arts council was, at present, strongly opposed to such a plan.

At several times, council members expressed amazement that any group could renovate the building for less than \$30,000 and also expressed misgivings in response to a Morrison proposal which would call for a resident caretaker on the premises. The council then requested that Morrison present a written plan outlining project details.

Next appearing before the council was a delegation of Pell City Jaycees headed by Burke Yarbrough.

The Jaycees presented several requests to the council one of which called for permission to use the Roberson House for the Annual Jaycee Haunted House fund raising project.

Yarbrough said the Jaycees would pay for any liability insurance the city deemed necessary for temporary use of the house. Accompanying Yarbrough were local businessmen Jack Hayes and Mack Bell.

Yarbrough and Morrison agreed that the projects would not conflict with each other.

The Jaycees then asked for city support and approval of the Clyde Beatty (King) Circus which has been scheduled to come to Pell City on Saturday, Oct. 18, for two performances. Yarbrough said money raised from the circus would be used for community action programs.

In a final request, the council was asked to pass a resolution and otherwise sup-

Continued On Page 2

Council—

Continued From Page 1

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Dr. Layton Dorman, executive director of the auth-

being treated from the Pell City area. A total of 18

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Continued On Page 2

Council—

Continued From Page 1

port this year's Jaycee Christmas Parade which, Yarbrough said, has been "getting less and less successful year by year."

A motion by Councilman Forest Walls granting a permit for the Jaycee Circus was followed by a motion from Councilman Paul Turner calling for a resolution in support of the holiday parade. Both passed without dissent.

The Pell City Council also received a delegation from the Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair Mental Health Authority, which requested that the city allocate \$2,798 to the authority for the coming year in return for mental health services described as "well worth the money spent."

Dr. Layton Dorman, executive director of the authority, headed the delegation composed of Mrs. Ruth Arnett, director of the Eastside Mental Health Center, and Mrs. Nancy Parker of Ashville.

Dr. Dorman said Pell City, in return for its allocation, receives five essential services including outpatient services, inpatient services, 24-hour emergency service, day treatment and consultation and education programs.

"We know we're asking for a lot of money," Dr. Dorman said in reference to the \$2,798 fund request, "but we feel like you get your money's worth."

The group also presented the council with a listing of persons which have or are

being treated from the Pell City area. A total of 18 admissions and 33 "active cases" were discussed.

The council agreed to study the request, but took no action on the matter Monday night.

In other business, the council:

--Approved the appointment of Eugene Harris and Freck Smith to the Pell City Medical Clinic Board.

--Agreed to give Mayor Nixon permission to sign an agreement with Southern Railway, which would enable the city to run a sewer line.

--Agreed to take out an ad in the Pell City High School Annual.

--Agreed to place three more street lights at inter-

sections adjoining Shadydale Mobile Home Park.

--Agreed to attend a special Flood Insurance Act Meeting held Tuesday at Holiday Inn of Riverside.

--Were informed that the Artie Davis Home which had been condemned by the city as "unsafe" had been razed.

--Passed a motion by Councilman Harvey Watson that the city refuse to do any further roadwork in any city subdivision until the streets are formally accepted as city streets by the council.

Dec 1984

Mayor Harvey Watson - Al Murray
New Parks + Recreation Director



for Harvey Watson - Wl Murray
Parks + Recreation Director



On Civic Center site

Group asks council to save white house

A delegation from the St. Clair County Historical Society asked the Pell City Council Monday night to keep the white house on the Civic Center

property as it is so that it can be restored but no action was taken.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said the council was in full agreement that current negotiations with the Harmons for property adjoining the Civic Center site in exchange for the house should continue. He explained that if nothing was worked out, the council would then discuss new plans for the house.

Mrs. Mary Mays told the council that destroying the white house would "destroy the possibility of further state and federal aid for Cropwell, which has been designated a historic district by the State Historic Commission. She praised the council on the plans for the proposed center and told them the historic aspect of the area could be worked in with the recreation part.

"While I'm not sure about the entire nation, tourism is the biggest industry in Alabama," Mrs. Mays said, "And I think restoration of the white house would be a great asset to the community."

Elmo Welch, president of the county Historical Society, explained that Congress some years ago passed a law saying that all natural landmarks in Pell City should be restored. "Cropwell has been designated as a community to be restored and destroying the white house would be destroying the very things that put Cropwell on the map," Welch added.

Concerning funding Mrs. Mays said the society has no funds nor are they asking the city to restore the house. She said the possibility of bringing

in other landmarks would add greatly to the area.

Mrs. Mays told the council the building could be used in conjunction with the Civic Center for art shows, displays, craft shops, etc.

Mayor Nixon said the park was bought and the specifications drawn for a recreation facility and that altering those plans at this late date would be impossible. He discussed long-term goals for the area, including the addition of tennis courts and little league baseball fields.

Councilman Paul Turner said no one wants to see the house destroyed and asked Mrs. Mays if moving it to another location in the area would suffice. She said doing that would destroy the "unit" that would be built around the center.

The mayor told Mrs. Mays that if negotiations with for the (See House Page 10A)

Harmon property fell through, the council would have to go another route and he would discuss plans with them then. The council also heard a report from Mrs. Pam Leachman of the Day Care School for retarded children that operates in Pell City. Mrs. Leachman thanked the council for their past support and asked that they consider the school when they allow for their budget next year.

She told the council that the school hopes to expand in the form of pre-school service and classes for older retarded citizens (ages 18 and older). She told the council the school must provide matching funds this year in the amount of \$7,408.12. In other action, the council:

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In other action, the council:

—Heard a report from Mayor Nixon that the well drillers have begun drilling the wells;

—Voted to begin accepting bids for a front-end loader;

—Voted to get bids on a new Van for Fire Chief Cecil Guthrie;

—Heard a report from Mayor Nixon who said he discussed the street light situation with George Williams who said it would be feasible to move some;

—Agreed to request to do work on the Cropwell ball field; and

—Heard a report from the Mayor on his meeting with the federal people on rebuilding the sidewalks in the city that were damaged by the tornado.

Pell City receives \$15,000 from HUD

Approval of a \$15,000 grant for the city of Pell City from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was announced early Wednesday by Senators John Sparkman, Jim Allen and Congressman Tom Bevill.

The money will go toward

providing planning and further assistance to facilitate the further recovery of Pell City from the tornado disaster which occurred on Jan. 10, 1975.

The city will use the money as part of its project to refurbish the downtown area that was damaged by the storm.

move debated—

Council seeking grant to fund new city park

By LOUIS MURO
News Editor

The Pell City Council Monday night took a major step toward the creation of a City Park in

the Cropwell area by voting to apply for a matching grant from Coosa RC&D and to allow a team from the firm to study the area and draw up a plan for the park.

The action came after a presentation by Coosa RC&D representative Charles Burdett, who explained the firm's operation and the opportunities

available to the city for "water-based recreation parks."

Burdett explained to the council that funds could be made available on a 50-50 matching basis. He said the application could be for any number of items, including the acquisition of the land itself, building roads or parking areas in the facility, tennis courts,

picnic areas or any project that is water-based.

"The only requirements are that the projects be water-based and available to all age groups," Burdett explained. Burdett proceeded to show slides to the council of other parks funded by Coosa RC&D and the many different aspects

(See Park Page 5A)

that could be included.

The council asked Burdett if dredging would also be included in the grant and he said yes, "whatever is necessary to improve the situation." The Cropwell site is on the backwater and dredging would be necessary to bring in more water.

Burdett said other park projects have been funded through Coosa RC&D in Clay, Tallapoosa and Coosa counties.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon asked Burdett if the location of the Civic Center in the park could also be paid for through the grant. Burdett said he wasn't sure but would check on it. "There are many exclusions in the book but I just don't know if that would be one of them," he

said.

Burdett said a planning team could come together within eight days and have a cost estimate. "Then we would review the plan with the council and submit it for approval to the State Department of Conservation and the Health Department."

Burdett noted that the project is then sent to Washington for approval and "that may take from four to five months."

"It's a long, drawn out process and not something that will happen overnight," he added. Burdett also said that when the project is approved by Washington, it is then sent back to the council for final approval. He noted that no commitment would be made on the city's part until that final approval.

Burdett also brought up the matter of the city going in with the county on the project. He pointed out that the county commission under Dr. James H. McClendon had submitted a request for funding of a "county park" and asked the council if they wished to leave that application alone or submit a new one. County commission chairman James S. Satterfield was present at the meeting and said he would cooperate fully with the city on the project.

"I've put the county on notice that I'm setting a priority on rural water and recreation

to Alabama's second largest industry and valued it at \$600 million. "The initial investment is a lot but it will eventually pay for itself," Burdett said.

Councilman Dr. Raymond Cox then said the council should pursue the matter with "utmost and rapid speed" and made a motion to allow Burdett to study the matter. Councilman Forest Walls seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Satterfield told the council that he would talk to the county commission to determine how they would work with the city on the effort.

In other action, City Attorney Billy Church said he would meet with Federal Judge Sam Pointer on April 1 to discuss the proposed creation of a city school system in Pell City. (See accompanying story).

Nixon reported that he had met with C.J. Goodwin, director of the Pell City Rescue Squad, concerning a location for the squad. The mayor said Goodwin requested an area 50 feet by 100 feet and suggested a location behind the recreation hall facing the National Guard Armory. Councilman Charles Lockridge questioned the location and said a location in the Industrial Park might be more appropriate. Nixon said the city was still checking out all possibilities and no action

the park.

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available on a 90-90 matching basis. He said the application could be for any number of items, including the acquisition of the land itself, building roads or parking areas in the facility, tennis courts,

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"I've put the county on notice that I'm setting a priority on rural water and recreation projects. I'm concerned about the county-city recreation areas and we need one on both sides of the mountain. I feel that it's one of our greatest needs," Satterfield said.

Burdett pointed out that recreation-tourism has grown

(See Park Page 8A)

to Alabama's second largest industry and valued it at \$600 million. "The initial investment is a lot but it will eventually pay for itself," Burdett said.

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Church told the council that he needed detailed information from the city engineer before he could draw up an ordinance to build a sewage system in the Eden area. The attorney said it would take the engineer about 30 days to provide him the information and that he would draw up the ordinance as soon as he could after that.

In other action, the council:

—Voted to pay the bills;

—Voted to issue an off-premise beer license to Macon's Union 76 Station; and

—Voted, after some discussion, to issue an on-premise beer license to Ann Martin Rutledge, new owner of the Sugar Shack.



Jan 1970

Civic center expansion

At long last, the dreams of the planners of the Pell City Civic Center and director, Marcie Vandegrift, are becoming a reality. This week, it is expected that the two new softball fields and concession will be opened and plans include two more fields when Phase I of the plans is completed.

When the Civic Center was first built, the planners had been working on the current facility and the possibility of future expansion. The plans call for a three phase expansion program, which in the end will result in Pell City having one of the finest recreation areas in the state.

Phase I includes plans for two softball fields, with lights and concession, and a multi-purpose field which will include a quarter mile outdoor track.

Phase II will include two additional softball fields, and four additional lighted tennis courts. Phase III will see the installation of parking facilities, lights for the all purpose field and walk ways.

Director Marcie Vandegrift is excited about the prospects of the expansion and looks forward to serving as director over the complete complex. Miss Vandegrift attended the University of Montevallo where she worked toward a degree in recreation and physical education.

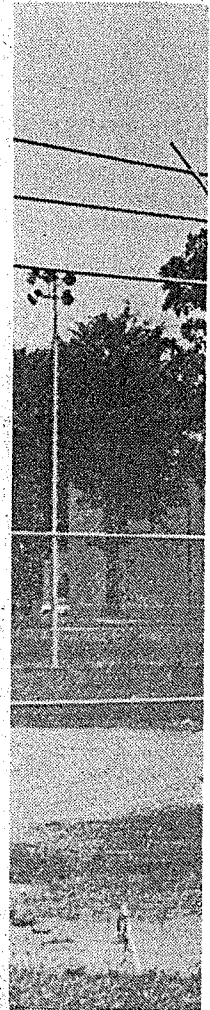
This years softball teams will enjoy the new fields as men's church leagues, seven ladies church leagues, five men's city leagues and eight ladies city

leagues hit the fields for fun and entertainment. The lighted fields will encourage more spectators and teams to the area.

Organized sports are not the only recreation offered at the Civic Center. The building, itself, houses gymnastics, basketball (adult and children's), art and craft classes, the stage is used by the Civic Chorus and other groups, plus meetings are held daily. Slimnastics and aerobic dancing classes also meet in the building.

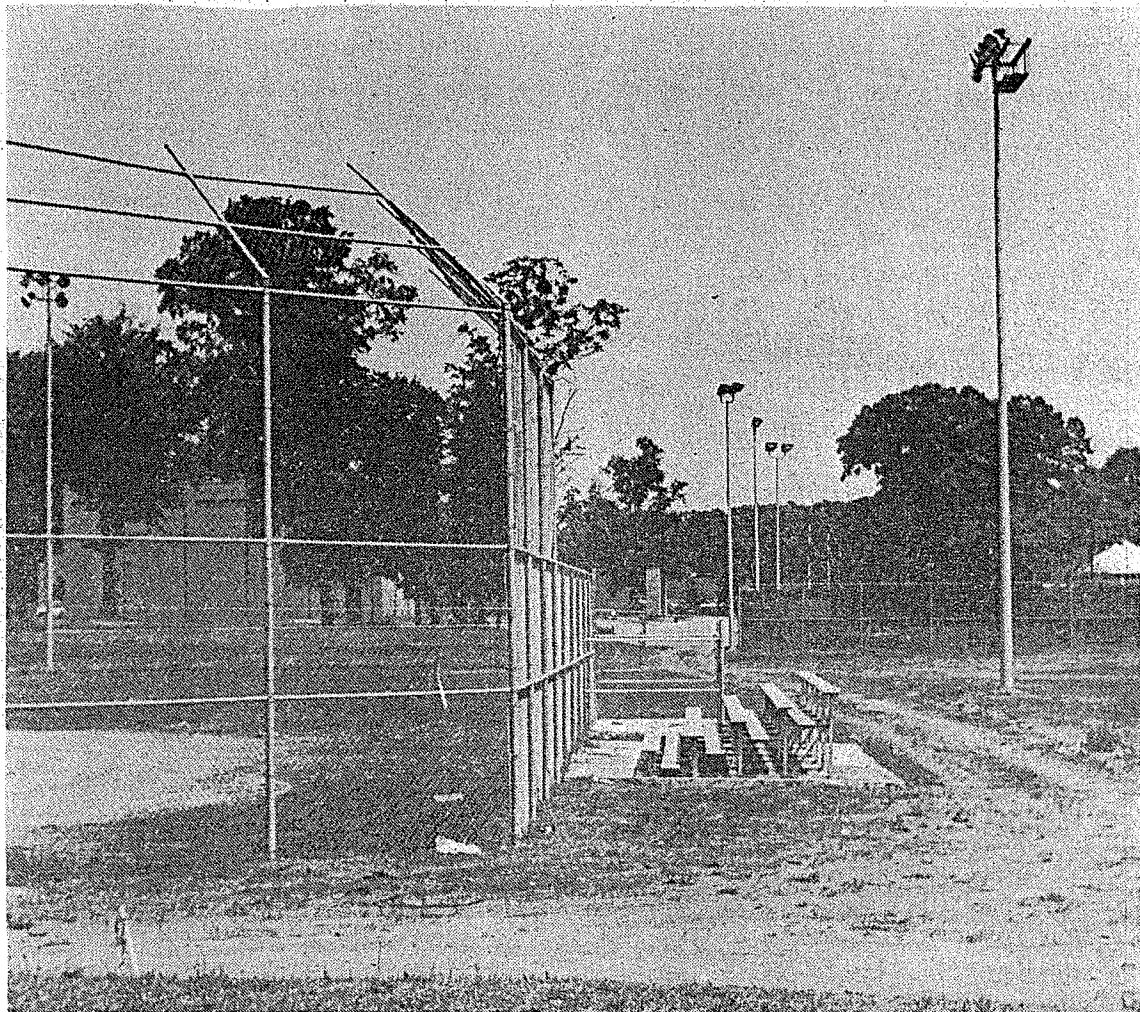
In addition to the other entertainments offered at the complex, the Pell City Lion's Club, under the leadership of president George Williams and chairman, Bill Waller, will have a special surprise for the youngst of the area. Beginning is the next few weeks, the Lion's Club will begin construction of a playground for the children. It will be called Lion Country Kiddie Park and will have swings, slides, and other equipemnt for the child to use his or her imagination for extended fun. Dr. James McClendon, Chairman of the St. Clair County Commission, has already made a \$50.00 donation to the park and with the dOnations of others and the use of private equipemnt donated, the park will become a reality.

Several persons have already donated time and moneys to the project and the Lion's Club will hold project through-out the years for the continuing up-keep of the playground.



Phase I of the e
Center Complex is
softball fields, with

expansion a reality



Complex expanding

Phase I of the expansion of the Pell City Civic Center Complex is nearing completion. Two new softball fields, with lights and a concession stand

will open this week and two more fields and a multipurpose track and field will be completed soon.

Marci Vandergrift
Parks & Recreation Director
1989



City Hires Rec Director, Discusses Civic Center

In a short meeting Monday night, the Pell City City Council hired a new Recreation Director and adjourned to discuss plans for a Civic Center building with an architect, who is expected to have a preliminary outline of the Center ready for the next meeting.

John Brigham, who has been Assistant Recreation Director for the City of Cullman for the past two years, will begin his job with Pell City on June 10. Mr. Brigham, who is single, 24 years old, had visited the City last week and received praise from the councilmen who interviewed him for "attitude and enthusiasm as well as qualifications for the job."

In other business Monday night, the Council agreed to open an alley behind the Fate Gossett residence on Cogswell

Avenue (Eden). Mr. and Mrs. Gossett, who made the request, said that all other property owners except one along the alley were willing for the opening. Engineering surveys will be necessary before the work is begun.

Following up a request at the last meeting from residents of the Stovall Florida Road for Pell City to either furnish them water or allow Wattsville to take over their area, the Council agreed to meet with the Watts-

Continued On Page 2

ville Water Works Board next Monday night with a proposal to sell the presently installed meters to Wattsville for \$25.00 each. The City has approximately \$35.00 plus labor invested in each meter.

While the sale, to be proposed if the City Attorney determines it to be legal, will benefit those people in the area who need water, those already on Pell City water who will be transferred to the Wattsville system can expect a "doubling of water service charges" according to the Council.

Councilman Charles Lockridge said that he agreed that those people needed the

job with the City on June 10. Mr. Brigham, who is single, 24 years old, had visited the City last week and received praise from the councilmen who interviewed him for "attitude and enthusiasm as well as qualifications for the job."

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approximately \$50.00 plus labor invested in each meter.

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Councilman Charles Lockridge said that he agreed that those people needed the water, but he questioned penalizing those people already on the Pell City system.

The Council reviewed a letter from W. B. Phillips of Pine Harbor area, requesting an agreement from the City to furnish sewerage within 18 months to the area for "an established business enterprise." The letter did not disclose the name or nature of the business.

Mayor Dill Nixon said that he had discussed the matter with Mr. Phillips and the Engineer needed to give the City an estimate of cost to do the extension. He said that if the proposed plant was large enough there might be some grant money available sometime in the future. He added that no grant money is available at this time.

Councilman Bam Cox again discussed the operation of Tarpley & Sons on Truss Ferry Road and called it "the filthiest operation this City has."

Cox said he inspected the area personally last Saturday and was "shocked." Police Chief Ruble Bowlin said he had been assured by Tarpley that the old trucks, oil, cans, etc., would be cleaned up. The Council asked Chief Bowlin to follow up on the situation and then have Attorney Billy Church write a letter to Tarpley if the area is not cleaned up.