

## New 'Pell City Center'

# Council Adopts \$4 Million City

BY ANNE CORNETT

plan for the development and renewal of the downtown area of Pell City, to be activated in three stages at a total cost of \$4 million dollars, was adopted unanimously Monday night by the City Council at its regular meeting.

The plan has been prepared since the January 10 tornado by the Birmingham planning consultant firm of Cobb-Adams, Barton, Architects, Inc.

The preparation of the report was financed in part through a \$15,000 comprehensive planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development administered by the State Planning Division, Alabama Development Office. The City's share in the cost of the plan was \$7,250.

The plan calls for "a unified effort by the merchants and land owners in the area as well as the City." It further states that it would be unwise for the City to embark on a program of public improvements in the downtown area such as construction of parking facilities or street beautification if the merchants and land owners are not willing to rehabilitate their stores, remove unsightly outdoor advertising and upgrade their properties.

Goals of the plan include providing adequate parking facilities, improving the visual appearance, improving the water, sewer and storm drainage.

## Renewal -

Continued From Page 1

revenue sharing funds.

The plan compared Pell City's downtown area with "a situation similar to the one it faced in 1901." It couples problems created by the January 10 tornado and the competition with new shopping centers.

The plan is a result of work of the City Council and the City Planning Commission and warns "Pell City can move forward or it can die."

The entire City Council Monday night voiced approval of the plan with comments that "nothing can be done without a plan."

Mayor Dill Nixon told the Council that officials in Washington had expressed surprise that Pell City had had four agents for such im-

# Plan For Renewal

cities such as Jasper were already receiving sizeable grants to implement plans adopted similar to the one presented Monday night.

Approval of the plan by the Council will enable the Birmingham firm to go forward with applications for grants to implement Pell City's plan.

In other business, the Council heard a committee composed of Harold King, Ray Miller, Jack Baggett and Mrs. Vivian Doyle regarding the proposed city school system and agreed to go to Guntersville on Wednesday, July 23, to study that City's facilities and talk to city leaders about its school system organized six years ago.

On a request from Pell City Attorney Bill Hereford, the Council appointed Dr. Roy Coshatt, Dr. Robert Goode and Aaron Smith to vacancies on a Medical Clinic Board. The action was taken on the condition that City Attorney Billy Church review the authorities of the Board before it is authorized to take any official action. Hereford said the appointments

to the Board are necessary so that the Baptist Nursing Home at Cook Springs can negotiate a bond issue for construction of additional facilities.

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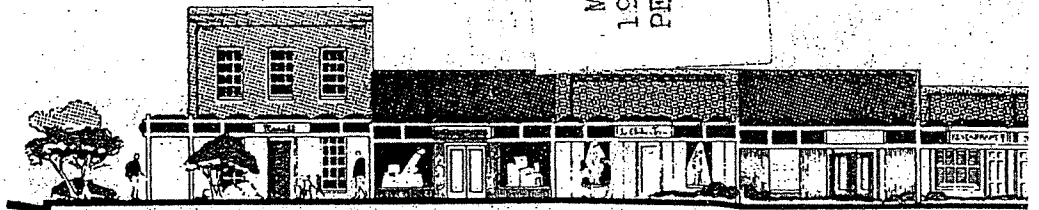
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103RD YEAR-NO. 8

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—Refurbishing Of

## HUD approves fu

Senators Jim Allen, John Sparkman and Congressman Tom Bevell announced Wednesday the approval of an \$809,000 grant for the city of Pell City from the Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to go towards the redevelopment of downtown Pell City.

The approval of the grant puts the city much closer to realizing

the goal of refurbishing the downtown area in the wake of the tornado that struck on January 10 of last year.

The application was made (See HUD Page 8A).

# S-Aegis

St. Clair County

# CASH BACK

WINNERS ON PAGE 3A

LOOK FOR YOUR NAME IN THIS ISSUE!

SDAY MORNING, JANUARY 29, 1976

20 PAGES

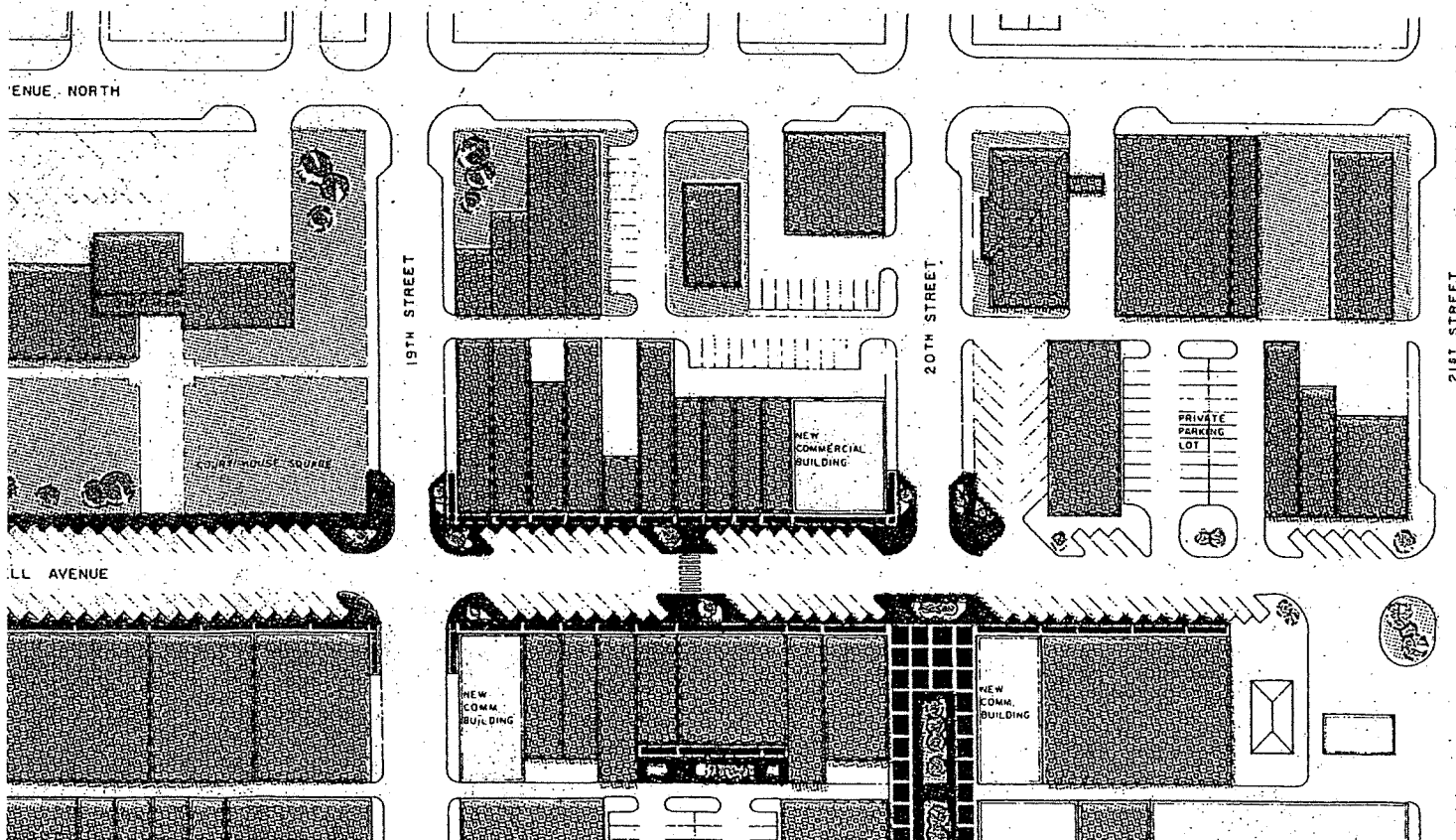
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View Of Cogswell Avenue

Downtown Pell City Nears Reality—

# Plans for redevelopment

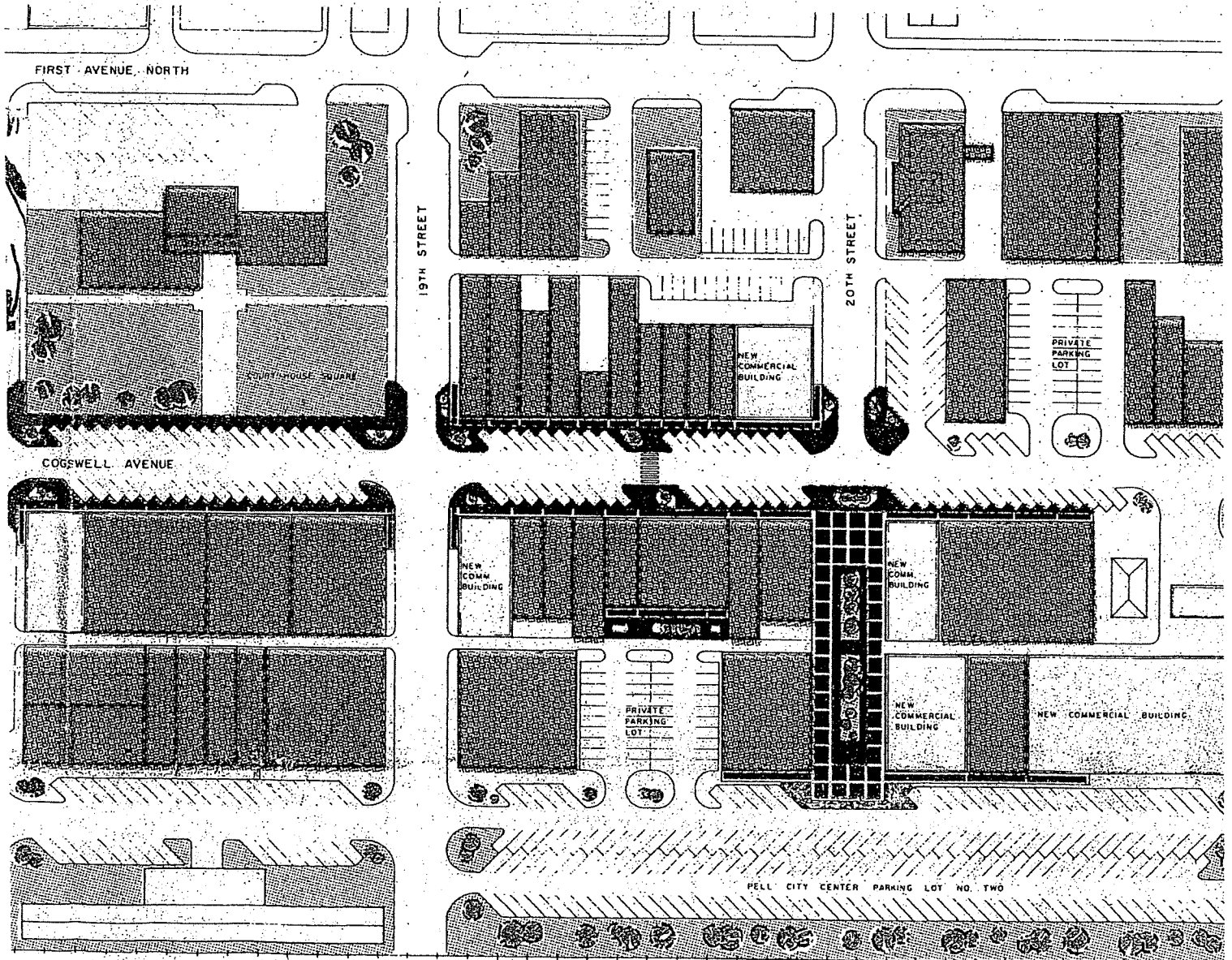






Proposed View Of Cogswell Avenue  
Of Downtown Pell City Nears Reality—

# Funds for redevelopment



Plan For Redevelopment

# HUD

(Continued from Page 1)

almost one year ago by the city for a project that has received the solid backing of city officials and the Pell City Chamber of Commerce. The sum applied for was \$1.5 million.

Pell City Clerk Bettye Scott said the city applied for funds to pave streets and alleys, repair sidewalks and gutters, installing street lights and repairing and improving sewer and water systems.

According to the clerk, HUD will outline what the city can and cannot do with the money and that should be made available in the next two weeks.

The next step for the project is doing the actual plans for the project. Only the preliminary drawings have been done before, by Cobb, Adams, Benton Architects in Birmingham. The project will be done in stages. Miss Scott said it took Jasper one year to apply for bids but hopes Pell City's can be let sooner.

The Chamber of Commerce is working to get the property

owners to restore their buildings as part of the overall plan to beautify the city. Pell City Councilman Paul Turner said the city was "thankful" for having received the funds.

Pell City Chamber of Commerce President Ted Campbell said he was "elated" that the response had come so quickly. The Chamber wrote letters to HUD last week urging the approval of the grant.

"It was much quicker than we anticipated and it appears the project is ready to proceed," he said. "We still pledge our support to the city in this project."

Campbell noted that he has been approached by many people who share the Chamber's enthusiasm with the project. And, he added, the Chamber of Commerce takes pride in being able to support the city.

Further details on the redevelopment project will be made available in the News-Aegis.

# 'Happy accident



## Limestone well lucky break

One of the finest limestone wells in Alabama was a "happy accident" for the north central city of Pell City, Alabama, which led to the installation of a 55,000-foot 12-inch water main and a new storage tank which tripled the city's water storage capacity, vastly increasing its potential for attracting new industry and accommodating residential growth.

In 1976, on the recommendation of city engineer Charles E. Tucker, a consulting engineer from Birmingham, Pell City's mayor and council had authorized the digging of a new well to supplement the city's then-less-than-adequate source of water supply.

"That was all we intended to do at that point," engineer Tucker tells it, "just a temporary supplemental measure, so to speak."

"But," he continued, "we ran into a limestone sink in the well we first started digging, then tried two other sites before we finally selected the present well, located on Golf Course Road, and it turned out to be a super well."

"When we saw what we had and the potential that was there for really doing something substantial about the water system, we went back before the city council and talked them into going further, with the water main and the new storage tank."

Designed by engineer Tucker and installed by the hometown

firm of Tuckling Comp goes out in the well, downtown entire city system at amply supply industrial pa

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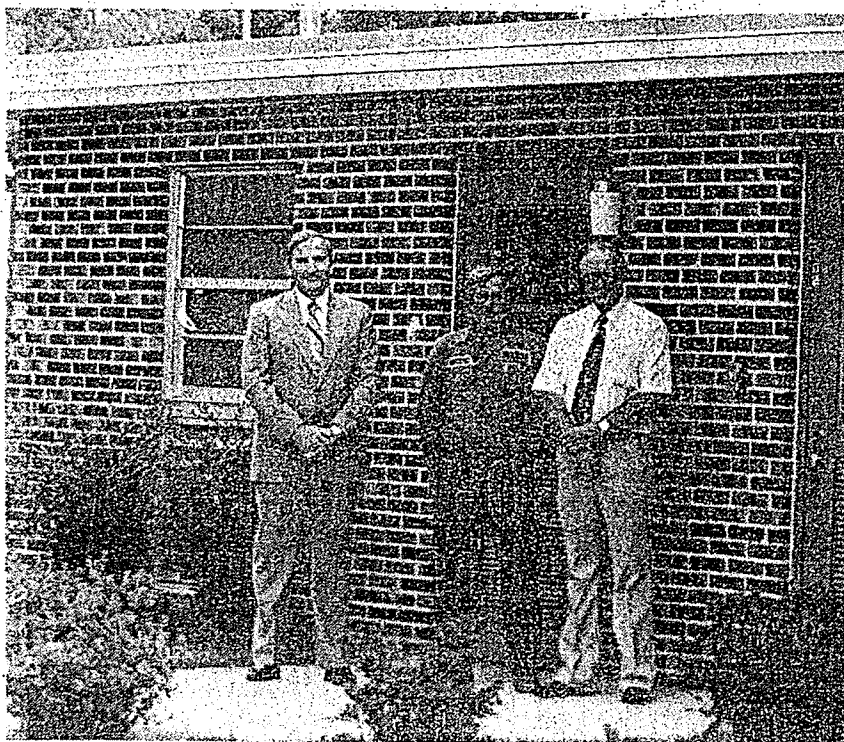
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Located in foot building industrial p 78 east, Vo tion in Marc has 100 emp future expan Tucker I



Inspecting "Super Well"

Inspecting Pell City's new "super well" are, from left, Engineer Charles E. Tucker, assistant utilities supervisor Jerry Gallups, and Mayor Hugh Hardy Williamson.

# triples water supply

Company began the water line project in October of 1976 and completed it in June of 1977. "They did a fine job," Mayor Williamson commented, adding, "we've always been extremely pleased with their work. They also did the sewer work in our downtown redevelopment project which we have just about completed now."

Engineer Charles Tucker said

the new Pell City well was the finest one he had been associated with.

"It is a 20 foot cavity, 275 feet deep and it has a theoretical capacity of 20,000 gallons per minute, although we are now pumping at the rate of 1500 gallons per minute, which is the rate that the local industries prefer," Tucker said.

"You just don't find that size

well with that capacity very often."

Tucker said he thinks Pell City has the "finest potential for growth and industrial development of any place I know of in this area."

"And one thing is certain," he added, "this new water project was a giant step toward the ultimate solution of the city's water problems."

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## Well

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"When we saw what we had and the potential that was there for really doing something substantial about the water system, we went back before the city council and talked them into going further, with the water main and the new storage tank."

Designed by engineer Tucker and installed by the hometown firm of Tucker Brothers Contracting Company, the 12-inch main goes out in two directions from the well, located southeast of downtown Pell City, and loops the entire city, boosting the old system at all its weak points, and amply supplying the city's two industrial parks.

"And the beauty of it is, four or five years from now, if we have to, we can find new well sites within the loop, making it a relatively easy matter to increase our capacity when the need arises," Tucker said.

The project was financed by a \$1 million bond issue which also included the cost of sewer projects in the Eden and Glenn City sections of town.

The water lines and pump were installed at a cost of \$550,000, an additional 10,000 feet of lines to the industrial park cost \$100,000 and the 1,000,000-gallon tank cost \$140,000.

And Mayor Hugh Williamson considers it money well spent.

"It tripled our water storage capacity from 500,000 gallons to 1,500,000 gallons, and there's no doubt that it put us in a much better position to supply industry, so I consider that it will more than pay for itself in that respect," Mayor

Williamson said.

"As a matter of fact, we would have never landed our latest industry, Vollrath Refrigeration, if it had not been for this new water supply."

Vollrath Refrigeration, whose parent company is the 104-year old Vollrath Company of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is a manufacturer of walk-in cooler and freezer units, serving the food industry throughout the southeast and the Virgin Islands.

Located in a new 84,000 square foot building in Pell City's newest industrial park, just off Highway 78 east, Vollrath began production in March of this year and now has 100 employees, and plans for future expansion.

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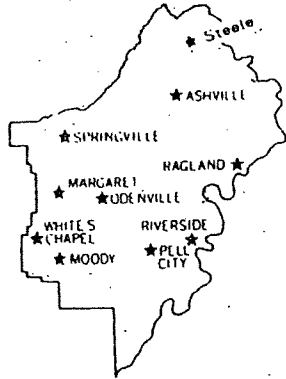
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# Bigfoot On Chandler Moun

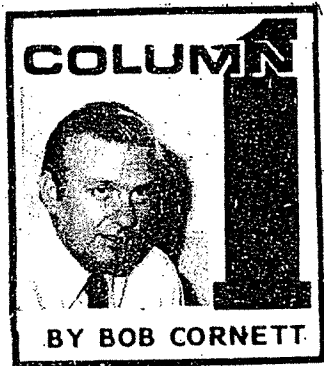


# ST. CLAIR

A Newspaper Dedicated

VOLUME SIX--NUMBER TWENTY NINE

PELL CITY, ALABAMA



## For Redevelopment—

# Pell City Goes

Okay. Front and center, Dill Nixon, Paul Turner, Bam Cox, Harvey Watson, Charlie Lockridge, and Al Walls.

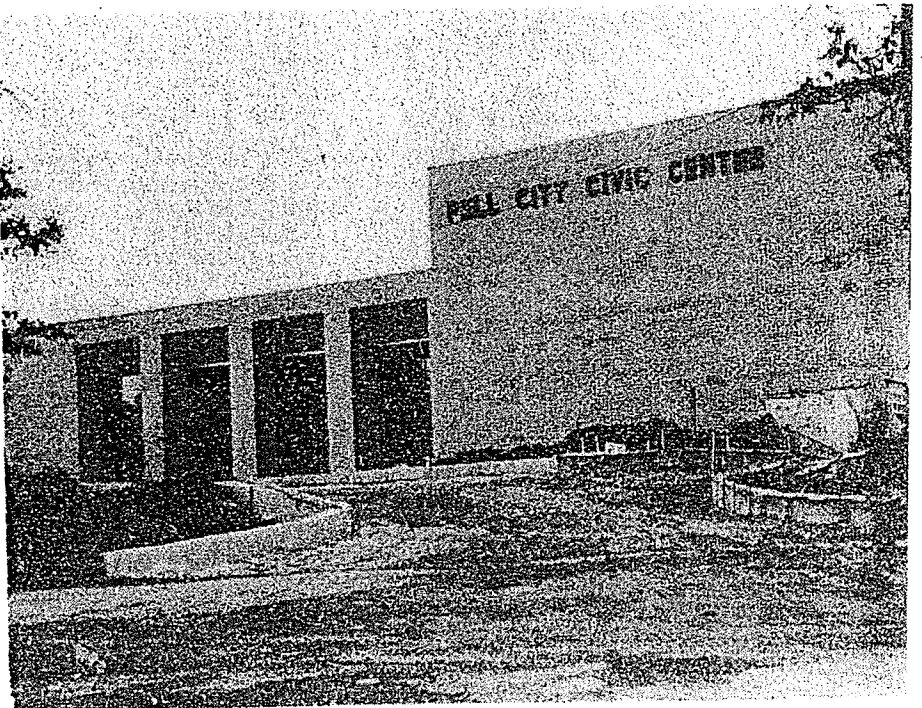
Take a well deserved bow, you guys. The news is good coming from City Hall this week and you deserve an accolade, as opposed to the slings and arrows to which you are more accustomed.

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, finally, of a whopper-size HUD grant which will help finance some 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-



## Recreation Center Almost Complete

... Pell City officials and civic leaders are about to re-

ain? Hmmm. Well... (Page 3)

# OBSERVER

d to Community Service

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PELL CITY, ALA. 36565

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WEDNESDAY Jan. 29, 1976

TWO SECTIONS-T

SES

## ts \$809,000 Grant

Mayor Dill Nixon and members of the City Council of Pell City were given the green light on the redevelopment plan for downtown Pell City Tuesday, when Senators John Sparkman and Jim Allen and Congressman Tom Bevill jointly announced a \$809,000 Federal grant for the city.

The grant, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), was made as a result of an application filed by the city in February of 1975, for the development and restoration of the downtown area, following the Jan. 10, 1975 tornado.

"We asked for \$1.5 million," grinned a happy Mayor Nixon Tuesday, "which was the amount estimated that would be needed to complete the project. We are very happy with this initial grant, which will enable us to finalize the plans and get the project underway."

Mayor Nixon said he talked Tuesday with Don Cosby, architect with the Birmingham firm of Cobb, Allen and Benton, who prepared the preliminary redevelopment plans and applied for the grant on behalf of the city. Cosby said it is possible that actual construction on the project could begin within nine months, the mayor reported.

"Final plans and specifications will now have to be drawn up, and of course, we will have to learn from HUD specifically what they

have authorized in the grant," Nixon said.

The original application called for:

- Street and alley paving;
- Sidewalk repairs and paving;
- Curb and gutter repairs;
- Street lighting;
- Sewer and water repairs and improvements and storm sewers.

Coupled with these repairs and improvements is an overall beautification plan which will entail storefront improvements on the part of individual store owners and merchants.

"We have been assured by the Chamber of Commerce that local businesses are 100 percent in favor of this beautification program, and with their cooperation we can make downtown Pell City something to be proud of," Mayor Nixon commented.

Cobb, Allen and Benton is the architectural firm which handled the plans for Birmingham Green and it currently has a redevelopment program in progress for the city of Jasper.

"Cosby told me Tuesday that it took a year from the time Jasper received its grant, to get construction underway," Nixon said, "but they had a lot of acquisition and tearing down to do that we won't have. He thinks we can get started within nine months."




# SAMPLE BALLOT — VOTING MACHINE

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION

### August 13, 1968

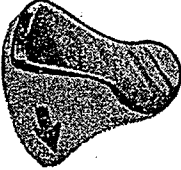
#### City of Pell City, Ala.

1<sup>ST</sup> TURN SWITCH RIGHT TO CLOSE CURTAINS

2<sup>ND</sup> MARK YOUR BALLOT AND LEAVE MARKS SHOWING → 

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WARNING — YOUR MARKS MUST BE SHOWING FOR VOTE TO REGISTER



FOR MAYOR  
(Vote for One)

OFFICIAL BALLOT


MUNICIPAL ELECTION

August 13, 1968

CITY OF

PELL CITY, ALABAMA

Column 1



WINSTON A. CLEVELAND

OFFICIAL BALLOT


MUNICIPAL ELECTION

August 13, 1968

CITY OF

PELL CITY, ALABAMA

Column 2



OTIS H. PERRY

J. T. CARTER

T. L. (TINCH), JR. HARMON



(Vote for One)

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 2

(Vote for One)

Raymond F. (Barr), DMU

COX

A. E. (DILL)

NIXON

MARTIN

HENRY H. THREATT

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 3

(Vote for One)

A. J.

BLAKE

HORACE C. CLAYTON

EMBRY A. CURRY

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 4

(Vote for One)

DAVE

ALLEN

JOHN F. TURNER

DONALD (NOOK)

SMITH

HARVEY C. WATSON

JAMES S. SMITH

JOE W.

KILGORE

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 5

(Vote for One)

GLORIA V.

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B. J. ROBINSON

That's a good question.

# County Lays Plans

Continued From Page 1

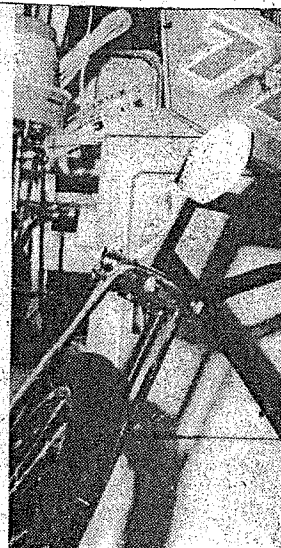
ment to Roberts & Son for printing with hope that the County will be reimbursed by the State.

--Approved a 7-day emergency leave for Mrs. Frances Campbell, an employee in the office of Tax Assessor Mike Harvey. The leave stemmed from the death of Mrs. Campbell's mother, Mrs. Edna Davis, who was killed in last month's tornado.

--Agreed to look at the budget and, if possible, purchase a

--Appointed Woodrow Leopard to a vacancy on the Argo Water Authority.

--Heard a reply from Commissioner James Ingram to an advertisement in last week's observer from car dealers charging the Commission with unfair bidding practices. Ingram said that Sutherlin Chevrolet had had a bid for a truck for six months and the County did not have delivery at this time. He said the dealers complain about bids



that they had not been paid for an extra hour when it changed back to standard time last year.

Brown said he was docked for two days when he was out sick recently, "But there was one fellow over at the Street Dept. who was out for a whole week while his boy was in the hospital, and he got paid for that week," he said.

"The head of the Street Dept. got a \$25 a week raise a couple of months ago, and

— Continued from Page 1



economical means of access to each lot by inhabitants, visitors, and deliveries.

7. To assure adequate provision of water, drainage, sewers, and other sanitary and health facilities.

8. To avoid unnecessary population congestion.

9. To reduce flood damage potential and minimize repercussions from natural disasters.

10. To protect and maintain property values.

11. To promote the orderly development of the city and its environs.

The Subdivision Regulations don't require anything more than would normally be provided by a responsible, competent developer. Unfortunately, the city can't be sure that all future subdivisions will be developed by careful firms and individuals who have earned the public's trust and confidence.

The need for minimum standards and uniform, equitable administration is underscored by Pell City's rapid growth rate. Recent projections indicate that the city's population will grow from its present size of about 500 to 8,800 in 1980. By 1990 it will reach 12,400 and in the year 2000 it will be approximately 16,415 persons.

These are only estimates and it is quite likely that these projections will be exceeded

and Pell City will experience a much higher growth rate. In terms of the number of households, the projected growth means that between now and the year 2000 almost 4,000 housing units will be built to accommodate the increase in population.

In about twenty years, more than twice the present number of household will reside in Pell City. Considering the anticipated growth it seems that now is the time to respond to the community's need for the appropriate land use regulations. The alternative would be to do nothing which would risk the occurrence of a crisis of large proportions.

The Planning Commission will endeavor to keep the public well informed of the progress and current status of the Subdivision Regulations and the zoning ordinance as they are finalized.

Interested parties will be provided the opportunity to participate in order that the final products will respond to the needs and desires of the community.

The public is urged to respond by attending the public hearings when they are held. Examination copies of the Draft Subdivision Regulations will be available at City Hall after Tuesday, May 10 for persons interested in reading them before publication in the newspapers.

The availability of the Draft Zoning Ordinance examination copies will be announced at a later date. Questions and inquiries regarding the Subdivision Regulations can be addressed to the Planning Commission in care of City Hall.

The Planning Commission would like the development of

the regulations to be community-wide project. Preparation of the proposed regulations would not have been possible without a department of Housing and Urban Development Section 701 Comprehensive Planning Assistance Grant awarded Pell City through the Alabama Development Office.

the local newspapers prior to the final hearings and option.

State law defines subdivisions as the division of a lot, tract, or parcel of land into two or more lots for the purpose of sale or building development. It is a fundamental process in the development of land areas to meet the housing, business, and service needs of this community.

It is both a public and private venture which will affect the character and quality of the city for many years to come. To the developer, the subdivision of land is a business venture in which profit on his investment is due and expected.

Once construction is completed and the houses and buildings are sold, the developer's role is ended.

For the public and its local

government, the subdivision represents a long term responsibility which is virtually unending. Roads, sewers, water lines, and drainage facilities must be maintained and repaired when needed. Public services such as police and fire protection, parks, and schools must be provided on a continual basis.

The character and quality of subdivision design and development directly affects Peell City's ability to provide public services effectively and economically that will be demanded by its residents.

Once completed, subdivisions become partially indelible features on the surface of the land. Correcting defects and solving problems after they are completed and sold is both difficult and costly.

While the developer's scope of interest is usually limited to the subdivision itself, the public's concern extends to the subdivision's relationship to the entire community and how well the city can provide for its integration into all aspects of the existing and planned community structure.

The guidance of land subdivision and development as it relates to community objectives is therefore a matter of public concern. It is in the interest of the public, the developer, and the future land owners and residents that subdivisions be carefully planned, well designed, and developed to standards which will assure a minimum of adverse impact on the community.

The subdivision regulations as drafted are intended to serve the following general purposes:

1. To provide a coordinated layout and proper arrangement of streets, roads and highways.
2. To provide an adequate and convenient arrangement of open spaces for recreation, light, air, and the dedication of land necessary for the extension of existing streets and public utilities.
3. To insure proper legal description and monumenting of subdivided land.
4. To facilitate the provision of adequate parks, schools, and playgrounds.
5. To assure adequate access of police, fire, and emergency vehicles and equipment.
6. To provide efficient and

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# St. Clair News-A

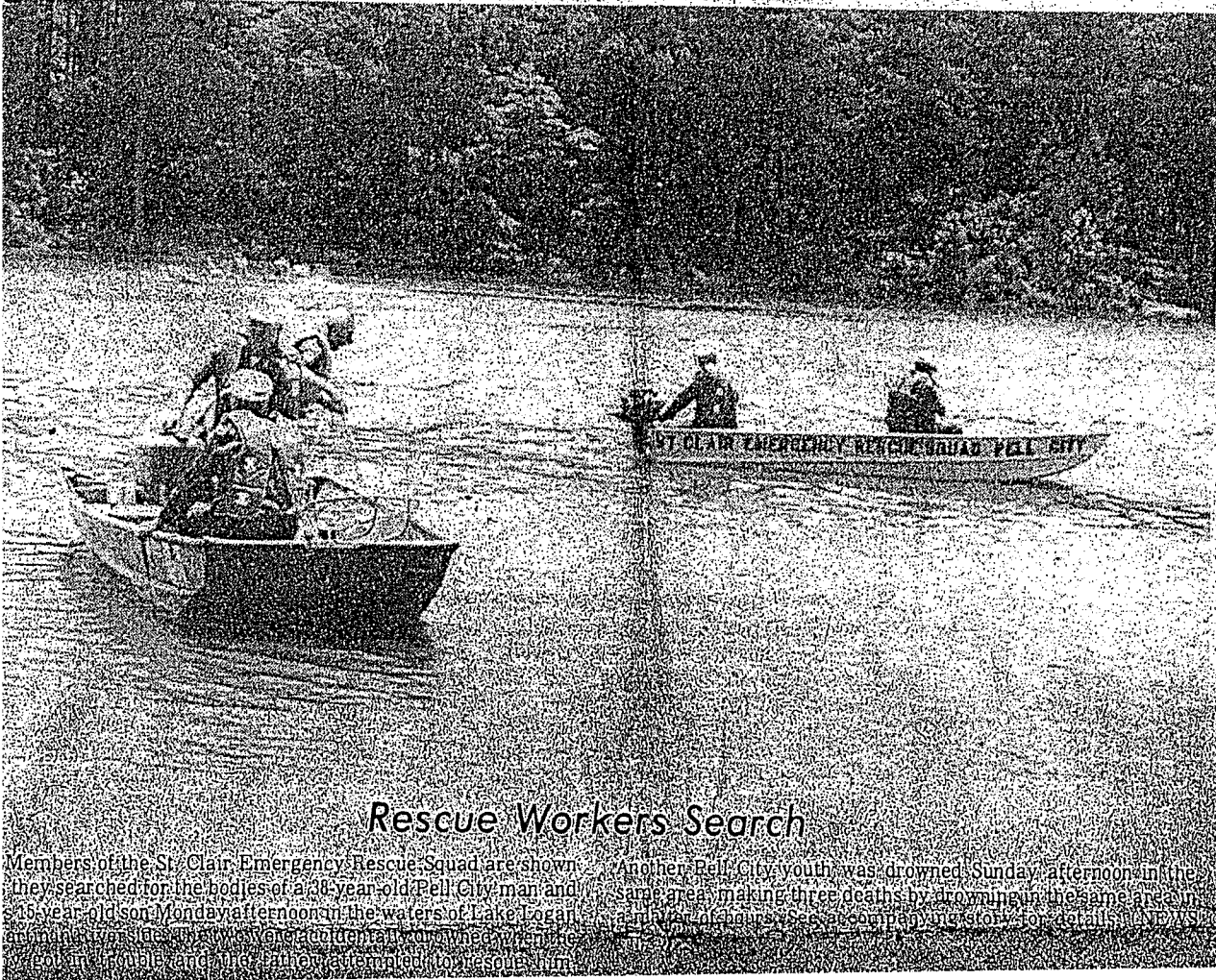
We Care About You... And The Progress of St. Clair County

33RD YEAR NO. 47

PELL CITY, ALABAMA

THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 24, 1976

18 PAGES



## Rescue Workers Search

Members of the St. Clair Emergency Rescue Squad are shown as they searched for the bodies of a 38-year-old Pell City man and his 15-year-old son Monday afternoon in the waters of Lake Logan. The man was the only one accidentally drowned when the boat overturned and the father attempted to rescue him.

Another Pell City youth was drowned Sunday afternoon in the same area, making three deaths by drowning in the same area in a matter of hours. See accompanying story for details. NEWS

## Kimberly to build center

COOSA PINES—Kimberly Clark Corporation has announced plans to build a new wood processing center on a 100-acre site on County Road 1, just south of Ashville in St. Clair County.

Related to the current \$1 million expansion program, the company's Coosa Pines newsprint and pulp mill, the new wood processing center will provide a centralized location for the immediate area to which all forest products may flow in tree-length form, thereby enabling loggers to more fully mechanize their operations. The center will facilitate the highest and best utilization of all trees harvested, with large logs being consigned to veneer and lumber, while smaller logs and slash, if straightness can't be separated for use as barn pole

## Drownings

(Continued from Page 1)

younger Haynes were also held Wednesday from Mt. Carmel Church. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Virginia Haynes; two sisters, Virginia Nanette and Nancy Haynes; and two brothers, John and Wallace Haynes.

Serving as pallbearers were Jerry Tatum, Gary Barber, Roy Overton, Danny Tatum, Billy Jo Tatum, Rickey Sims and Jimmy Ray Tatum.

Sunday, another Pell City man lost his life in the same slough, which is located just off U.S. 78 near Riverside Marina. Davis identified the victim as Charles Ray Patterson, 21, of 3105 2nd Ave. Davis said the accidental drowning occurred when a group of youths challenged one another to swim across the slough. Patterson apparently made it across the slough the first time but turned up missing on the way back.

The accident happened about 4 p.m. and his body was recovered about two hours later by the St. Clair Emergency Rescue Squad. Also at the scene were St. Clair Sheriff's Deputy Bob Rowe and Riverside Police Chief Buck Rowe.

Patterson had been married only two days before.

Funeral services for the Pell City man were held Tuesday at 2 p.m. from the Chapel of the Kilgroe Funeral Home with burial in St. Clair Memorial Gardens. Rev. John M. Pruitt officiated and Kilgroe Funeral Home directed the services.

He is survived by his widow, Rose Peavey Patterson of Pell City; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ray Patterson of Pell City; one sister, Mrs. Gail Swindall of Ashville; one niece, Kristy Swindall of Ashville; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ambus McKinney of Pell City.



# St. Clair nurses can earn a baccalaureate degree

Registered nurses living or working in Walker and St. Clair Counties can earn credits toward a baccalaureate degree at sites in those counties thanks to a new project called "Flexible Education for the Registered Nurse," now being offered through the University of Alabama School of Nursing at UAB.

"The FERN program was implemented to give RNs the opportunity to earn the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through UAB without driving to Birmingham for classes and clinical experience," says Elwynn Hale, interim assistant dean of nursing. She says course

work will be taught at two sites, one each in St. Clair and Walker Counties.

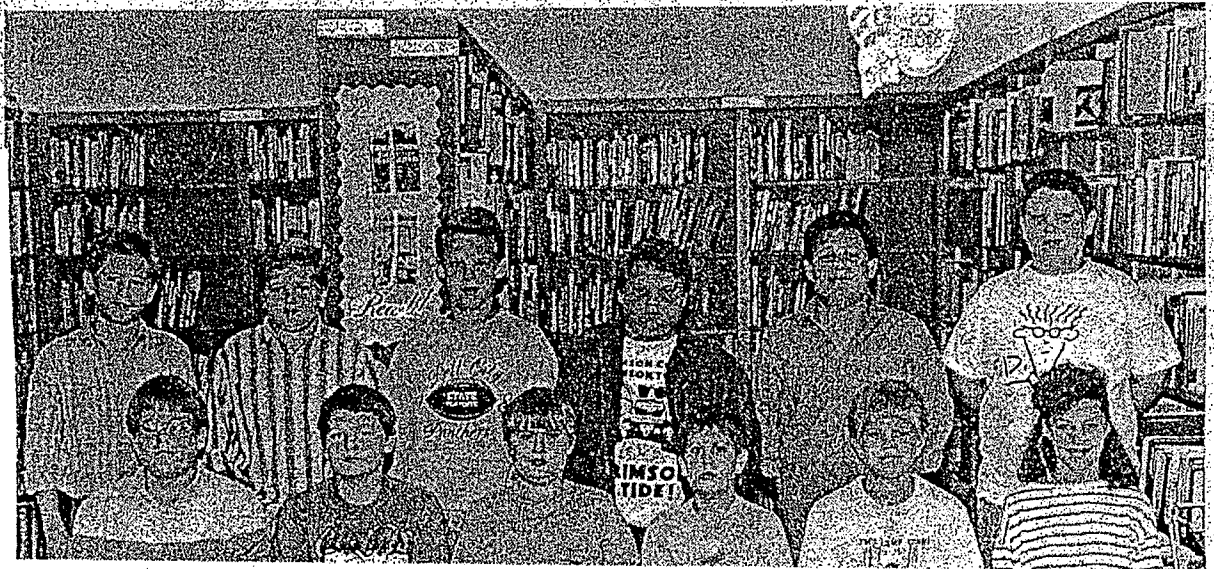
"Although the project is geared to providing educational opportunities to an underserved population of nurses—those who are working part-time or full-time jobs—other qualified RNs are eligible," Hale said. "Registered nurses who are in the two counties and who meet the criteria for admission to the bachelor's program will be admitted to the FERN project."

Undergraduate RN students will be admitted to UAB after transferring or successfully

completing designated prerequisites totalling 34 semester hours.

"With course work offered quarterly, we expect 20 to 30 RN students at the Walker County site each year and another 10 to 15 at the St. Clair site," Hale said. "Using nontraditional teaching strategies and clinical experiences that provide flexibility in time and location, as well as opportunities to develop learning objectives with faculty and clinical facilitators, will permit students to advance in a more individualized manner."

For more information, call 934-2198 or 934-5490.



The Pell City Council's Monday night meeting was brief and to the point as they handled issues ranging from radios to real estate agents.

Realty manager Ed Ash met with the council to have his fee adjusted to compensate for the installation of water meters in developments which have fittings designed for meters.

He said he had been

ham real estate agents advertising Pell City properties even though they do not have licenses to sell here.

He observed that county realty firms have to be licensed by the City of Birmingham to sell there, and that the reverse should be true.

Ash also advocated that each individual Realtor or real estate agent be required to buy

told the Chamber president that city street maps are being printed and should soon arrive. Discussion followed concerning the sale of advertising on the maps as a Chamber project.

Traffic was another council topic not enough from the bus line and too much expected this summer near the new movie theater.

Mayor Williamson

shop at 1905-19th, and at a new Thrifty Inn location across from the city swimming pool park.

The council observed that they could not very well refuse the store locating across from the park, especially since the ABC liquor store is only a few blocks away.

The council also discussed tennis court th-

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were put in after putting a hole in a street, boring into the ground, and even tapping on to a pipe.

The council and the water board chairman agreed that it would benefit Ash to buy and install his own meters.

Ash also suggested that the city raise its business license fees, especially in the area of real estate sales. He observed that Birmingham

company buy just one.

Next on the agenda was a proposal for a United Way charity drive. Chamber of Commerce president Truett Langston submitted the Chamber's idea of a countywide drive.

Mayor Hugh Williamson endorsed the plan, pointing out that it "might help to consolidate" an estimated 50 fundraising drives Pell City sees annually.

seeking a new bus line. Although the buses still can be flagged down when they go through the city, freight is shipped on to Anniston.

The mayor said he thinks they have a likely prospect for bus agent in a 7-11 store in the Eden area of town.

He expressed concern about too much traffic this summer as people go to the movie theater. The mayor said they are interested in installing a traffic light to solve that problem at the foot of the hill on 231 across the viaduct. Earlier Ed Ash said he had leased land in that same area for a Pasquale's restaurant.

The council next voted unanimously to follow the request from the Jefferson Blount-Saint Clair Mental Health Board to reappoint Sam Jones to a 6-year term. The mayor said Jones has a good record of attending the Board's meetings.

The council next approved three off-premise beer licenses. One was for Coosa Valley Grocery on 231 South. The other two will be in new buildings on 19th Street East. Mich-

stall the regulator, which would run the bill much higher.

On the question of fire plugs, Sollie said the officials told him that the city would pay \$30 per plug per year for all fire plugs in the city. Also, he pointed out that Birmingham wanted an updated audit on the water system.

"This is what the men told us

plagued with bad water for four years. We've finally decided what to do and some of the councilmen have blocked it. I told the council that I would leave it up to them on what to do with the system. I thought I did what was best for the people," Lee remarked.

Councilman Jerry Jones brought up the matter of the St. Clair County Commission

Tucker and Tucker said they will go with whatever the people decide.

Lee said he doesn't feel Birmingham Water Works will get into a lawsuit just to take over Moody's system. A citizen at the meeting said he had talked to a Board member. He said the official told him he didn't think St. Clair County could stop them from taking

## Council

(Continued from Page 1)

this to each customer varied greatly, according to the opinions of Mayor M.A. "Bill" Lee and visiting resident Bill Fox. Lee said he had installed



# SAMPLE BALLOT

MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
CITY OF PELL CITY, ALABAMA  
AUGUST 13, 1968

INSTRUCTIONS: To vote for any candidate place a crossmark (X) before the candidate of your choice.

FOR MAYOR (Vote for One)

( ) WINSTON A. CLEVELAND

(X) OTIS H. PERRY

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 1 (Vote for One)

( ) J. T. CARTER

( ) RAYMOND F. (BAM) COX, DMD

( ) T. L. (TINCH) HARMON, JR.

( ) U. C. MARTIN

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 2 (Vote for One)

( ) A. E. (DILL) NIXON

( ) HENRY H. THREATT

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 3 (Vote for One)

( ) A. J. BLAKE

( ) DON BLANTON

( ) HORACE C. CLAYTON

( ) EMBRY A. CURRY

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 4 (Vote for One)

( ) DAVE ALLEN

( ) DONALD (NOOK) SMITH

( ) JAMES S. SMITH

( ) JOHN F. TURNER

( ) HARVEY C. WATSON

FOR ALDERMAN, PLACE No. 5 (Vote for One)

( ) JOE W. KILGROE

( ) GLORIA V. ROBERSON

( ) B. J. ROBINSON

RE-ELECT

# OTIS H. PERRY

MAYOR, PELL CITY

AUGUST 13, 1968

---

INSTRUCTIONS: To vote for any candidate place a crossmark (X) before the candidate of your choice.

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FOR MAYOR (Vote for One)

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**(X) OTIS H. PERRY**

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( ) B. J. ROBINSON

---

RE-ELECT

**OTIS H. PERRY**

MAYOR, PELL CITY

PROGRESSIVE — EFFICIENT — PROVEN  
YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT APPRECIATED

(Pd. Pol. Adv. By OTIS PERRY, Pell City, Ala.)

VOTE YES

VOTE YES

MONEY FOR INDUSTRY\*\*\*\*VOTE JUNE 16\*\*\*\*NEW JOBS\*\*\*\*NO NEW TAXES

VOTE FOR GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND ISSUE JUNE 16TH TO RAISE \$395,000 FOR PURPOSE OF BRINGING THE BOEHMER COMPANY, INC. TO PELL CITY AND DEVELOP AN INDUSTRIAL PARK.

Pell City is to form a City Industrial Development Board which will lease land and buildings to The Boehmer Company, Inc. The principals will furnish \$100,000 and the Area Development Administration \$399,100 toward equipment supported by first mortgage.

PELL CITY WILL HOLD FIRST MORTGAGE ON LAND, BUILDINGS AND SOME EQUIPMENT. NO TAXES ARE REQUIRED FROM THE TAXPAYERS TO RAISE THIS MONEY. Only in case of default and lack of a new tenant will the city enact any tax. This tax if enacted will not exceed two per-cent of assessed valuation and would be cancelled as soon as a new tenant was obtained.

WE MUST HAVE 51% OF ALL QUALIFIED VOTERS OF PELL CITY (Beat 15) TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS PROPOSAL. WE NEED YOUR VOTE.

POTENTIAL JOBS 55 PLUS

PAIDROLL EXCESS \$200,000 ANNUALLY

NEW INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRIAL PARK

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE PELL CITY GROW. WE NEED YOUR VOTE.

P L E A S E     H E L P

V O T E   J U N E   .   1   6

ORGANIZATIONS GIVING THEIR APPROVAL AND SUPPORT

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V O T E   J U N E   .   1   6

ORGANIZATIONS GIVING THEIR APPROVAL AND SUPPORT

PELL CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PELL CITY JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PELL CITY INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE  
CIVITAN CLUB OF PELL CITY  
PELL CITY GARDEN CLUB  
AMERICAN LEGION  
BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

VOTE YES

VOTE YES

# Pell City, Oxford to launch improvements with grants

*D'han News 7-31-63*

BY BUD GORDON

News staff writer

PELL CITY, July 31 — Within the next 120 days, major public improvement programs will be launched here and in the nearby City of Oxford.

The improvements, totaling over \$600,000, were made possible by federal grants to both cities under the recently created Accelerated Public Works Act, which provides federal aid for areas with high unemployment.

A grant totaling \$99,000 was approved for Pell City. This money, along with some \$103,000, will be used to establish the city's first water system.

Oxford will get \$205,000 for revamping and modernizing most of the city's major arteries. Oxford will match the federal grant with another \$205,000 to complete the work.

PELL CITY Mayor Sam Burt said his city will issue about \$100,000 in revenue bonds in order to match the federal grant.

The money, Burt said, will go to dig three wells which will supply the entire city water. Part of the money will go for new water mains and to enlarge the city's present system. Burt said some areas, now without fire hydrants, will be included in the new system.

Pell City for years has bought water from Avondale Mills. The water was pumped from the Avondale Mills Lake, which will be abolished in the back waters of the new Logan Martin Dam.

Faced with the problem of being without water, city officials hired Goodwin Engineers of Birmingham to come up with the least expensive solution.

According to a survey by Goodwin, the establishing of a water system fed by three large wells is the most economical way for Pell City to obtain water.

Burt said the project is complete on paper and ready for awarding to a contractor.

In Oxford, approximately seven to eight miles of streets will be resurfaced, curbed and guttered and otherwise improved with the federal funds.

OXFORD MAYOR Alvis Hamric said the city's portion of the \$410,000 project will be assessed against property owners whose land abuts the streets to be improved.

Under the proposed program, most of the city's downtown streets will be improved. Those not improved in this particular project, Hamric said, will come under a \$25,000 grant tentatively approved by the state.

Hamric said he has applied for and received tentative approval on a \$25,000 grant made possible by the state's recent \$100,000 million bond issue.

Mayor Hamric said the Oxford project, like the one in Pell City, must be under way within 120 days. He said the project will provide about 150 man months of labor in the Oxford area.

# Pell City fathers look ahead with confidence, full pockets

BY FRANK SIKORA  
News staff writer

## PELL CITY

About 400 people living just outside Pell City suddenly became residents of the city recently.

It was an annexation move that came off without a hitch . . . almost. There was no vote because more than 60 per cent of the people residing in the area signed a petition in which they said they wanted to be a part of the city.

A small number didn't want to change, and were quick to make the city leadership know it. One of the city council members who caught much of the anger was Joe Kilgroe, long a member of local government.

"But you get used to things like that," he said. "Whenever you have growth, there are bound to be some pains here and there. But they'll find that in the long run it's best."

KILGROE WAS MAYOR



CHIEF BOWLIN

. . . County-wide safety

for three terms, and was at the helm of the city during some of its fastest growing periods.

In 1952, during his first term of office, the total revenue taken in by the city was \$42,000. In 1960, the surplus money was \$40,000, evidence

of how fast the city was growing.

City Clerk Bettie Scott produced records which show revenue for 1968 amounted to \$306,000.

Pell City's population has more than doubled since 1952. It used to be a joke around the area that the students attending the seven schools here outnumbered the residents. And it was probably true.

Schools here are county operated, and will face full scale desegregation next year. The top three grades are now integrated.

THE GROWTH HERE has never been in any fantastic sweep forward; just solid and steady.

Probably the biggest factor has been Logan Martin Lake, and leaders here boast that their city has more miles of shoreline than any other in Alabama.

Pell City was the first municipality in the state to secure its own gas board, a key move in gaining additional money.

Right now, work continues on the industrial park, and the first industry to locate there, Recon, Inc., will be in operation in the near future.

THE NEW St. Clair County General Hospital has been delayed somewhat because of construction problems, but will probably be in use by the first of the year.

The city will purchase a new fire truck, a new garbage truck and a street sweeper, and plans are in the works, Kilgroe said, for a new city garage:

"We need it badly," said Councilman James Smith. "All the trucks and equipment are now parked in the open lot behind the city hall, and it looks bad when visitors come

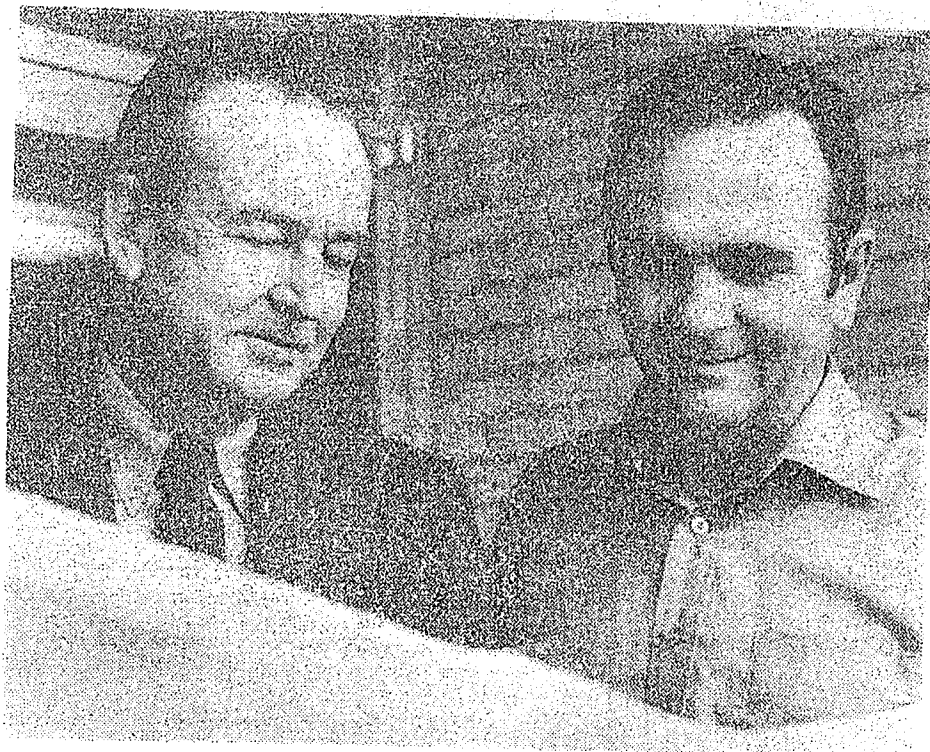


**CITY CLERK BETTIE SCOTT KEEPING BUSY**  
... Total revenue for city keeps climbing

through."

Pell City is taking the initiative at the county level. Police Chief R. E. Bowlin is setting up a county-wide safety group, in which the Pell City Police Dept. would act as the communications and coordinating center.

"The lake brings on additional responsibilities for everyone," he said. "And the worst thing that could happen would be for some emergency to come up and just have us stand idly by because something happened outside the city limits."



**LOOKING OVER THE MAP OF AN EXPANDED PELL CITY**  
... Councilmen Kilgroe and Smith pushed for annexation

# Flags are ordered flown half mast

Stating the city, council and police department was "grieved to learn of the death of Deputy Arlyn

Lockley," and that the officer had given Pell City police "valuable support," the Pell City Council unanimously approved a resolution Monday night honoring the slain deputy.

ST. CLAIR NEWS AEGIS Thursday, March 13, 1980

In reading the resolution, Mayor Hugh Williamson expressed the city's "heart-felt sympathy" to the Lockley family and ordered flags to be flown at half-mast the week of March 10 to the 15.

A typed copy of the resolution will be mailed to the family.

In other business, council discussed a sewer project in the Glenn City community near 17th Ave. South and the application for Appalachian Commission funds for sewer improvements.

Council also:

-HEARD a citizen's complaint on clay trucks leaving debris and damaging the streets recently named King Circle.

-APPROVED without formal action a request by Councilman Dr. Raymond Cox for the advertisement of bids on two new patrol cars. Police Chief Ruble Bowlin also reported the application for funds for a new radar unit.

-OPENED bids for a new roadside mower and bids on junked city automobiles.

-HEARD a request from Councilman Paul Turner about obstructions on sidewalks near Iola Roberts School and the need for continued work on the sewer system spur in Glenn City.

-ANNOUNCED that the next council meeting would be held March 31 instead of March 24 as regularly scheduled to allow members to attend hearings on the Alabama-Coosa Waterway project.



## Council approves zoning ordinance

The Pell City Council Monday night unanimously approved (Councilman Charles Lockridge was absent) the proposed zoning ordinance submitted by the zoning commission with only one revision.

This action came on the heels of a public meeting held July 30 and follows three years of planning and work on the zoning ordinance and zoning map. There was only a small revision made by council concerning lot sizes. The ordinance becomes law upon publication of the legal notice.

St. Clair County Juvenile Officer Joe Funderburg and Coosa Valley Youth Services director George Graham presented council with a request for funding to go towards the juvenile services provided for Pell City by that agency.

Noting that Pell City had not participated in the project in

the past, Graham told council that "we are just asking Pell City to pay for its own kids."

Graham stated that this past year eight Pell City youths have been detained at the center for a total of 295 days at an estimated cost of \$30 per day per youth.

The formal request was turned over to the finance committee. Graham asked council to pay \$1,500 into the program.

Roger O'Neal appeared before council seeking financial aid in the form of sponsorship of a social event for youngsters of the Glenn City community. Council agreed informally to supply cokes for the all-day affair through the rec board.

Council also heard a request for road work and fire plugs for the Glenn City community, a request for an increase in landfill fee from \$75 per month to \$150 per month and approved speed breaker installation for 34th St. near Hwy 78 East.

## PC council raises water rates

By WAYNE RUPLE

PELL CITY — Water and sewer users in Pell City will find their November bills somewhat higher because of an ordinance passed the by

the city council Monday night.

The ordinance amends one passed in 1960, and establishes new rates of \$3 for the first 3,000 gallons instead of \$2.50. The minimum sewer disposal

rate will be \$1.50 instead of \$1.25.

Mayor Hugh Williamson explained one reason for the rate increase was due to the increased cost of electricity used to pump water through the system.

The council turned down a request from C.J. Goodwin of the St. Clair County Rescue Squad who was requesting a "spare channel" on the communication system used by City Hall.

No action was taken on Dr. Bob DeShazo's request that the Medical Clinic Board be reactivated to issue bonds for the construction of a clinic in which he would practice.

A demand traffic light at the intersection of Alabama 34 and U.S. 231 was discussed by the council, but no action was taken.

# Agenda packs Pell

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
Star Staff Writer

PELL CITY — With only a few weeks left in the council's term, an unusually large agenda caused the Pell City Council chambers to be packed Monday night.

Council members James McGowan and Roy Holladay angrily sought explanations from Mayor Harvey Watson for the meeting's large agenda.

"The party's over," said Holladay, who with McGowan has consistently been on the small side of the council's many 3-2 votes. "Any new large expenditures are the business of the next council."

But Watson said the agenda was routine.

"This controversy is only coming up because we're on the way out," Watson said.

A quorum was not present, so no official action was taken.

But action was scheduled to be

taken on a \$64,000 tractor purchase, resurfacing of a street on which Watson is building a home, Councilman Joe Wheeler's request of a \$2,700 payment to a company owned by his brother, appointments to numerous board vacancies, and the awarding of a computer contract.

A memo signed by Watson Sept. 9, reclassifying Mike Martin, Watson's former brother-in-law, to assistant street superintendent and raising his pay from \$8.03 an hour to \$9.30 came up for discussion. McGowan and Holladay said they had no previous knowledge of the action.

"THAT MEMO isn't worth the paper it's printed on," said McGowan, the one councilman to be re-elected. "Pay raises, anything to do with the city's money, is the business of the council. As far as I'm concerned it has no effect"

Moreover, Holladay said that

## City chambers

Wheeler asked him in a phone conversation whether he would vote to let Watson buy the city-owned car he uses from the council for a reasonable price.

"I wanted to give it to him if he wanted it, but the League of Municipalities said we couldn't," said Wheeler from his home Monday night. "I wanted to try and do a little something for him."

"The council never voted him that car, he just took it," Holladay said. "I wouldn't touch Joe's idea with a 10-foot pole."

Wheeler and McGowan said the purchase of the tractor, the computer equipment and whatever board appointments need to be made could wait until the new council takes office Oct. 2.

WATSON said the petition to resurface Allen Road was submitted by another resident in September

1987. He said it was the only petition the council has not acted on.

"I can think of a dozen streets which need resurfacing better than his road," McGowan said.

McGowan and Holladay also said the timing of Wheeler's request is inappropriate.

In 1985, Wheeler lent the city a converted water-pump truck. Since then, he has signed over the equipment to his brother. Wheeler said that if the city pays a \$2,700 "rental" fee, his brother will deed the city the truck for \$1.

Although no official meeting was held, council chambers remained filled longer than an hour as the three council members argued over when to schedule tonight's meeting, to certify the results of today's mayoral runoff between Dr. Joe Sawyer and Lawrence Fields. The meeting was scheduled for 8 p.m.

# Voter list snafu is costing St. Clair

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
Star Staff Writer

PELL CITY — St. Clair County's largest municipality would save at least \$1,000 of taxpayers' money this year if the county voting list were up-to-date and specified who lives within city limits, according to City Clerk Bettie Scott.

The chairman of the county board of registrars said that information could be provided at little or no cost.

The \$1,000 is a conservative estimate, said Ms. Scott. It represents the time and effort her office must exert to determine who is entitled to vote in this year's Pell City municipal election.

Pell City is not alone. Every municipality in the county must sift through the county voting list, compiled by county voting beats and, name by name, determine the eligible city voters, said Marie Davis, chief clerk of the northern division of the probate office.

"All they (the probate office) need to do is have voters, when they register, say whether they live in the city limits or not," said Ms. Scott. "They could give us the voting list and that would be it."

The statewide voter registration form used

by the probate office already contains a section which asks whether the registrant lives within municipal limits. People often leave that section blank and the board of registrars approves the application regardless, said Mrs. Davis and Sara Bell, chief clerk of the southern division of the probate office.

Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Bell said they do not require people filling out the registration forms to complete the relevant section.

Austin Sanders, chairman of the county board of registrars, said most people don't know if they live in the city limits and he did not know whether the board could require them to supply that information.

"I don't know that much about it," Sanders said.

He said he would talk to Mrs. Davis about it. "We'll get together on it."

By law the responsibility for compiling the county voting list is divided between the probate judge and the board of registrars. Residents fill out the registration forms at the probate office but they're approved by the board of registrars.

Approved applications are then given back

## Voter list Continued from Page 7A

to the probate office which makes a list.

About half the counties in the state supply municipalities with voting lists distinguishing between county and municipal residents, said Betty Boyd, supervisor of the Jefferson County Board of Registrars.

St. Clair's failure to distinguish between county and municipal residents is the main headache for city clerks, Ms. Scott said. But the county also fails to purge the list of dead voters and voters who have moved.

"My mother died four years ago and I just took her off the list myself," Ms. Scott said.

"Our voting system is in very

poor shape," Sanders said.

Each of the candidates for probate judge has promised to greatly improve that voting system. Each said he would ensure that applicants specify whether they live in a municipality and that dead and moved voters are purged.

Wallace Wyatt Jr., a Democrat, and Roy Banks and Steve Mize, the Republican nominee, both promised to formulate a plan for improving the system.

Paul Manning, who is opposing Wyatt in the Democratic runoff, said he would try to set up a volunteer committee in each beat to be responsible for the integrity of the voting list.



## Proclaims Guard Week

Pell City Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon, center, Monday signed a proclamation naming April 1-6 as "Employer support of the Guard and Reserve Week". On hand for signing of the proclamation are local National Guard members WO1 Paul

Vaughn, recruiting officer for the guard unit and Garry Staples, who will soon receive commission and is attached to the 4th Signal Company support battalion which is located in Pell City. (NEWS Photo)

# Pell City To Hold Public Hearing On Revenue Sharing

The City of Pell City will hold a public hearing on June 13 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall to allow citizens to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the budget and use of revenue sharing funds and relationship of these funds to the entire city budget.

According to a legal notice published in this week's Observer, revenue sharing funds will be used by the City to repay funds transferred or borrowed to pay for the civic center.

The proposed budget lists estimated receipts and expenses at a total of \$852,644.

Income is itemized as follows: Gross Receipts Tax, \$275,000; Privilege License \$120,000; Fines and Costs \$45,000; Gasoline tax \$42,000; Property Tax \$41,000; Beer and Liquor Tax \$21,500; State Shared Revenue \$67,500; Garbage Bags and Fees \$80,000; Loans \$15,000; Revenue Sharing Funds \$313,644 and Miscellaneous \$14,000.

Expenses are itemized as follows: Administrative \$115,100; City Hall and Shop \$19,350; Police Department \$167,800; Street Department \$283,000; Fire Department \$68,050; Repayment cost of Civic Center \$131,644 and Miscellaneous \$67,700.

Against Harmon—

## Pell City Council pushes injunction

Terming the parking of garbage trucks in a residential section on 19th Street South a "public nuisance," the Pell City Council Monday night agreed to obtain an injunction against the Urban Sanitation Co. owned by T.L. "Tinch" Harmon.

The council also met with the St. Clair County Historical Society and officials of Southern Railway in an effort to preserve the Pell City Rail depot building.

The council, after discussing the parking the garbage trucks on 19th Street with City Attorney Billy L. Church, or-

dered Church to seek a temporary injunction against Harmon.

Church pointed out that he had had a "gentleman's agreement" with Harmon and the latter had said he would not park his trucks loaded with garbage there anymore.

"I heard about this problem till I'm tired of hearing it...and I know those people down there are tired of smelling it," Mayor A.E. Nixon said of the situation. "We owe these people an effort to rid them of this public nuisance...the county wouldn't

(See Injunction Page 9-A)

## Injunction

(Continued from Page 1)

do anything about it, so we have to," Nixon stated.

Urban Sanitation is the present contractor for countywide trash pickup. An earlier request by the the city council to have Harmon remove the trucks from the 19th Street location was rejected by the commission. The commissioners court noted that the problem was not under their jurisdiction since it was within the city limits.

Church will seek a Bill of Equity to abate a public nuisance in circuit court "as soon as possible."

The council also discussed the future of the rail depot building with officials of the Southern Railway System and members of the Board of the St. Clair County Historical Society.

T.E. Gurley, Southern's Alabama supervisor, told the group that Southern would like to see the future of the building decided within about a month.

"We will be glad to work with you on whatever solution you come up with," said Gurley. "But, we would like to see the building moved from it's present site," he added.

Mayor A.E. Nixon; spokeswoman for the Society

with it.

In other business, the council approved the building of a sidewalk complete with lights and parallel parking areas down the middle of First Avenue South between 19th and 21st streets.

The proposed project will be turned over to city engineer Charles Tucker for drawing up of specifications.

The council also approved an expenditure of \$17,574 for blacktopping of various areas of the city. Included were a three-block area near the Eden School, Lee's Subdivision, and several other areas.

The city heard from County Extension Agent W.D. Jackson who thanked the council for their help in the Cropwell Historical Marker project and asked for grading and placing of curbs there. The council agreed to do so.

The council also approved Christmas bonuses to city employes, agreed to donate \$200 to the Pell City Jaycees Christmas Parade, and agreed to pay \$5,000 and interest on a \$35,000 note with the People's Bank. The remaining \$20,000 was to be renewed.

After hiring of two additional

## Commission throws garbage bag back into council's lap

The Pell City Council, approached by a citizens group requesting the ouster of garbage trucks being parked in the city limits, Monday night referred the group and the problem to the St. Clair County Commission.

The group, residents of the 19th Street area where Urban Sanitation, under the ownership of Tinch Harmon, has offices.

According to the group, which has tried unsuccessfully for some two months to have the trucks removed, the parking of the trucks in the residential section creates not only a "smelly nuisance" but a "health hazard" as well since garbage is left in the trucks over the weekend and they are washed at the 19th Street location.

Mayor A.E. Nixon, in previous council meetings, said he had conferred with County Commissioner James Ingram and that Ingram had told him he would "take care of the matter."

Tuesday, however, when the group met with the County Commission, the city council had the bag tossed back into

their laps as the commissioners agreed that it was a city matter and not a county one.

According to Mayor Nixon, since the garbage pickup service is operating for the county, it should come under their jurisdiction.

At NEWS AEGIS press time, further developments had not materialized.

In other action Monday night, the council agreed to purchase two cars for the Police Dept. which had been let for bid. The police committee chose the Plymouth bid as the most acceptable.

The council turned down a franchise request from the REA and voted to sustain service with the Alabama Power Company.

An extension of gas lines in the Harrisville and Whitesville area of the city was approved by the council pending further study.

Following a public hearing on the adoption of the proposed Comprehensive Plan and Housing Element for the city—at which no one was present—the council adjourned subject to recall of the mayor.



# Council Opposes Bill To

BY STEVE KEELING

In its meeting Monday night, the Pell City City Council voiced opposition to the pending Judicial legislation which would abolish the Recorders Court, replacing it with a district Court. The Council agreed to write a letter to the Representative indicating opposition to the legislation.

In a relatively brief meeting, the new mobile home zoning ordinance was further strengthened by a pledge from the Alabama Power Company to assist in the authorization of trailer placement.

In other business attended to by the Council, it was agreed that a letter should be written to the Public Service Commission concerning a policy followed by the Alabama Power Company.

Councilman Cox was told by a Mr. Hardigree of the Alabama Power Company that it is the policy of that company to sell

items to the consumer at double the price that the Power Company pays for them.

Visitors at the meeting, Ray Miller and Clint Holdbrook, proposed that a 75 foot portion of 4th Ave. North from 23rd St. be closed. The mayor referred this to the Street Committee.

Mr. Holdbrook also suggested that the High School gymnasiums be opened this winter for the use of adults.

The Council agreed that sidewalk markings should be made on highway 231 from 3rd Ave. N. to the Liberty National Building so that pedestrians may have adequate walking space.

Councilman Harvey Watson reported that there is a general lack of enthusiasm among the citizens of 36th St. N. in regard to a new sewer system proposed for that street. Two

citizens are opposed to the installation.

It was agreed by the council that an employee at the City Vehicle shop was inadequate for the position and should be released. It was also decided that an additional mechanic was needed at the shop.

Councilman Paul Turner pointed out that new street name signs are needed on 25th St. and 9th Ave. N. and that chert should be supplied for sections of 25th St. North. These motions were carried.

The Council approved the issuance of an off-premise beer license for Lee's Pak n' Go on Martin St.

In closing out the meeting, the Mayor proposed the purchase of a bulldozer for moving chert.

## Abolish Court

The council decided that the machine should be tried out before a decision is made on its purchase.

## Budget is topic of P.C. council

Budgetary problems, which included that statement, "We're broke," by Pell City Clerk Betty Scott, were the primary topic of discussion by the Pell City Council Monday night.

According to Mrs. Scott, the city's general fund has been depleted with money only in the gross revenue accounts coffers at St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association.

The clerk suggested that the city borrow \$14,000 from a local bank to cover outstanding bills against the city until further revenue sharing monies were received.

The council moved to let for bid interest rates on the needed money from all local banks.

The council also discussed future budgetary measures for the city which included several government grant programs.

In other action, the council passed a resolution requiring city employes to submit a purchase order prior to buying any materials they might need. Mayor Dill Nixon cited the measure as a way of tightening city purse strings.

The city also agreed to let for bid a new, dual-wheel truck, 1974 model year.

According to Mayor Nixon and Councilman Forrest Walls, Ben Coker Ford, original bidder on the truck, could not

(See Budget Page 8-A)

supply the vehicle to specifications.

A discussion on the parking of garbage trucks on 3rd Ave. S. prompted the council to write Tinch Harmon, owner of the vehicles, a letter stating their intent to issue citations should he continue to park there.

Several residents had appealed to the council to do something about the parking since it was causing a foul odor in that neighborhood.

Councilman Harvey Watson stated he had had several persons ask him whether or not the city was paying for the paving of private driveways. "I want to make it very clear that the same firm the city is employing for street paving is also taking some private jobs, however, we, the city is not paying for any of this private work," Watson stated.

Following a request by Amos Hargett that the city furnish him with a copy of by laws of the City of Pell City Industrial Development Board (of which he is a member), the council adjourned until their next regular session.

At council meeting—

# Industrial board gives financial statement

A financial statement submitted to the Pell City Council Monday night by the city's industrial development board includes the purchase of a truck for a local industry so that they might obtain a tax break.

The statement, submitted by Industrial Development Board Chairman Ed Ash and past-chairman Howard King, contained a \$3,154 figure for the purchase of a truck for Bill Woolwine.

According to Ash, the expense was a "washout figure," since Woolwine repaid the Board for the purchase.

"This was so Woolwine could save paying the tax on the truck," Ash told the council. Ash added that he had checked with a lawyer and was told to go ahead with the move.

The financial statement showed a total balance of some \$17,100 in the IDB fund. According to King, the board had sold 51 acres of the 291 acres originally purchased for the industrial park.

"We weren't getting any industry before we set up this park," King told the council. "We still have 240 acres left and I feel we are making great strides in industrial development," he added.

Mayor A. E. Nixon commended the board and added that the purchase of the industrial park was "the best move we've (the city) ever made."

In other action, the council close some 75 feet of 4th Ave.

near U.S. 23 so that a new business could be established.

The council tabled a request from Harvey Davis to provide water outside the city limits. An investigation into the matter will be conducted, according to

Mayor Nixon.

The council also agreed to advertise for bids on two new police cruisers. Police Chief Ruble Bowlin also asked that

one other cruiser be overhauled and this was also passed by the council.

Bowlin also pointed out that the city will begin a crackdown on youngsters driving without licenses and under-age children without licenses driving motorcycles to school.

"We've had several complaints about underage drivers driving to school in cars and motorbikes and we are going to put a stop to it," Bowlin said.

Following the opening of bids on a dual-wheel truck for which Sutherlin Chevrolet was lowest bidder at \$2,850, the council adjourned until their next regular session.

# City Hears Encouraging Industrial Board Report

The Pell City Council heard an encouraging progress report from the Industrial Development Board at Monday night's meeting when the Board chairmen submitted a financial report of its activities from 1969 to 1972.

Harold King, past chairman of the Board, told the Council that four new industries have located in Pell City through the efforts of the Board's industrial planning and more are interested. He said that very few had showed any interest in locating in Pell City prior to the development of the Industrial Park.

Present Chairman Ed Ash reported that the Board has collected about \$28,300 in cash from the sale of the land. Of this amount, he said that \$11,000 has been paid back to the City toward returning an investment of approximately \$101,000. He said a debt remains of about \$100,000 to the city for sewer systems in the development.

Ash said that, not counting the debt for sewers, less than \$380 per acre is now invested in the land not yet sold.

He said that the city is now more ready for new industry

with rail sites being one of the only features lacking.

Another visitor at the meeting was Neil Pate who inquired about his rights in moving a trailer from a piece of land of about 13,125 square feet, then reinstalling one. The city ordinance concerning trailer placement would require that the space be at least 1500 square feet. It was decided that the

appropriate committee should investigate the problem further.

Ray Miller, another guest, asked for reports on an earlier proposition he made for closing a 75 foot section of 4th avenue north. The proposition had been referred to the street committee. Councilman Charles Lockridge said that the committee had recommended that the section remain closed. Opening of the section may leave some of the residents of this area without a means of ingress and egress. A motion was carried to accept the recommendation of the Street Committee.

Police Chief Ruble Bowlin pointed out that the City is now faced with a shortage of police cars. Two of the cars have over 100,000 miles on them and one is wrecked. It was decided that bids should be taken for two new cars.

Bids for a new city truck were received by the council and turned over to Councilman Walls' committee for scrutiny.

Walls also pointed out that an employee was needed for maintenance of the Recreation

Hall. And that repair work and perhaps a new filtering system was needed for the swimming pool.

Attention was called to the fact that conflicts have arisen in scheduling of the Recreation Hall.

In regard to public use of the High School gymnasium, Walls said that a check must be made with the Board of Education.

In other business, Chief Bowlin said that several calls have been made implying that area students have been driving to school who are not of legal driving age. It was decided that warning should be made that if these children are found driving without a license their parents will receive citations.

## Pell City utility dept. will be split up soon?

The Utility Department of the City of Pell City may soon be split into two, separate operations following action by the city council Monday night.

Councilman Forrest Walls, utility department head, said he wanted a meeting of the utilities committee of the council to discuss dividing the department into maintenance and construction sections.

"We have been having a lot of trouble lately with completion of the installation of several gas lines, water lines and so on,"

Walls stated. "I think the time has come to separate the department into two sections to we can become better organized to complete a given task," the councilman added.

Walls said he was prompted to make the move after some 50 meters and over 1,000 feet of gas lines had still not been installed in the new Ensley Trailer Park.

The council agreed for the committee to meet and also agreed to complete the installation of the gas system for the park.

In other action, the council signed a paving agreement with the County Road Department for paving amounting to some \$3,000. They also agreed to let for bid a mile and one-half of paving in the Riviere Estates area of the city.

A contract for the Industrial Park Sewer project was also signed by the council. Construction will begin immediately.

S. W. Dill was granted a

(See Utility Page 6A)

permit to operate a Taxi within the city and Leon Clemmons, owner of Town and Country Food Store was issued an off-premises beer license.

Mayor A. E. Nixon informed the council that the Ford tractor recently purchased by the city should arrive around the 28th or 29th of July. He also discussed the fencing project of city property which is being used to store materials and vehicles by the city.

Following discussion of a water project which includes the drilling of two wells and building a million-gallon water tank to serve the Pell City area, the council adjourned until their next regular session.

# Mobile home law talked for Pell City

A proposed ordinance concerning mobile homes within the city limits was the primary topic of discussion of the Pell City Council Monday night with action expected in the very near future.

The proposed ordinance, which would regulate mobile home parking, mobile home parks and health and safety regulations, was recommended by the city's planning board.

The new law, in its first stage of introduction, called for the following specifications to be met before a mobile home could be parked within the city limits:

No mobile home...shall be placed here unless a permit is

obtained from the City of Pell City.

No mobile home shall be located on a plot of ground less than 5,000 square feet in area. (Except, mobile home parks. This ground area was discussed with a figure of 2,500 square feet mentioned.)

On private lots, the State Board of Health requires that adequate disposal of human waste be provided for...whether that be tie on to city lines or building of a septic tank.

The council agreed to consider several other cities' mobile home ordinances before making

(See Law Page 7-A)

## Law

(Continued from Page 1)

a final decision. All agreed, however, that the new law was needed "as soon as possible."

In other action, the council repealed the ordinance providing for a park and recreation board.

The council had been considering this action since the hiring of Mike Porter as the new head of Parks and Recreation.

On a move by Councilman Forrest Walls, the council approved the hiring of the new Pell City High School Band Director for one month this summer to start a musical program. Salary was fixed at \$300.

Industrial Development Board Chairman Ed Ash discussed the condition of the board with the council and brought them up to date on their financial condition.

Councilman Bam Cox reported that, as yet, the salary scale of police officers in other cities had not been obtained. Chief Ruble Bowlin had asked that the council approve the raise.

Cox also discussed the condition of several articles of city property behind city hall. He said the area was looking like a junk yard and he would like to see it cleaned up. Councilman Charles Lockridge told Cox he would have the area cleaned up.

A delinquent account for sewerage assesment of the local Goodyear Store was referred to Councilman Forrest Walls for disposition.

The council also approved new speed limit signs on the Golf Course Road and two new stop signs at the Truss-Ferry Railroad crossing. They added that the new radar gun would go into use on the golf course road to curb speeding in that area.

An on-premises beer license was approved next by the council for Elisha Borden.

Following discussion of the ambulance service in the county and a discussion of the gas shortage, the council adjourned until their next regular session.

- THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1973

Near \$100,000 setup—

# Industrial Park sewer project is given okay

A contract for a near-\$11,000 Pell City Industrial Park Sewer Project was approved by the Pell City Council Monday night.

The contract, which will go to low-bidder Bama Utility Contractors Inc. of Birmingham, was approved unanimously by the council.

The project, according to City Engineer, Charles Tucker, could run as high as \$99,505 however, provided one section of the sewer is eliminated, the cost could be only \$91,102.

According to Tucker, a minimum charge per customer for tying on to the new sewage system would be \$422. He added however, that a more realistic figure would be about \$600.

The project calls for completion of the project within 120 calendar days.

In other business, the council studied topographic soil maps

of the city and heard a presentation from U. S. Soil Conservationists Jim Lewis

and Charles Bowne.

The maps were drawn up to tie in with future land use and development proposals being drawn up by the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission.

BRPC representative to Pell City John Schofield addressed the council and introduced his replacement, Nick Spesas. Schofield said he was returning to work in his hometown in North Carolina.

A discussion of a city building code led to a confrontation between councilman Harvey Watson and City Clerk Betty Scott.

According to Watson, he had been working on the building code for some weeks and has asked Mrs. Scott to order updated copies of the code.

(See Park Page 7)

(Continued from Page 1)

Mrs. Scott said she had been extremely busy and had not had time to order the copies. "I see no reason to adopt something like this without an inspector to enforce it," Mrs. Scott said.

Mayor Nixon intervened and said the city would "get a copy of these codes and then the matter will be ready for presentation to the council".

Councilman Dr. Bam Cox reported that the Police Committee had no recommendation regarding salary increases for city policemen and that the committee

Following discussion of several matters of routine business and announcement that new street signs are now being installed, the council adjourned until their next regular session.

# Appeals board axed by city

THE ST. CLAIR OBSERVER APRIL 12, 1973

City employes who may be fired from their jobs for political reasons no longer have an appeal board to turn to following action by the Pell City Council Monday night.

The council, with the exception of Alderman Charles Lockridge, voted to pull out of the county-wide Personnel Appeals Board to "set up the city's own appeals board."

The matter will be referred to Representative Roy Coshatt for action during the upcoming session of the State Legislature.

The board, headed by Chamber of Commerce President Fate Gossett, hears appeals from county and city employes who have been fired or discharged from their jobs under a variety of circumstances.

If the board feels an employe was wrongfully discharged, they

have the power to reinstate the employe to his job.

In other action, the council awarded a contract to Dixie Equipment Company for a chipper at a cost of \$4,878.

The machine will be used by the city to chip up logs and tree limbs for transportation to the dump. According to Councilman Lockridge, the chipper will cut down on manpower expenses and will, in effect, "pay for itself."

A new bush hog to complement the tractor recently purchased by the city was approved by the council at a cost of \$499 from Fouts Tractor Co. of Ashville.

The council also approved a contract for Charles Tucker, new city engineer, and heard his plans for future develop-

(See Board Page 12)

Continued from Page 1)

ment of the city and its facilities.

Police Chief Ruble Bowlin was instructed by the council to order the new street signs and begin erecting them. The new signs will be green and white in color.

A new shop building was referred to the city engineer to draw up specifications so the facility may be let for bid.

The council agreed to put a caution light near the in-

tersection adjoining Arbor Baptist Church to be operated on Sundays. They also agreed to paint an entrance to the coin operated laundry adjacent to the Pell City Steakhouse.

Following discussion of the drainage problem at the new shopping center and appointment of three men to the Industrial Development Board of the City, the council adjourned until their next regular session.



# City Asks Removal From Personnel Board's Jurisdiction

BY ANNE MILAM

The City Council of Pell City met a four hour long session Monday night and heard a lot of talk and did a like amount of business.

Conforming to action by the prior administration, the Council adopted a resolution requesting that the City of Pell City be removed from the jurisdiction of the St. Clair County Personnel Appeals Board. A copy of the resolution will be forwarded to Representative Roy Coshatt.

Charles Hamilton of Pell City met with the Council to discuss the closing of an alley adjoining his property. The Council told Mr. Hamilton that the alley would be re-built as soon as possible to facilitate the operation of garbage trucks.

A new bush hog at a cost of \$499, with trade-in, was authorized for purchase from Fouts Truck and Tractor in Ashville.

Maor Dill Nixon reported to the Council on a letter from Congressman Tom Bevill

setting out Pell City's status regarding grants under the Public Works and Economic Development Act. Based on 1971 figures, the Pell City area has a seven percent unemployment rate which qualifies it for 50 percent maximum grant rates. In order to have an 85 percent rate, the area must have at least 12 percent unemployment.

In other business, the Council ordered new green and white street markers, opened bids and awarded the low bid on a new chipper to Dixie Equipment Company of Birmingham for \$4,878.00, approved a caution light to be erected by Arbor Baptist Church on Alabama Power Company and Avondale Mills poles for use in church service traffic, discussed a drainage problem in the new shopping center and heard a report from City Engineer Charles Tucker.

Tucker was authorized by the Council to work on and make suggestions as to where it should locate a sewer plant. A

Continued On Page 2

ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS

Thursday, April 12, 1973

## City Asks

Continued From Page 1

mechanical secondary treatment plant will be necessary according to Tucker, who said that Pell City is now No. 6 on a list of 20 that have pending sewer projects. He said that he expected funding to begin for these projects about July 1 of this year.

The Council received a letter from the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board in reply to its request that the license of Ed's Lounge on Highway 78 East be revoked stating that the matter had been referred to the district inspector for investigation, and if the situation warrants, a citation to be issued to the licensee to appear before the Board for a hearing for possible suspension or revocation of the license.



At Regular Meeting—

## City Defers Opinion On Sunday Openings

BY ANNE MILAM

The opening on Sunday of two new stores in the Pell City Plaza Shopping Center brought some protest to the City Council meeting Monday night from local businessman John Abbott.

Abbott said that he felt that these stores staying open on Sunday would set a precedent in the City and that all other types of businesses might follow suit.

Tom Duvall, manager of the local Elmore's store, told the Council that his store would be open this Sunday and asked the Council its feelings on the matter.

The Council told both Abbott and Duvall that a study was being made of the laws covering such businesses being open on Sunday and as soon as a legal opinion was available from City Attorney Edwin Holladay, a public announcement would be made on the City's position.

John Slovensky, principal of Duran Jr. High School, discussed with the Council the condition of the street in front of Duran and asked for assistance in filling holes in the street. He also discussed the speeding problems on the street leading to the junior and high schools and on Cogswell Avenue during school hours.

Slovensky said that the presence of a policeman during the rush periods had greatly aided in the problems and asked Council to seriously consider placing a policeman in the school area on a regular basis. Speedbreakers along the streets were also discussed.

Mr. Slovensky also discussed sewerage problems in the Eden area along Kay, Brown and other streets south of the railroad, and the Council told him the situation is being studied by the city engineer.

Mike Porter, recreation director for the city, reported on the summer program planned

council meeting.

Councilman Paul Turner, who has repeatedly urged the Council to provide new street signs for the City, was told that the signs are now on order.

Councilman Al Walls asked about the status of the summer employment program under which the City can employ eight persons and was advised by the clerk that more than enough applications have been received for the necessary eight employees.

The City tentatively plans to hire two females in the office, two females in the recreation department and four males in the street department. The employees must be hired under a first priority of persons 14-28 years old, and from certain income or disadvantaged qualifications.

Councilman Charles Lockridge reported on a survey on needed street upgrading and said that a complete report would be available at the next Council meeting for a proposed plan to contact with the State and County for street improvement. He said he anticipated that 2.1 miles of streets would be paved and improved.

Lockridge stressed that this 2.1 miles were the streets which needed improvement immediately and did not cover smaller spot improvements. Councilman Lockridge said that he felt that these streets must be improved immediately or that they would be past help by next year. Lockridge also requested 25 cents per hour pay increases for city employees working on the garbage trucks and on a second by Harvey Watson, the action passed unanimously.

On discussion, Watson told the Council that salaries for these employees were set up on a tentative basis with plans for

# Blue Law subject of council

The subject of enforcement of the old Sunday Blue Law was the primary topic of the Pell City Council meeting Monday night in which several Pell City merchants voiced their objections of the Sunday opening of the new TG&Y Store in the Pell City Shopping Plaza.

J. D. Abbott, owner of the local Food Center store stated he was opposed to the opening of big businesses—such as TG&Y—on Sunday.

Abbott asked the council how they felt about Sunday openings and was told the council had discussed it individually but not as a group.

After noting they were consulting city attorney Edwin Holladay for advice, the council stated their intention to call a special meeting later in the week. Any move regarding Sunday openings made during the special meeting will be relayed to store managers.

Councilman Harvey Watson stated he had conducted a survey of local merchants and had found the majority opposed to Sunday opening. He noted, however, many businessmen stated they would stay open if forced to do so by their competition.

Richard Hover, manager of the new TG&Y store, who was not present for the meeting, told THE NEWS he agreed with not opening on Sunday.

"However, I'm not willing to shut my doors if my competition stays open...I feel we should all be more community minded," Hover stated.

"I feel like my store is a community service...I must be open when the people need me and if that means 16 hours a day, seven days a week, then I want to be open for them," he added.

"For years we have traditionally told the people of Pell City that they must go somewhere else to buy their

## Blue Law

(Continued from Page 1)

good for one should be applied to all, with no exceptions made," he concluded.

In other action the council heard from Duran Junior High School Principal John Slovensky who reported he had been encouraging residents of the Eden area south of the Southern railroad tracks to write the Water Improvement Commission and put Pell City high on the priority list for funds.

He also requested a city policeman to be on duty at the school to direct traffic during the next school year.

Mike Porter, recreation and parks director, submitted his program for summer recreation which includes programs for city residents.

The council discussed, but, did not take action on a proposal to appoint a parks and recreation committee and eliminate the present board.

Salaries for student and other summer employes were also approved by the council. Student employes will receive \$1.60 per hour and other employes, such as coaches, will receive a monthly salary.

Councilman Charles Lockridge reported that 1.2 miles of streets need plant mix and .9 miles of streets need a double-surface treatment. Estimated cost of the project will be \$19,000 to \$21,000.

After approving a pay raise of 25 cents per hour for four sanitation workers, the council adjourned—subject to recall of May A.E. "Dill" Nixon.

## *City consolidates bonds; sets insurance program*

The Pell City City Council Monday night took action to consolidate the city's existing bond issues totaling \$1,500,000 and borrow an additional \$500,000 for capital improvement construction.

The council also approved an insurance program for city employees' accepting a presentation from Liberty National Life Insurance Company to replace the Blue Cross program used last year.

Discussion on the bond consolidation took place last month between the council

representatives of First Birmingham Securities. The single bond debt would combine the city's three existing bond issues into a 30-year plan which, according to figures presented to the governing body, would eventually save the city over \$480,000.

The additional \$500,000 would be put to use in completing the city's water system.

LIBERTY NATIONAL'S insurance program was accepted by the council pending approval of the plan by the city attorney. It

was selected over several policies presented for consideration to the council last month and, according to a motion by Councilman Joe Sawyer, will be tried for one year.

Mayor Hugh Williamson was authorized by the council to file an application for federal assistance in establishing the city's employee merit system. The plan has been progressing by stages since last spring and when completed will govern all areas involving the employees. The newly-formed city personnel manager position was manned two months ago as one phase of the process' his job to oversee maintenance of the program and tend to employee relations.

In other council action Monday night the Police Department was authorized to apply for a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system. Based on discussion of this system last month, the program would cost the city \$211 per month to lease or \$3,695 to purchase plus installation in both cases and \$100 per month for maintenance if purchased' according to information supplied to the council.

The Police Department is presently using the Talladega police system and was approached by the City of Moody about tying in with their NCIC system at a future date. The city will pursue a plan to obtain its own NCIC computer unit and propose a tie in with other communities in the county.

# City Adopts Solid Waste Plan, Sets \$2 Residence Fee

BY ANNE MILAM

After several months of intensive study the Pell City Council at its meeting Monday night unanimously adopted an ordinance providing for a solid waste pickup and disposal program and regulating the charging and collection of fees and penalties for any violations.

The ordinance (printed in full in this issue of the Observer) provides for a charge of \$2.00 per residential household. Commercial establishments which are provided containers by the City shall be charged \$1.00 per cubic yard plus a monthly rental based on the cost of the container. Commercial establishments which are not provided containers by the city shall be charged an amount based on the garbage accumulated—an amount to be established by the Council.

The Council provided in the ordinance for exemptions for people over 65 or for heads of households totally physically disabled to work or people who are dependent upon the Department of Pensions and Security, with total combined monthly income of all people living in a residence of not over \$115.00 per month. People seeking the exemptions must make applications at the office of the city clerk.

The Council opened bids for the commercial garbage containers and referred the bids to the street committee for clarification on several questions regarding the low bid which was from Lewis Steel Works, Inc., a Georgia firm.

In other business:

Jim Lewis Soil Conservation officer for St. Clair County, discussed with the Council a comprehensive study of the soil uses in the city (which his office is able to furnish the City free of charge) and the matter was referred to the Planning Commission.

not wide enough for the busses and the large garbage trucks to pass each other.

They also told the Council that they had a serious water shortage problem in their community and asked for three street lights on the street. Mayor Nixon and the Council told the delegation that all the matters would be taken under immediate consideration and every effort made to solve the problems as soon as possible.

The Council decided to construct a sidewalk from the new post office building to Pell City Motor Company and later to carry the construction up to Hardwick's Service Station on Cogswell Ave.

The Clerk read a letter from Southern Railway in reply to a recent request by the City for a signal light at the railroad crossing on Truss Ferry Road. The railway official said that the matter had been referred to the county engineer in 1971 and that no further communication had been received from the engineer. The clerk was instructed to write to Blake Livingston, County Engineer,

regarding the matter.

Fire Chief Cecil Guthrie was named Assistant License Inspector for the city for all taxes and licenses. Police Chief Ruble Bowlin is the license inspector.

Christmas bonuses for city employees were set at \$10.00 for employees with one year's service, \$20.00 for employees with more than one year and the choice of a turkey or ham for all employees. Christmas holidays were set for Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26. The City Hall will be closed for the holidays.

The clerk told the Council that over \$600.00 had been lost on the dances at the Armory sponsored by the Park and Recreation Board. She said that this loss resulted from the amounts paid for the bands and chaperones for the dances, which are poorly attended. After discussion, the Council voted not to spend any more money for the Park and Recreation Board until after a meeting has been held to work

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# At Pell City Meeting—

# City Fathers, County Officials Join Hands, Pledge Cooperation

BY ANNE MILAM  
Representatives of the St.  
Clair County Commission met

with the Pell City City Council Monday night and assured the Council that the County governing body desired to cooperate and assist municipalities throughout the county in any way possible.

Dr. James McClendon, Commission Chairman, told the Council that the purpose of the visit was to report on what the Commission had been doing and what plans were for the coming year.

James Ingram, Commission member for the Pell City area, assured the Council that the Commission wanted to cooperate with the City in every way possible. He said that he spoke for the entire Commission.

James Baggett, Civil Defense Director for the County, explained the civil defense program and his efforts on behalf of the county as grant coordinator. He offered his assistance to the City in obtaining grants or any other way in which he could be helpful.

Bobby Timmons, Solid Waste Supervisor for the County, reported on the success of the solid waste disposal programs in the county and complimented Pell City on its progress. He said that he was available for assistance at any time and could be reached at the Ashville Health Center or Urban Sanitation's office in Pell City.

A spokesman for the Housing and Urban Development division of the Federal government discussed with the Council the possibilities of obtaining a 50-50 grant for the proposed civic center in Pell City and painted a gloomy picture as to prospects for funds before July of 1973. He said that the City must file a preliminary application which would be assessed on services offered by the Center and funds available at the time the application is processed. He said that the Center must primarily offer

additional table. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter to water users prohibiting the adding on of water users to a household meter with violations resulting in the loss of the user's own meter.

The Council approved the temporary employment of Floyd Brown as a full time policeman. Brown, a former police chief at Hobson City, has completed Police Academy training.

Bob Row, former policeman on the Pell City force, has resigned and is to be employed by the Town of Ragland.

Police Chief Ruble Bowlin reported that one Pell Citian had been charged and fined \$50.00 for illegally dumping garbage.

The resignation of Smitty Lee from a position on the Park and Recreation Board was accepted and action on filling the vacancy postponed to a later date. The Council discussed the possibility of securing the services of a full time athletic director for the Park and Recreation program and doing away with the present system. The Park and Recreation Board, with Councilman Forest Walls as Chairman, meets on the third Monday night in each month.

Councilman Wallas was instructed by the Council to investigate complaints from the National Guard Armory about the condition of the Armory building after the wrestling matches held there.

Councilman Harvey Watson discussed with the Council the dangerous situation regarding speeding on Comer Avenue near the old Martin store intersection due to the number of children

amount of \$4,000 for grade site improvements for the property on which the Gladding Corporation factory is to be located.

Councilman Charles Lockridge discussed with the Council the condition of city streets and said that the weather had greatly delayed the street improvement work as well as adding to the condition of the streets.

# City has new engineer

The City of Pell City now has a new water and sewerage engineer due to a couple of moves by the city council Monday night and Tuesday of two weeks ago.

According to the minutes of a special session of the council Feb. 27, Goodwin Engineers, who have been handling the sewerage and water systems for the city, had their contract terminated effective March 1.

Monday night, the council voted to hire Charles Tucker as city engineer.

The contract the city voted to extend to Tucker will contain a clause stating that the council may terminate the agreement if work performed is not

satisfactory.

In other council action, a representative of the Burroughs Company presented a talk on a mini-computer to handle the billing, salary and bookkeeping chores of the city.

The city governing body had already received bids on a billing machine, however, they were taking the computerized system under consideration since it performs many more functions.

The billing machine originally under consideration by the council costs approximately \$6,300. The computer presented by the Burroughs representative costs

(See Engineer Page 6-A)

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## Engineer

(Continued from Page 1)

about \$13,800 with programming and upkeep fees.

The council also talked with a representative of the National Cash Register Company, however, no action on the matter was taken.

The council also heard a request from Albert Morrow on behalf of his mother, Mrs. Rozella Morrow, that a section of land she owns not be taken into the city limits.

The council voted to remove the Morrow property from the bill to be introduced by State Representative Roy Coshatt.

Two new policeman were hired, with their schooling to start within a couple of weeks. They were identified as Larry Cochran and David Wright.

The council also voted to paint a section of the old Coal City Road in front of the Arbor Baptist Church to provide a walkway for pedestrians.

After renaming Dr. M.G. Norrell to the Mental Health Authority and George Williams to the Pell City Planning Commission, the council adjourned until their next regular session March 26.

# City Alters Annexation Plans

The City Council of Pell City met Monday night in its regular meeting and voted to delete a 100-acre tract from the land recently proposed to be annexed to the city limits.

Albert and Eva Morrow asked the Council to delete the property belonging to Mrs. Rozelle Morrow and the Council agreed to do so. Representative Roy Coshatt will be asked to introduce a bill in the next

session of the Legislature and the bill will be advertised later setting out the exact property to be annexed.

The Council spent approximately an hour with representatives from Burroughs Corporation and National Cash Register Company who demonstrated electronic billing equipment and after discussion, decided to go forward with plans to buy a

manual billing machine for which bid had been let at an earlier meeting.

The Council again discussed the matter of charging businesses for containers for garbage and decided to forego charging for the containers at the present time and charge the businesses at the rate of \$1.00 per cubic yard for garbage.

Ten minute parking limit in  
Continued On Page 2.

THE ST. CLAIR OBSERVER March 15, 1

front of the ABC Store was discussed and the matter was turned over to the Police Department for study and investigation.

Councilman Bam Cox told the Council that there are two prospects for vacancies on the Police force and the Council approved hiring the two, if possible, and sending them to the police academy classes which begin next Monday.

The two vacancies were created by the resignation of Bob Rowe and the discharge of Michael Clark.

In further business, the Council terminated its contract with Goodwin Engineers and employed Charles Tucker of Birmingham to do engineering work on a sewerage treatment plan for the Industrial Park.

Councilman Walls reported that the "City now has some dog catchers."

Insurance on the new fire truck and the two garbage trucks was approved for purchase from State Farm Insurance Company.

A street light was approved for 8th Street South after a request at the last Council meeting had been investigated by the Street and Police Departments.

Councilman Watson discussed with the Council a traffic problem at Arbor Baptist Church as people are leaving the church and the Council approved a walkway for people crossing the street to the parking area.

Dr. M. G. Norrell was re-appointed for a six year term on the Jefferson-Blount St. Clair Mental Health Authority and the Council approved a \$500.00 contribution to that Authority.

George Williams was re-appointed to a six-year term on the Pell City Planning Commission. He was serving a one-year term which expires April 1.

Councilman Charlie Lockridge commended the Fire Department for its job in controlling a fire at the Rocky Zion Church caused by lightning last Sunday morning.



# Raises for city employees okayed by Pell City council

by Ron Barthel

A 30 cents per hour raise was granted city employees in Pell City Monday night, when the council acted on what was called the "last cost of living raise" to be given.

From here on out, the city will be basing its salary increases on merit raises, said Councilman Mike Hudson, and the merit raises will be based on job evaluations.

Excluded from Monday night's cost of living raise will be part-time employees and employees who have already had raises in the past eight months.

"The council is in favor of doing what we can to help our employees," Hudson said, "and while we would rather see a merit raise system started, we realize that at this time, we have no policies or procedures or job evaluation process on which to base a merit raise."

Those procedures would take time to prepare, he said, so the council opted, for the "last time," a cost of living raise amounting to 30 cents per hour.

"Hopefully, in the near future, we'll be able to begin merit raises, and those will include our part-time employees," Hudson explained.

In its pre-council deliberations the council members agreed

some of the salaried positions were low-paying, and a cents-per-hour raise for all full time employees would be fairer than a percentage increase. "If we raise it by percent, then the highest paid employees will get the largest raises," said Hudson.

Dale Richey said it would fairer to give the per hour raise, and he urged that action be taken that night on the matter. Councilman James McGowan, sitting in as Mayor Pro Tem in the absence of Mayor Lawrence Fields, said that the city did have the money to grant the raises, and he said that something should definitely be done by the next meeting.

Hudson at first mentioned the consideration of a 50 cents per hour raise, but it was not known what that would cost the city in light of matching contributions it would require to Social Security and other accounts. The council felt it was safe in granting a 30 cents per hour raise, even though the total impact on the city budget still wasn't clear.

The council had estimated that the proposed 50 cents per hour raise would hit the city budget to the tune of \$75,000. "I don't know how deep a hole we are digging in the city budget event with a 30 cents per hour raise," Hudson said.

A 30 cents per hour raised was granted to some employees last year, it was said.

Johnnie DeGaris was in favor of

going to the merit raises as soon as possible, saying it would be fair to grant raises to those who deserve them.

Hudson said he had no problem with a cost of living raise to everyone at this time, but he urged the city to start its job evaluations. He is trying to get sample job evaluation forms now from Rainbow City and Anniston to have something to go by. "Job evaluations go hand in hand with job descriptions," Hudson said. "We need job descriptions to evaluate job performance."

"We're just trying to be fair," he concluded.

In other action, the city council granted three re-zoning requests, one being subject to the mayor's approval of some restrictive covenants.

Ed Ash asked that a parcel of land on Hwy. 231 South be rezoned from R-1 Low Density residential to B-1 Neighborhood Business to accomodate a development of mixed office, retail and service businesses.

While the council is in favor of re-zoning of the parcel, permanent rezoning would require a referendum between the adjacent residential and commercial areas.

Ash said he would like to see a parcel of 15 foot wide

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Rep. Steve  
chairman of

At Clair news agency  
Jan - 26, 1989

# Raises

(Continued from page 1)

dinance, containing a four foot high mound of earth berm covered with creeping vegetation.

The council was satisfied with that, but wanted it legally inserted in the re-zoning document.

Hudson insisted the buffer be legally assured, saying that he was thinking as a homeowner. "I don't know if 15 feet is adequate for a buffer," he said. He wanted the buffer to isolate the businesses development from the residential area and wanted the type of buffer required spelled out in the restrictive covenants.

Ash said he was purchasing the land from the E.D. Scott estate.

Hudson asked him if there were plans to immediately develop the site. Earlier, a question had arisen concerning a hurry to re-zone similar property across the street some time ago, and it had yet to be developed. McGowan urged the council to be cautious in the matter, because they could take a lot of heat in these rezonings sometimes.

City Attorney Billy Church recommended the council ask for restrictive covenants to be recorded

on the property if there was any question about how the B-1 zone could be used. The covenants should be worded precisely and explicitly, he told the council.

"These can be troublesome waters you are treading," Church told the council in regard to regulating land uses. "You could be venturing out on uncharted territory."

"I want to see Pell City grow," Hudson commented. "I want to see it full of all kinds of business and industry, but we also have to protect our residential property values."

The second rezoning case dealt with the placement of a new mobile home on a piece of R-1 property where an old mobile home originally stood. The old mobile home was "grandfathered" in when the zoning laws took effect, and Daniel P. and Donna Ray Leonard wanted to move a new mobile home on the property to live in. They had been renting the property out for the old mobile home, which was taken by the previous owners when they moved.

The council agreed to the change in zoning from R-1 to R-A for the half acre to allow for the new mobile home.

The third rezoning involved a parcel of land owned by James Ingram, located off Wolf Creek Road North adjacent to Interstate 20. The council okayed the move from P-R Planned Residential to B-2 General Business to allow the placement of a billboard sign on the parcel.

Mayor Pro Tem McGowan also appointed a committee to study utility deposits and connection fees and make recommendations for change, if any, to Mayor Fields. Hudson will chair the committee, with Dale Richey and Betty Turner as members. Some information on the average utility bill totals is now being gathered.

In other discussion, the council heard a report that Mayor Fields and Mike Hudson were proposing a Community Action Committee to be made up of five appointees.

# No Quorum For Pell City Council Meeting

BY CAROL PAPPAS

Something happened when the Pell City City Council was supposed to meet Monday night that has not happened in recent memory—there wasn't a quorum present.

Councilmen Joe Sawyer and Charles Lockridge were absent and under parliamentary procedure no business could be transacted without majority of the council members being present.

Although the council was able to hear from visitors present who had problems they wanted to discuss, it could not take any action.

Jim Edmonson, president of the Pell City Industrial Improvement Association, appeared before the council to ask why nothing had been

done concerning "cosmetic changes" for the old and new industrial parks.

Two months ago, he had requested that the streets be cleaned, grass mowed between the median strip, street signs be erected, streets be named, both parks be named, and two street lights per industry be installed.

Mayor Hugh Williamson said the council would not act on naming the two parks until it received recommendations on what to call them. He added, "We're open to suggestions from you gentlemen."

Williamson instructed Street Department Supervisor Pete Martin to mow the grass, and assured Edmonson and others present the council would decide on naming

streets and Parks and installing lights at the next meeting.

The only other business to come before the council was a delegation led by Clindell Harbison, who wanted to see the alley which runs behind Jim Starnes' and James O. Roe's property between E. C. Lloyd and his property closed.

He said he had been parking his car in that alley and the police told him he had to move it. When he investigated it further, Harbison said he was told that Starnes had bought the property to use as a private drive.

He said he didn't think it was fair to call something your own when it "runs right past my bedroom window."

The matter was turned over to the city attorney for his consideration.

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. July 28, 1978

## Pell City asks for lights

The Pell City council expressed some dissatisfaction with the speed at which the state highway department moves—especially on the request for stop lights on Hwy. 231 through the city.

The subject was brought at last week's council meeting by Charles

Lockridge and city officials have stated they want traffic lights installed at the intersection of Hwy. 231 and Hospital Dr. and again near the exit of the Pell City Plaza Shopping Center.

All agreed that letter writing was not speeding the process up so it was voted on

unanimously that the city attorney would be instructed to "take the necessary action" including suing the state, if that is what it will take, to get traffic lights at those locations installed.

In other business, council heard a complaint from

Clayton Garner about three German shepherd dogs who pose a threat to children at Iola Roberts School.

Garner reported to council that he had exhausted all avenues he was aware of in an attempt to get someone

See Pell City page 3

to take care of the canines. He requested that the city do something.

Garner reported that there had been cases of injury caused by the dogs who have been hanging around the school for sometime. Police Chief Ruble Bowlin stated that he had attempted to contact owners of the dogs but when he called on one house, the person denied ownership of the animal.

Mayor Hugh Williamson informed Garner that he

had already heard the complaint and had previously instructed a city employe to attempt to capture the dogs hanging around the school.

Council also appointed Ardis Wems to the West Jefferson, Blount St. Clair Mental Health Board, decided to turn over to the street department bids on city property for further study, and received a proposed ordinance from Councilman Joe Sawyer dealing with employing a city manager.

# City sets administrators guideline

BY MIKE MOSER  
News-Aegis Editor

Pell City took another step closer to employing a city administrator when council unanimously approved an ordinance creating the position at their regular meeting held Monday night. The proposal was then turned over to the city attorney for his scrutiny and is subject to his blessing.

The city administrator will serve under the direction of the mayor and council and the purpose, according to the ordinance, is to provide centralization of the administrative responsibilities of the city.

The person filling the position will be appointed by the council and mayor and will be the head of the city government but will serve "under the direction and control of the mayor and city council." A majority vote of council will remove a city administrator.

There are 18 points under the section of duties and these include, to make and keep an inventory of all city

property, real and personal; to act as purchasing agent for the various departments; to keep the mayor and council advised on the financial condition of the city; and to prepare a proposed annual budget for council's scrutiny.

Also to serve as a public relations officer of the city which includes the capacity to investigate and adjust all complaints filed against any employe, department, division or service.

The city administrator will attend all council meetings to report items of business that affect the council and the city and he/she will also be responsible for analyzing the functions, duties and activities of the various departments, divisions and services of the city government and employes.

It will be the duty of the administrator to carry out the recommendations of the mayor and council in coordinating operations of the city and to procure facts and submit long-range improvement plans.

The administrator will also be responsible for submitting recommendations on appointment and dismissal of all department

heads on recommendation of the mayor and confirmation of the council and also the same for subordinate (See Guideline Page 1B)

By Odessa...

employes of the city as well as providing for the transfer of such employes from one department to another.

Other duties include recommending adoption of measures and ordinances, to prepare and recommend any necessary changes in the classification and compensation plan, to investigate affairs of the city and any department, any contract, to exercise general supervision over all public buildings, streets and public property.

Also, to submit at the end of the year a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the city for the preceding year, to keep the city property insured, to serve in any appointed office if needed, to act as personnel officer and basically, to serve at the order and will of the mayor and council.

The ordinance calls for a bond of \$20,000 be secured by the person hired as city administrator. Council will also designate a properly qualified person to serve in the event of absence, disability or vacancy of the office.

The final two sections of the proposed ordinance deal with conflicting ordinances and the validity of the creation of this position through ordinance. Any ordinance was repealed by council's action Tuesday night.

## Sawyer Defends City Mgr. Proposal

At the regular meeting of the Pell City City Council Monday night, Councilman Joe Sawyer answered complaints made by area residents concerning the recent increase in the city's gas rates.

Some citizens had said instead of hiring a city manager, it should use that money to absorb the increase given to the city by Southern Natural Gas company.

Sawyer emphasized that the hiring of a city

manager had nothing to do with raising the gas rates.

Councilman Forrest Walls reported on the status of the new softball fields to be built behind the Civic Center, saying that the first grant, in the sum of \$50,000 is scheduled to be received by October 1.

The grading work has already been done by the county and as soon as the money is received, construction will begin.

City Attorney Billy

Church reported that a case involving the relocation of a road in the Lee's Landing area had been dismissed. In the case, several land-owners were being sued and the city was made a party in that suit.

A "water problem" behind Pell City Intermediate School has arisen recently, Councilman Charles Lockridge told the council, due to an erosion project that had been started by a private

company there.

He added that the project had left two big holes causing water to run into houses. Lockridge was informed that the Soil Conservation Service had taken the project away from the company and is now handling the problem.

Walls commented that the proposed water line extension on Lakeview Drive will cost approximately \$6000 for material alone.

He added that if the city tied a two inch line into the already existing six inch line, it would give more water pressure, but the residents there would still not have fire protection.

In order for the area to have fire protection, the

water line must be extended 3000 feet.

In other council business, Councilman Paul Turner suggested that the finance committee have a few meetings before formulating the budget and ask department heads what they need for the coming fiscal year so it can be considered when making the budget.

The council unanimously approved an off premise beer license to Thomas S. Wilson for J and M Grocery on Coal City Road.

Pell City Police Chief Ruble Bowlin said he had checked the store out and on his recommendation, the license was granted.



# Fifty persons attend hearing concerning zoning plan for Pell City

**BY MIKE MOSER**  
News-Aegis Editor

About 50 persons attended the first zoning hearing on proposed ordinance and maps concerning a total zoning plan for Pell City Monday night at the Civic Center.

The hearing was under the City Planning Commission and Chairman Clinton Holdbrooks fielded questions from the audience dealing with several different aspects of the proposed ordinance.

A number of citizens attended out of curiosity and sat through the hearing without asking questions. Also evident were a number of realstate developers and realtors who expressed various concerns about sections of the proposal.

The City Planning Commission is served by Mayor Hugh Williamson, Councilman Paul Turner, George Williams, W.D. Jackson, C.W. Scott, Jr., Ruble Bowlin, D. Larry Moody and Bettie Scott who serves as secretary along with Holdbrooks'.

Also in attendance at the hearing Monday night was representatives of Cobb-Adams-Benton, Inc, of Birmingham who were the planning consultants in the proposal.

Holdbrooks pointed out at

the commission nor the city was "trying to force this on anyone." He added that it was the feeling of the commission that the zoning ordinance, when finalized, would be "good for the city."

"There is probably some area of concern that needs attention and that is why we're having this meeting," Holdbrooks told the group. He added that there would be as many public hearings as necessary to make the law as workable as possible.

He added that under state law, only one commission hearing and one council hearing was required but that the commission was willing to hold hearings for the public "as long as we need to."

There were several questions directed to existing land use and on topics concerning a grandfather clause that would exempt existing non-conforming uses or property.

The section dealing with signs also drew comment from the public with some suggesting that the size of sign prescribed in the proposal was not large enough.

Realtors addressed this section and the sections dealing with development of property, especially concerning the requirement of performance. Gerald Ash of the Ash Agency pointed out that

the amount of performance requested for the development of shopping centers

would almost be impossible to get in Pell City.

(See Zoning Page 4A)

## Zoning

(Continued From Page 1)

Charles Myers concurred stating that "it would be impossible to get that type of bond in Pell City" and also expressed concern over the requirement that a plan of development be submitted to the commission.

On what procedure would be required to change zoning, a citizen was informed that an application would have to be placed with council who when then direct an inspector or someone in that capacity to look at the property in question. Planning commission would make a recommendation for or against and then council would take what action was

decided.

The current zoning ordinance is restricted to only the city limits and not to the police jurisdiction.

Holdbrooks noted that the commission had asked for input from a variety of groups while working on the ordinance for the past three years but that input from the public had not been much.

Many in attendance Monday night were invited to attend the next commission meeting to iron out problems with the proposal and copies of the ordinance can be obtained from city hall

## Pell City Council discusses water service interruptions

Pell City Council again Monday night discussed problems with water lines that have caused interrupted service to customers on Hwy 231 South in the city on and off for the past two months.

A recent water line break last week kept city workers on the job around the clock in sub-freezing temperatures as pipe was replaced near a broken line.

Councilman Forrest Walls noted that something "has to be done" and told council that as much as two miles of waterlines might need to be replaced in the Hwy 231 line.

Cost is a major factor as it was noted that to replace the nearly two mile stretch would cost an estimated

\$30,000 in pipe alone. The city will explore the possibility of installing a by-pass valve.

It was explained that this would keep a constant flow of pressure on the lines instead of the "surges" which result when a large number of customers use water at the same time. Council agreed to explore the bypass plan before purchasing pipe for replacing the troubled line.

Mayor Hugh Williamson and city officials will meet with officials from Alabama Gas Corporation to discuss the purchase from the city of the local gas franchise. Attorney Billy Church will also meet with the group.

In other business, council

discussed locking lights on the tennis court to control use, filing a lawsuit in connection with a traffic accident involving a city fire vehicle, accepted the resignation of police officer Ollie Stokes and his replacement, Carl Connell and tabled action on bids from gasoline suppliers for city vehicles.



## Traffic Survey To Be Conducted In Pell City

By MARK BOLTON

PELL CITY — Mayor Hugh Williams told city officials at Tuesday's council session that a representative of the State Highway Department will be conducting a traffic survey here in early March.

The representative, scheduled to be at City Hall at 2:30 p.m. on March 8, will be working to determine the feasibility of opening a road through Pell City Plaza, and putting up a light for a new movie theater which recently opened.

In other business, realtor Ed Ash asked the council to consider raising real estate license fees.

Ash pointed out that every agent who works for him is an independent contractor. But currently the only license required for them is one company license.

"Most agents don't feel like they've payed their fair share in Pell City's growth," Ash said.

Ash noted that for him to list property for sale in Birmingham he must purchase a company license as well as individual licenses for each

agent he employs. Birmingham realtors can sell property in Pell City without purchasing any licenses.

Williams thanked Ash for the suggestion and said the council will study the matter.

The council announced that a representative from the American Brewers Association would meet with city officials concerning Pell City joining the Pitch-In Campaign.

Chamber of Commerce President Pruitt Livingston inquired about new city maps. The council said updated maps were now being published and the Chamber of Commerce could sell ads for the backs of the maps as a fund-raising project if they wished.

Livingston also announced plans to start a United Fund Drive and was told no license would be required.

In other business the council:

—Reported that a Greyhound agent is needed to restore bus service to the city. Freight destined for Pell City must now be picked up in Anniston. The council suggested contacting the owners of the Thrifty In package store on U.S. Highway 78 near Eden about

using that spot for a terminal.

—Passed a motion to reappoint C.M. Jones to the County Mental Health Authority for a six-year term.

—Approved off-premise beer license for: Bessie Walker at Coosa Valley Grocery; Michael Hutchins on 19th Street in the old butcher shop; Joe Swann for the Thrifty In on 19th Street.

—Heard a report that pressure valves were showing extreme fluctuations at different points in town, and suggested the Water Board survey all locations possible in town.

—Discussed the type of lights to be purchased for city tennis courts. The council will study prices of different types of lights and reach a decision later.

—Heard from Police Chief Ruble Bowlin who said his department needed two five-channel radios. A motion was passed to take bids on the radios.

—Agreed to reimburse Ash for fireplugs he purchased for a subdivision. Also agreed to install water meters in Honeyridge subdivision at no charge when they are purchased.

## Pell City council adopts anti-litter control program

Pell City Council adopted a litter-control program Monday night in the regular meeting after hearing a presentation from a representative of the United States Brewer's Association (USBA).

Interest in such a campaign was first expressed by Councilman Raymond

'Bam' Cox at a previous meeting and the full council support was expressed in an anti-litter campaign for the city.

The four phased-program described as a positive litter reduction program, includes education in local schools. Public awareness will be a key to the program's success.

Council also approved updating the telephone system for the police and fire departments which includes putting in direct lines instead of all calls coming through the city hall.

Pell City Fire Department and council are going to investigate entering a formal mutual aid pact with the town of Riverside. The motion was made by Councilman Joe Sawyer who stated, "We always go anyway but we need this in writing."

The pact is one of a continuing effort to get insurance rates reduced in the city and was described as beneficial to both communities. Such agreements are allowed for communities who are within five miles of each other.

Pell City Council also approved a name change of the fire department to Pell City Fire and Rescue Department. The name change will allow volunteers to be

covered under insurance when out on missions other than fighting fires.

Paul Turner reported to council that he had started negotiations with Billy Harmon for the purchase of property east of old Hwy 231, about 20 to 25 acres, which is adjacent to property at the Civic Center.

Council instructed a committee to negotiate with Harmon for the property which will expand the possibilities for future park development.

*St. Clair Times, Pell City, AL Thursday, May 31, 1979*

## **Council takes action**

In Monday night action, the Pell City Council took other action in addition to discussing garbage control and liquor taxes (*see details in stories.*) In addition, the city council:

—voted to have Mayor Williamson declare June 1 to 8 National Safe Boating Week, as requested by the women of the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

—decided to replace a section of plate glass window in the Civic Center which cracked after being shot by a pellet gun and a slingshot. Forrest Walls said the section of bronzed glass should cost \$520.

—discussed prodding the cable TV company to speed up service to the Seddon Shores area. However, they were told that the company doesn't have the cable available at present.

—discussed passing an ordinance appointing a museum board and another law to forbid selling or disposing of items donated to the library for the museum.

—heard a request for a street light. The mayor said he will go and look at the area in question to determine if the light is justified between intersections.

# Pell City may be forced into the landfill business

BY MIKE MOSER  
News-Aegis Editor

Pell City councilmen were informed Monday night that the city may be forced into the garbage and landfill business. This information came on the heels of an announcement by T. L. Harmon Jr. of Urban Sanitation that his company's landfill would be closing.

Councilman Dr. Joe Sawyer informed members of council of the notice stating reasons for the decision based on economics including the rise in costs of fuel, wages and maintenance of equipment.

Sawyer stated that Urban Sanitation would continue to service Riverside and Ashville but that Ragland service would be discontinued this week and that Pell City June 30.

"He did say he would work with us and not leave us out in the cold. We might get a few extra days to find another source," Sawyer noted.

Council discussed purchasing land and a bulldozer to operate the city's own landfill and the possibility of charging other local government dumping fees. Included in the consideration was the cost of land, tractor or bulldozer and personnel to operate the landfill.

Council also will consider the option of once a week pickup service for residential areas but all members seemed in agreement that this would not work for businesses.

No action was taken on the issue but council members will further discuss the situation in an attempt to find an alternative.

The meeting was opened with the traditional closed-door session in the mayor's office with all present except Councilman Paul Turner.

Council also discussed possible solutions to the tax on whiskey problem. Councilman

Charles Lockridge informed council that a new state regulation from the Alcohol and Beverage Control Board will allow spirits to be poured from a large bottle instead of the miniature bottles now in use.

Lockridge predicted a problem in collection of taxes by the city. Clerk Bettie Scott noted that the city was only collecting \$300 per month in taxes from about half a dozen places in the city and police jurisdiction that sales on-premise alcoholic beverages.

Two proposals offered by Lockridge included charging an annual license fee or taxing according to gross sales. No action was taken by council.

In other business, council: -agreed to spend \$1000 to repair a large plate glass window shot up by vandals at the Pell City Civic Center and to replace smaller windows accidentally broken inside the center.

-approved a resolution making June 1-8 safe boating week in Pell City.

-agreed to send a letter of inquiry to Coosa Cable Company at the request of Sedden Shores citizens who desire cable television service.

-approved a resolution that makes objects displayed in the Pell City Museum located in the City Hall permanent possessions of the city, thus protecting the items.

# Water fees adjusted

After months of study, the city council in Pell City voted Monday night to adjust its fees for deposits, reconnections and service line tap-in's for the city water supply system.

Councilman Mike Hudson headed the committee which evaluated the fees and deposits required by the city, and his group found Pell City charging below what other cities were charging and less than what was needed to pay the costs incurred to provide the service.

Deposits for getting water were set at \$35 for a homeowner and \$50 for a renter. Reconnection fees were set at \$35 for a residential user and \$75 for a business user.

Reconnections will be done only during regular hours, and requests after 3 p.m. will wait until the next regular work day.

The existing water ordinance was amended to reflect the changes, after the city council suspended its rules to allow for passage of the amendment Monday night.

The amendment also said that any service line over 40 feet will be \$350 plus costs. Tap in fees ranged from \$350 for a 3/4 inch line to \$500 for a one inch line and \$1000 for a two inch line. Meter deposits went from \$35 for a 3/4 inch line to \$150 for a one inch line to \$450 for a two inch line.

Waterlines over two inches will be charged the cost of materials and labor plus 15 percent.

A new fire hydrant will cost \$1000 plus the cost of tapping the saddle, and a curb stop replacement, when requested by the customer, will run \$30.

In an effort to stop people from turning back on water service when the city turns it off, the amendment ordinance made it a felony offense if an owner or renter turns the water back on. The individual will be prosecuted the ordinance said.

Also, if water bills are paid with a bad check, there will be a returned check fee of \$15 added to the bill.

# Property annexed

Another 110 acres of industrial property were annexed into the city of Pell City Monday night, upon the request of Ed Ash with the Industrial Development Board.

The Osborn property, off of Hwy. 78 and Truss Ferry Road, was under option to the Industrial Development Board. A large part of it was annexed under M-2 (industrial) zoning and a small strip along the highway was annexed under B-2 (general business) zoning.

Ash told the council that adjacent property owners, particularly a church, had been contacted and agreeable to the annexation and zoning.

The city was also asked to accept the easement dedication for a street across the property, which will be built to allow access to a site for a new industry moving in. The name

of the street will be decided upon later, it was said.

Ash reported that a great deal of interest in Pell City has been shown lately by industrial prospects. "I've never had more prospects, this is more than I've ever seen at any one time," Ash said.

He said that of the six now being met with, only one is a business with fewer than 100 employees. A couple of the prospects have over 200 employees, he said.

He credited the upcoming expiration of the industrial revenue bond act as a probable cause for the increased interest.

# Controversy surfaces on Pell City paving project

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
Star Staff Writer

PELL CITY — A change order on nearly \$10,000 worth of street paving was approved by the City Council Monday night even though the work was completed more than six months ago.

Dunn Construction Co. of Birmingham was contracted to do about \$44,000 of paving in south Pell City, but did about \$54,000. The council said the work was authorized, but by whom isn't totally clear.

Municipalities are required by law to take bids on any contract worth more than \$3,000

and Councilman Joe Wheeler said the council as a whole should have approved the work.

Paving in excess of the bid specifications was done in the Fairway Heights subdivision and Shelter Cove Road.

Wheeler said he is responsible for the work in the Fairway Heights subdivision, but said he gave the go-ahead only because he thought that is what the council authorized.

"They (Dunn Construction) called me and asked if they were supposed to pave gutter-to-gutter in Fairway Heights and I said 'yes,'" Wheeler said.

(Please see Pell City, Page 8A)

## Pell City Continued from Page 7A

The councilman said because it is standard procedure to pave streets gutter-to-gutter, he thought that's what the contract called for. He did not find out until later less paving was technically in order.

Gutter-to-gutter paving is standard procedure in Pell City according to Mayor Harvey Watson. Dunn Construction's contract called for less paving because the specifications were based on improper measurements of the city street department.

But no one knows who authorized the extra work on Shelter Cove Road, which constitutes more than half the additional sum the city will pay.

Wheeler said City Engineering Consultant Charles Tucker should know why the Shelter Cove Road work was done.

Tucker, who could not be reached for comment Monday night, was in charge of the work and was to ensure the terms of the contract were met.

Wheeler made the motion the city pay Dunn Construction the extra \$9,313.87 it was due. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ricky Staples and was approved unanimously without any discussion. Councilman Roy Holladay was not present at the meeting. The council also:

- Authorized Watson to enter into an agreement with the state Highway Department to get new traffic signals on U.S. 231 at Second and Third avenues North.

- Authorized City Clerk Bettie Scott to pay for sewer connections in the Park Hill area.

# City agrees to aid

A sewage problem at a yogurt shop in Pell City may be solved soon, if the city and the shop owner can finish arrangements to put in a connecting line and grinder pump.

City Engineer Charles Tucker looked at the problem for the city council this past month and suggested that a pump be put in by the owner and the city run a line under Hwy. 231 to connect the pump into existing sewerage lines.

Bill Waldrop, the owner, had appeared before the council last month to seek help in solving a sewage problem at his place. The health inspector Terry Young threatened to close the shop down because the septic tank was not handling the wastes adequately.

Waldrop had not even realized his place was on a septic tank, thinking for years that it was already hooked up to city sewer lines. The shop is in a low spot which would cost \$13,500 if gravity flow lines were utilized.

Instead, Waldrop agreed to pay the cost of putting in the pump (estimated cost \$2500) if the city ran a one and a half inch line under the highway to hook up to it (estimated cost \$1000).

The property owner will also have to pay the normal tap in fee for business, which is \$750.

"Sounds fair to me," Waldrop said after hearing the arrangement.

Some discussion occurred among the mayor and council after Waldrop asked the council if it would pay for maintenance and operation of the pump after it was installed, but that was a situation the city did not want to get into. Although the city had accepted the donation of a sewer lift station after it was installed by a trailer park owner in another part of town, that was a different situation. "I don't know of any other situation in town like this one," Mayor Lawrence Fields said.

In other action at the meeting, Hugh Holladay was appointed as city judge after the recommendations of a search committee were announced. The committee chaired by Councilman James McGowan had talked to seven persons interested in the post.

It was also recommended that an alternate judge be appointed in case the regular city judge was out of town. The council agreed to name Ray Lowery to the alternate post. The appointments were made for

# sewerage problem

two years.

A resolution was adopted by the city council to extend the note of the Industrial Development Board with Colonial Bank. The note is for \$29,000, and the development board is paying the \$5,000 principal and interest due, it was said.

A report was also heard on the drunk driver ride home service offered during the Christmas holiday season. Five rides were actually given, with results not as good as organizers had hoped. Cards offering free rides home were distributed at area businesses. The free service will be offered again next summer, it was said.

Council member Betty Turner briefly discussed the complaints she had been hearing concerning the sewerage rates. Some property owners were hoping the rates could be lowered, and she was told the rates could not be lowered until the debt on the system was lowered.

However, Mayor Fields said that when the new lines are added to the sewage collection system, the additional customers may increase the base and therefore spread the

cost across more people. The wider base of support may enable the city to lower the sewer rates, he said. "After all, we're only using 25 percent of the capacity of the system now," the mayor said.

Council member Johnnie DeGaris requested a street light at the dead end of 7th Avenue North, in response to resident requests. Residents have had tires slashed and a lot of turn-around traffic at the dead end, and they feel a street light there would be helpful.

Mayor Fields thought that the city put in street lights usually at but someone in the audience said that lights have been put at the end of streets as well.

Eight people on the street had signed a petition requesting the street light, DeGaris said.

A light was also requested at the intersection of Hwy. 34 and Walker's Road. Residents in that area have been waiting for city water lines to be extended to them, Mayor Fields noted, saying that Justice Department approval had not yet been received for the annexation of that area.



# Pell City woman takes

By CAROL PAPPAS

PELL CITY — When Billie Faye Allen went before the City Council Monday night, it was too late to remedy what had happened to her, but she wanted her story told anyway.

She blames the loss of her land on city hall officials, charging that she was not given all the pertinent information concerning how to legally put a mobile home on her property after her house burned.

The area in which she lived — just off 19th Street — prohibits mobile homes, and she was forced to sell her land and move to a local mobile home park.

Mrs. Allen said she was told by the city clerk that she would not be able to put a mobile home there because the adjoining property owners would oppose it.

She said she also went to Mayor Harvey Watson, and she claims the mayor told her to circumvent the law by pulling a mobile home onto the property after dark, remove the wheels and axles, cut off the tongue and block it in.

Following the meeting, Watson denied Mrs. Allen's allegation. He said he may have told her "If it was me, I'd put the trailer on my property," but he claimed he didn't know where she lived when he gave that advice nor did he know the zoning.

"He's lying. He didn't deny it in front of me, did he?" Mrs. Allen said on Tuesday, referring to no denial from the mayor during the public meeting.

"I'll put my hand on the Bible anytime he wants to. I don't believe he can," Mrs. Allen charged.

Mrs. Allen also alluded to discriminatory treatment, noting that another mobile home was allowed in the area before the zoning was changed to make it legal.

She said she went to the power company, asking how electricity was connected to that mobile home

when it was placed in a residential zone.

SHE SAID SHE was told that the building inspector "made a mistake" and authorized the hook-up.

The mayor said the owner of that mobile home, Kyle Gray, "went through proper procedure as far as I know. He didn't move in until it (the zoning change) was finalized."

Mrs. Allen, though, claims she approached the Gray residence the same night the City Council changed the zone to allow the mobile home. The woman who came to the door told her they had been living there for two weeks, she said. "I've been done wrong," she concluded.

Councilman Roy Holladay, supported by Councilman James McGowan, said that if she never went before the Planning Commission, the Council had no jurisdiction in the matter.

In other business, the Council:

— Tabled a request for a private club license for Ed and Mary Wilson for Mary's Lounge;

— Approved McGowan's request to attend the National League of Cities Congress in Las Vegas, Nevada, Dec. 12-16, with Councilman Rickey Staples voting "no" and the mayor abstaining;

— Agreed to solicit bids for additional work at the city park to

# fight to Council

get it ready to open by this summer; — Agreed to allow Stan Mackin of First Birmingham Securities present a new plan in connection with refinancing the city's bond issues and selling the gas system.

However, the city two weeks ago

authorized Mike Cochran of First Commercial to proceed with his plan.

The Council now says it will allow any firms wanting to make a presentation to do so by the next Council meeting, Oct. 26.

6— DAILY HOME, Talladega-Sylacauga-Pell City, Ala., Wednesday, Oct. 14, 1987

## Says rights violated

Editor, Daily Home:

This is my rebuttal to city hall's recently published statements concerning violation of my rights.

On Sept. 28 the Pell City Council rezoned a tract of land on 19th St. South to permit a mobile home on property that was previously restricted. I personally did not object to this action, except for the fact that I also had made a request for a mobile home permit on adjacent land, however I was denied.

On Feb. 19, my home was destroyed by fire. I had no home and land I couldn't use. I asked twice for a mobile home permit and an opportunity to appear before the Planning Commission. I was told NO by the city clerk, that there was no need to pursue.

The statments from city hall indicates that no one was knowledgeable of my crisis situation, but the entire council knew! This is a matter of record from the minutes of the Sept. 14 council meeting, when Councilman Staples stated openly that all of them knew my requests had been refused.

Betty Scott stated in the newspaper that she was sorry, but this was not her fault. She complied with the law. The 14th amendment of the Constitution of the United States says this action by the city was wrong.

I now reside in a trailer park. It is time for all citizens to be treated equally.

BILLIE FAYE ALLEN

Lot 93, Shadedale Pell City

For City Employees—

## Council Sets Work Periods

BY CAROL PAPPAS

The Pell City City Council adopted a resolution Monday night setting the work period for all city employees which will go into effect April 1.

The resolution establishes a 28 day work period and a pay period of weekly, semi-month-

ly and monthly.

It further states that time and a half shall be paid to all employees who work "in excess of 40 hours per week," except firemen, policemen, part time, seasonal and salaried employees.

Councilman Forrest Walls reported on the amount of money it would take to get the swimming pools in shape for the summer. G & L Swimming Pool Company esitimated the cost at \$20,185.

The work includes installing a new filtering system and Walls assured the council that although this work will be temporary, it is a foundation for permanent work to be done next year.

Councilman "Bam" Cox added, either "patch 'em up or close 'em up," and the Council voted to accept G & L's low bid.

The council approved Southern Railway's agreement to give the city a right of way for beautification purposes from 16th Street to the viaduct on the north side of the railroad tracks except where cars are unloaded or where another person has leased the land.

Southern Railway also requested that the city raise the speed limit at Seddon Crossings from 25 mph to 35 mph. The council denied the request explaining there are seven unguarded crossings in the city now and it did not want to raise the speed limit for safety reasons.

In other council business, the council agreed to waive licenses for the City Attorney firm Church, Trussell and Robinson. Licenses for the attorneys amounted to \$600 per year.

# Council questions beer tax

Pell City's mayor and council members are questioning the source and proposed disbursement of more than \$164,000 in beer tax collections by the county.

The funds in question were derived from the county's sale of beer tax stamps to distributors since the county voted to go "wet" in the late 1960's. The majority of this revenue is redistributed to cities within the county which sell beer and to the Library Board and School Board. Part of this tax income, however, is continually left over and unaccounted for after disbursement and has for years been placed in an account which by November of this year will have accumulated with interest to \$164,700.89, according to County Commission Chairman James Satterfield.

Under a plan of disbursement outlined by Satterfield, a bill, which is presently being advertised for introduction to the state legislature, will authorize disbursement of the accumulated tax funds to county schools and to numerous agencies and community projects across the county.

None of the money is earmarked for the City of Pell City by Satterfield's guidelines. The Council Monday night questioned the source of this excess beer tax account and will ask city attorney Billy Church to seek an explanation from the county governing body.

In other matters before the Council Monday night, St. Clair County Child Development Center director Vickie Brown was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority board. Mrs. Brown's term will expire in April 1983.

The Council also agreed to ask Pell City First United Methodist Church minister Ray Shubert and Ingram Manor Nursing Home director Don Jernigan if either would be interested in filling the other vacancy on the board.

Bids were opened Monday night for purchase of a new fire truck for the city Fire Department. Three firms submitted bids from a low of \$83,531 from Harry Harless Co. of Birmingham to a high bid of \$91,633 from Jack Cocke Co. of Mobile. The third bid was \$84,131.18 from Quality Manufacturing Co. of Eastaboga.

The bids were turned over to the Fire Committee and Fire Chief Ben Windsor for study and recommendation to the

city. The Council has the option of accepting none of the bids.

Bids were also opened for the sale of timber on a tract of land adjacent to the Pell City Civic Center proposed for use as a recreational park. Bids on timber at the site were submitted by North Alabama Forest Kimberly-Clarke at \$1,528 and the higher bid which was accepted from North Alabama Forest Products Co. of Odenville at \$1,800.

The only other action taken up by the Council was adoption of a resolution on a housing and land use plan to be submitted to the Alabama Development Office in Montgomery. This plan will include the recreational park project near the Civic Center, the city redevelopment project now underway downtown, and housing improvements in the city.

The plan is submitted as required by ADO for the projects which will receive partial federal funding.

## Threat of \$50-per-day penalty

# Letter speeds downtown work

By SUZANNE CRITTENDEN

Pell City's downtown street work has "apparently speeded up" since a letter expressing the city's concern with the lack of progress was sent to Warren Brothers Construction Company, Mayor Hugh Williamson told the council Monday night.

The letter, dated April 17, 1978, attempted to remind Lewis S. Ramsey Jr., Warren Construction, of a prior agreement which stated that the work must be completed by Aug. 10, 1978 to avoid a penalty of \$50 per calendar day in "liquidated damages." The letter closed with, "This will be enforced."

"Looks like we can start counting the money," Councilman Raymond Cox said.

The construction, which began March 1, was to start on the south side of Cogswell Avenue and proceed west by March 21. According to the letter, "Six weeks later the first block of work is no completed."

"The main problem I can see," Mayor Williamson said, "is that the work is not supervised and there is a lack of knowledge among the workers as to what the exact job is.

"Since getting the letter I think the work has obviously moved faster."

In other action, the council, while expressing their discontent with being forced to enact something against their will, approved an ordinance providing for non-discrimination of housing in Pell City.

The language of the ordinance was provided by the federal government and according to Ken Groves, urban planner, in order to continue getting funds from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the city must pass the ordinance.

"The ordinance is really redundant," he said, "because most realtors and lending institutions have such

regulations, but to continue getting the funds the city needs to pass it. By signing it the council is showing its good faith."

"I just hate to have something rammed down my throat, but I guess we have to if we want to keep getting the monies," Cox said.

Before approving the ordinance Mayor Williamson said, "We have had very few problems with equal housing in Pell City."

Representing some of the downtown merchants, Lamar Williamson requested the council's support in an effort to have the front lawn of the Court House paved and used as a parking lot.

"I don't believe you would ever get to first base with it, but speaking for myself, I'd be in favor of it," Mayor Williamson said.

"Using 45 degree angle parking," he continued, "you could probably get about 70 parking spaces and with some work it could be made attractive."

"I don't believe I have ever seen a pretty parking lot," Cox said. "I'd hate to mess up the lawn for parking."

No formal action was taken by the council on this request.

In final business, the council gave the rescue squad permission to hold a road block the weekend of May 6th and 7th to raise money to pay off some of their bills.

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. Feb. 16, 1978

# Council Notes Error In Sales Tax Information

In regular session of the Pell City City Council Monday night, a correction was made with regard to the sales tax in the official statement describing Pell City to be used in the sale of warrants in the current bond issue.

The official statement includes the financial system, gas system, water system, who the council members are and various other aspects of the city.

When it was drawn up, the sales tax had already increased to two per cent and that figure was not quoted in the report. It had to be corrected before the council could approve it.

The council authorized the mayor to execute and deliver the official statement to purchasers of these warrants.

Councilman Forrest Walls reported that in order to get the swimming pools in working condition for the summer, it would cost the city approximately \$21,000.

Breaking down the cost per pool, Walls explained that the one on the hill would cost \$4019.40 because it needs a new filter system; the rec hall pool would cost \$11,700 and the wading pool, \$5603.

The council instructed him to get further information before it takes any action on the matter.

Councilman Paul Turner said the Birmingham Metropolitan Development Board had been helpful in the past in attaining new industry for the

area and suggested that the council help finance the search for new industry in the amount of \$2000 this year.

The council agreed to pay the money and re-evaluate it each year before paying again.

Officer Smith of the Fraternal Order of Police asked the council for permission to hold a carnival on the vacant lot between Kentucky Fried Chicken and Gray and Goodgame Garage in May.

Councilmen Bam Cox and Paul Turner opposed the measure saying it was nothing but a headache, but added that the council didn't turn the Jaycees down last year and it would be unfair to refuse the FOP.

The council granted permission, but said there would only be one per year and that civic organizations would have to alternate years.

In other business, the council tabled a decision on the salary under the newly adopted personnel system. The problem stems from

# City Studying Gas Hike

Following five increases in one year in cost of gas to the City of Pell City by suppliers, the Council will consider a proposal at its regular meeting Monday night to raise the cost of gas to Pell City users.

Cost of gas supplied for Eden and Oak Ridge has increased by 22% since January 1, 1977 and by 25.5% for the Pell City area, according to

records in City Hall.

City Clerk Bettie Scott said the City must pay a "demand charge" for Pell City each day, regardless of how much gas is used. This demand charge has increased from 2.276 to 2.70 for Pell City since January 1, 1977.

In addition to the demand charge, Pell City must pay a commodity charge for gas

actually used. This rate has also increased.

The Council met in a special session Monday night to compare Pell City rates with the neighboring towns of Childersburg, Ragland and Sylacauga.

Childersburg now charges 3.38 for the first 300 cubic feet, Ragland \$3.00 for the first 300 cubic feet and Sylacauga

charges 2.15. However, Sylacauga's rate has been in effect since July, 1977, and that City plans to add 15 cents to this base rate. Pell City's present rate is \$2.25 for the first 300 cubic feet.

If approved by the Council Monday night, the increased rate will appear on the January billing.

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. Jan. 19, 1978

To Birmingham Firm—

# City Awards Redevelopment Bid

BY CAROL PAPPAS

In Pell City Council action Monday night, the low bid of \$495,500 by Warren Bros. in Birmingham for the downtown redevelopment project was accepted.

Bids were taken December 8 and the Warren Bros. bid was \$500 less than the amount the city has available for the task.

Work will begin after Jan. 1 and upon its completion, the council plans to apply for more funding to finance the

redvelopment of the area included in the original plan.

The original plan, bid on in September, far exceeded engineering estimates and was therefore reduced to a smaller area. The low bid then for paving, curb and gutter, lighting, etc. was \$815,000 with an engineering estimate of \$395,000.

Low bid for upgrading of sewer, relocation of water lines, etc. at that time was \$583,000, exceeding the engin-

earing estimate of \$316,000.

In compliance with the Judicial Articles which require that municipal judges be lawyers, Dennis Abbott was appointed municipal judge. Abbott, a Pell City attorney, was approved for the position on the recommendation of Mayor Hugh Williamson. Other applicants were Larry Ward, Talmadge Fambrough, and Donald R. Hamlin.

Representatives from three insurance companies ap-

peared before the council to explain their policies for the city's 68 employees. Companies represented were Blue Cross, Liberty National, and McGriff and Seibels. There will be a special meeting to discuss the policies.

Bruce Etheridge also appeared before the council, to ask for city water service in his area on Highway 34. The council instructed him to draw up a petition signed by all

property owners on his side of the road and including a description of the land there.

It was also decided that the council would check into the possibility of purchasing teletype communication equipment and charging other municipalities a small amount each month if they want to use it.

The same scale for Christmas bonuses for city employees will be used this year, but in place of turkeys and hams given in the past, \$10 will be added to the bonus amount.

## Abbott New City Attorney Here

Pell City attorney, Dennis Abbott was appointed Municipal Judge Monday at the City Council meeting.

Abbott, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abbott, received his undergraduate degree in

Pre Law at Auburn University in 1973 and graduated from Cumberland School of Law in June 1976.

Abbott, a native of Pell City, has been practicing law here since September of 1976. He

and his wife Jackie have one son, three year-old Matt.

As municipal judge, Abbott will be hearing traffic and city ordinance violation cases.



# Pell City councilmen studying pension hike

By SUZANNE CRITTENDEN

The Pell City City Council was undecided Monday night concerning the alternatives of a bill passed by the Alabama Legislature which makes it optional for municipalities to increase the retirement pay to those city employees who retired prior to Oct. 1, 1977.

Act 559, referred to as a cost of living increase bill, allows municipalities to increase the amount of money paid to the state retirement system which in turn increases the amount paid to former city employees.

The act provides a break-down on present pensions and the amount of increase needed to meet the cost of living. For cities that pay \$200 a month to retirees the increase would be \$60 dollars.

"We have six former employees that we pay \$200 a month," Mayor Hugh Williamson said. "If we meet this increase it will cost the city an additional \$4320 annually."

"It's hard to say no, but it's hard to say where the money would come from," Councilman Joe Lockridge said.

The city must notify the state of its intentions by June 1, according to information received from the state.

"If we don't answer the letter, maybe we can do what we want and consider giving an increase but not as large as \$60," Mayor Williamson suggested.

Following much discussion, the council voted to turn the matter over to the finance committee for further study concerning the possible effects of giving the increase.

In other business, Lockridge informed the council that it would be possible for the city to employ umpires out of Attalla for a cost of approximately \$40 a night to assist in the city's little league program.

Councilman Forrest Walls suggested the possibility of the city allowing the pool to remain open Mondays rather than closing it as has been done in the past.

"Since we don't have to drain the pool anymore," Walls said, "we ought to think seriously about keeping it open that extra day."

The council took no action on either matter.

Stating that their presence would be an asset to future council meetings, it was decided that every city department head would be invited to attend all future meetings.

## PC council tables gas extension request; appoints poll watchers

In a light business session Monday night, the Pell City Council appointed poll watchers for the upcoming municipal elections on August 10 and tabled a request by residents in Harrisburg and Whitesville for extension of gas lines into their area.

Poll watchers include Sam Cornett, Mary Sweatt, William Burke and Jessie Dean Smith for the Eden box; Mrs. Wayne Spradley, Melvin Burnham, Patricia Smith and Jennie S. Lonergan for the Avondale Mills box; Bill Yarbrough, Deanna Lawley, Vera Myers and Ernest White for one Pell City box; Peggy West, Martha Griffin, Lee A. Sawyer and J.T. Holladay for the other Pell City box; and Charles Abbott, Mary Mays, Sue Frain and Nellie Ann Posey Robbie for the Cropwell box.

In other action, the council:

—Agreed to issue a permit for a rally by the United Knights of the Ku Klux Klan after a request by Roy Price for the third Saturday in August. Mayor Paul Turner said it was the policy of the council not to interfere with peaceful assemblies of any kind.

—Approved roadblocks for the St. Clair Emergency Rescue Squad for Saturday and the St. Clair County Child Development Center for August 21. The roadblocks are to be held at the times and locations designated

by the council.

—Asked Police Chief Ruble Bowlin to check into a street light request in back of Mrs. L.P. Cosper's house.

—Agreed to pave the Iola Roberts School driveway when paving is done.

—Tabled a bid of \$3,514 for lighting the west parking lot at the Civic Center;

—Tabled a bid of \$4,836 for maintenance of all heating and cooling units at the Civic

Center.

—Voted to let the Street Department recommend whether or not to move a road at Lee's Landing;

—Voted to allow Suburban Gas Co. move to a new location subject to approval of the State Fire Marshall;

—Agreed to get prices on mosquito control machines;

—Tabled a suggestion that a pest control service be hired to take care of a water bug problem at the Civic Center;

—Voted to bar anyone from selling concessions at a city park or recreation facility;

—Voted to pave Rosedale Road and Norwood Drive in the Rosedale Subdivision.

## Georgia firm low bidder on water tank project

The contract to build a one million gallon water tank in Pell City will be awarded to Brown Steel Contractors of Noonan, Ga., THE NEWS has learned.

The Georgia firm was the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$155,405 and the contract is expected to be signed next week. Bids were opened Tuesday in Pell City City Hall.

The one million gallon tank is being constructed along with an existing 500 gallon tank as part of the installation of a new water system in Pell City.

The Pell City Council, in its final meeting of the term Monday night, voted to take part in the DWI counterattack program in the county.

The council was asked to take part in the program by Ruth Mollett of the Jefferson-Blount-S. Clair Regional Alcoholism Council. Ms. Mollett told the council that the program has been effective but lack of funds

has forced the closing of the St. Clair County branch of the Alcoholism Council. She explained that the school meets on the fourth week of the month.

The municipal judge in the city will send a person on a  
(See Project Page 12A)

driving while intoxicated charge to the school. If he gets a certificate showing he went to the school, the charge will be reduced and his license protected.

In other action, the council:  
—Welcomed visitors Hugh Williamson and Dr. Joe Sawyer. Williamson will be mayor for the next four years while Sawyer will serve on the council;

—Received a petition signed by 130 residents along Coal City Road against the issuance of an on-premise beer license to Duck's Tavern. The license was not granted after none of the council members made a motion that it be granted;

—Heard a request from James Hayes to a six-inch water line to his subdivision near Dry Creek Road;

—Agreed to follow the same

(Continued from Page 1)

policy as last year in issuing the Pell City Jaycees a license for their circus on Nov. 5;

—Heard a report from Mayor Paul Turner that Alabama Gas Company would not serve residents down Highway 34;

—Learned that the fan had been installed in the recreation hall;

—Read a letter from councilman Harvey Watson, who was absent from the meeting because of illness. Watson said his four years on the council were very rewarding and said he enjoyed working with the council members;

—Agreed to adopt a resolution commending Watson on his service to the city; and

—Agreed to pass to a resolution commending Turner on the job he did as interim mayor.

*For Pell City---*

# Project approval near; garbage pick-up offered

Word is expected this week from the State Highway Department on Pell City's planned downtown renovation project, with bid requests going out soon afterward.

Mayor Hugh Williamson said during Monday night's City Council meeting that final step approval from the Highway Department should be received before week's end and the long-awaited facelift of Cogswell Avenue can begin. The project was undertaken in 1975 following a disastrous tornado that swept through downtown Pell City.

The urban renewal program is expected to take 156 working days to complete, though the schedule has been thrown off by a required resubmission of plans to the state for the approval pending at this time.

Many hours of planning have gone into the project as the city works with a Birmingham architectural firm in preliminary stages of the development, down to sketches and artist conceptions of the area to be refurbished. Merchants along the stretch of Cogswell Avenue are expected to participate in the "new look" by exterior renovations of their buildings to coincide with the city's work. Eventually, the plans call for increased parking area, sidewalk canopies, addition of flowers and other plants and similar appearance changes to the scene. Also involved in the work will be improvements in water and sewer lines along the street.

The City Council took under consideration Monday night a proposal by T.L. Harmon Jr., of Urban Sanitation, for his company to assume the work of commercial garbage pick-up in Pell City with purchase of the city's two garbage container pick-up vehicles. In a

letter to the council, Harmon proposed a five-year contract with a five-year option on the commercial pick-up now performed by the city Sanitation Department.

An estimated rate scale for the service was listed in Harmon's proposal, ranging from once per week pick-up at \$35 and twice weekly at \$53 for the smallest listed container of four cubic yards, to \$65 weekly and \$90 twice weekly for a ten cubic yard container. These rates may be higher than presently charged by the city to many customers, the council decided, and although they agreed the city might do well to get out of the commercial garbage pick-up business, they chose to compile estimates on how much the businesses now pay to determine whether it would be fair to those involved to convert to a private pick-up contract. SL1

Another factor in the consideration is the city charges only for the amount of garbage picked up from a container whereas the Harmon contract would charge a flat rate whether the container were full or empty.

A decision on the Harmon proposal was delayed until the estimates can be gathered and further discussion at a future council meeting.

eBF In other action of the Monday council session, Union State Bank was named low-bid winner of a loan to the city for up to \$250,000 for water system improvements. The loan will be repaid at issuance of bonds on the water system expansion project.

Union State's 4.49 percent interest rate submitted for the loan was low bid to the only other bid submitted, by Peoples' Bank at 4.75 percent interest rate.

# City renovation project

After numerous delays, Pell City's downtown renovation project appears underway again with a modified version of the original plans that ran over federal funding allocations this summer.

The "facelift" project was slated to be well in progress by this time, but construction bids opened in September were double the cost estimates figured by designers. Bids are to be resubmitted for opening on December 8 after the original designs were put back in several areas of planning.

The project originally called for improvements along First Avenue North and Cogswell Avenue, including exterior refurbishing on the streets, sidewalks and parking areas in addition to work on utilities. The modified plans include only Cogswell Avenue in the initial phase with other sections of downtown to be considered later.

CHARLES TUCKER, of Charles Tucker Engineering,

presented the new drawings to the City Council Monday night, explaining that the revisions in planning should bring the expense closer to funding received from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The work by Tucker involves the actual exterior renovation plans; another part of this phase involves sewer and water improvements to the section, the designs for this stage of the project handled by Cobb, Adams & Benton Engineering of Birmingham. Don Cosby, representing the firm, told the council he will proceed with his part of the planning after the results of bids are in for Tucker's portion of the project.

The consulting representatives were reportedly very upset when the bids opened in early September were so far above cost estimates. The renovation work was figured to run approximately \$395,000, but the low bid received was for \$815,000 from a Gadsden firm. The utilities work was

THE ST. CLAIR NEWS AEGIS

## modified

estimated at \$316,000, but the low bid from Tucker Brothers Construction of Pell City was \$533,000. Work had been expected to begin in September, but confronted with the miscalculated costs the council decided to wait until bids could be resubmitted. Tucker said Monday that bids will be advertised Nov. 17, 24 and Dec. 1 and opened at 1 p.m. on Dec. 8.

The work involved will include planting of trees along the Avenue, installing decorative lighting fixtures, sidewalk canopies and other appearance articles. The proposed revisions will call for using less expensive materials, such as concrete mixtures and planting smaller trees, all with the idea of holding down expenses wherever possible.

The section of Cogswell involved in the first phase runs between 18th and 21st Streets. The work will not begin until (See Project Page 4A.)

After the holiday season now—if the bids are acceptable in submission.

A group of citizens presented the council with a petition Monday night calling for the suspension of four Pell City police officers named by the department as being involved in a car chase-shooting incident in the city on Sunday, Nov. 6. The petition was signed by more than 160 persons last Friday.

The delegation included relatives of Jeff Molson who has been charged with several offenses including assault with intent to kill an officer during the vehicle chase through the streets of Pell City that ended in the shooting of Molson as he was reported attempting to escape on foot.

The petition was turned over to the council's Police Committee for study and recommendation.

The council acted Monday to reestablish the city court system required under state guidelines. The council had decided at a previous meeting to retain the local court system rather than turn this authority over to the state court system.

The council approved Judge E. O. Littlejohn to preside over the municipal court, and proposed a change in the sessions from weekly to twice monthly held on Saturdays.

The council tabled for further consideration a discussion of the judge's salary.

The disbursement of revenue sharing funds was approved, this money previously earmarked for retirement of the debt on Pell City Civic Center. The amount in this allocation was \$130,000.

Approval was given for the purchase of \$750 in materials for construction of a small storage shed at the city shop for protection of city-owned mower and tools. The building will be constructed by city employees working under a federal grant program.

Two off-premises beer license requests were approved by the council, one to Bob Travis who is purchasing Pell City Curb Market, the second to Donald Hannah at Hannah Grocery on Old Coal City Road.

Note: It was stated in last month's city council meeting coverage that Councilman Charles Lockeridge proposed studying the possibility of a single swimming pool in Pell City near the Civic Center to replace the two present pools which are in need of repair. This was in error attributing the proposal to Lockeridge who was, in fact, opposed to the suggestion brought up by another council member. The proposal to study this matter was approved with a dissenting vote from Lockeridge.

# Council Hears Money Requests

BY BARBARA DEUMLER

Monday night's regular meeting of the Pell City Council was another series of requests for money, with the exception of one request on the opposite side of the fence from Hank Harmon who asked that 18 acres of his property be removed from the city limits.

Harmon told the Council that he had an access problem on his property requiring a right of way from Avondale Mills. He said Avondale Mills would not grant the right of way and that in order for him

to develop the property, he needed it removed from the city limits. The Council voted unanimously to approve his request.

Mrs. Sally Childs, president of the Civic Chorus Committee and Mr. Bill Waller requested an appropriation of \$1,000 from the City to support the Civic Chorus.

Mrs. Childs informed the Council of the Chorus expenses, now operating on an \$8,000 budget. The request was referred to the Finance Committee.

In other business, the Council:

--Referred to the Police Committee a request from the Rescue Squad to solicit funds from persons parking lots to aid the widow of the late Theodore Bowman.

--Approved a street light for the end of Meadowview Drive.

--Posponed to the next meeting a request for 20 uniforms for Babe Ruth baseball team.

--Discussed a bid of \$6,700 to install lights at the Farm League Field. The Council took no action on the matter.

--Agreed to take bids on side-loader garbage trucks.

--Agreed to building a loading zone for Child Development Center for handicapped children and make no-parking area in front of the Center.

--Agreed to hire two new police officers on a probationary period.

--Discussed the federal program which would pay a doctor's salary for two years if the City can provide facilities and expenses. Several possibilities for space were discussed, but no action was taken.

# Council Approves New Railroad Speed Limit

The Pell City Council, meeting in regular session Monday night, voted to raise the speed limit for trains passing through Pell City from the present 10 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, but stopped short of granting an increase to 35 miles per hour as requested by Southern Railway spokesman pending the "long-awaited" repair of several traffic crossings.

Appearing before the Council to make the request on behalf of Southern were Tom Gurley and Glenn Taylor. Both men argued that such a request was not only "safe" due to recent crossing improvements, but would mean that trains would spend less time blocking automobile traffic along Pell City crossings.

After expressing early opposition to the move to increase the speed limit, Councilman R. F. Cox said he would go along with a 15-mile-per-hour increase providing Southern

proceeded to correct "dangerous conditions" at two Pell City crossings. The Truss Ferry Rd. Crossing was most often mentioned in connection as being in need of repair.

Pell City Mayor A. E. "Dill" Nixon told Gurley and Taylor that a higher limit might be approved at a later date.

"We'll try 25 miles per hour now and see what happens," Nixon said referring to Southern's promise of quick action in repairing the remaining crossings.

In other business, the council:

— Agreed that the city would continue to rotate purchase of automotive parts between Dixie Auto Parts and Pell City Auto Parts, after both firms submitted comparable price lists.

— On a motion from Councilman Forrest Walls, voted to end a lease held by the city on a prospective landfill site at Coal City.

— Voted to tie in all city gas lines and operate off a single meter to conserve gas supplies.

— On a motion from Councilman R. F. Cox, voted to install two streetlights on Hwy. 231 S. near the viaduct.

— Agreed that there would not be enough time to place a city school referendum on an upcoming ballot.

— Agreed that future city policy on extending water services outside corporate limits would have to be flexible and take into account the size of water reserves.

— Voted to close the west portion of Viewpoint Circle, which is located in Riviera Estates, following a local petition.

— On a motion from Cox, voted to grant an off-premises beer license to Opal's Discount Store, located on Hwy. 231 N., following an application submitted by Opal May.

— Voted, on a motion from Councilman Paul Turner, to extend a \$20,000 note on deposit at Peoples Bank for six months.

— Discussed the possibility of leasing a portion of city property which will not be used for the civic center complex in the near future.

— In final action, voted to pay the routine bills.

• OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. May 15, 1975

# City To Bill Co-op For Back Taxes

BY AUGUST LEHE

The Pell City Council found itself caught between two "powers" during Monday night's regular session, as a delegation of Alabama Power officials came before the council to argue against issuance of a franchise to Coosa Valley Electric Co-op.

The controversy centered around attempts by the co-op to obtain a franchise to allow the firm to continue to serve customers in a 400 acre area south of Stemley Bridge Rd., which has been scheduled for incorporation into the city limits of Pell City.

At the last meeting of the Council two weeks ago, council members heard a delegation from the Talladega-based co-op argue in favor of the

move, saying that such a franchise would prevent Alabama Power, which normally operates in all unincorporated areas, from running lines parallel with those of the co-op. The spokesman also expressed fears that the co-op might eventually be squeezed out by Alabama Power.

Monday night's delegation from Alabama Power, headed by Harold Williams of Birmingham, asserted that the council would best serve the city by refusing to grant a franchise to the co-op. Williams argued that Alabama Power could not and would not move to take over customers presently served by the co-op, but had a moral and legal obligation to serve

any customer, anywhere in the city limits, who requested service from Alabama Power. Williams also reminded city fathers of Alabama Power's original franchise with the city that empowered the firm to expand whenever corporate limits expand.

The discussion also centered around the fact that Alabama Power paid roughly \$55,000 in taxes to the city, while little or no revenue was allegedly obtained from the co-op. The council deferred a final decision pending further study, but did vote to bill the co-op for back taxes, following a motion by Councilman Joe Sawyer.

In other business Monday night, the council:

--Voted to suspend metered parking in Pell City until Dec. 24, at the request of the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce.

--Voted to purchase a CB base station to be installed in police headquarters at a cost of approximately \$150. The unit would be utilized to monitor emergency channel 9

in conjunction with the volunteer REACT emergency team.

--Was advised by City Attorney Billy Church that no incorporation could become effective until a legal description of the property to be annexed is delivered to the city. This, he said, was a responsibility of citizens seeking annexation.

--Voted, on a motion by Councilman Sawyer, to install 16 new street lights in the Pine Harbor community.

--Voted on a motion from Paul Turner, to check bank rates before accepting a bid for the borrowing of \$20,000 by the city.

--Voted to grant a private club license to Mary's Lounge on Hwy 78 East.

--Voted to grant a liquor license to Charles McGraw for the Lakeside Lounge.

--Voted to recommend that the St. Clair County Commission not move the county landfill from its present location.

All council members were present and voting at Monday night's meeting.



# Insurance, water eyed by council

Thursday, January 30, 1975 . . . ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS

The Pell City Council Monday night studied the possibility of adding additional insurance on city properties and heard a report from City Engineer Charles Tucker that bids had been opened on the proposed water tank and the drilling of the two new wells.

Mayor A.E. Nixon reported that City Hall and the Library were insured after repairmen - damaged have been working on the properties since the Jan. 10 tornado. The city is currently considering increasing their insurance on City Hall, Library, water tanks, recreation hall and other city properties from \$1,100,000 to \$2,300,000.

Tucker reported to the council that one bid had been received on the water tank. He said wages have gone up since Jan. 1 and also delivery problems have caused delays.

Tucker told the council that three bids were received on the wells and that they were "awfully close." He said, "What we did was take the worst conditions to submit to the contractors." Tucker explained that bids were submitted on wells that would be drilled 250 feet, the maximum. "The bids were over what I'd hoped for but we'll hope they

don't have to drill over 250 feet," the engineer reported.

Tucker also reported on the progress on installing a sewage system in the Eden area. He said he had drawn up two different schemes. The first would cost each resident \$1,507 while

(See Council Page 2A)

—Directed Church to study the proposed flood insurance plan for the city;

—Voted to put a stripe down the middle of 19th St.

At Council Meet—

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. Oct. 28, 1976

## Strip Mining Issue Arises

BY AUGUST LEHE

Environmental issues highlighted Monday night's regular session of the Pell City Council as city fathers tackled the question of possible strip mining within city limits and also heard a presentation on the need for city participation in the current 208 federal water study.

The strip mining controversy arose when City Clerk Bettye Scott informed Mayor Hugh Williamson and members of the council that the Woodstock Mineral Corp. had recently inquired about city policy concerning strip mining within corporate limits. The firm, according to Miss Scott's report, claimed mineral rights to two Pell City properties was said located near Spanish Garden Cut-Off Road and adjoining U.S. Hwy 78 East.

The immediate reaction expressed by council members to the prospects of strip mining in Pell City varied from apprehension to outright opposition to such a move.

Following a brief discussion, the council voted to support a proposal by Mayor Williamson which would turn over the matter to the city attorney with instructions to either draw up an ordinance banning such mining or advise the city on how to take steps to deal with the

problem.

Environment was also on the minds of Pell City Council members Monday night when Michael O'Donoghue, public participation planner for the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission, spoke on the need for city participation in the 208 Water Study now under consideration by federal, state and

regional agencies seeking new ways to combat water pollution.

O'Donoghue also asked that the city appoint an elected official and alternate to the 208 Policy Committee.

O'Donoghue said the main goals of the study are to achieve a high level of water quality by the year 1983 and end the

Continued on Page 3

## City Council—

Continued From Page 1

discharge of pollutants into streams and rivers by 1985. The principal area rivers affected by the 208 study, according to O'Donoghue, are the Coosa Cahaba and Warrior rivers.

The means for attacking pollution in the area were said to include the setting of standards for allowable levels of pollution in river basins; coordination and management treatment techniques and systems; and the planning and construction of waste treatment facilities.

Later in the session, the council voted to appoint Mayor Williamson and Mayor Pro Tempore Paul Turner to the 208 Policy Committee.

In other business Monday night, the Council:

--Voted to concur with a recent proclamation by Gov. George Wallace seeking to encourage youngsters to "Trick-or-Treat" on Saturday, Oct. 30, instead of on Sunday, Oct. 31, for safety reasons.

--Agreed to review the city

policy on wrecker rotation at the request of Neal Pate, operator of Pate's Alignment.

--Agreed that the city should honor a previous agreement to cooperate with local CB'ers in a REACT program which would permit constant monitoring of the emergency channel nine. Julian Gossett and Dean Owen said it would only be necessary for the city to monitor the channel which is reserved for emergencies, between midnight and 6 a.m.

--Discussed the "possibility" of a rate hike to city gas customers next month, if the Federal Power Commission approves an increase sought by Pell City's supplier, Southern Natural Gas Co.

--Granted a "draft beer license" to Nell McAllister, operator of Mack's Place, located on Hwy 231 S.

--Received a request from the Pine Harbor Improvement Association seeking additional street lights, stepped-up police protection and theft-resistant

street signs.

--Agreed that the city would run a water line out to James Hayes Subdivision, at Hayes' expense, and would install a fire plug.

--Agreed that the city should refrain from extending city utility service to communities outside corporate limits, until adequate service is extended to city residents.

--Authorized Mayor Williamson to attend a two-day National Health Conference in Washington, D.C.

--Voted to renew three notes totaling \$45,000 at Peoples Bank, Pell City.

# Water, sewage to be completed within 15 months, engineer says

Pell City Engineer Charles Tucker predicted Monday night that both the new water system and the new sewage system would be in operation within the next 15 months, possibly sooner.

Tucker made the statement at the regular meeting of the Pell City Council while giving an up-to-date report on the status of several city projects, including the Eden sewer project, Glen City sewer project, proposed sewage treatment plant and installation of a new water system.

While saying that everything would be finished within 15

months, Tucker said if the weather permits, the projects could be completed by the end of next year.

The engineer told the council that the Eden sewer system is functional and currently the plant is running at about half capacity. He said he has received a series of letters from the Alabama Water Improvement Commission suggesting that the Eden plant be abandoned and sewage rerouted through Pell City. Tucker said he wouldn't recommend doing this because

it would cost in the neighborhood of \$200,000. He added that the materials have been ordered for the plant and it would be fully operational once they come in.

Tucker showed the council four volumes of an evaluation report on the proposed Dye Creek plant. He said bids would be let in April of next year and that would coincide with a better market. He told the council that the city has applied for a 75 per cent grant to pay for the study, which cost \$82,000.

The engineer then talked to

the council members about the proposed water system. He said the well has been completed and can pump 1,500 gallons per minute. "This is the best well we've ever encountered anywhere," he said. "We should use it to its fullest extent." Tucker explained that there would be two loops made with the pipe around the city.

"We're close to being ready to present the specifications but I won't know a definite time," he said. "But within 15 months we should be through with everything."

## Pell City Council lets bids on new water tank; system

In a light session Monday night, the Pell City Council voted to begin advertising for bids on the construction of a new 600,000 gallon water tank and to let the bids Friday, Jan. 3 at 2 p.m.

The council voted to purchase the water tank one month ago at an estimated cost of \$131,250.

The tank is expected to be a large enough capacity to last the city for the next ten years. The council is also planning to drill two new wells in conjunction with the water tank to give Pell City its own water system.

Also, the council voted to provide the money to the Park

and Recreation Department for the building of two new backstops on the two baseball fields. The cost, only an estimate, is between \$600 and \$700.

The council also discussed the long-delayed advertising of bids on the proposed Pell City Civic Center. Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said the city is waiting on an official to determine the proper wage scale and he is expected within a week or 10 days.

(See Council Page 6A)

In other action, the council:

—Voted to give city employees their regular bonus along with giving them a choice between a ham and a turkey for their Christmas gift;

—Agreed to let City Attorney Billy Church study the possibility of the city being able to tear down an abandoned house owned by John Tom Davis and his sister which they described as a "fire hazard";

—Agreed to bring a load of chert to deal with the water problem in the old theater;

—Voted to write a letter to the Pell City High School football team congratulating them on their excellent season and discussed the possibility of proclaiming Saturday as Pell City Panther day in Pell City; and

—Voted to pay the bills.

## Council okays fire ant funds

The Pell City Council agreed Monday night to participate in the county fire ant control program currently being organized and agreed to pay the 20 cents per acre necessary to be included in the program.

The council estimated that involvement in the program would probably cost the council \$3,200 but noted that this sum would be reduced after collections are taken from residents in the city who want to participate.

The action by the council came after Les Pair, W.D. Jackson and Don Walker, Beat 15 chairman for Pell City, made a presentation explaining the program. Pair said the spraying of the county, if approved, would take place in the fall of 1975. He noted that the program is not designed to exterminate the fire ant, only control it.

Pair pointed out that the chemical being used to control the fire ant is called mirex and has been called safe to use by the United States Department of Agriculture. He said a

committee has been set up to contact every segment of the county to collect the 20 cents per acre. Pair remarked that anyone interested should contact Bob and Sue Griffin, chairmen of Beat 15 for Pell City.

The council also heard a report from the Finance Committee and approved requests of increased subsidization to the Library, Mental Health and the Child Development Center but took no action on a request from the

(See Council Page 8)

County Health Department for \$200 per month. The Library had asked for an increase from \$300 to \$400 per month but the council agreed to pay \$350 per month. A sum of \$1,000 was given to Mental Health and the Child Development Center received \$500.

The council also heard a report from Jim Cox, physical agent for the city, on the problem of financing future city projects. Cox said he foresees "no problem in financing" for city projects, including the water and sewage projects.

In other action, the council:

—Voted to put a street light on the first entrance to the Industrial Park;

—Agreed to ride in the Jaycees Christmas Parade Dec. 14;

—Voted to give employees Thanksgiving day off but not the following Friday;

—Announced there would be no garbage pickup Thursday; and

—Voted to fix holes on 16th Street in the city.

# City of Birmingham, Alabama

## BEAUTIFICATION BOARD



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TELEPHONE (205) 254-2472

July 29, 1983

RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR.  
MAYOR

The Honorable Hugh Williamson  
Mayor  
City of Pell City  
City Hall  
Pell City, Alabama 35125

Dear Mayor Williamson:

On behalf of the Birmingham Beautification Board, it is my pleasure to inform you that Pell City has been chosen to receive our 1983 "GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARD". This award will be presented at our Thirteenth Annual Awards Luncheon August 18.

This is one of our highest awards, and we congratulate you on your beautification efforts that have made Pell City the winner!

*husba*  
*mailed*  
I am enclosing an invitation to our awards luncheon and a brochure. I hope you will bring all interested parties, including Mrs. King, who I understand worked so diligently on the plantings. As you will note, tickets are \$8 each, and you may order as many as you wish.

Again, congratulations, and I look forward to meeting you and your delegation in August!

Very respectfully,

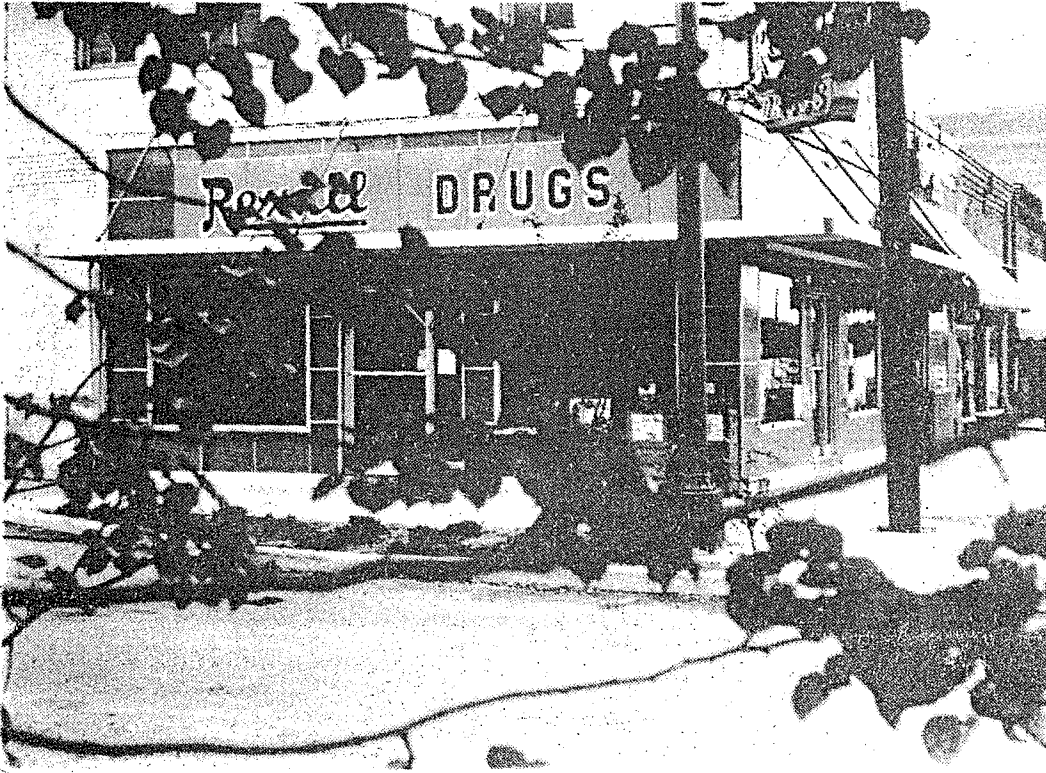
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucinda W. Beck".

Lucinda W. Beck  
Chairperson

LWB/mj

Enclosures





### *The Greening Of Pell City*

This arty shot by the Observer's Bill Alldredge shows the greenery that has "sprung up" on Cogswell Ave. in Pell City, as workers started implanting the trees this week as a part of the downtown redevelopment and beautification program. (Additional photo, page 2).

# Downtown progress Ahead of schedule?

By JOEY KENNEDY  
NEWS-AEGIS News Editor

The district vice president of Warren Brothers Construction of Birmingham said the \$394,000 downtown development is probably "ahead of schedule now."

Lewis S. Ramsey Jr. received a letter in mid-April warning him that the work was lagging and that a penalty of \$50 per day in liquidated damages would be charged if the company did not complete the work by the Aug. 10 deadline.

"We're probably ahead of schedule now," Ramsey told the NEWS-AEGIS. "We had to make a lot of changes in that first block. You don't just go in there and start clearing out."

Ramsey said the second block should be completed soon and the third block work on Cogswell Avenue should begin Monday.

"There were a lot of problems in the first block," he said. "The job has speeded up since then."

Ramsey said the complaint letter did not surprise him.

"I was expecting it," he said. "We

weren't doing work as fast as the people wanted us to."

Ramsey said an accusation that he did not have a superintendent on the job was not correct.

"It just so happened that everytime our supervisor was gone, their people came by and looked," Ramsey said.

He explained that the job supervisor was also working part time supervising another job.

"He was there 80 per cent of the time (before the letter)," Ramsey said. "He's there 100 per cent of the time now."

There were also criticisms that not enough workers were on the project. However, Ramsey said that more than 11 men are working on the job most of the time.

"More than that when we pour cement," he said.

The downtown development includes paving streets, reconstructing sidewalks and landscaping work, Ramsey said.

"A lot of these towns are beautifying their downtown sections now," Ramsey said.

A work order for the project was issued March 1, Ramsey said, but because of bad weather, work didn't begin until March 8.

"I believe we'll be finished with the project ahead of schedule," Ramsey said.

He added that weather will be a factor in the work pace of his employees.



Photo by John Brasher

## Downtown Development: Speeding Up?



# Shopping Meters 'In The Bag' For Xmas

BY AUGUST LEHE

The Pell City Council, meeting in regular session Monday night, voted to suspend parking meter operation in downtown Pell City through the Christmas holidays at the request of local businessmen representing the "Christmas Shop Pell City" campaign.

The move, said designed to increase business in the downtown area during the holiday shopping period, was presented to the council Monday night by Ted Campbell and Ken Goodman, who also asked that all meter be "Bagged" with a plastic covering featuring the "Shop at home" theme.

During the brief discussion Campbell and Goodman agreed that merchant cooperation in the effort would be vital to prevent abuse of the free-parking privilege such as all-day parking by store employees. The two merchants also argued that by encouraging people to "Christmas Shop Pell City," the city might realize increased sales tax revenue which would compensate for lost meter revenues.

On a motion from Councilman Paul Turner, the council voted unanimously to "bag" all meters for a two-week period ending Christmas Day.

In other business, the Council:

--On a motion from Councilman R.F. "Bam" Cox, approved (subject to objections by the city attorney) changes to the Pell City-Cooks Springs Medical Board Agreement, which would allow the Baptist

nursing home bond issue to proceed.

--On a motion from Cox, approved the designation of city areas qualified for state and federal relief stemming from the Jan. 10, tornado, pending final approval by the federal government. Bill Franklin, who presented the council with Alabama State Highway Department maps showing specific damage areas, said it was not too late for other sections of the city in the path of the tornado (Dry Creek Rd.) to be included in the plan, prior to final federal approval.

--Voted to change the date for the opening of bids for city insurance coverage from Monday, Dec. 9, until Monday, Dec. 29.

--Approved a request for a street light to be placed at 25th St. and 18th Ave. S.

--Agreed to schedule a meeting to review the proposed 1976 business license scheme for

## Shopping—

Continued From Page 1  
Tuesday, Dec. 2.

--Voted to study a request by Freddie Murphy of Birmingham for on premises beverage licenses submitted on behalf of an establishment located on Hwy 78 E.



VERMONT 1975

**GIVE TO CHRISTMAS SEALS**  
**IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND BREATH!®**

## Glen City sewer funding approved

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sens. John Sparkman, Jim Allen, and Congressman Tom Beville announced Saturday approval of a \$100,000 grant to fund installation of sewer service to the Glen City neighborhood in Pell City.

The \$100,000 Health, Education and Welfare grant will be used to build a new city sewage plant, a new city park, and install sewer service to the Glen City neighborhood.

Further details were unavailable at press time yesterday.

THE ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS Sunday, September 19, 1976.

# Pell City approves budget quietly

With little fanfare and no citizen participation, the Pell City City Council Monday night approved its proposed budget for the upcoming year and the expenditure of federal revenue sharing funds.

No one showed up for the public hearing and council unanimously approved spending revenue sharing funds to repay monies transferred to pay for the civic center and for capital expenditures for the fire, police and street departments.

On its proposed budget, it was

reported that city income will include monies equaling \$800,000 from gross receipts tax, \$165,000 license, \$50,000 fines and costs, \$50,000 gasoline tax, \$42,000 property tax and real estate tax and \$20,000 from auto tag sales.

Also, \$153,994 from revenue sharing monies, \$95,000 garbage fees, \$70,000 CETA fees, \$54,000 park and recreation receipts, \$40,000 gasoline excise tax and \$18,000 beer tax.

The total income including all sources will be \$1,641,994.00.

Expenses were listed as follows:

administrative department \$153,000; city hall-shop \$25,250; police department \$251,460; street department \$549,440; fire department \$183,400; park and recreation \$242,700; miscellaneous \$145,500; for a total of expenses, \$1,550,750.00.

In other business, council:

-HEARD a report from Fire Chief Ben Windsor who stated Insurance Service Office will be in the city within the next 90 days on behalf of the state fire marshal's office to reevaluate the city's fire insurance rating.

Windsor told council he hoped the city

would drop two classifications which would result in a great savings to city residents in insurance premiums. Cooperation was asked from citizens in obeying fire lanes.

The chief also asked that the city consider employing a building inspector and electrical inspector, which could be one person. Mayor Hugh Williamson told council he would have a recommendation at the next meeting.

-APPROVED closing a part of Odessa Street on request of Doyle Burns and Blair Braden, from Parker to Wolf Creek Road.

-REPORTED to a delegation of citizens from the King Circle community on progress of street signs (on order); street light installation (five recommended); street repairs (to be studied) and installation of fire hydrants (studied to be conducted).

-OPENED bids for a back hoe and trencher and a 15-ton used low boy and approved Ditch Witch of Pelham (\$23,950) and Tucker Equipment Company (\$4,500) respectively.

-APPROVED purchasing Christmas greeting ads from the St. Clair News-Aegis and WPHK Radio at a cost of \$160 and \$100 respectively.

-AGREED to meet informally at the Pell City Civic Center Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of discussing fence needs at the facility.

-APPROVED the same Christmas bonus for City employes as last year, based on number of years on the job and on supervisory status.

-APPROVED the reappointment of J. T. Carter and Barnett Lawley to the Industrial Development Board. Their terms expired recently.

Thursday, December 13, 1979

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

# Agenda packs Pell City chambers

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
Star Staff Writer

PELL CITY — With only a few weeks left in the council's term, an unusually large agenda caused the Pell City Council chambers to be packed Monday night.

Council members James McGowan and Roy Holladay angrily sought explanations from Mayor Harvey Watson for the meeting's large agenda.

"The party's over," said Holladay, who with McGowan has consistently been on the small side of the council's many 3-2 votes. "Any new large expenditures are the business of the next council."

But Watson said the agenda was routine.

"This controversy is only coming up because we're on the way out," Watson said.

A quorum was not present, so no official action was taken.

But action was scheduled to be

taken on a \$64,000 tractor purchase, resurfacing of a street on which Watson is building a home, Councilman Joe Wheeler's request of a \$2,700 payment to a company owned by his brother, appointments to numerous board vacancies, and the awarding of a computer contract.

A memo signed by Watson Sept. 9, reclassifying Mike Martin, Watson's former brother-in-law, to assistant street superintendent and raising his pay from \$8.03 an hour to \$9.30 came up for discussion. McGowan and Holladay said they had no previous knowledge of the action.

"THAT MEMO isn't worth the paper it's printed on," said McGowan, the one councilman to be re-elected. "Pay raises, anything to do with the city's money, is the business of the council. As far as I'm concerned it has no effect."

Moreover, Holladay said that

Wheeler asked him in a phone conversation whether he would vote to let Watson buy the city-owned car he uses from the council for a reasonable price.

"I wanted to give it to him if he wanted it, but the League of Municipalities said we couldn't," said Wheeler from his home Monday night. "I wanted to try and do a little something for him."

"The council never voted him that car, he just took it," Holladay said. "I wouldn't touch Joe's idea with a 10-foot pole."

Wheeler and McGowan said the purchase of the tractor, the computer equipment and whatever board appointments need to be made could wait until the new council takes office Oct. 2.

WATSON said the petition to resurface Allen Road was submitted by another resident in September

1987. He said it was the only petition the council has not acted on.

"I can think of a dozen streets which need resurfacing better than his road," McGowan said.

McGowan and Holladay also said the timing of Wheeler's request is inappropriate.

In 1985, Wheeler lent the city a converted water-pump truck. Since then, he has signed over the equipment to his brother. Wheeler said that if the city pays a \$2,700 "rental" fee, his brother will deed the city the truck for \$1.

Although no official meeting was held, council chambers remained filled longer than an hour as the three council members argued over when to schedule tonight's meeting to certify the results of today's mayoral runoff between Dr. Joe Sawyer and Lawrence Fields. The meeting was scheduled for 8 p.m.

The Anniston Star, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1988

# Perry Challenges Minutes

BY ANNE CORNETT

Pell City Chevron Service Station owner James Perry this week challenged the accuracy of the minutes of a Pell City Council meeting held March 25.

Mr. Perry first questioned the minutes after an Observer news story on the meeting in a March 28 edition. The story, taken from the minutes, reported that Mayor Dill Nixon told Mr. Perry that the police committee recommended that people involved in any accident within the city limits be given the choice of which wrecker they wanted to use and if they had no preference, then the call should be given to various wreckers on

a rotating basis.

Mr. Perry's specific objection to the wording of the minutes was that he asked the City to place the wrecker service business on a "rotating" basis and that the word rotation was not used at any time in the Mayor's report to him on the committee's action.

Mr. Perry said that he examined the minutes at the City Hall on Tuesday of this week and they were approved at Monday night's meeting of the Council.

In interviews with individual members of the Council and the City Clerk, Miss Bettye Scott, Tuesday, the accuracy of the minutes was upheld by all Council members except Harvey Watson and Charles Lockridge, who was not present for Monday night's meeting.

Lockridge told the Observer Tuesday night that he did not recall that the word rotation was used in any report to Perry or any motion made at the meeting. He said that while he felt that the report of the meeting contained in the minutes was what Mr. Perry wanted to obtain from the

council, he agreed that Mr. Perry was correct about the minutes.

Councilman Harvey Watson also agreed that the report was inaccurate and when asked why he did not object when the minutes were read and approved at Monday night's meeting, he said that he did not raise the question because

Continued On Page 2

## Perry

Continued From Page 1

Lockridge was absent from the meeting and that he simply did not "feel like stirring anything up."

City Clerk Bettye Scott said that the minutes were correct as she understood the action taken at the meeting. "I want my minutes to be correct," she said, "but I am not required to write verbatim quotations of every word said at a Council meeting. This would be an impossible task.

"This was what I understood the Committee's recommendations to the Council to be and this was the way I understood Mr. Turner's motion later in the meeting," she added.

The Turner motion referred to appears on page two of the minutes as follows: "Councilman Turner made a motion that the council accept the recommendation of the Police Committee that people involved in accidents be permitted to use the wrecker of their choice and if they had no preference, the calls be rotated between the wrecker companies. The motion was seconded by Councilman Walls and approved."

According to Councilmen Lockridge and Watson, Turner did not use the word "rotation" in his motion, but simply moved that the Council accept the recommendation of the Police Committee.

Watson said, "I feel that the minutes reflect what Mr. Perry wanted the Council to do, but I do not recall the word 'rotation' being used."

Mayor Dill Nixon and Councilmen Cox, Walls and Turner all agreed that the minutes correctly reflected the intent of the recommendation made by the Police Committee.

Mr. Perry, who has been asking the Council for a division of city wrecker business for several months, said that he would have been satisfied with

the action reported in the minutes but that the minutes were "Erroneously written, either intentionally or accidentally, or someone changed them."

He said that if the minutes were correct, then he still is not getting any part of the city wrecker business, and that he would "be back at the next Council meeting to ask why."

# City discusses personnel merit system

Pell City's pending personnel merit system was the topic of further discussion this week as the City Council moves toward an October target date for implementing the program.

Earlier this month the council voted approval to a letter of intent to establish the personnel system, step one of a three-phase plan to initiate the program. It remains now for the council to establish a personnel policy which includes such

details as authorized holidays and duty hours. The final step will be setting down job descriptions and salary schedules.

At some point in the planning, the city will hire a personnel director to maintain the program. Mayor Hugh Williamson said during Monday night's council session that funds may be available from the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act

(CETA) to help defer the added expense of a personnel director. This CETA program would pay for approximately nine months salary for the director, after which time the city would assume responsibility.

The funding for this CETA program is said by city officials to be pending and the situation appears to be favorable for the city's obtaining the hoped-for assistance.

Also discussed was the

possibility of requesting help in completing the new system from the Alabama League of Municipalities which has offered to send a representative, staff member Tom Wilkerson, to the council's aid. The city was required to begin work on a merit system by August, the vote earlier to proceed with the plan now being established serves as compliance.

The council voted Monday night to contract a Tallahassee, Florida firm to publish the city's municipal codes. The codes will be compiled and printed in volumes at a cost of \$4900 to the city by Municipal Code Corporation, specialists in this work.

The council settled on this firm after previous discussion on estimates from other companies, feeling the work should proceed in order to get copies of the finished codes to city department heads.

In other discussion by the council, approval was voted for the city's share of funding to the county Positive Maturity program which deals with elderly citizens. Pell City's prorated share of money for renovation of the Positive Maturity quarters in Odenville came to \$222.

Positive Maturity provides transportation to the group's centers in various communities across the county, furnishing meals and activities for the

elderly. There was discussion among the councilmen about the possibility of locating such center in Pell City. There are presently six senior citizens from the community attending centers in other towns such as Odenville and Ragland.

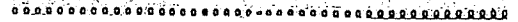
Each community is asked to pay a share toward the Positive Maturity program, the county paying the largest share. Renovation cost of the Odenville center was quoted at \$4218.

Pell City is looking for young men and women to work in the city's summer employment program. In addition to work provided here through federal youth employment program, the city wishes to hire eight workers for the summer months, paying them a salary of \$2.30 per hour. Mayor Williamson said that response to the city's request for young workers has been slow, only two persons having taken advantage of the offer by Tuesday.

Persons hired by the city under this employment program would be those ineligible for CETA summer work which bases its hirings on low family income standards. The only requirement stated by the council in hiring for the summer youth work is a minimum age of 16. Persons interested in applying for the city work program should contact City Hall.

(See City page 12A)

The council agreed without actual vote Monday night to allow Pell City Fire Chief Ben Windsor to authorize the Fire Department's going to outlying communities to assist in fire fighting efforts. Previously, the fire chief had been required to obtain an approval before sending department vehicles and personnel to areas outside the normal jurisdiction, the Pell City firemen occasionally going beyond these limits to lend assistance. The councilmen said this situation presents a problem for Windsor many times, and endorsed his judgment in such matters hereafter.



## City receives promise of water funds

Pell City has received the promise of \$20,000 for use on the city's water system.

The promise of the funds came in a letter from the Alabama Development Office and states that the money will be issued on or about the first of October of this year.

The state grant is the result of efforts of city and county officials and will be used to help finance expansion currently underway and scheduled for completion in November.

Even with this money, however, the city will still have to come up with just over \$300,000. Although a bond issue may be issued in order to raise the amount, officials feel they have a chance of receiving other grants to at least reduce the city's share of the expense.

A one million dollar bond issue was let before the present construction got underway. \$441,000 was earmarked for the water system with the remainder going to the sewage system. However, the total cost of the water expansion will go to an estimated \$741,000 — \$300,000 more than first thought.

THIS COST over-run was not the result of (See Water, Page 9A)

## Road blocks banned

A request earlier this month to allow a fund-raising road block here by the county cystic fibrosis drive was denied Monday evening by the Pell City City Council.

In making their decision, the council voted to allow only the St. Clair Rescue Squad stationed in the city to conduct road blocks for the purpose of raising money.

The councilmen said too many organizations and individual fund-raising efforts can present a problem for weekend visitors and traffic in the city despite most of them being worthy causes.

poor planning, but rather the result of a new well that is capable of producing an unexpectedly high flow of water.

The new well, east of Pell City and a portion of the expansion project, has been tested at a flow of 22,000 gallons per minute. This has resulted in the city officials decision to lay two instead of only one water lines from the well to the new one million gallon storage tank.

It is estimated that the new system will be capable of providing sufficient supply for the next 20 years.

The addition of the new tank to the system raises the city's storage facilities to 1,500,000 gallons.



## Shot In The Arm For Water System

Probate Judge Wallace Wyatt presents a letter of promise for a \$20,000 state grant to be used on Pell City's water system to R. Dr. James H. McClendon, Pell City Mayor Hugh Williamson,

Judge Wyatt, A. J. Blake, and State Senator John Teague. The group had been instrumental in securing the money from Montgomery.

## City hires fireman

A new fireman was hired for the Pell City Fire Department this week to report for duty on August 1.

Sam Dunnivant will replace the departing Dennis Meeks on the city fire squad. Mayor Hugh Williamson and Councilman Charles Lockridge recommended Dunnivant for the position after interviews with him.

Dunnivant will be placed on the city payrolls in a trial capacity as customary for a rookie fireman. Dunnivant has had no previous fire fighting experience, Lockridge said, but has had useful medical training.

# Plans For New City Maintenance Shop Dominate Meeting

BY STEVE KEELING

In a rather lengthy meeting Monday night, the Pell City City Council devoted most of its time to discussion of bids for the plumbing and electrical work needed for the new city maintenance shop building. The electrical work was awarded to the low bidder, Royce Carroll.

The plumbing was held over for more discussion and clarification of the specifications for material to be used on the job.

that community are requesting the extension of city gas for their area. The utilities committee will consider the proposition.

The St. Clair County Library requested that the city pay for new shelving material needed for the library. The Finance Committee will study this matter.

Other matters reviewed included the decision to tear down the old theater building. Councilman Watson pointed out that the owner had been issued a notification of the decision and that steps were apparently being taken but had stopped. It was agreed that if the firm in

The council also received bids for purchase of another police patrol car. Bids were received from the car dealers for a new car with a trade-in on the two old cars and a bid for straight purchase without a trade-in. The figures were turned over to the police committee for study.

Visiting the meeting was Ed Ash, Chairman of the Industrial Development Board. Ash pointed out that an industrial prospect is interested in a section of property west of the old pipe shop. The plant to be installed would need an adequate sprinkler system to guard against fire.

The company desires the help of Pell City in installing an eight inch pipe line from the water tank to the plant site. Mayor Nixon turned the request over to the utilities committee for a decision.

A motion was carried to purchase ten acres of land east of Pell City that the city needs for sewerage disposal. The site has been approved by the Alabama Water Commission.

Mayor Nixon pointed out that the city is continuing to spend a great deal of money in the pushing up and loading of chert. He suggested that the council should seriously consider the purchase of machinery for this purpose rather than paying an individual to do the entire job.

In other business the council turned its attention to a petition submitted by the residents of Harrisburg. The residents of

## Church Named As Pell City Legal Counsel

Pell City Attorney Billy Church was appointed Monday night as Legal Counsel for the City of Pell City.

Mr. Church succeeds Edwin Holladay who resigned last week when he was appointed to a newly created circuit judgeship for Blount and St. Clair Counties.

Mr. Church practiced law in Birmingham before coming to Pell City two years ago. He also represents St. Clair County and several other municipalities in the county.

Continued On Page 2



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## Budget is topic of P.C. council

Budgetary problems, which included that statement, "We're broke," by Pell City Clerk Betty Scott, were the primary topic of discussion by the Pell City Council Monday night.

According to Mrs. Scott, the city's general fund has been depleted with money only in the gross revenue accounts coffers at St. Clair Federal Savings and Loan Association.

The clerk suggested that the city borrow \$14,000 from a local bank to cover outstanding bills against the city until further revenue sharing monies were received.

The council moved to let for bid interest rates on the needed money from all local banks.

The council also discussed future budgetary measures for the city which included several government grant programs.

In other action, the council passed a resolution requiring city employees to submit a purchase order prior to buying any materials they might need. Mayor Dill Nixon cited the measure as a way of tightening city purse strings.

The city also agreed to let for bid a new, dual-wheel truck, 1974 model year.

According to Mayor Nixon and Councilman Forrest Walls, Ben Coker Ford, original bidder on the truck, could not

(See Budget Page 8-A)

supply the vehicle to specifications.

A discussion on the parking of garbage trucks on 3rd Ave. S. prompted the council to write Tinch Harmon, owner of the vehicles, a letter stating their intent to issue citations should he continue to park there.

Several residents had appealed to the council to do something about the parking since it was causing a foul odor in that neighborhood.

Councilman Harvey Watson stated he had had several persons ask him whether or not the city was paying for the paving of private driveways. "I want to make it very clear that the same firm the city is employing for street paving is also taking some private jobs, however, we, the city is not paying for any of this private work," Watson stated.

Following a request by Amos Hargett that the city furnish him with a copy of by laws of the City of Pell City Industrial Development Board (of which he is a member), the council adjourned until their next regular session.

## Erects New Street Signs —

# Pell City Awards

The City Council of Pell City awarded a contract Monday night for the construction of the sewer project for the Industrial Park, to Bama Utility Contractors for a total of \$99,505.50 to be paid for with revenue sharing monies.

Jim Lewis and Charles Bowen, from the Soil Conservation office, presented a detailed Soil Interpretation and

General Soil Map of Pell City and reviewed it with the Council. The interpretation and map is detailed in soil use in the Pell City area (an area previously designated in a request for the information by the Council) and will be helpful in determining whether the land involved is suitable for septic tanks and other factors in land development.

John Scofield of the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission also presented the Council with a copy of the soil map in color.

Mr. Scofield discussed with the council the comprehensive plan being developed for the City which will be presented in a public hearing at 7:00 tonight at City Hall. The comprehensive

# Sewer Contract

plan will cover zoning, industrial possibilities, recreational possibilities, housing needs, etc.

The Council again discussed the dire need for some action on ambulance service in the county and announced a meeting to discuss the problem which will be held on Thursday night, July 19, at the City Hall.

A request that old taxis on

First Avenue be removed and was brought before the Council and the Clerk was instructed to write a letter to the owner, Ludford Harmon.

New street signs, which have been the subject of the Council meetings for many months, have arrived and on Tuesday morning, were being put in place by city crews.

The Alabama Highway and

Safety Department made an offer of \$1,000 to the City for employing an extra traffic patrolman for four hours on weekends due to the alarming number of fatalities in the past few months.

Ed Wilson requested an auxiliary policeman at his business on old Highway 78 East on weekends. No action was taken by the Council.

At Monday Meeting

# City Council Grapples With Budget Problems

The City Council of Pell City began the tedious, but important, task Monday night of getting together a realistic budget for next year. Department heads were asked to get ready estimates on necessary salaries, equipment and long range project plans to be presented at a later meeting.

Final execution of the near \$100,000 contract for sewer expansion to the Industrial Park was completed and a contract for re-surfacing and paving streets with St. Clair County at a cost to Pell City of approximately \$3,000 was also approved and executed.

Approval of a city building code was postponed until the clerk could obtain a copy of the latest National Building Code for study by the Council.

After discussion, the Council asked that a study be made to determine suitable placing of a stop sign at the intersection of Comer Avenue and Arbor Baptist Church. The absence of any sign at the intersection was brought to the attention of the

Council after the recent motorcycle accident in which Greg Gossett of Pell City was seriously injured.

Councilman Forest Walls discussed problems involving production in the Utilities Department and suggested the possibility of dividing the department into maintenance and construction crews. Other members of his committee agreed to meet with him this week to discuss the department problems.

The Council agreed to write to Southern Railway to ask that abandoned automobiles along First Avenue, South, be removed. Particularly the subject of the discussion were abandoned taxis belonging to Ludford Harmon of Pell City. The railroad company is to be given 15 days to remove the vehicles before further action is taken.

Pell City Engineer Charles Tucker discussed with the Council a proposal that the City join in a county-wide water project which would link municipalities in the county together for expansion of water service to the entire county.

Tucker told the Council that 50 percent grant money is available for such projects for building wells, tanks, etc., or nearly anything it wanted to do on water projects. He suggested that the Council go ahead and make application for grants available with the understanding that it would go

Continued On Page 2

## City Council

Continued From Page 1  
forward when money is available and if the project is feasible for the city.

Mayor Dill Nixon said, and the engineer agreed, that Pell City is going to need in the near future a million gallon tank and two wells, as well as approximately five miles of six inch water lines inside the city limits.

The engineer also told the council that cost estimates would be available soon on needed water and sewerage problems in the Eden area.

A new taxi license was approved for S. W. Dill, a retired Bynum employee.

An off-premises beer license was approved for Leon Clements at Town and Country Grocery on Highway 231 South. The business had been operating as a partnership with an off-premises beer license but the action was necessary after Mr. Clements became sole owner of the business.

# Council Approves Refinancing Of Existing Bonds

In regular session Monday night, the Pell City City Council approved borrowing \$500,000 from the First National Bank of Birmingham for "a few days" as a step in refinancing its present one million dollar bond issue, bringing the bond issue to \$1,500,000.

The additional \$500,000 will be used to complete financing of the recent extension of the city's water system and the proposed city-county park at Cropwell.

The First National loan will be repaid from the refinancing which is to be finalized at a special meeting of the Council tonight. Repayment of the bond issue will come from the utility and general fund accounts as has been the case in the present bond issue.

In compliance with requirements of the new judicial articles, the city also appointed Vernon Sollie as magistrate. Sollie, presently employed by the City in the police department, will be empowered to issue warrants.

In other business, the Council conditionally approved changing health insurance for employees from Blue Cross to Liberty National. The change will be made if (1) the city attorney approves the policy; (2) there is no significant increase in premium amounts; and (3) waiting periods are waived by Liberty National.

A resolution concerning the establishment of a uniform personnel system for the city was adopted.

Under this resolution, federal assistance will be applied for and regulations, policies and guidelines governing the use of the funds will be established.

The resolution passed unanimously.

A proposed contract submitted by Cobb, Adams and Benton, concerning the sewer system in the Harrisburg and White City projects was accepted.

There had been some

concern about the traffic congestion on Highway 231 near the car wash. Mayor Hugh Williamson and Councilman Joe Sawyer had looked into the matter and Mayor Williamson presented plans for a sign to be erected there.

The proposed sign will read, "LIMITED SIGHT DISTANCE 25 MPH," and will have electronic flashing lights attached to it. The lights will flash 24 hours a day.

The 25 MPH speed is a reduction from the 35 MPH in that area now. The sign will cost the city \$1540, but the state will install it.

Mayor Williamson was authorized by the council to enter into an agreement with the state for the erection of the sign.

The council also approved a proposal by Mayor Williamson to buy a 1978 Plymouth Police Car for the department at a savings of \$1500.

The car was originally owned by the Memphis Police Department and is equipped with two spotlights, a large engine and police tires.

The price of the car is \$3925 and the council approved the purchase unanimously.

A motion was passed to apply for an NCIC (teletype) machine for the Police Department. At the December 12 meeting the possibility of charging other municipalities a small amount each month for its use was discussed.

Councilman Joe Sawyer expressed the need for a new fire truck for the city. He said it would cost between \$60,000-\$70,000. The purchase will be discussed Thursday with the finance committee.

The Council also approved sending Fire Chief Ben Windsor to Tuscaloosa January 23-26 for the Fire Chief Conference.

An on-premise beer license was approved for Bob Grant, owner of B G's Pickle Patch near Cropwell.

There will be a special meeting of the City Council at 5:00 p.m. today.

## Local club is said nuisance by councilman

The Pell City Council Monday night took action to revoke the business license of Ed's Lounge, a local restaurant and public club, because of what one councilman termed "a public nuisance."

The Council instructed Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon to send a letter to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) in Montgomery requesting that the beer license to the lounge be revoked and that the city would work with them to revoke the facility's business license.

"We've had several complaints about the late hours, selling of beer on Sunday, and use of abusive language outside the club," one councilman said.

"And we have a petition from some 26 residents of that area requesting that we not grant a club license to Ed's Lounge

(see Club Page 10)

because it is a public nuisance," he added.

"It is a public nuisance and a general bad reflection on the community as a whole. We feel that we as the Council must do something about it," the councilman said.

Ed Wilson, owner of the lounge, in a statement to THE NEWS—AEGIS Wednesday, says that he "would fight the Council's action."

"I will fight this move to run me out of business," Wilson said. "I haven't had any more trouble than any other club around the county," he added.

In other action, the council hired Mike Porter as City Parks and Recreation Director. Porter will start effective April 1.

A resolution was adopted of no longer building private driveways until the city can catch up on street repairs.

The council also moved to purchase a bookkeeping machine from the National Cash Register Co. at a cost of \$6,271.

Councilman Harvey Watson suggested that the authority to issue citations on buildings which are fire hazards be delegated to fire chief Cecil Guthrie. The council tabled the motion until a study of the situation could be made.

They did, however, agree to send letters to two persons requesting them to "do something about" two old buildings in the city.

A request for a beer license was taken under consideration by the council with Police Chief Ruble Bowlin to check on it and report back to the council. Street markers were also agreed upon to be purchased at a cost of \$10 apiece.

The council next moved to contact the state highway department for a study of traffic control of U.S. 231 near the site of the new shopping center.

The council also passes a resolution extending the number of absences for councilmen at council meetings. The council then adjourned.

Where Shooting Occured—

# City Will Attempt To Revoke Lounge License

BY ANNE MILAM

In unanimous action at Monday night's meeting, the City Council of Pell City approved a motion to begin proceedings to have the license of Ed's Lounge east of Pell City on Highway 78 revoked.

The Council authorized Mayor Dill Nixon to write a letter to the Alabama ABC Board recommending that the lounge's license be revoked on grounds that it was a public nuisance, numerous acts of violence and complaints of citizens living near the lounge.

The action grew out of a shooting incident at the Lounge Saturday morning resulting in the hospitalization of one man and damage to a city utility

truck parked in the yard of James Tyus next door to the establishment.

In further business, the Council adopted a policy prohibiting the street department from building and maintaining private driveways.

This action was a result of a finance committee meeting which disclosed that an unrealistic amount of money was being spent by the city in work on private property which left too little time and money for work on streets and alleys.

After a report from Police Chief Ruble Bowlin on an earlier request to the Council for ten minute parking limits in front of the ABC Store, the Council decided to leave the

parking limits at two hours for the present.

Old sewage and black top assessments were discussed by the Council and a re-evaluation of all assessments was recommended before turning over to the City Attorney to institute legal proceedings.

Mayor Nixon told the Council that he and Councilman Harvey Watson had discussed plans for building a city shop with Adrick Goodgame and that Mr. Goodgame would draw up specifications for a 50 x 120 Butler-type building so that invitations to bid could be sent out in the immediate future.

An application from Albert

## City Will—

Continued From Page 1

Scales for an on premises beer license on property located next to Leroy Beavers in Glenn City was referred to the Police Department for investigation and consideration at the next meeting of the Council.

A lease on 20 acres five miles east of Pell City between the City and Joe B. Tims of Watts-ville for probable use as a landfill was renewed for a period of one year from May 1, 1973.

Councilman Harvey Watson asked the Council to authorize Fire Chief Cecil Guthrie to issue citations on the old theatre building and the old ice house which had been designated as fire hazards. After discussion, the Council instructed the City Clerk to write to the owners of the buildings, giving thirty days to initiate some action before citations were issued.

Bids were opened for a bookkeeping and billing machine and National Cash Register was the low bidder.

STATE OF ALABAMA  
COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR

Notice is hereby given that a bill substantially as follows will be introduced in the Legislature of Alabama and application for its passage and enactment will be made, to-wit:

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To alter, rearrange and extend the boundary lines and corporate limits of the City of Pell City in St. Clair County.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE  
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE  
OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The boundary lines and corporate limits of the City of Pell City in St. Clair County are hereby altered, rearranged and extended so as to include within the corporate area now embraced within the corporate limits of the town, the following described property:

All that part of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 36, Township 16, Range 3 East that lies South of Interstate Highway 1-20, all that part of Section 35, Township 16, Range 3 East lying South of Interstate Highway 1-20; and all that part of the East 1/2 of Section 34, Township 16, Range 3 East not heretofore incorporated within the city limits of Pell City, Alabama.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

At Monday Meeting—

## City Purchases Gas Measuring Equip.

The City Council of Pell City paused at the beginning of its meeting Monday night for a prayer of thanks by Councilman Paul Turner for the end of the Vietnam War and the return of the prisoners of war.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Coupland, Jr., represented by Attorney David Benson, presented a resolution to the Council for the closing of an alley on property which the Couplands have recently purchased from Dr. Culver Lee on Old Wagon Road. The Council referred the resolution to the street committee and to the city attorney for study.

A proposal by the Bristol Company for the installation of a gas tele-meter was accepted by the Council. The device, which is used for measuring gas used by the City, will be installed at a cost of \$9,400 at the Southern Natural Gas gate station and will be monitored by a computer in City Hall on a day to day basis.

At the present time, the City must rely on Southern Natural Gas Company to stay within the contract limits of gas usage. According to Miss Bettie Scott, City Clerk, Southern Natural now calls the City when bad weather is expected and the

City must immediately take steps to decrease gas usage or be penalized by Southern Natural. During the months of November, December, January and February, the City stopped selling gas to Avondale Mills except for three or four days.

According to the Bristol Company representative, if Pell City had been measuring its own gas, Avondale Mills could have been left on the supply almost all of the time during the past few months and the City would not have lost the revenue from the sale of the gas. The Bristol representative told the Council that the device would pay for itself in approximately 14 months.

Ren Wheeler, proprietor of the Pell City Steak House Restaurant, asked the Council to work on parking problems in the area of his business and the other business places between the intersection of Highway 231 and the little bridge on Comer Avenue. Police Chief Ruble Bowlin said that pedestrians had been complaining to the Police Department about cars blocking the sidewalk and several tickets had been placed on cars and trucks which were parked in the sidewalk area.

Continued On Page 2

## City—

Continued From Page 1

The Council agreed to mark the sidewalk area with yellow paint and no parking signs and to try to work closely with the businesses in the area to alleviate the problem.

Bids were opened for a billing machine and cash register for the City Hall and the Burroughs Company bid \$6,320.75 for the billing machine and National Cash Register Company bid \$6,150. National Cash register Company was the apparent low bidder for a cash register at \$1,323 with the next bid from Victor at \$1,355. The bids were referred to the City Clerk for study.

The council discussed the possibility of building a city shop for the street and utility department on property now owned by the City just South of the Pell City Armory, stressing the need for cleaning up the back of the City Hall and providing a place for mechanics to work on city equipment in bad weather.

The proposed building is to be approximately 30 x 100 with four bays, two small offices, storage room, etc. The Clerk was instructed to write to some of the competitive builders of "Butler-type" buildings for estimates of cost and design.

An excess liability insurance proposal by Ardis Weems was approved by the Council increasing the City's excess liability insurance coverage to \$1,000,000, at an additional

premium of \$3,045. The insurance would protect the City in the event of gas explosions, etc. The City's coverage had been cancelled several years ago after gas leaks were found but the leaks have now been repaired.

The City will also ask for bids on comprehensive and collision insurance on major vehicles including the new fire truck and the garbage trucks.

Approval was given for Mayor Nixon to attend the Mayors' Conference in Washington in March.

Councilman Walls discussed with the Council the problem of Southern Railway trains blocking Wolf Creek Road South. According to Walls, the street was blocked over an hour last Saturday. The Council decided to write a letter to Southern and also to investigate an emergency route under an old trestle south of Wolf Creek Road.

Councilman Walls also reported to the Council on the applicants being interviewed for a director for the Park and Recreation Board and the Council set a tentative beginning salary at \$9,000 per year, determined by experience, education, etc.

The Council again discussed the proposal to have the State of Alabama collect the City's sales tax, emphasizing that the State has auditing services which are not available to the City. The Clerk is now reviewing a list of all businesses paying sales tax to the state and comparing the list to those businesses paying city tax.

The Council commended by resolution the Duran Jr. High School basketball team for its winning third place in the recent play-offs.

Councilman Harvey Watson again discussed with the Council a situation which he feels is dangerous on Comer Avenue from Avondale Mills to the Industrial Park. He said that the excessive speed and increasing traffic in the area posed an immediate danger to children crossing the street. Chief Bowlin said that the area would be heavily patrolled immediately and that radar would be used as soon as it is received by the City.

The Council set a five year period for businesses to pay for garbage containers. The containers will be billed to businesses on a monthly pro-rata amount of the initial cost of the container.

Two new street lights were approved for the Whitesville community.

Two requests for permits to operate taxis were reviewed by the Council and a permit was granted to Claude Weldon. A permit request from Clyde Key was denied.

A letter from the St. Clair County Library Board was read thanking the City for providing library facilities to the Board and for the City's cooperation.

The City planning Commission will meet with the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission on Thursday night, February 22, and all Council members were urged to attend the meeting. Zoning and future development plans for the City will be discussed.



# City Investigating Sale Of Untaxed Cigarettes

BY ANNE MILAM  
The Pell City City Council took swift action at its meeting Monday night to curb an ap-

parent flow of untaxed cigarettes coming into the city. After a report to the Council by Councilman Forest Walls that untaxed cigarettes were being sold in Pell City, the Council instructed Police Chief Ruble Bowlin to immediately begin inspecting Pell City business places.

Chief Bowlin sent one of his officers to a local business and brought four packages of untaxed cigarettes back to the meeting. Chief Bowlin was instructed to begin an investigation and obtain necessary warrants to prosecute the matter.

Other business conducted included the following:  
T. L. Harmon, Jr., owner of Urban Sanitation Company in Pell City, submitted a proposal to the City to contract the garbage collection within the city limits. Mayor Nixon said the City planned to do its own

garbage collection at the present time and would consider Mr. Harmon's proposal if the situation changed in the future.

The Council heard a lengthy report from Bill Wilson, Auburn Extension Agent, regarding the solid waste program and postponed adopting an ordinance regulating charges, etc., to a special called meeting next week.

On a motion by Councilman Bam Cox and seconded by Councilman Paul Turner, the Council unanimously voted not to go beyond the city limits to supply water to any subdivision, trailer park, individual or business.

The council, in its discussion, agreed that water must be supplied to all residents of the city limits and that the City's supply of water would be jeopardized by running water even in instances when the

water would be paid for by developers.

An application for a private club license for Ed's Lounge was referred to the police commission for study.

Mayor Nixon reported to the Council that Jim Embry, who had been asked as a result of the last Council meeting, to clean up service station property located on Highway 78 East, said the property was rented to Tarpley & Sons, a transport firm. The Clerk was instructed to write to Tarpley & Sons and request them to clean up the property. Mayor Nixon also said that James Smith had bought the property belonging to J. T. Holladay and was going to tear down the old burned house in an effort to improve that property.

Councilman Cox told the Council that radar equipment had been checked out for the

Continued On Page 2

Continued From Page 1

city and recommended that specifications for taking bids on the equipment be drawn by Nov. 13. Chief Bowlin said that this equipment was available through a Highway Safety Program at a substantial savings to the city and he was instructed to pursue the matter through this program.

The Council adopted an ordinance setting new speed regulations within the city limits along guide lines set out by the State of Alabama. (For full details, see ordinance printed in this edition of the St. Clair Observer).

Chief Bowlin reported to the Council that he had discussed the matter brought up at the last Council meeting regarding proper closing hours on Saturday night at a local lounge with the proprietor and had been assured that the business would comply with the laws regulating closing hours.

Councilman Walls discussed with the Council the possibility of getting a signal light installed at the Truss Ferry Road railroad crossing. On his motion, and Cox's second, the Council voted to have the Clerk send a registered letter, return receipt requested, to the railroad asking that this signal be installed.

Councilman Watson again brought up the matter of uniforms for all city employees and the Council asked the Clerk to send out invitations for bids to be opened at the next council meeting.

Councilman Watson also discussed vacation pay for fire department employees and on his motion, the Council approved extra vacation pay for

fire department employees in the same manner that police department employees are being paid. The discussion disclosed that fire department and police department employees must fill in for employees while on vacation and therefore should receive extra pay for vacation. The ruling will affect employees who have been employed by the City for at least a year.

Councilman Lockridge reported that the two garbage trucks recently purchased by the City were running full time and that Brad James had been employed at \$2.75 per hour to drive one of the trucks. The Council approved James' employment.

Councilman Lockridge also recommended to the Council that Streets superintendent Homer Bannister's retirement be postponed to January 1, since his social security and retirement could not begin before that time. The action was approved unanimously by the Council.

In further business, the Council approved the renewal of a \$20,000 note due, and authorized the City to borrow \$40,000 to be used for paying for the two garbage trucks, cleaning up the old garbage dump and paying for the City's Christmas lights.

The Peoples Bank bid was the only one received and the loan was authorized at 2.75 percent interest, for a term of 30 days. Mayor Nixon stated that the City hoped to receive its revenue sharing fund by the time the note comes due and that this note, plus the \$20,000 note, could be repaid at that time.

The Council adjourned to a special called meeting next week.

# City reviews audit recommendations

The sale of the city gas distribution system impacted the city budget considerably last year, and as a result of the audit done recently by Raughton, Grice and Co., a Pell City CPA firm, several areas of concern were explained by Ken Yeager to the city council prior to its meeting Monday night.

While the city was in good financial shape overall, some areas needed attention, he said. He reported that last year the \$722,525 general fund account had revenues exceeding expenditures by \$17,970.

September 30 ended the fiscal year for Pell City, and the audit was delivered a couple of weeks ago, but it was the first time the mayor and council had had a chance to examine it and ask questions.

"This is the last audit you will see like this," Yeager said, noting that on January 1, nine new standards for municipal audits had gone into

effect, requiring a number of new features. "The General Accounting Office had reviewed a number of city audits around the country and found 40 percent of them substandard," he said, explaining the need for the new audit formats.

"Pell City is in fairly good shape," he went on to say.

He told of problems with the trust fund for the gas system and how the city had gotten back some funds as a result of the sale of the system, but could have gotten back even more if the accounts had been handled differently.

"The city lost \$100,000, but came out ahead \$31,000 overall in the sale," he stated.

He noted that while most city funds were on deposit and insured by the FDIC, there was \$108,000 that was not insured, a situation that needed to be monitored and corrected every month.

Reports on internal auditing controls were well-received, but Yeager did say the city continued to have an accounting weakness in its inventory of general fixed assets. "There needs to be an annual inventory which is reconciled to what's on the books," he told the council.

Several pages of the audit dealt with tracking the use of federal financial assistance received by the city during the year.

Mayor Lawrence Fields and the council thanked Yeager for a very thorough audit, and Yeager thanked City Clerk Bettie Scott for her help and cooperation during the auditing process.

During the regular council meeting, the council approved the audit.

It also accepted a proposal for a change in the general public official

liability insurance coverage. Helms Insurance Agency offered to double the coverage from \$500,000 to a million dollars for \$5000 less in premiums than last year. The council paid \$69,938 last year and this year's premium was stated as \$64,753.

"This was possible due to a soft market in municipal insurance," Mayor Fields explained.

There's a \$5000 deductible in the program.

Adoption of the newly redrafted personnel rules and regulations, although listed on the agenda, was postponed until the next meeting of the council.

Attorney Bill Trussell said that the proposed new personnel booklet contained some wording from the original blue book that was legally questionable. He saw potential problems with provisions restricting political activities by city employees, and a possible problem with the Age Discrimination Act and the "normal retirement age" provision.

Trussell cited the need for a specific procedure to insure "due process" protection of terminated employees "property rights." The process needed to be set out in the rules, he explained.

The prohibitions against employees making contributions or getting involved in political campaigns were "unenforceable," he said.

The setting of the retirement age at 65 should be based on the employees' getting physical examinations, he suggested.

Mayor Fields and the council agreed to delay adoption of the personnel rules until the proper modifications could be made. "We do need to update these rules," the mayor said, noting that efforts to contact other cities of comparable size should be made to gather input.

ST. CLAIR NEWS AEGIS

Thursday January 12, 1989



## Reviewing the audit

Members of the Pell City city council discuss the details of the recent 1987-88 audit of city finances, prior to Monday night's council meeting. Several recommendations to improve city handling of funds were heard. (Photo by Ron Barthet)

# Zoning revision plans considered

James E. Lehe, senior planner with the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), met with the Pell City council this week and discussed plans for updating the city's zoning map and land use regulations.

Mayor Lawrence Fields said that while there was a definite need for revising the zoning laws, the council had not budgeted the expense. "We just need to patch it with a band-aid right now," he said.

Lehe told the council that a complete land use plan would take around 18 months to do and cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

"Zoning is a big issue everywhere," Lehe said, noting how the planning commission staff was being assigned to zoning and land use revision projects throughout the area. "We'll probably have to hire additional staff soon," he said.

Pell City council members were concerned about the cost of the updating project, but Lehe said that the work was paid out in percentages as the work was completed.

City Clerk Bettie Scott said she remembered back in 1969 when the first zoning map and land use plan was developed, what a long and complicated process it was. She agreed it was time to update the current regulations and maps.

A land use plan would involve many hours of interviewing local people, surveying existing land use, soil studies, topography, sewerage and water needs and patterns of development, Lehe said.

The project could be done in as few as 12 months but would probably take 18 months since staff planners are limited, he went on to say. The commission is doing a project for a town with 11,000 population and charging \$20,000 for it, and it is doing another project for a town with 5,000 population and charging \$15,000, so he felt Pell City would fall somewhere in that range.

The work would also involve an examination of the subdivision regulations.

The sequence of the project would be to update the base map first, and that take about a month, Lehe explained.

The mayor, again acknowledging the need, said he would have to get with the planning commission to see exactly what changes are needed first. Lehe said they could work out some short-term revisions needed immediately and proceed with the long-range, more complete overall updating the land plan as the money became available.

"We can handle whatever you need," Lehe told the council.

A top area of concern for the council was revising the zoning regulations to better define mobile homes, trailers, and modular homes. New trends in that type of housing has complicated zoning regulations, especially since double wide trailer, modular homes and manufactured homes all look pretty much the same after installation.

Lehe explained that there were subtle differences among the three types that can be used to distinguish them from the other. "If a modular home looks like a single family dwelling, then you can consider treating it like one," Lehe said.

Mobile homes are excluded in many areas of the city, except in trailer parks, but since many new double wides don't look at all like trailers, portions of the zoning codes do need to be revised, it was felt.

Scott felt that the city was facing a possible lawsuit if action wasn't taken to better define the different types of mobile homes.

A builder has already come to the city to seek interest in a new type of housing called "patio homes." These are homes with 1300 to 1500 square feet on small lots with practically no yard space. The low maintenance homes are becoming popular in other communities, it was said, and they appeal to young couples and older retired couples.

The builder wants to construct 30 of them in Pell City, Scott said.

When the city is ready to go ahead with its updating of zoning regulations, the proper procedure would be for its planning

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commission to "formally request" the BRPC to propose a "scope of service" for the project.

The matter will be further discussed at the December 29 meeting of the group.

# Pell City businesses reminded

Pell City businesses are reminded that today (Thursday) is the last day to purchase business licenses without

having to pay a penalty. Pell City City that after January 31, business operators could face a penalty charge

## to buy operating license

or possibly a fine. In their regular council meeting Monday night, the Pell City governing body handled a few routine matters including discussion on street light problems in the city.

Police Chief Ruble Bowlin informed council that nearly 60 street lights have been out for the past two months. Councilman Bam Cox also offered some suggestions for installing new lights.

Council informally directed the police department to log street lights out and that the city would subtract the cost from their Alabama Power Company bill.

In other business, council:

-HEARD a request for permission to hold road blocks one weekend in April by the St. Clair Emergency Squad, located in Pell City. Capt. C. J. Goodwin also gave council a report on updated communications which will allow fastest response time and the

purchase of an ambulance for the squad.

-AGREED to pay schools located in the city the amount of fees collected for utilities as has been past policy.

-AGREED to the installation of a sidewalk on 19th St. South just off Cogswell Ave. to connect the sidewalk beside Archie's Super Saver.

-APPROVED rezoning of property located near the Country Store in Cropwell from a holding zone to restricted business.

-NOTED the recent death of city employee Charles Looney who was killed in an automobile accident last week. Mayor Hugh Williamson stated Looney was the first death under a new city insurance policy and his beneficiaries would receive \$10,000.

-TOOK NO ACTION on a on-premise liquor and beer license for the Hotstie Totsie Club located just off King Circle in Pell City.

# 'The Flower Lady' named

Mrs. Willie King, known around Pell City as 'The Flower Lady,' was named Pell City's Citizen of the Year at a banquet sponsored by the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce.

Making the announcement at the Pell City Civic Center Thursday night was keynote speaker Bill Baxley, former Alabama Attorney General who is currently practicing law in Birmingham.

Mrs. King has become a familiar figure around the downtown area and is responsible for the care of the flowers and plants located up and down Cogswell Avenue and

a couple of other areas.

In kicking off her project Mrs. King walked through town picking up litter and trash and urging store owners to keep their premises picked up.

After the anti-litter campaign, Mrs. King went to work planting shrubs and flowers in the cement planters found along Cogswell Avenue. Mrs. King was nominated for the honor by the Pell City Kiwanis Club and the Pell City Jaycees.

Earlier this year, Mrs. King was honored by the Jaycees and by the Pell City City Council who unanimously recognized

her for the work she has done in beautifying the city.

In accepting the award, Mrs. King commented that she took the job with the city at a time "I needed something." She added that the job had been good for her and she felt she had been good for the city.

Past Chamber of Commerce President William Trussell read a letter from Mayor Hugh Hardy Williamson which congratulated Mrs. King and read, "I honestly believe our city is a much more beautiful place to live and work" because of her efforts.

Baxley received a standing

ovation upon introduction and commented he was pleased to be speaker for the event as "has beans" don't get asked to such affairs as often.

Speaking on the mood of today, Baxley noted that people always remember the good and often forget the bad that accompanies.

He stated that despite the problems facing America, like Iran, that the nation is not in as bad a shape as it was in years past. "We will look back and feel good about the 70s," he said.

One problem facing the country is the lack of

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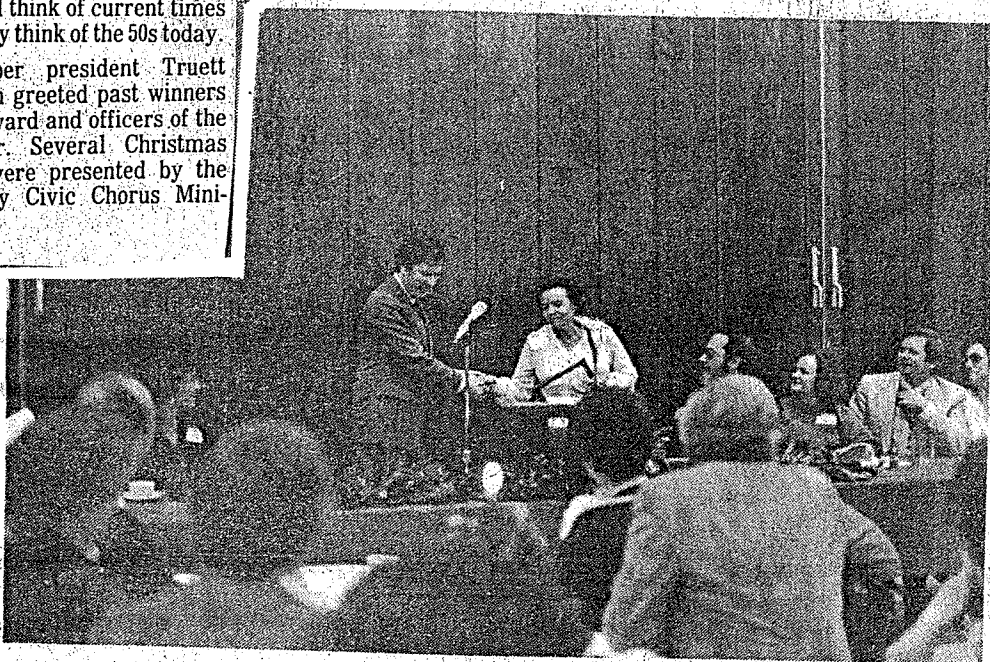
Sunday, December 9, 1979

## citizen of the year

leadership. But he cautioned, "We never will have a perfect country but never take the attitude that this country is down the drain."

He concluded that "we are better than where we came from 20 or 30 years ago," and that we would probably look back and think of current times like many think of the 50s today.

Chamber president Truett Langston greeted past winners of the award and officers of the Chamber. Several Christmas carols were presented by the Pell City Civic Chorus Mini-Singers.



### Makes Presentation

Above former Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley presents the 1979 Citizen of the Year, Mrs. Willie King, during ceremonies at the Civic Center Thursday night. The project was sponsored by the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce.

# \$\$\$ center of attention

BY MIKE MOSER  
News-Aegis Editor

Spending money, counting money and watching money seemed to capture the attention of members of the Pell City Council during Monday night's regular meeting.

After council had discussed and approved some expenditures Councilman Charles Lockridge recognized a half dozen firemen and noted while he did not know their reason for attending Monday night's session, he assumed it was money.

The firefighters did not address council during the meeting but afterwards met with Lockridge who told the men he was in favor of a pay raise if money was available and the finance committee would approve the action.

Lockridge proposed a pay hike be studied by the finance committee and a report be given to the firefighters by next Wednesday. He also suggested

setting up pay steps for fire department employees.

This was sparked by the approval of the purchase of equipment and services for the recreation department by council.

Lockridge questioned the city's financial condition after Councilman Forest Walls had made a motion to purchase a John Deere tractor for cutting grass and lighting the Bronco field.

"We've got to put in for raises for the firemen," Lockridge told fellow council members, adding, "I'm for these other things if the finance committee can assure me the money's there."

Walls responded, "I realize we have spent a lot of money on recreation but this (the lighting) is something we have talked about for a long time." Mayor Hugh Williamson added the program was a 50-50 matching program with the state and was initiated two years ago.

Later in the meeting Lockridge challenged council, "We've got to take a closer look at the budget. We may have to cut back on spending. Sales tax has been cut, building permits are probably down and revenue sharing will either be cut back or cut out all together."

He added that studies on spending need to be conducted in all departments of the city. "We need to look and see where we are spending our money."

Joe Handler, James Perry and Tommy Watson appeared before council expressing a desire to see parts of Coal City annexed into the city, seeking information and facts to present their neighbors.

The trio told council they were not seeking the services of gas, sewer or water but fire and police protection. The group told council they would like to see all willing property owners in Coal City annexed where feasible.

In response, the group was told to circulate petitions among their neighbors and return with the petitions at a later meeting. No action was taken.

## at Pell City meeting

In other business, council:

-HEARD a request from three little league team managers for a press box and rest room facilities to be constructed at the farm league field.

One of the group, Donald Vardaman, also requested the city consider purchasing insurance for little league players. Councilman Paul Turner commented, "We have got to realize we don't have unlimited funds to spend on every program." Civic Center director Marci Vandergriff noted the vast majority of ballplayers were already covered by insurance.

-HEARD a parking complaint from James A. Barber of 1715 Cogswell Ave., in front of his home. The matter was turned over to city attorney Billy Church for study.

-HEARD a request from Walls to allow the fence behind the Civic Center to be open from 5 a.m. til 9 p.m. each day to allow citizens access to the lake for fishing.

-APPROVED the purchase of a John

Deere tractor as the second low bid after rejecting the foreign-made low bid and lighting the Bronco field by Lighting and Lamp Wholesalers of Birmingham's low bid of \$4,559.15.

-APPROVED lighting tennis courts and softball fields at the Civic Center at a cost of \$75,300, low bid from Cheaha Electric. This program is a 50-50 matching program from the state.

-APPROVED on motion by Councilman Dr. Bam Cox payment of \$40, approximately half of expenditures, of little league umpires.

-APPROVED formally naming the Spanish Garden Cutoff Road, which travels between U. S. 78 and the Old Coal City Road, Pleasant Valley Drive and the purchase of street signs.

-TABLED a request to rename the Verly Allen Road.

-APPROVED qualification fees for mayor at \$50 and for council at \$25.

-NOTED the next council meeting would be held May 19 instead of May 12.

# Pell City sets second meeting

BY MIKE MOSER  
News-Aegis Editor

Pell City Mayor Hugh Williamson told members of council that the city would be meeting again with officials of the Alabama Gas Corporation this week in an effort to negotiate the possible sell of the city's natural gasoline franchise.

Williamson, City Attorney Billy Church and Councilman Charles Lockridge

were to make a counter-offer to the company in response to Alagasco's offer of last month to pay \$173,000 for the franchise.

Gasoline of another kind also captured the attention of council when members were informed of the city being placed on a gasoline allocation by its current supplier, Chevron.

The allocation is based on last year's purchases during the same time period. The

city is preparing to install a larger underground tank in an effort to purchase bulk-load gasoline at a lower price.

The city was informed by Tucker Bros. that it would cost Pell City between \$3,000 and \$4,500 (depending on the method) to install a pressure controlling valve on water lines on Hwy 231 South.

Water superintendent James Tyson informed the council that city employes

## with Alagasco

could install the same at an approximate cost of \$1,000 plus labor, possibly without interrupting service.

The city has been plagued by lines breaking in that area this winter and it is hoped that installing the valve will reduce stress on the lines: The valve will be installed at the Holiday Park intersection.

Sedden Shores and Truss-Ferry Rd. residents, about 40 families in all, petitioned the council seeking help in getting cable TV in their community and it was agreed that the city would approach the company about service.

Councilman Raymond 'Bam' Cox stated it was his desire to see the city engage in a clean-up campaign similar to one currently being staged in Talladega. Both Cox and Williamson stated they would look into such a program and funding for the same.

Since the recent announcement that Pell City would no longer have a bus station, Councilman Joe

Sawyer proposed that the city contact the bus lines to seek a new office for the lines and also suggested that the city go ahead with plans to make diagonal parking between 17th and 18th Streets south of Cogswell Ave. where the old bus station was.

In other business, council:

-Approved purchasing an advertisement in the journal for cities for a city manager.

-Approved supporting a move to close a street adjoining property owned by the board of education and the future site of a new Pell City High School pending finalizing of plans.

-Was informed of a CETA grant which will allow the city to hire a landscaper, a general utilities person and four laborers to be employed until next October. The total grant was for \$32,000.

-Was notified of the upcoming library addition dedication which will be held February 25 at 2:30 p.m.

-Approved the resignation

of Charles Myers on the industrial development board and is starting a search for his replacement.

-Was informed that the city is in the process of installing a hook to be used to lower persons injured in the Civic Center on the upstairs area as a safety feature.



# Pell City wages war on littering

Pell City declared war on litter at their Monday night council meeting.

Action was also taken on improving radio communications and getting separate phone listings for police and firemen. The council also agreed to negotiate to shore land near the civic center.

An audiovisual presentation on litter reduction was shown to the council by a representative of the American Brewers Association.

The slide show, entitled "Pitch In for Positive Litter Reduction (PLR)" showed the sources and hazards of litter—uncontainerized solid waste.

Ways were shown to help solve the problem. Anniston is the national model for the PLR program, and Talladega has recently approved the plan.

The PLR program is designed to function under the city government.

After the slides were seen, the mayor and council asked questions about PLR. Mayor Hugh Williamson asked how many garbage bags would be supplied, and was told "maybe 4,000."

Dr. R. F. Cox asked how the city could get the anti-litter message across to the tourists that come through town each summer. The Brewers Association man said he could offer no solution to that.

Dr. Cox made a motion to adopt the PLR cleanup campaign program. Paul Turner seconded the move, which passed unanimously.

The council also voted to accept a low bid of \$4,194 from Motorola for two police radios. Dr. Cox was also given the go-ahead to have separate telephone line installed for police and fire before the new directories are printed.

Councilman Paul Turner was commended on his work in seeking to acquire land for the city between the civic center and Lake Logan Martin.

The council and mayor agreed to continue negotiating for the land in order to develop the recreation area to their specifications. "We would make a mistake if we don't try to buy this land," warned Turner.

If the deal is finalized, the city will own all the land behind the civic center on the left side of the road and will be able to properly police its use.

The council also voted to change the name of the fire department to "The Pell City Fire and Rescue Department" in order to be eligible for a wide range of funding.

The council voted to seek a mutual assistance pact with Riverside to send firetrucks to the other town upon the first request from the other fire department.

The council intends to seek a written agreement with Riverside, which would reduce insurance rates for both municipalities.

The towns would be able to cancel the agreement on 30 days' notice if the arrangement proved unsatisfactory.



# Pell City council investigates feud over street repairs

Streets and sewage treatment occupied much of the meeting for the Pell City council Monday night.

The council members made progress in those areas, plus other areas.

A group of residents from the Lee's Landing area met with the council seeking aid in having their street repaired. They reported that they had taken the matter to court in their 2½ year struggle, but to no avail.

They requested that the city resurface the street, despite the wishes of two neighborhood landowners.

According to spokesman J. G. Wheat, they filed their unsuccessful

lawsuit at the advice of attorney Billy Church, whom they feel turned against them once it was in court.

Church said that he disagreed with the wording of the lawsuit, which he interpreted as seeking to have the road rerouted and one family's home moved.

Church also recalled that city road workers had been ordered out and had the road blocked to keep city vehicles from repairing the road.

After several minutes of discussion among the delegation, the attorney, and the mayor and council, it was pointed out that the street is, after all, city property.

Councilman Charles Lockridge proposed sending police chief Ruble Bowlin with the maintenance crew to forestall problems. The council agreed completely with a motion from Paul Turner that the city maintain its road regardless of objections.

When the residents also requested that a drainage problem be corrected, Lockridge advised, "Let's first do this work, then if they take us to court and we win, we'll fix the road like it should be."

Councilman Joe Sawyer offered to join the road crew the next day when they went to repair the road. Confirming that the road was filled with potholes, he said he was interested in personally seeing that the situation be corrected.

Mayor Hugh Williamson asked the council to endorse the Chamber of Commerce's request that St. Clair County join the Jefferson-Shelby-Walker United Way. The mayor indicated that the county would supply volunteer workers for the annual drive, which would replace a spate of local drives.

He explained that many agencies in the county would continue to be served, such as Scouts, Red Cross, and other area-wide agencies. He said that local agencies would have to apply for membership in the management organization.

The council voted to sign the letters of endorsement, which are being sought from other county bodies. Councilman Forrest Walls made the motion, which was seconded by Lockridge. Dr. R. F. Cox agreed after the matter was more fully explained. He

commented wryly, "Usually when you get into something with Birmingham, you're in trouble."

\* \* \* \*

The council members made progress reports on various matters of old business.

—Walls noted that water pressure surges are still not corrected to Ed Ash's houses.

—Dr. Cox said that he and the police and fire chiefs have been working with the telephone company and have agreed to have only one emergency phone number for both departments. The number will go into effect when the new directories are distributed.

—An emergency exit has also been effected at

Continued from page 1

the civic center's running track, stated Dr. Cox. He said that a basket system has been rigged up to transport victims or heart attacks or other sudden seizures.

Concern had been expressed on how victims would be lowered from the elevated exercise track inside the center.

—Councilman Turner indicated that the purchase of property adjacent to the civic center is closer to finalization. He and the road crew intend to visit the lot to study road routing.

—When asked about a tar wagon, Mayor Williamson reported that both he and street supervisor Pete Martin were disappointed by the county's castoff wagon, 1974 for the same which they termed as

"burnt out."

—Beer licenses were approved for two locations. An off premises license was granted to the Cubberd, located at the Cropwell intersection of Hwy. 231 and 19th Street. An on-premises license was approved for the soon-to-be-built Pasquale's restaurant, which will be located near the new movie theatres, adjacent to Cisco Auto Parts on Hwy. 231.

—The council voted to give the mayor authority (in keeping with federal laws) to sign papers on the city's long-delayed sewage treatment plant.

Clerk Bettie Scott mentioned that the council had adopted an identical resolution in 1974 for the same anticipated project.

# Pell City zoning hearing set

What is being called a three year effort by the Pell City Planning Commission has recently been completed and a hearing will be held next Monday for citizens to view the results starting at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center.

The hearing will be on the proposed zoning ordinance and official zoning map and citizen comments and suggestions at the hearing will be the basis of any changes made in the proposed ordinance prior to its submission to city council for its final adoption.

In an official statement that was released Tuesday, Pell City residents were told the following:

"Pell City residents will have at least two opportuni-

ties to make their views known on the proposed zoning ordinance. After the Planning Commission has held its hearing on October 16, final revisions will be made and the commission will submit its recommendation to the city council.

"The city council will hold its own hearing on the proposed ordinance which is expected to be scheduled for hearing on November 6.

"After public hearing, the ordinance will be voted on and, if passed, it will become effective on the date of its publication in the newspaper. Pell City residents are encouraged to take advantage of the public hearings to express their opinions."

Copies of the proposed ordinance and the proposed zoning map are available for public examination at the City Hall and at the Civic Center during normal business hours.

The zoning ordinance will reportedly regulate the use

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of land within Pell City in order to provide for orderly and efficient growth and development of the city.

Since Pell City currently does not have a zoning ordinance, "anyone can build anything virtually anywhere" This has resulted in some degree of congestion, poor traffic circulation, overcrowded facilities and less than adequate sewer and water services according to the report.

The report went on to state that the most significant problem results from conflicting land use. And the city has little control over the type of or quality of development within its jurisdiction.

The proposal calls for eleven types of land use districts which are as follows:

R-A: Residence Agricultural District.

R-1: Low-density residential district.

R-2: Medium low-density residential district

R-3: Medium-density residential district

R-4: High-density residential district

P-R: Planned community residential district.

B-1: Neighborhood business district.

B-2: General Business district.

M-1: Light manufacturing district.

M-2: General manufacturing district.

F-C: Flood plain and conservation district.

The official zoning map, which also a part of this hearing, shows how the boundaries of the various districts or zones are arranged within the city.

There were several considerations taken in as the zoning map was prepared. These included existing land use pattern estimates of future needs and the recommendations of Pell City's

Comprehensive Plan.

"In the developed areas of the city, the existing land use was perhaps the greatest factor in determining how any particular area should be zoned. Existing business areas are zoned for business and residential areas are zoned for residential use.

"In developed areas, the zoning decision was based on recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan, adjoining land uses, special environmental factors, or other apparent need.

The commission attempt-

ed to provide enough undeveloped land in each zoning category to meet the needs of Pell City's future growth as well. Manufacturing zones were located in areas where basic utilities and transportation services can be provided.

"Business zones were located where commercial development would be favorable. The best areas for residential use are preserved by designation in an appropriate residential category," according to the report.

The report concluded that since it was impossible to completely anticipate future needs, the ordinance provides a method for amendment and for the creation of a zoning board of adjustment.

The hearing is open to the public and will begin at 7 p.m. on October 16. Council

will hold a brief meeting starting at 6 p.m. prior to the public hearing.

## Pell City landfill to close in June

By MARK BOLTON

PELL CITY — Talk about the June 30 closing of a landfill dominated the proceedings at Monday's meeting of the Pell City City Council.

The owner of the landfill notified city officials that operation costs were exceeding profits and the landfill would be closed. The owner will be giving up the St. Clair County contract as well, but will still operate landfills at Ashville and Ragland.

Mayor Hugh Hardy Williamson noted that the trucks used to haul the debris average only two to three miles per gallon of gasoline. The closest landfills open after June 30 will be in Talladega and Rose Hill. Rose Hill Road intersects with U.S. 78 in Iron- dale.

Several council members suggested the city operate its own landfill. Suggestions also were made that the city reduce its residential garbage pickup to one day a week. The council agreed that reducing the pickup could pay for gas on the vehicle.

The council agreed to study the matter and reach a decision at a later date.

If a planned conversion from miniatures to larger bottles goes through as planned, a new method of collecting taxes on the liquor must be devised, the council noted.

A recommendation was made that the city study two forms of collecting the taxes. One called for an annual license fee based on the fact that taxes wouldn't be collected on a regular basis. The second called for taxes to be collected on gross sales.

City Clerk Bettie Scott said the city now receives about \$300 a month in revenue from liquor sales. Ten cents is collected on each miniature liquor bottle.

Williamson said the council will study plans in other cities to collect the tax.

Williamson suggested an overall ordinance be passed covering museums within the city. City Clerk Bettie Scott noted that requests to purchase articles from the museum in city hall had been made in the past.

Mary Mays, a long-term resident and historian in the area, has requested an ordinance be drawn up to cover that situation. Mrs. Mays requested that any articles donated to the museum become the absolute property of the museum and not be removed.

In other business the council: —Declared June 1-8 National Safe Boating Week in conjunction with other

local and national governments.

—Said it had received complaints from residents in Seddon Shores concerning cable television service not being supplied to the area. The cable company had been unable to acquire enough cable to include Seddon Shores at this time.

—Noted that Mike Mahan will loan the museum a Civil War relic.

## St. Clair beer tax increased

By MARK BOLTON

ASHVILLE — In an unannounced meeting Saturday night, the St. Clair County Commissioners voted, among other matters, to extend a countywide beer tax, among other matters.

The Criminal Code of Alabama dictates that any special meeting of a county commission be held only upon 10 days public notice by direction of the probate judge. Notice must be given by advertisement in a newspaper, or by posting notice of the meeting on the courthouse door and two other public places within the county.

During the Saturday session, a two-cent per can beer tax increase was adopted by the commission. The action raised the total per-can rate to five cents.

The commissioners said they studied beer taxes in Jefferson and Etowah counties before reaching that decision.

In other matters, a \$40 per month raise was granted to roadcrew foremen, who stayed on the job after members of Local 1330, Brotherhood of State, County and Municipal Workers walked off. A motion to make that increase with retroactive pay to March 1 died without a second being made.

The commission passed a unanimous decision to raise the fee of the owner of Urban Sanitation, to \$4.50 per load of garbage. One commissioner said he had heard rumours the landfill would be closed.

McClendon said he made the decision to call the meeting Saturday morning. Two Daily Home reporters noticed several of the commissioners' cars parked at the Ashville courthouse at dusk Saturday. McClendon said several items needed to be discussed before the next regular meeting scheduled for June 11.

A spokesman for the Criminal Justice Information Center in Montgomery verified such meetings were in direct violation of the law.

"Civil action could validate any action that was taken" in these meetings. As an individual matter some form of impeachment might be in order, if the offense was serious enough," the spokesman said.

## Pell City Council seeks way to collect liquor taxes

By MARK BOLTON

PELL CITY — A search for a reasonable method of collecting liquor taxes is continuing in Pell City, but city officials said Monday they may have found a solution.

As of June 1, nightclubs will be given the option of pouring from miniature bottles or from the larger sizes. Nightclubs continuing to pour from miniatures will be taxed in the traditional manner, but those making the conversion will present a problem, the council said.

The council recommended a study be made of sales tax receipts and a tax be placed on the club's gross sales receipts. The finance committee will study the matter and come up with a decision at a later date.

Recreation Director Marcie Vandegrift informed the council of leaks in the roof of the Pell City Civic Center, broken windows in the game room and dead trees in front of the building. Miss Vandegrift said the drains in the building had been checked and were in good condition.

Miss Vandegrift said water was three inches deep in the arts and crafts room and also had leaked into the kitchen and the banquet room, bucking up the floor in some places. The council said the leaks would be investigated immediately.

Miss Vandegrift noted the council had voted to replace the windows in the game room in the last meeting, but the firm scheduled to do the work didn't have the glass in stock. The council advised her to contact another company.

The council noted several trees in front of the Civic Center had died since the structure was completed. Miss

Vandegrift said there were three trees near electrical wires that posed a potential safety threat. The council said the city doesn't own the proper equipment to fell the large trees, but that they would study the matter.

Miss Vandegrift noted lighting construction on the city tennis courts on 19th Street was completed and the contractors "have done a real good job."

In other business the council:

—Was thanked by Captain C.J. Goodwin of the St. Clair County Emergency Rescue Squad. Goodwin came before the council earlier to gain permission to set up fund-raising road blocks within the city limits. Goodwin said the squad collected \$1,645 from the roadblocks.

—Granted a name change from George Yarbrough to Thrifty Inn Inc. for an off-premise beer license.

—Opened bids on two police cars for the city. John Rogers Ford had the apparent low bid, but the police committee will study the bids and reach a decision at a later date.

# Pell City gas customers hit by increase

Natural gas customers in Pell City were hit with another price increase this week from Southern Natural Gas Corporation, it was learned at Monday night's council meeting.

City fathers, expressing regret at the announcement, voted to pass on the increase to customers. The city has attempted to sell the natural gas franchise during the past year for this and a number of other reasons.

Every time Southern announces an increase, council members get credit with the action, although, according to council, they have no choice in the matter. Mayor Hugh Williamson also informed councilmen of a proposal before the regulating commission to allow Southern four automatic increase each year as opposed to the two the company is now granted.

Increases which went into effect July 1 amount to 60 cents per thousand cubic feet of natural gas. This raises the minimum of \$3.10 per thousand cubic feet for domestic

customers (homes) to \$3.70. Large housing rates increased from \$2.80 to \$3.40 and commercial rates jumped from \$2.11 to \$2.71.

In other business, council formally approved a request to close an unnamed cutoff road in Glenn City near the First Baptist Church at the request of four members of that congregation. The group also requested information on a sewage project in that community which they stressed was needed badly.

Council and the mayor advised the delegation that one million dollar federal grant was turned down and another application has been reapplied for.

"There is no question of the need," commented Williamson who added that source of funding for the project has been the cause for delays. It was also noted that rock in the area had also caused problems including additional costs that previously were not included in the project.

Council also:

RECEIVED a letter from

Mrs. Mary D. Smith commending the city and Mrs. King for the downtown beautification project. Clerk Bettie Scott added that representatives from the Birmingham City Council traveled to Pell City recently to view the downtown

beautification project to gain ideas for a community in that city.

-APPROVED a previous proposal entering an agreement with Alabama Gas Corporation to provide complete service to the new industrial park.

# P.C. Council hears proposed fuel conversion

By DAVID HAYNES

PELL CITY — Running city vehicles on compressed natural gas would cost the equivalent of 35 cents per gallon, a representative for a company specializing in converting fleets to run on natural gas told City Council members Monday.

Craig Phillips of Dual Fuel Systems, Inc. of Clearwater, Fla., said the actual cost of the gas is about 28 cents for the same fuel value as a gallon of gasoline. The other 7½ cents goes to pay for compression of the gas.

Phillips said his company has converted fleets for several cities in Alabama and surrounding states, all of which operated their own natural gas utility company. Several newspapers, utility companies and one major city, Knoxville, Tenn., also are using the company's conversion kits on their vehicles.

Phillips said advantages of the conversion include reduced fuel costs, low maintenance and safety in handling. As an example of maintenance savings, he said most vehicles can go 50,000 or more between oil changes and tuneups.

Disadvantages include a limited range on natural gas and an estimated 15 percent loss of horsepower, according to Phillips, although new equipment may eliminate the horsepower reduction soon.

The conversion consists of a high pressure compressed gas bottle or bottles and an air filter-type device that fits over the carburetor and a switching system to allow the driver to switch back to gasoline when the gas is exhausted.

Phillips said much of the equipment and technology was borrowed from the natural gas industry and the SCUBA diving industry.

When a vehicle is to be traded, the entire system can be bolted onto a new vehicle for a minimal cost, he said.

Phillips acknowledged the system is expensive to install (about \$23,000 each for the compressors alone), but emphasized the investment would be repaid within about two years in fuel savings.

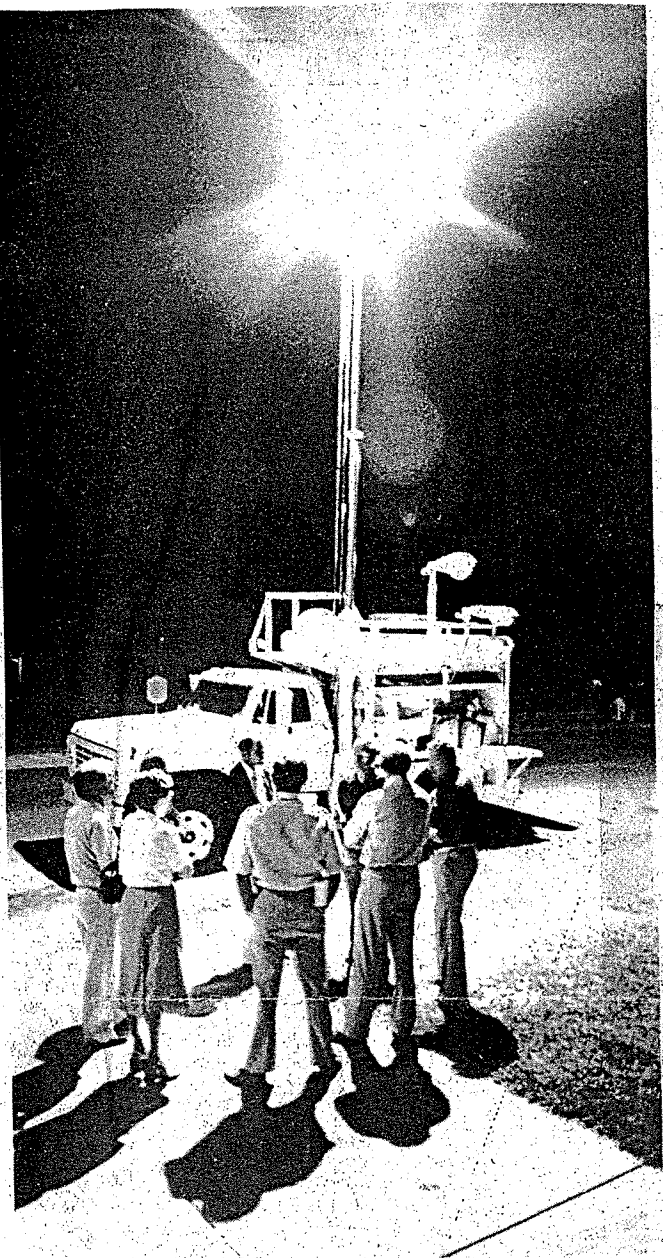
Pell City now pays an average of \$7,000 per month for gasoline with costs rising steadily.

The council indicated it was interested in checking further into pros and cons of conversion, but made no commitment Monday.

The low bid of \$5,046 from Wilson Brothers Construction of Childersburg was accepted on some 1940 square yards of paving at the new Cropwell Fire Station. A total of six bids was received with the highest one being \$9,962.

The bid from a local sporting goods

store was the low bid for the handy price as an adult three to four weeks on whether in said a hearing would be held in Assistant Solicitor Richard V. With boy was in protective custody. Prices other child, a 10-year-old in jail Tuesday without bond. The three defendants remained in the neighborhood, some unrest in the neighborhood early Sunday, there had been a peaceful Sunday afternoon.



City Council members in Pell City took in a demonstration of sodium vapor street lights following Monday's council meeting. The unusual Alabama Power Company truck was designed to be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of various types of street lights by driving to the proposed

location. With the aid of a self-contained electrical generator and a telescoping light pole, the truck can simulate nearly any light. The new sodium vapor lights will put out more light for the same amount of power, the demonstration showed. (David Haynes photo)

simulate a streetlight. The new type of light puts out more light from the same amount of electricity.

Agreed to install four street lights on the Spanish Garden, Cutoff Road.

Approved a zoning change from R1 to R4 in the Leilus Walker Subdivision to allow mobile homes to be placed in

the subdivision. The change was recommended by the city Planning Commission.

Approved an off-premise beer license application for the Corner Grocery, U.S. 231 South.

Heard a complaint on dogs barking from H.O. Whaley.

# PC resident asks for help

By ARROL SHEEHAN

PELL CITY — A resident of 19th Street appeared before the City Council Monday to ask that something be done about blood and raw sewage which flows in a ditch from a nearby meat processing plant.

Stella Carroll said on slaughter days the odor and mess is deplorable. She said, "Since we don't have sewage down there, I think something should be

done. The days they kill hogs or beef, it's terrible."

Even though her residence is well within in the city limits, it is not on the city sewage system. She lives on the opposite side of the road from the plant and down the hill from several apartments.

Describing the situation as a health hazard, she said she had contacted the St. Clair County Health Department

DAILY HOME, Talladega-Sylacauga, Ala., Wednesday, February 13, 1980 — 5

## with plant refuse

about her complaints but had received no response at all.

Mrs. Carroll said water also stands in an area between her house and the apartments, which means mosquitoes swarm in summer. She said she was planning to have several large pine trees in her back yard cut down so that her back yard would dry out.

In addition, Mrs. Carroll said she had asked several previous mayors for a street light to be installed in front of her home since several accidents had occurred there.

Mayor Hugh Williamson said the city would look into the questions on Tuesday.

In another matter, at the request of Fate Gossett, the council agreed to open Second Avenue South across from the Pell City High School gymnasium for one block to Treemont Street.

Councilman Dr. Joe Sawyer requested that tree pickup by city crews be limited to trees on personal property and exclude trees left by contractors who clear land for subdivisions. The council unanimously adopted the plan as an official policy.

Sawyer added the Street and Sanitation Department's track loader needs to be repaired. He said Thompson Tractor and Equipment in Aniston has estimated parts replacement at \$1,700 and labor at \$500. The council gave the go-ahead to have the work done.

Alleys in the downtown area between 20th and 21st streets also need to be

kept clean, Sawyer said. Describing the situation as "unbelievable," the councilman asked that all merchants be contacted to see if they would help by placing trash containers in the area.

Councilman F.A. Walls said he "had a yard full of dogs" and said he also had heard complaints from Shadydale Trailer Park about the animals getting into trash cans.

The mayor said a simple and humane solution is to sprinkle several drops of concentrated disinfectant cleaner in garbage bags before tying them.

Councilman Charles Lockridge commented he had heard no recent complaints about Suburban Ambulance Service and noted they had moved their operation to Francis Street from Coal City.

Lockridge also said he had heard many favorable comments about the restriping of parking spaces on one block on the south side of Cogswell Avenue. The council approved changing the angle of parking for another section of Cogswell.

Williamson said action on the 208 Water Plan needs to be taken before the end of the month, as representatives from the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission had said at an earlier meeting. He also announced that representatives from Miller-Watt-Estes, Inc. would meet with the council Tuesday to discuss the recently completed traffic study.

# St. Clair traffic study is completed

By ARROL SHEEHAN

PELL CITY — A traffic light at the entrance to Pell City Plaza Shopping Center was among the recommendations made in a year-long traffic safety study of the city presented in a Tuesday afternoon meeting.

Other recommendations included removing a number of traffic lights, eliminating all four-way stops, creating turning lanes and doing away with several traffic lights.

The written report submitted last month was made by the consulting engineering firm of Miller-Watt-Estes, Inc. of Chattanooga, Tenn., and was authorized by the Alabama Highway Department. Representatives from the firm and the department attended the meeting with councilmen Dr. Joe Sawyer, Dr. R.F. Cox, City Clerk Bettie Scott and Mayor Hugh Williamson.

Both the city and the Highway Department will write their comments and recommendations about the study between now and Monday. Grant money may be available for improvements through the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission along with city funds of an undetermined amount.

According to the study, traffic lights should be removed from the intersections of Cogswell Avenue and 16th, 17th and 18th streets and from along First Avenue South. The peak period for traffic on U.S. 78 and U.S. 231 is between 4 and 5 p.m., according to the report.

A traffic light at the entrance to Iola Roberts School on U.S. 231 also should be removed, the study concluded. Cox pointed out that coal trucks often speed down the hill toward the school intersection.

The reason for moving the traffic signal there is that five accidents have occurred there, which identifies it as one of the "high hazard" locations, the study concluded.

Turning lanes should be marked off on U.S. 231 at Hospital Drive and on the hill by a car wash further south on the highway, the study states.

An overall recommendation is that one person, probably Police Chief Huble Bowlin, be placed in charge of coordinating traffic signals, making a complete inventory of all traffic signs, and preparing to upgrade construction plans.

The reason for changing yield signs

to stop signs is that the study found most of the yield signs could not be approached at 10 miles per hour and still have a good view of oncoming traffic.

An observation of all school zones showed the principle recommendation that the street between Duran Junior High and Pell City High School should be closed during school hours. The reason is that three times a day students must change classes there.

Since 23 trains pass through the city each day, the study recommends lights and bells at every Southern Railway grade crossing except one. Vice-President Edward Watt of the consulting firm pointed out that the stop sign on a spur line near the post office is "hazardous" and should be removed.

To warrant a four-way stop, guidelines call for a certain traffic volume at intersections. A survey of the 17 intersections in Pell City using the signs showed none had sufficient

traffic volumes. The recommendation was that all be changed to two-way stops.

All traffic lights on First Avenue should be moved since side street traffic is not sufficient to warrant lights there, according to the study.

Upgrading of signals is needed at the intersections of U.S. 231 and Third Avenue and U.S. 231 at Comer Avenue. Also at Comer Avenue, the study recommends current angle parking be changed to parallel parking to allow for another lane's construction.

Five accidents have been reported at the intersections of Cogswell and 17th Street and at Martin Street and Ninth Avenue. For these high-accident locations, it was recommended that traffic lights be removed.

The purpose of the study is to try to get the highest yield per dollar throughout the state from the Highway Department, according to Gerald Anderson of central traffic control with the department.



# Pell City to crack down on non-licensed realtors

BY MIKE MOSER  
News-Aegis Editor

Stating letters and phone calls had not worked, the Pell City Council instructed its legal counsel to draft letters to out-of-city real estate agents conducting business in the city without a license.

Then, if the companies involved do

not purchase a license, the city promised to prosecute violators.

Council Monday night was acting on complaints lodged with members from local real estate agents who have purchased license to sell property inside the city limits.

Pell City Police Chief Ruble Bowlin stated this week it was his belief there

were six outside real estate companies conducting business illegally in the city limits. "We'll take these signs down," said Bowlin.

Noting it was hard to catch the agents, council generally agreed with Dr. Bam Cox when he stated, "It's just not fair to the local realtors" for them to purchase licenses and outside companies not.

The subject was presented to council by Councilman Forest Walls who concurred and urged action be taken. Clerk Bettie Scott and Bowlin both stated the companies in question had been called by telephone and that statements had been sent for license fees with no response from the violators.

Attorney Bill Church told council they could enforce the license fee ordinance through injunctions and by charging those who fail to purchase a license. Mayor Hugh Williamson asked Church to write a letter for the city and then to take the appropriate action.

In other action, council:

-APPROVED a resolution making April 1 'Census Day' in Pell City.

-APPROVED a formal contract with Alabama Power Company for electrical service to a sewer lift station in the Harrisburg community.

-AGREED to call for bids on five vehicles the city now has which were described as 'clunkers.'

-HEARD a report from Councilman Dr. Joe Sawyer from a Harrisburg resident who was asking for reimbursement for a fence and five fruit trees which were removed when a recent sewer project was in construction in that community. No action was taken.

-RECEIVED a number of bids for fence and lighting at the Bronco field. Bids from Blackmon's Cash and Carry, All-Rite Fence Company, A and G Awning and Fence Company, Dixie Awning Company and Sears and Roebuck. A and G was the low bidder at \$2,273.09.

Also received bids from the above for a chain link fence around the Civic Center area with A. and G the low bidder again, at \$4,158. Also received bids for fencing around two softball fields with A and G of Gadsden the low bidder again, \$5,588.

-APPROVED a 208 water study implementation statement as a matter of routine business.

-APPROVED a rezoning request from Logan-Martin Properties on behalf of a client, Reinhardt and Ward Construction Company of Pell City, for a new office building location in Cropwell.

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# Pell Citizens protest treatment plant

PELL CITY — A citizens delegation came before the Pell City Council Monday night to protest the proposed site of a new sewage treatment plant.

Group spokesman Roy Laning and other group members questioned city engineer Charles Tucker about flooding at the proposed site, its location and why adjacent property owners were not notified about the plans.

"We will definitely be above flood. We've monitored this site since 1974," Tucker told the group.

One member of the group asked, "I've heard from the beginning it was to clean up Dye Creek. Why was it picked up from Dye Creek and put out there in front of our house?"

Tucker said the proposed site, on 15 acres off Golf Course Road, met criteria needed in locating a treatment plant. The criteria included being located as far downstream as possible, close to the river, and out of danger of flooding.

Members of the group said the Alabama Water Improvement Commission was unaware the present site is being considered.

"They can be surprised if they want to," Tucker said as he held up a copy of a 201 Facilities Plan which he said spells out the proposed plant.

Members of the citizens group said, "They (AWIC) told us there never was any plans submitted to them. When was there a public hearing on it? Are there no codes to notify property owners within a hundred feet?"

Tucker said there was no code and produced a photocopy of a notice of a public hearing published March 24, 1977 in a local newspaper.

Tucker presented a brief slide presentation of the proposed treatment plant. He said, "There's been some misunderstanding of the type plant that we propose."

He explained the plant will take sewage from a main line into a circular oxidation channel 100 feet wide and 300 feet long.

The sewage then will go into a clarifier and be disinfected. Sludge will be routed to drying beds while the remaining water will be discharged

into the middle of the Coosa River via a submerged pipe.

"There is practically no odor. Nothing over 150 feet. There is nothing objectionable about these plants," Tucker added.

He said construction on the plant probably would begin this summer and be functional within eight to 12 months.

Members of the group asked Tucker, "Is that the only site you could find?" Tucker said, "We considered a number of sites. AWIC and EPA both have been on this site."

Mayor Hugh Williamson told the group that "sometime prior to 1972" the city was told it must do something about the sewage system. "We keep getting an extension to give us time. We are charged with the responsibility by the EPA, AWIC and the state health

department. We are going to build a sewage treatment plant."

He said he did not know if the proposed site would or would not be used. "Your objections will be considered. Your protests will be taken into consideration," he said.

Bill Manasco, chief of the AWIC's municipal waste section, said his group is not sure of the location of the proposed plant.

"The original plan we received did not have a map. There were several sites over the years. It's not unusual for the sites to be moved. I just assumed it would be located on Dye Creek. I haven't really set down and talked with Charles Tucker."

Manasco said to his knowledge AWIC has not visited the site. "We plan to visit in December," he added.

Roger O'Neil and a delegation from King Circle came before the council asking for street lights and fire plugs.

The mayor asked the city engineer obtain cost figures for the work.

In other action Monday, the council:

—Received a low bid from Auto Parts Supply on anti-freeze for the city vehicles.

—Granted a beer license to Coosa Valley Grocery.

—Approved the rezoning of 39 acres of land on King Circle from R2 to RA.

—Set Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. as the date for a public hearing on the city budget.

—Approved an ordinance raising one-hour parking to two-hour parking along First Avenue South and along Cogswell Avenue.

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## Priorities listed in Pell City

BY MIKE MOSER  
News-Aegis Editor

Priorities on improving traffic problems in Pell City have been presented to city fathers in a preliminary report filed by a group of state and private traffic engineers this week.

Among sweeping changes in traffic control in the city limits, the report included installation of traffic lights in some key intersections, removal of lights and stop signs in other locations and crossing guards at city railroad crossings.

The report also suggested that use of traffic control devices such as four-way stop signs and yield signs be discontinued.

Although not finalized and not binding on the city, the report is the culmination of traffic surveys and studies carried out by the Alabama Highway Department and Miller-Watt-Estes, Inc., a consulting engineer firm from Chattanooga.

The survey was conducted over the past year and was funded by the federal government at no cost or obligation to the city.

The list of priorities are as follows:

1). Update and make uniform all traffic signs.

2). Installation of railroad crossing lights and gates.

3). Improvement of the intersection of U.S. and Comer and 3rd Avenue.

4). Removing of all four-way stop signs in the city.

5). Installing a traffic light on U. S. 231 at the Plaza Shopping Center.

6). School safety improvements.

7). Installation of turn lanes on U. S. 231 at Hospital Drive.

8). Installation of turn lanes on U.S. 231 at Water Tank Road.

9). Improvements of conditions on U.S. 78 at 22nd and 23rd streets.

10). Improvements on 1st Ave. South including removal of all traffic lights and adjust parking.

Tuesday afternoon Gerald Anderson of the state highway department, Frank Mahaffy of the Birmingham district highway department office, Edward Watt and Harvey McKaig of the consulting firm, went over the proposals and suggestions with Mayor Hugh Williamson, Police Chief Ruble Bowlin, and Councilmen Dr. Joe Sawyer and Dr. Bam Cox.

Included in the meeting was a discussion of funding for a number of projects proposals.

Of top interest was a strip of Hwy 231 from Alabama 34 in Cropwell to In-

terstate 20, where a number of priorities were listed.

One of the high accident-rate areas in the city was listed at U.S. 231 and 9th Street near Iola Roberts Elementary and consultants recommended removal of the traffic light at the intersection there.

Four of the five traffic accidents which occurred at this intersection, the light contributed to the cause.

First Ave. South was another location where traffic lights were recommended for removal. Also, traffic lights on Cogswell Ave. from the east up to 19th Street.

The consultants recommended all city street signs be uniform in accordance with the state sign code and that one city employee—possibly the chief of police—be responsible for correct maintenance and installation.

It was recommended that 12th Street between the high school and junior high school be closed to through traffic permanently. It was also noted that speed breakers are not approved by most standards.

Noting the high volume of train traffic through Pell City (23 trains per day), it was recommended flashing lights and bells be installed at every crossing and the stop sign on a railroad

## traffic survey

spur on Hwy 78 near Avondale Mills be removed.

The study also recommended all 17 four-way stop signs be removed along with yield signs. It was noted the signs had been installed as a speed control device but the study recommended enforcement as opposed to stop signs.

Total cost of priorities listed reached \$358,320 with the largest costs coming

from the railroad crossing proposal. It was estimated to cost \$142,000. It was also noted that the majority of the costs of implementing the proposals could be funded from the federal level through different grants and programs.

Council will study the proposals and submit early next written comments and response before a final draft is recorded.

Mahaffy noted as Tuesday's meeting came to a close, "These are not arbitrary proposals. They are based on sound engineering traffic theories developed over years of study."

## Pell City feels crunch from gas

Natural gas will cost more in Pell City immediately, and it looks like the municipality will not sell its gas system. But not all the news was bad at the city council meeting on Monday night.

Plans were discussed to save money by eliminating alleys from the paving and garbage collection budget. Also, the purchase of new gymnastic equipment was authorized using rec department funds.

Also topping council business was the mention of a one-hour parking ordinance. The council voted to postpone passage until they can get signs forbidding more than an hour of parking on Cogswell Avenue between 18th and 20th Streets.

On the top of the council's list of old business was a report unfavorable to the sale of the city's gas system. AlaGasCo. offered only \$173,000 for the system built in 1938 and 1939, not allowing for depreciation.

The mayor and council said they were "real disappointed" with the low price, but indicated that "the only bright light" is that the company has available gas since the find in north Alabama has yielded more gas than expected.

The council voted unanimously to actively seek that gas and to try to supply the industrial park and to tie on subdivisions between them.

Also on the gas front was an announcement that Southern Natural Gas has upped the price charged the city by 20¢ per 1000 gallons. The raise, which went into effect the first of the year, will have to be passed on to consumers.

The council reluctantly voted to follow Control

Inc.'s recommendation to do so.

They estimated that for a customer formerly charged \$45 for gas, his bill for the same amount would show a \$2.34 increase.

Calling for statements on the proposed budget, the council read the main headings (published previously in this paper). With no public comment they passed the \$1,424,000 balanced budget.

They compared price estimated on underground gasoline tanks next in the meeting and agreed informally that the largest tank, an 8000 gallon container costing \$2,124, would be most economical. That piece of business will be carried over to a later meeting.

Rec director Marcie Vandergrift received permission from the council to begin comparing prices for long-life electric bulbs. She said the ones they use are prone to wear out continuously around the jogging track.

She also was authorized to buy regulation uneven parallel bars for the gymnastics group. Those they have now were described as unsafe. The bars will be bought using profits from past performances. Mayor Hugh Williamson indicated that no bid will be needed.

The proposal to suspend paying upkeep to alleys was not acted upon. If that plan is passed, front door garbage delivery will also begin for businesses.

Fire chief Ben Windsor was given permission to hire another fireman for 19 more 24-hour shifts annually. It will cost roughly \$1200 to hire the man he has in mind, one who has already had the required training.

A proposal was mentioned on page 6.

tioned to extend the street in front of Pell City Plaza northward to connect with the road next to Kentucky Fried Chicken. The council will check to see if a street has been planned for there and to see who owns the land.

Clerk Bettie Scott reported on two companies which want to sell the city new Christmas decorations. The council felt that Dixie Decoration of Montevallo was too high with an estimate in the thousands of dollars, and leaned toward another firm which would sell components for the firemen to assemble on their off-hours, at a cost around \$2000.

# St. Clair landfill to be closed

By MARK BOLTON

PELL CITY — T.C. Harmon Jr. has announced he will close his landfill to the public June 1, but the landfill may remain open to agencies in the county.

St. Clair County Commission Chairman Dr. James H. McClendon noted at the commissioner's meeting Tuesday that health regulations require every county to have at least one operable landfill. Harmon had threatened to close his landfill because the price of operating it had become prohibitive.

The landfill serves St. Clair County and the municipalities of Pell City and Ragland.

Alfred Chippley of the State Health department notified the commissioners June 1 they had 10 days to notify him of an alternative plan.

The commission said St. Clair County is the only county in the state with a privately owned landfill. An estimate of the cost to the county of operating its own landfill was placed at \$100,000 a year.

McClendon said a cost schedule had been drawn up, based on the amount of use by the different agencies. Under the plan St. Clair County would pay \$2,000 a month for the service, Pell City would pay \$2,500 a month and Ragland would be billed \$500 a month.

McClendon recommended the commission participate, as long as several conditions are met. He said Harmon should follow health guidelines in operating the landfill; enter into a one-year contract with the county; lessen the fee if other municipalities began to use the fill;

## to public use

allow the commission to set pickup cost schedules; and give a 60-day notice if it is closed.

A motion was passed authorizing the county attorney to draw up a contract covering the points in question.

St. Clair County Sheriff Clemmons Roe came before the commissioners to request more jailers for the St. Clair County Jail. "There's no way I can run a jail 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with just one man," Roe said. The commissioners said they will study the request.

Roe reported deputies were patrolling the Neely Henry Dam area in an effort to cut down on littering in the area. Roe also reported the Board of Corrections would be removing four prisoners from the jail within a couple of days.

In other business the com-

missioners:

—Approved final tax receipts for the 1978 year for Tax Collector Ed Hollis.

—Heard from J.V. Blackman about coal trucks throwing dust on his property. A motion was passed to set a 15 mph speed limit on the road.

—Refused to issue a club liquor license to Canoe Creek Country Club.

—Accepted bids from Firestone Tire and Truck Center and Chevron USA Inc. for supplies for the road department.

—Classified three CETA workers as tractor operator and maintenance workers.

—Refused to accept a road off of Margaret Argo road as a county road, since it did not meet specifications.

—Accepted a Briarwood Road as a county road.

# Council Gives ADC \$1,500

In its regular meeting Monday evening, the Pell City City Council voted to appropriate \$1,500 to the St. Clair County Adult Development Center.

The city had given that same amount to the Child Development Center last year. When the adult program was created, the children were placed under the direction and financing of the Board of Education.

The Adult Center, as explained by Directors Maureen Armstrong at the meeting is a Title XX program funded by the Department of Pensions and Security, the State Department of Mental Health, and the Association of Retarded Citizens, with matching money coming from St. Clair County.

Mrs. Armstrong said the proposed budget for this year, which included two new vans, was \$92,000.

She added that the amended budget was \$14,000 less because the state would not pay for the van, although the present one has more than 100,000 miles on it.

She added that of the 25 adult students in the center, 10 are from Pell City.

On the motion of Councilman Paul Turner, the council voted to donate the \$1,500.

The council discussed the hiring of a city manager or administrative assistant, and Mayor Hugh Williamson said the ordinance creating the position was now legal and it should advertise in the League of Municipalities bulletin for someone to fill the job.

Councilman Charles Lockridge informed the council of a speeding problem on Wolf Creek Road. He said he watch the street, and "they were really flying down there."

City Attorney Billy Church commented that although it is a county road, the city maintains it and has the authority to put speedbreakers in.

He suggested that signs cautioning drivers about the location of the

speedbreakers should be erected before they were put in.

Councilman Joe Sawyer, head of the Street Department, indicated the speedbreakers would

be put in.

Only one bid, from Nixon's Texaco on Cogswell Avenue, was received on antifreeze for the city. A bid of \$1.65 per gallon was unani-

mously accepted.

The total cost for the three 55-gallon drums specified will be \$437.25.

Mayor Williamson informed the council he Continued on page 8

had received a letter from the League of Municipalities soliciting its public support of Amendment #3 on the ballot in November 7th's general election.

The amendment, drafted by the League, would legalize changes in the form of government in some cities.

The council received a \$750 check from the Chamber of Commerce for its share of the cost of

new Christmas decorations for downtown.

The city is to pay an additional \$750, and the council agreed to pay it.

In other business, the council learned that if there were no unforeseen difficulties, a contract will be ready to let by Jan 1 for the sewer plant with one year to complete.

Also, an on premise beer and liquor license was approved for Laura's Lounge.

## Water Line To Be Studied

Since the water line on Highway 231 South across from Holiday Park has broken numerous times recently, Mayor Hugh Williamson informed the Pell City Council Monday night that he had an engineer study the problem.

Williamson said Charles Tucker had looked at the line and reported the city needed to install a pressure valve in that area.

The pressure at the present time, he said, is at 120 pounds, but with the proposed valve, pressure could be regulated at 70 pounds.

Williamson added that if a major fire occurred, all the pressure could be restored within a minute

and a half.

The cost of the solution Tucker proposed would be a maximum of \$1500. Mayor Williamson, Fire Chief Ben Windsor and Tucker were to meet Wednesday to further study the problem.

Another water related problem has occurred in the area of Pell City Intermediate School, according to Councilman Paul Turner. He said the pipe under the street needed to be opened up.

"Those people have got a problem," Turner added, because water is running up to houses there. Mayor Williamson said he would talk to the Soil Conservation Service to "get some relief that way."

In the final water problem of the night, Councilman Joe Sawyer informed the council of a water leak on Lakeview and Wolf Creek Road.

Two parking problems were also discussed at the meeting. Councilman Charles Lockridge suggested the council "work a better angle" on the parking spaces downtown because it is virtually impossible to back out without entering both lanes.

Also discussed in the area of parking, was changing the parallel spaces on the block of the Greyhound Bus Station back to diagonal parking.

The council is to check with Greyhound to see

how much space it needs to park the bus.

Two concerned citizens appeared before the council to ask for some sort of relief on Wolf Creek Road because of the closeness and height of speedbreakers.

It is "more of a hazard than anything else," they said, because the speedbreakers slow emergency traffic such as an ambulance or fire truck on that road.

In other business, residents of Riviere Estates requested that they have house numbers instead of lot numbers. They were referred to the Pine Harbor Improvement Association.



Value Down; Rates Up—

# City receives disappointing

BY MIKE MOSER  
News-Aegis Editor

Representatives of Pell City meeting with company officials of Alabama Gas Corporation (Alagasco) received some disappointing news when negotiating to sell the city's gas franchise. Council also received some disappointing news on current gas rates.

City attorney Billy Church, Mayor Hugh Williamson and Councilman Charles Lockridge met with Alagasco officials last Tuesday and learned that the company would only offer to pay \$173,000 for the franchise which prompted Councilman Bam Cox to state, "They don't want it do they?"

Church commented that the bottom line was very disappointing, but Williamson noted that Alagasco might be willing to sell the city gas which is the only right side to come out of the meeting.

"If it is the feeling of council, then I think we ought to pursue buying more gas from them," added Church.

Cox made a motion to pursue purchasing gas from Alagasco and Paul Turner seconded the motion.

Williamson added that one plan that might be considered would be to supply both industrial parks and the area between with Alagasco. Lockridge pointed out that one item that Alagasco made explicit was that gas rates for the next three years would not be lowered from the current rates but could increase.

The bad news council received came in the form of a rate increase from the city's current supplier, Southern Natural Gas which will amount to about a 15 cent per thousand cubic feet to the customer.

The increase went into effect the first of the year and Turner commented, "We have to receive these things with great reluctance; we have no choice." A home that uses 12,000 cubic feet will receive approximately a \$2.34 increase.

A proposed budget was adopted by council listing an income for the city at \$1,424,000 with expenditures

at the same. Income includes \$700,000 in gross receipts tax, \$160,000 in privilege license and \$151,377 in revenue sharing.

Top expenditures included \$485,500 in the street department, \$221,400 in the police department and \$178,800 for the fire department. Administrative expenditures were listed at \$113,800 and miscellaneous expenditures were listed at \$1,424,000.

In other business, council started the meeting

behind closed doors meeting with Marci Vandergrift who is in charge of the Pell City Civic Center. All council members and the mayor were present for the meeting which lasted until 5:42 p.m.

Church noted that lighting for the farm league field had been approved with funds raised and was waiting for Alabama Power Company's cooperation to see that installation was completed. Councilman Forrest Walls

## news on gas system

ated that lights would be installed by next season.

Council approved authorizing Marci Vandergrift to purchase a new set of uneven irrellel bars at an approximate cost of \$1,500 which will come from funds taken by the gymnastics program and also to explore installation of an emergency door at the track in the Civic Center.

Church heard a suggestion from Councilman Joe Sawyer listing for bids to be made

by phone for gasoline to operate city equipment each time the fuel is ordered. A motion was passed unanimously.

Church heard a suggestion from Lockridge which will call for the closing of some alleys and reverting to 'front door' garbage pickup in an effort to save money. Lockridge estimated that \$180-190,000 annually could be saved in alley repairs while an additional \$20,000 could be saved in the garbage department.

Lockridge noted that not all alleys could be closed and it was tabled for further study.

Council will investigate on suggestion of Lockridge opening a street connecting the road that runs beside Kentucky Fried Chicken to the Pell City Plaza parking lot to alleviate traffic flow out of the shopping center onto Hwy 231. Landowners will be approached to see if such a plan is possible.

Council approved an on-premise liquor license for Henry

Bedford to operate Lakeview Lounge.

Church heard a report from W Taylor and C. J. Goodwin operations of the South Clair County Rescue Squad and the two thanked them for its support in the past. Church delayed action on a proposed parking ordinance Cogswell Avenue between 18th St. and 20th St. which will limit street parking one hour. Signs will be ordered and a fine set council at a later date.



# Pell City Steps Closer To

By Carol Pappas

In its first meeting of the new year, the City Council of Pell City perhaps came another step closer in selling its gas system as it was announced that Alabama Gas Corporation representative had a proposal to discuss this Tuesday morning.

In June the council instructed City Attorney Billy Church to "take whatever steps necessary to get an offer from the company" on selling the system.

The move was one the council had been ponder-

ing for some time due to the fact that the city had reached a limit on gas allocations under its present contract with Southern Natural Gas, and no new customers can be served.

In November 1976, the city reached its capacity for gas customers and was not able to add any new ones.

Mayor Williamson, at that meeting in June, said if the city is to continue to grow, "we have to do something to accommodate new gas customers."

He added that the city

needs the gas supply and "Alabama Gas seems to have it."

Before that June meeting, an executive of the Birmingham Metropolitan Development board suggested that Pell City might not be able to obtain any new industry unless the situation is resolved.

The council accepted the low bid on interest rates charged for borrowing money with which to finance the city's paving program.

Peoples Bank's bid of 5 3/4% was accepted unanimously by the

council. Union State Bank bid 6%. The total paving cost is \$139,489.27.

Councilman Forrest Walls informed the council that there had been more breaks in the water line on Highway 231 causing residents there to be without water from Sunday morning to Monday morning.

The location of the water line where the most breaks occur is a one and three quarter mile stretch from Catatoga Estates to Coosa Valley Church and Galloway Gardens.

## Selling Gas System

At a previous meeting, the council was told that engineer Charles Tucker had suggested a valve be installed in that area, and the mayor, fire chief and Tucker were to meet and study the site.

Fire Chief Ben Windsor said there was some concern over "how much water we'll have" with the valve, meaning the number of gallons per minute and the amount of pressure.

If the valve doesn't work, Walls suggested, replace the old pipe. It was later learned that the new pipe would cost

\$2.90 per foot or close to \$30,000 plus labor for the area involved.

Councilman Raymond F. "Bam" Cox reported that an officer has resigned from the police department, and Carl Connell from the Sumiton Police Department had been hired.

Cox asked for approval of the replacement, and it was approved unanimously.

Emma Ann Turner, who had recently received approval for an off premise beer license, requested an on premise one.

Her place of business is located off of the Golf Course Road behind St. Clair County Airport, and Police Chief Ruble Bowlin told the council he didn't think it was large enough.

On bids for the city's gasoline received from Pell City Oil and Chevron, the council decided to table them until the bids were "straightened out."

It turned out that the companies had received two different specifications, and it was

learned that the city would be able to get a cheaper rate if gas was purchased bulk rate.

The only problem with bulk rate was that it would have to be a minimum of 7,500 gallons, and the city hall only has a 2000 gallon tank.

City Clerk Bettie Scott was instructed to check on the purchase of a larger tank before approving any bids.

For April 3-8—

## Council Okays Carny Request

BY CAROL PAPPAS

Pell City City Council voted Monday night to allow a mini-carnival to be held April 3-8 for the purpose of raising money to start a girl's softball team in the community.

Richard Herndon, a resident of Pell City, made the request and said that J and J Amusements of Birmingham plans to set up the carnival on property at the intersection of 19th Street and 7th Avenue South.

Councilman "Bam" Cox asked if there would be any kind of concessions or games of chance and Bobby Simmons, a representative of the company, said there would, but the police chief or sheriff is entitled to inspect the grounds and if he doesn't approve, he has the power to close it.

He added that the company will put up a \$100 deposit to insure that the grounds will be left in the same condition it found them.

Since the Fraternal Order of Police carnival planned for Pell City has been called off and in keeping with the council's earlier decision to allow only one carnival a year, the council approved the request unanimously.

On the recommendation of Mayor Hugh Williamson, the council named Ingram Manor Administrator Don Jernigan to the Jefferson, St. Clair, Blount County Mental Health Advisory Board.

The administrator of the Sheriff's Boys Ranch requested that the city dig a 1200 foot ditch from the source of water to the ranch's new

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1  
headquarters building.

The council indicated it "would like to help them," but the location is outside the city limits.

Mayor Williamson said he would look into the possibility of helping finance the cost of digging the ditch, and other council members suggested that they could probably secure other financing from civic organizations, since the

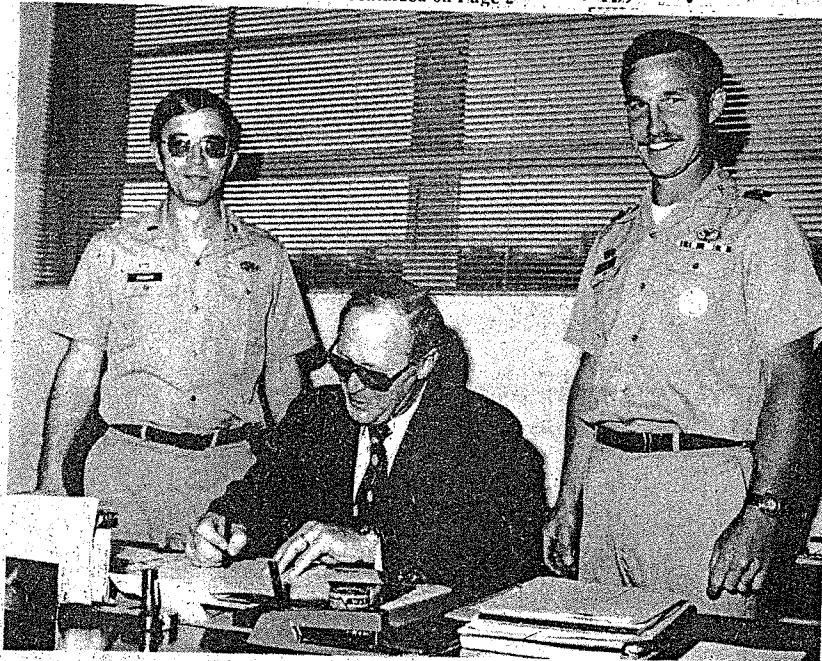
Boys Ranch is "a worthwhile cause."

In other business, the council agreed to equip the farm league baseball field with lights and to draw up specifications and take bids for a new spray truck.

Also discussed was a motor for the garbage truck. Councilman Joe Sawyer reported that Long-Lewis Ford was testing motors for the city. If one of the motors is suitable, it will cost the city \$900-\$1200. He added, a new motor would cost \$6000.

Lamar Williamson of the Chamber of Commerce asked permission to put signs in the downtown area saying that although construction is in full swing, businesses are still open as usual.

The council agreed to the signs provided the highway department also agreed, but when Williamson asked for help in financing, the council rejected the proposal.



### Nat'l Guard Week Proclamation Signed

Mayor Hugh Williamson (center) signs a proclamation designating March 30-April 6, National Guard Week in Pell City. Paul Vaughan (left) and Commander Garry A. Staples (right) observe the signing. On April 2, the Pell City National Guard unit will celebrate its 25th anniversary with an open house and anniversary ceremonies from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the armory.

# City Ponders Cost Of Living Increases For Its Retirees

BY CAROL PAPPAS

Meeting in regular session Monday night, the Pell City City Council reviewed a letter received from the Retirement Systems of Alabama advising that the state legislature had recently passed a cost of living increase for retired state employees and teachers who retired before October, 1977.

For those retirees receiving less than \$200 per month, the supplemental benefits provided for in the new law amount to \$60 per month. At present, the city, which is under the State retirement system, has six persons who qualify for the benefits. The plan is optional and would cost the city \$4320 per year.

The letter explained that the annual cost for the six, whose ages range from 68-91, will decrease because it only applies as long as the recipient survives.

Mayor Hugh Williamson suggested that the city pay only part of the \$60, but the matter was turned over to the finance committee, headed by Councilman Paul Turner.

In a special meeting Tuesday evening, the council voted to bear the cost for the retirees.

Councilman Forrest Walls reported that he is scheduled to talk to Alabama Power Company this week to discuss the lights situation for the little league baseball field. "It looks like we'll do all right on that," he said.

He said the city pools were being cleaned and readied for summer and added that the installation of the new filtering system, the pools no longer have to be closed on Mondays to be cleaned.

Walls suggested that Mondays could be used for teaching swimming lessons.

Hiring professional umpires to call baseball games was discussed at the previous meeting and was brought up again Monday night. Councilman Charles Lockridge said that the city could hire the umpires out of Attalla for \$7.00 plus gas mileage, and Councilman Walls said he would check on it.

In other business, Mayor Williamson said that when license schedules were fixed, licenses for kindergartens and day schools were somehow overlooked. He said he would

check the prices in other cities before making any recommendations on the price to be charged in Pell City.

A OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. May 25, 1978

*Discusses City Manager-*

# Council Takes 1st Step In Selling Gas System

BY CAROL PAPPAS

In a long-awaited move, the City Council of Pell City voted unanimously Monday night to take the necessary steps to sell the city gas system to Alabama Gas Corporation.

The move was one the council had been pondering for sometime due to the fact that the city has reached a limit on gas allocations under its present contract with Southern Natural Gas and no new customers can be served.

It was suggested recently by an executive of the Birmingham Metropolitan Development Board that Pell City might not be able to obtain any more new industry unless the situation is resolved.

Mayor Hugh Williamson reported Monday night that Alabama Gas "seems interested" in buying the system and suggested that City

Attorney Bill Church "take whatever steps necessary to get an offer from the company."

In November of 1976, the city reached its capacity for gas customers and wasn't able to add any new ones. Mayor Williamson said that if the city is to continue to grow, "we have to do something to accommodate new gas customers."

He added that the city needs the gas supply, and "Alabama Gas seems to have it."

In an unexpected move, the council agreed to look into the possibility of hiring a city manager, on the motion of Councilman Joe Sawyer who said it would "take a tremendous strain off the mayor."

The city manager, Sawyer explained, would have only the powers delegated to him by the council and the job

would require a degree in public administration.

Directing his remarks to Mayor Hugh Williamson, Sawyer added, "It would take a heck of a load off your shoulders."

Mayor Williamson appointed Councilmen Sawyer, Paul Turner and Bam Cox to study the proposal and make recommendations to the council.

Harland Davis appeared before the council with a letter signed by residents on 5th Street North. He read the letter concerning stagnated water in the area with mosquitoes, snakes and fies which he termed a "health hazard."

The problem was turned over to the street committee headed by Councilman Sawyer.

Robert Partain, who lives behind Davis on 6th Street

North, also appeared to complain that his street is only wide enough for one car, there is only one way in and out, and there are no street signs there.

He talked of the roundabout way he had to travel in order to get to his house because "there is only one way to come in and one way to go out." This problem, too, was given to Councilman Sawyer and the street committee for further study.

Bids for the city's new fire truck were submitted by Harry Harless of Birmingham for \$62,501; Quality Manufacturing of Eastaboga, \$57,642 and Jack Cocke and Company of Mobile, \$57,579.

Before awarding the bid, the fire committee, headed by Councilman Charles Lockridge, will study all three and make recommendation to the

continued on Page 2

council.

The council passed a resolution authorizing the mayor to deed the Health Center property to the county in exchange for grading work to be done on softball fields. The grading work is estimated at \$3,150.

On the recommendation of Mayor Williamson, the council appointed Keith Porter to fill the vacancy left by Wayne Adams on the Planning Commission.

Councilman Sawyer reported that there is an estimated 35 miles of roads that need to be resurfaced within the city and he said he would submit a detailed report at the next meeting of the streets involved and to see what the city can afford.

He added that on the streets for which private citizens had already submitted petitions to pay for paving themselves, the city still plans to do the work.

In other action, the council voted to set the license fee for kindergartens and day care schools at \$50.

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. June 15, 1978

# Council studies possibility

BY MARCELLIOTT

A city manager may well be in the forecast for Pell City, provided reports on investigation into the possibility are found favorable and approved by the City Council.

A proposal to look into the hiring of a city manager was made at a City Council meeting Tuesday by Dr. Joe Sawyer, councilman.

"The person hired as city manager would be answerable to the City Council," Sawyer told the mayor and fellow councilmen, "and we (the councilmen) would govern him directly."

Sawyer pointed out that the hiring of a city manager would "take a tremendous strain" off the mayor, and

would also help City Clerk Betty Scott "a great deal." "A city manager would not take away from the mayor's power whatsoever," Sawyer emphasized, adding again that a manager would be beneficial in assisting the mayor.

Following a detailed discussion concerning the matter, which included Sawyer's citing several other cities in the state comparable in population to Pell City that have city managers, the council voted to appoint a committee to "look into" the hiring of a city manager.

Mayor Hugh H. Williamson appointed the committee as follows: Dr. Joe Sawyer, chairman; Paul Turner and Dr. Raymond "Bam" Cox.

A report on the findings of this

committee will be made at the next meeting.

The City Council also voted to receive representatives of the Alabama Gas Corporation, listen to its proposal, and to take whatever action is necessary to sell the city's Municipal Gas System to the firm. Williamson said he had met with Alagasco representatives earlier in the spring and that they expressed an interest in purchasing the city gas system. The mayor appointed City Attorney Billy Church to contact Alagasco representatives and arrange for them to meet with the City Council. The council voted unanimously to make the necessary steps to sell the gas system.

A discussion took place regarding the

## of hiring manager

purchase of a radio for a city fire truck. Councilman Cox was appointed to look into the matter and to report back to the council.

The regular order of business was interrupted by the mayor to hear a delegation of four visitors representing the residential neighborhood of Fifth Street North in requesting measures be taken to curtail mosquitoes and other pests in that area. Harland Davis, spokesman for the group, read a letter to the mayor and councilmen from residents of that neighborhood stating that it was infested with mosquitoes, snakes, flies and other pests as a result of stagnant water in the area. The letter requested that dirt be used to fill the waterhole in question. Williamson

turned the matter over to Sawyer, head of the council's street and sanitation committee.

Robert Partain, another spokesman for the delegates, requested that another road be cut through to the neighborhood since it had only one road which was inadequate. This was also turned over to Sawyer.

Mayor Williamson read a letter from the St. Clair County Commission, agreeing to pay the City of Pell City \$3,150 for the purpose of grading two softball fields adjacent to the Civic Center. In the letter, the commission also agreed to use its equipment to grade two other softball fields and a general purpose field when permission is received from the Federal Power

Commission to do so.

In exchange for this work, the letter continued, the City of Pell City agrees to deed the west 25 feet of "Lot 8 and the East 47 feet of Lot 9, Block 2," which is now owned by the city, to the commission for the purpose of constructing an addition to the County Health Department.

In other business, the City Council:

— Agreed with Councilman Forest Walls to light up the Farm League baseball field at Aondale Ballfield with adequate lights;

— Voted and approved to charge a \$50 per year license fee for day care centers in the city;

(See Council Page 2-A)

Continued From Page 1)

— Voted and approved to hire Gerald Ogan in place of Bill Bain at the Civic Center;

— Voted and approved Stacy McCain policeman;

— Heard Councilman Turner's request for speedbreakers at various locations in the city;

— Voted and approved Keith Porter of the Planning Commission, replacing Gene Adams, who resigned;

— Heard bids for a new fire truck submitted by three firms and agreed to turn the matter over to the Fire Department Committee to study specifications and make a report;

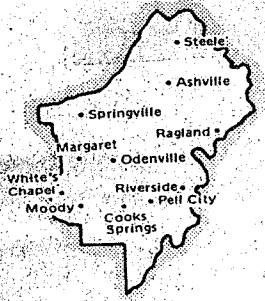
— Agreed to look into the possibility of the City of Pell City obtaining its own equipment for resurfacing, beginning with some 35 miles at various locations requested by Sawyer; and

dead end sign on Gurley Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned following the above order of business.

Attending the meeting at City Hall were Mayor Williamson, Councilmen Sawyer, Cox, Turner, Walls and Charles Lockridge; and City Attorney Church. Other heads of city departments were also present, including Police Chief Ruble Bowlin, Fire Chief Ben Windsor, and Street Department





# ST. CL

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Volume 1 Number 3

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Thursday, Septem

## n Pell City— Council incre

by Carol Pappas  
In a seemingly re-  
sistant move Monday  
night, the Pell City City  
Council voted to raise the  
gas rates again because  
Southern Natural Gas  
had increased its rates to  
the city again.  
Mayor Hugh William-  
son said, "I don't see any  
way we can't do it.  
They've gone up on us,

and there is no way we  
can absorb it."  
Southern Natural Gas'  
wholesale price has  
increased to 36½¢ per 100  
cubic feet. The per-  
centage increase to  
customers is 23% for  
residential; 15% for  
commercial and 24% for  
interruptible.  
"With deep regrets,"  
Councilman Charles  
Lockridge moved, "I  
recommend an increase  
to cover what they went  
up on us."  
The ordinance passed  
unanimously, although  
Councilman "Ban" Cox

remarked, "My heart  
ain't in it" and the rest of  
the council echoed,  
"mine either."  
Bids were opened on  
paving projects recom-  
mended by Councilman  
Joe Sawyer, head of the  
street committee.  
Ashland-Warren, Inc.  
of Birmingham bid  
\$66,936.96; Butts and  
Billingsley Construction  
of Childersburg bid  
\$60,897.94; Wilson Bros.  
of Childersburg bid  
\$59,355.85 and South-  
eastern Contractors bid  
\$69,256.75.  
Bids were turned over

to the street committee  
for its evaluation.  
Dwight Blair of  
Gaines, Hereford, Cleck-  
ler, Blair and Robbins  
law firm appeared before  
the council in behalf of  
John Rogers, who  
requested that all streets,  
alleys and roadways in  
the area bounded by  
Martin Estate on the  
north, the cemetery on  
the south, Highway 231  
on the east and 23rd  
street on the west, be  
vacated so he could build  
a car dealership there.  
Rogers said he had  
acquired the consent of a

# AIR TIMES

"County's Alternative Newspaper"

14, 1978      Twelve Pages — One Section      15 CENTS PER COPY

## ases gas rates

minimum of 75% of the  
property owners con-  
cerning the proposal.  
Mayor Williamson  
renewed the proposal over  
the city attorney's  
objection and make re-  
commendations.  
George Graham of the  
Coosa Valley Youth  
Center, a juvenile  
center in Anniston,  
informed the council of a  
recent state law passed  
that would allow cities to  
appropriate money if  
they are within a  
certain county.

services and group home  
care and in 1977, he said,  
seven juveniles from Pell  
City were housed a total  
of 82 days in the center at  
a cost of \$30 per day for  
each individual.  
Graham asked the  
council to consider  
appropriating \$1000 this  
year. Last year, the  
county gave \$6000 and  
he said it looked like St.  
Clair would have to  
appropriate \$7400 this  
year.  
The request was  
turned over to the

Paul Turner.  
The council voted  
unanimously to amend  
its agreement with the  
Pell City Housing  
Authority to build 148  
low rent housing units  
instead of 48.  
Mayor Williamson  
said he was notified that  
the Housing Authority  
had received a grant to  
increase the number of  
units to be built between  
Comer Avenue and  
Highway 78.  
In other business, the  
council voted to hire

the one the department  
lost.  
—agreed to pay \$243 to  
help complete the  
Birmingham Regional  
Planning Commission's  
208 water study.  
—adopted a revised  
ordinance creating the  
position of city ad-  
ministrator subject to  
the approval of the city  
attorney.  
—and heard represent-  
atives of Alabama Power  
Company speak on the  
Centsable Action Pro-  
gram concerning way

## Council acts on bonds, carnivals

Discussing the "undesireable" aspects of many carnivals such as those setting up in Pell City each year, the City Council Monday night moved to control the number of carnivals allowed to perform here annually.

The Council also took further action on a consolidation plan for the city's existing bond issues. Two resolutions were adopted in regard to the bond refinancing which will consolidate into a single note the three bond issues totaling \$1,840,000 and eventually mature to a refund of almost \$500,000 to the city.

A resolution regarding carnivals in the city was adopted by the Council, limiting to one the number of these events allowed in the city each year. The resolution was adopted after discussion of recent adverse publicity on carnivals such as the travelling shows that in the past have been allowed to set up in the city for promotional and charity sponsorship.

The subject was raised when city police officer Morris Smith requested permission for the county Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to use property between Kentucky Fried Chicken and Dixie Auto Parts on Highway 231 for a benefit carnival. The councilmen said that because a carnival had been approved for the Pell City Jaycees last year so the the Council "felt obligated" to approve the FOP request.

During the discussion on

carnivals reference was made to recent publicity in which carnival booth operators have admitted to rigged games and pointed out various tricks and devices used to make winning at the games more difficult.

"I think we should make some policy about these carnivals in the future," Councilman Raymond Cox said.

Councilman Charles Lockeridge proposed rotating among local civic and charity groups a single carnival each year.

The final resolution incorporated Lockeridge's proposal and stated the FOP carnival this spring will be the only one allowed in the city for the remainder of the year.

Councilman Forrest Wall presented the Council with cost estimates for renovation of the two city pools in time for use this summer. The combined figure for reconditioning the Recreation Center pool on South 19th Street and the pool in the Glenn City community plus the wading pool at the Recreation Center was approximately \$21,000. The largest chunk of this repair money, \$11,700 for work on the Recreation Center pool.

The Council will study this plan for renovation and alternatives before committing financing to any plan.

A resolution was proposed for Council adoption concerning another step in establishing the city's personnel merit system, but action was delayed after confusion developed over methods of pay for salaried and hourly employees with the city.

The resolution presented Monday night involved establishment of employee pay periods, salary schedules and other details of payroll policy. The Council must adopt a plan before April 1 when the plan is to go into effect.

On recommendation of Councilman Paul Turner the Council approved a \$2,000 contribution to the Metropolitan Development Board of Birmingham which has assisted in attracting new industries to the city.

Turner said a member of the development board is planning to move to Pell City in the near future and indicated this will be a plus factor for the city's industrial prospects. It was also pointed out that the city has been deriving benefits from the development board but has never contributed to it.

## City Okays Rate Hike

BY CAROL PAPPAS

An ordinance amending an ordinance concerning the gas rates hike was adopted by the Pell City City Council Monday night.

The ordinance, last amended on January 10, will increase the gas rates by 20 per cent. It fixes and prescribes rates, charges, terms and conditions of service to be furnished by the water, gas and sewer systems of Pell City.

(See ordinance, page 10, for full details.)

Another rate increase was approved for Coosa Cable Company. The revised rates were submitted to the Council in a letter for its consideration. The new rates were approved unanimously.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith appeared before the Council and presented a petition concerning a "No Trucks Allowed" sign which had been erected on 8th Street North.

Smith is a truck driver and requested permission to drive his tractor-trailer truck home, usually twice a month. He assured the Council that it would always be unloaded and it would do no damage to the street.

The petition was signed by seven neighbors who did not object to the truck and the problem was assigned to the Street and Sanitation Committee, headed by Councilman Joe Sawyer, for its consideration.

City Clerk Betty Scott was authorized to take bids on a new fire truck for the department. Councilman Charles Lockridge presented specifications which must be included on the fire truck as required by law.

He said that before purchase is made, he will invite the state fire marshall from Montgomery to go over the specifications with the Council.

The Council also approved a \$100 raise for Magistrate Vernon Sollie. At the last council meeting, he was empowered to issue warrants in compliance with requirements of the new judicial articles.

In other business, Councilman Raymond Cox, chairman of the Police Commission, was authorized to hire a policeman.



# Downtown renovation work (finally) begins in January

Pell City's downtown renovation project is expected to be underway next month, the city council Monday night awarding a contract for the initial phase of construction to a Birmingham contractor.

The council also acted Monday toward consolidating the city's present bond issues into a single package and attempt to obtain an additional \$500,000 in the process to complete the city water system.

In other action by the council, local attorney Dennis Abbott was unanimously approved as the city's new Municipal Court Judge on the recommendation of Mayor Hugh Williamson.

The renovation project will finally get underway after the new year on a contract awarded to Warren Brothers Co. of Birmingham. A low bid of \$394,500 was received from the firm on the first phase of exterior refurbishing along Cogswell Avenue. This contract was \$500 below estimates given by the city's consulting architects Cobb, Adams & Benton of Birmingham on a modified plan devised after the original designs had resulted in bids double the allocation from a federal grant on the project. The first bids were opened in August and new bids requested on the modified designs last month.

Original plans had called for a renovation of streets and sidewalk areas on both Cogswell and First Avenue,

the new designs taking in only a portion of Cogswell and with a number of cost-saving changes. According to Williamson, the work will begin as soon as possible after the holidays. Other contracts will be awarded on further street renovation and on water and sewage improvements along the street.

The council met Monday with representatives of First Birmingham Securities to begin a process of consolidating the city's existing three bond issues into a single debt and attempt to borrow another \$500,000 to complete the water system here. The new note, when approved, will run 30 years and will save the city over \$480,000 "in the long run" when the debt is completed in 2007.

In a step-by-step process of establishing the city's new municipal court system, the latest action Monday was the hiring of Abbott to preside over the sessions. The young attorney who recently set up practice in Pell City was selected over three other candidates—Larry Ward of Birmingham, Donald Hamlin of Pell City and Talmadge Fambrough of Ashville, all of whom had applied for the position.

The council had previously adopted resolutions establishing the court sessions at twice monthly on Saturdays and the salary of the judge set at not more

(See Renovation Page 11A)

than \$300 per month. The city, after opting to establish its own court system rather than falling under the District Court, is required by the State to set the system before the first of the year.

Four insurance companies approached the council concerning city employees' insurance programs, presenting their proposed policy packages for hospital and life insurance coverage. These companies included Liberty National Life Insurance, Blue Cross, Pan American, and Crown Life. The city's present insurance program is contracted to Blue Cross-Blue Shield. LF After hearing the presentations, the council set a work session for later this week to discuss the proposals and arrive at a decision as to which program will be accepted. The city operates under a cost-sharing basis with the employees on the insurance costs.

The city is considering either leasing or purchasing a "national crime information center (NCIC)" system to assist the Police Department in identification of criminals. The computerized system would cost the city \$211 per month to lease or \$3,695 to buy plus installation in both cases and another \$100 per month for maintenance in a purchase, according to information obtained by the council.

The city police force is presently using the Talladega PD system at no charge, but the councilmen speculated this agreement might change. The city received a proposal from the Moody Police Department for a tie-in with that city's system to be installed in the near future, but the Council was hesitant to pay a high price for the service.

A decision was made to poll other towns in the county to determine whether they would be willing to lease the NCIC service from the police department here, and to make a later determination on whether to lease or purchase the system.

A surprise visitor to the Monday council session was Mrs. Jean Brandli who made a rare appearance following a stroke earlier this year to make a statement on behalf of her attending nurse, Irene Smith.

The council had ruled at a previous meeting that trucks be allowed in the area of Eighth Street at the Circle after complaints from residents in the neighborhood about a heavy truck being parked in the section on several occasions. Signs were placed in the area forbidding trucks from entering.

The truck in question was driven by Mrs. Smith's husband during stop-overs en route to cities east of here. According to Mrs. Brandli, residents in the area told her they had no objections to the truck stopping overnight, despite the earlier complaint from one resident who told Councilman Joe Sawyer he had a petition against the truck parking there from all residents in the area.

The council agreed to check into the situation.

Two new city employees were hired Monday night, a police officer and a fireman.

James Washington, 35, a former Moody police chief and officer with the Riverside Police Department, was hired on the normal probationary basis.

James Childers was hired to the City Fire Department under the same probationary period.

# City Adopts New Municipal Court System Plans

BY CAROL PAPPAS

In compliance with state requirements, Pell City Council adopted ordinances Monday night governing the establishment of a municipal court system. The ordinances included the hiring of a judge and specifying that a misdemeanor fine be no less than \$1.00 and no more than \$500.

In reply to recent controversy over the November 6 shooting of Jeffrey Molson by Pell City police officers, Pell City attorney Don Hamlin appeared before the council to express his individual support and praise for the police department.

Molson was shot while fleeing on foot from Pell City police officers following a high-speed auto chase.

Hamlin also said he would present a signed petition commending the police department in the execution of its duties during the incident.

A resolution was also accepted to extend the city limits to include the Industrial Park.

Jim Martin asked the council to petition Alabama Power Company for an easement it owns near Pine Harbor Road. He plans to excavate an area similar to Dolphin Island there.

Martin proposes to have homesites in the area and needs a road cut. He told the council that if it would petition Alabama Power, he would pay for the construction. The council agreed.

To become effective January 1, 1978, is the use of the reimbursement method in accordance with the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law.

The method involves the city's putting a percentage of money in reserve so that when an employee draws unemployment, he will be paid from that reserve.

The council also approved the \$4050.81 bid from Freeman Honda for the purchase of a 1978 motorcycle for the police

department.

Councilman Forrest Walls' proposal to put traffic lights in the downtown area on blinking from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. Monday-Saturday and all day on Sunday, was approved. The 30 day trial period for the plan will begin December 4.

Owners of Walker Subdivision submitted a \$4000 check as partial payment of materials for installation of a waterline. The owners will pay for the pipes and the city will put in the water and fire plugs. The council decided to wait until the rest of the money is in hand before beginning the work.

Proposals by four insurance companies for city employees will be discussed at the next council meeting on December 10. Representatives from the companies will be present to explain their policies. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m.

The problem of stray dogs tearing up residents' garbage sacks was discussed and the council decided to have citizens call and have those dogs picked up.

## Grants Discussed At P C City Council

Don Cosby of Cobb, Adams and Benton appeared before the Pell City City Council Monday night to discuss the status of the city's three grants and the prospects of obtaining more.

He said that all but \$100,000 had been spent of the \$809,000 Housing and Urban Development grant.

Mayor Hugh Williamson had earlier suggested that the \$100,000 be shifted to the Glenn City project.

That project had received a \$100,000 grant but when the sewer system was being installed, problems were encountered and all the funds have been used.

The immediate reply of HUD to shift the money was negative, and the question arose whether to apply for more funds to finish Glenn City.

Cosby told the council

that the first area HUD will look at before granting money would be housing rehabilitation.

He added that in that area, the city has "done nothing." In order to have a chance for additional funds, he suggested the city use that \$100,000 in housing rehabilitation before applying in February.

Of that \$100,000, Council Paul Turner suggested the council "set aside the most critical areas and work on that because we do have some deplorable housing here in Pell City."

Mayor Williamson instructed the council to "think about it until the next meeting, make a decision and then let Don get to work on it."

Another grant, in the amount of \$200,000, was designated for the

Harrisburg-Whiteville area.

Cosby reported that \$50,500 of that money has been spent and the project should be completed by February.

Mayor Williamson informed the council he had received an attorney general's opinion on whether or not Municipal Judge Dennis Abbott may also serve as assistant district attorney.

The Attorney General's office had ruled in June that he couldn't and a week later, withdrew that decision.

Recently, Williamson received a letter from the attorney general saying Abbott could not serve as both assistant district attorney and municipal judge.

The contention was that it was possible that Abbott might have to prosecute a case appealed from municipal court where he sat as judge.

City Attorney Billy Church commented, "I can see no way that could happen," because it is the city's responsibility to provide prosecutors for the city as well as the circuit courts.

The council passed two resolutions concerning changing the workman's compensation to the city as "self insurer."

The first resolution was to make the city self insurer and the second was joining the company formed by the League of Municipalities, called Municipal Workman's Compensation Management Company.

On the subject of changing the degree of angular parking brought up at the previous meeting concerning

Cogswell Avenue between 19th and 20th Streets, the council instructed Cosby to measure it and see how much more of an angle it would take to prevent cars from backing out into the opposite lane.

In other business, the council heard from Artis Weems of Hamilton and Shackelford Insurance Agency who said the city needed to cut back on its insurance to comply with a 1977 passed law.

Mayor Williamson said he would talk to the auditor and League of Municipalities before making a decision.

The council voted unanimously to award the bid on a used 1977 truck to Gerald White for \$2800.

Pell City Lincoln Mercury bid \$4500, and Sutherlin Chevrolet bid \$3984.25.

## City vs. Army in land dispute

A skirmish, of sorts, has developed between the City Council of Pell City and the military—the Army National Guard, that is.

What began as a request from the city for use of a small portion of property on 19th Street between the National Guard armory and the Recreation Center has become a heated issue among the mayor and councilmen.

The plot of land, belonging to the National Guard, was requested for use by city resident Julian Gossett as the site for a miniature golf course. Gossett's request to the Council was made last July and Mayor Hugh Williamson forwarded a written request to the Alabama National Guard in Montgomery, asking that all property at the site not in use by the Guard unit be turned over to the city by title.

To the surprise of the city leaders, the request was turned down by the National Guard last fall. Following this setback, a letter was sent directly to Governor George Wallace asking that he intervene in the matter. Mayor Williamson said this week it appears the Governor has also turned thumbs down to the request, though no official word has been received.

Meeting Monday night in regular session, the Council was informed of the latest news on Gossett's request and the conversation became heated at times toward the Guard's refusal. It was decided that yet another letter will be sent, this time to the Department of Defense in Washington.

The Pell City National Guard (Signal Company, 20th Special Forces, headquartered in Birmingham) owns the armory and some acreage adjacent to the building, including the site of the Recreation Center and part of the pavillion area.

(See Dispute Page 7A)

## Dispute

(Continued From Page 1)

One of the councilmen said the National Guard probably did not know the property belonged to the Guard until the city's correspondence began. City Attorney Billy Church said the Council might have been well-advised to have simply granted Gossett's request last July without bringing the matter to the attention of the Guard.

Gossett said Tuesday he will continue to plan on a miniature golf course ready for use by June, and is looking at an alternate location in the same area, near the tennis courts and wading pool. He said the golf course will require only a small area and the construction time is approximately six weeks, requiring mainly a cement base covered by carpet.

When Gossett's proposal was first presented to the Council, the officials spoke in terms of a beneficial project financially for the city.

In other business before the Council Monday night, a low bid of \$20,185 was accepted for temporary repairs to the city's two municipal swimming pools and a wading pool adjacent to the South 19th Street pool.

The bid from G&L Construction of Birmingham followed a lengthy examination of the three pools' conditions by Councilman Forrest Wall and contractors bidding on the project. It was determined by the Council that temporary repairs, mainly for leakage through the filtering systems be made for this summer and further consideration of more permanent repairs be studied for next year.

The pools involved are located at the City Recreation Center and at Hilltop.

The Council also opened two bids submitted for clearing an approximate two-acre tract of wooded property adjacent to Pell City Civic Center. Bids on lumber to be removed from the site of a planned city recreation park were received from Kimberly-Clarke and Pell City Wood Products, and the Council was unable to determine which was the greatest amount for the city's purposes since the two bids were made by different methods.

Kimberly-Clarke bid a flat rate of \$1,528 for the timber while Pell City Wood Products bid at the rate of \$12.50 per cord. Awarding of the contract was postponed until both companies can submit new bids by both methods—flat rate and per cord.

The Council also acted to:

—Deny a request from Southern Railroad to increase the speed of its trains through the city from 25 to 35 miles per hour.

—Pass a resolution establishing a 28-day pay period for both the police and fire departments in accordance with the city's new merit system for city employees. The Council also passed a resolution establishing time-and-a-half overtime pay for all city employees except policemen, firemen, part-time workers, seasonal and salaried personnel.

—Purchase an advertisement in the Winston 500 race program for \$120.

—Furnish the annual city license for city attorneys Church, Trussell & Robinson. This action taken upon notation by Mayor Williamson that no increase has been made in the retainer fee for the city's legal consultants in some time. The license fees for the three attorneys amounts to \$600 annually.

# Council okays gas rate hike; may 'sell' city gas system

Pell City may be going out of the gas business. The City Council is considering a proposal to abandon the present City Gas Department system in favor of privately-owned distribution. The Council Monday night approved a gas rate increase of up to 20 percent to city customers, and followed the action with a proposal to seek private operation of the gas system.

An ordinance was amended Monday night to raise the natural gas rates by a maximum 20 percent because of a rate hike to the city by its distributor, Southern Natural Gas. Mayor Hugh Williamson said the customer increase is undesirable at this point because the city cannot absorb the latest increase as it has over the past year. During 1977 the distributor's rates to the city have gone up 25 percent, the city having absorbed this on each occasion. The councilmen agreed, reluctantly, that an increase to the customers is necessary this time.

Councilman Charles Lockeridge initiated

discussion of a renewed effort to seek private distributorship of the gas, saying the troubled city system is "backing up" rather than progressing financially. He suggested a "big effort" to make a change.

Mayor Williamson said the subject has been discussed before with no action taken, but that a concerted effort will be made to resolve the proposal in the near future.

The most likely means of removing the system from city responsibility, Williamson said, is to seek bids from private gas corporations and "sell" the system. The primary difficulty at this time is city bond indebtedness on the gas system, requiring agreement on a plan by the various holders of bonds against-profit issued years earlier when the system was developed.

The mayor and Council are to make inquiries and plan further action on the proposal.

The Council endorsed another rate increase Monday night, although the approval was more ceremonial than binding. Coosa Valley Cable TV

## Council

Mrs. Smith first approached the Council about the signs in December with her employer, Mrs. Jean Brandt, saying they had found no one in the area who objected. One individual had previously notified the mayor and some Council members that a petition had been signed in protest of the truck being brought into the neighborhood. Such a petition has not been seen by city officials, they said. The "counter petition" presented to the Council Monday night contained the signatures of seven residents of the section supporting the Smiths' request to have the signs removed.

Smith hauls explosives, but he told the Council his truck is always empty when entering the residential section because of the potential danger.

The matter was assigned to the Street Committee under Councilman Joe Sawyer for action.

Authority was granted to seek bids on a new fire department truck to update present equipment. The Council reserved the right to refuse any or all bids based on specifications and price, and will consult the State Fire Marshal for assistance in establishing these specifications according to the city's needs.

A suggestion was also made by Councilman Charles Lockeridge that the city examine the possibility of establishing a new fire station outlet to coincide with the expanding city limits. The Another fire station might also serve to better the city's fire rating from its present level of "seven", which would mean lower fire insurance rates for businesses and residences in the city.

of Pell City presented a rate increase table for the council to examine, and requested the new schedule be endorsed by the city governing body even though the private company is not required to have approval for its actions.

The new rate scale will include a rise from \$7.50 to \$15 for installation; \$5 to reconnect cable service and for an on-premises move of present cable; the monthly service charge will go up from \$5 to \$6.25.

The Council was approached with a petition and verbal statements on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Smith who have requested street signs in the Eighth Court-Eighth Street area barring trucks from the neighborhood be removed. The signs were put up last fall at the request of persons in the residential section objecting to Smith parking a large over-the-road truck at his residence, saying it damaged the roads and created a disturbance. Smith sometimes drove the vehicle home en route to Georgia or on return trips.

(See Council Page 8A)

# City studies proposal for establishing landfill

Pell City is seeking to establish its own sanitary landfill independent of the county's landfill operation now being used and under threat of State Health Department lawsuit.

T.L. Harmon of Urban Sanitation informed the Pell City Council this week he will give the city a purchase price for the old landfill site near Highway 231 South. This site was used as the county landfill until recently when a new location was opened near Polk's Chapel. The city maintains its own waste disposal system and uses the Harmon landfill by contractual agreement.

The landfill under consideration by the Council created problems for the County Commission last month when State Health Department authorities discovered it had not been maintained according to department standards, and the Commission office received notice the Health Department plans to bring suit against the county because of conditions at the landfill site. The chief concern appeared to be the waste had not been covered daily as required by the Health Department.

If the city elects to take over the old landfill, the site will be tended by city Sanitation Department equipment.

The Council also acted on a proposed expansion of the Pell City Library. The city's share of funding for the project was \$10,000 which was approved Monday night. The Council and County Commission and other agencies have been working on the joint project, the county yet to act on its share of the expansion with funds or in-kind arrangements.

A resolution was adopted by the Council, setting up an Energy Conservation Committee as proposed by the

Alabama League of Municipalities of which Pell City is a member. The committee will consist of Mayor Hugh Williamson, Councilman Forrest Wall and Utilities Manager James Tyus.

A chief purpose of the committee will be to seek means of conserving energy to avoid shortages as occurred during last winter's heavy usage.

Mrs. Randle Shumate, with Logan Martin Properties located on the hill at Highway 231 South, requested the Council do something to help control traffic on the hazardous stretch of highway from the hill's crest to the Highway 78 overpass. A number of business offices are located on the hill, including the News-Aegis, and entrance and exit here is dangerous, Mrs. Shumate said.

The Council will ask the State Highway Department for assistance in the traffic situation.

The Pine Harbor Improvement Association requested permission to erect a gate on a side road to the Pine Harbor section for placement of a plaque commemorating the civic contributions of the late Bill Phillips who helped in development and growth of the Pell City area.

The Council was stumped on a bid opening scheduled for Monday night on two dump trucks for the city. Only one bid was received, but Monday was a holiday and there was no mail delivery for possible other bids because of the federal holiday, Columbus Day. The Council reserved action on the bids until next meeting.

The Council also approved a request for a liquor license from Hubert Forman of Lakeview Lounge.

# City facelift project delayed; Council shocked at high bids

By REG GARRETT

Pell City has run into a financial roadblock concerning the long-planned downtown renovation project. Bids opened last week for contracts on the work were more than double the estimated project cost and must be resubmitted, causing a delay until January for work to begin.

The architectural firm of Cobb, Adams & Benton in Birmingham had presented a cost estimated of \$395,000 on the actual renovation work planned for a stretch of Cogswell Avenue. The low bid opened last week on this phase of the project was for \$815,000 from a Gadsden firm.

Bids were also greatly over the anticipated figure on a contract for relocation of utility lines in the renovation area. Figuring on \$316,000 for this segment of the work, Tucker Brothers Construction of Pell City submitted a low bid of \$583,000.

The project is funded through the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the city is expected to request additional financing for the project to cover what apparently will be a much higher cost. The project is aimed at beautifying the section along Cogswell in this initial phase of the work and will

include addition of plants, sidewalk canopies, construction along the stretch main thoroughfare in the city. This section of town was heavily damaged in a tornado which swept through downtown Pell City several years ago. Merchants are expected to coordinate improvements to their store fronts in conjunction with the city's plan.

MAYOR HUGH WILLIAMSON said during Monday night council session the project probably be delayed until January because of this latest holdup in the planning. The council (See Council Page 2A)

struction was expected to be well underway by December, work beginning immediately upon awarding of the contracts.

A number of merchants along the stretch of Cogswell Ave. had expressed concern over the construction blocking access along the street during holiday shopping periods even though plans called for blocking only a portion of street at any time, allowing the traffic flow to continue on a more limited basis than normal. According to statement, this will now be avoided.

Representatives of Cobb, Adams & Benton present during the bid opening last week were "incensed" at the high bids, Williamson said, and said the bids would have to be resubmitted before any would be seriously considered.

Pell City Councilman Charles Lockeridge expressed his contempt over the situation during the Monday night meeting, saying the designers "must be highly incompetent" in their cost estimates. He added that the contractors may be

taking advantage of the government funding to overestimate on their bids.

The council acted Monday night to bring installation and removal of water and gas meters more in line with city expense for this work. The installation charge for a new water meter in Pell City has been raised from \$27.50 to \$105 after figures presented to the council indicated the city's expense at approximately \$101 for the installation. The present rate of \$45 for installation of a new gas meter at a residence has been raised to \$145, the city's cost being quoted as \$144.

At its next meeting, the council will consider establishing a charge for connection and disconnection of utilities. At present the city has no such fee.

IN OTHER ACTION of the council Monday, it was decided the city will maintain its own court system rather than turn over this responsibility to County District Court. A decision on this was required under the State Judicial Article which said the state would assume these court duties if the city did not indicate otherwise. The Judicial Article revamped the state and local systems when it was instituted by the legislature several years ago.

The council opened bids on two police cars Monday night, the lowest of these from John Rogers Ford in Pell City for two 1978 Ford LTD II vehicles with police package at \$5032.14 each. Other bids were received from Baggett Pontiac-GMC, Pell City Dodge and Lonnie Russell Ford of Birmingham. The bids were turned over to the council's Police Committee for recommendation.

The council approved a recommendation that letters of commendation be sent to the Pell City High School principal and the athletic department for work in upgrading the stadium facilities.

Bids were also opened on a copier for the city, with bids received on five machines ranging in price from \$2,495 from Photo Copy, Inc. to \$6,365 from Xerox. Specifications will be checked on the city's needs before a decision is finalized.

The council is considering a request for the naming of the Spanish Garden cutoff road to "Pleasant Valley Drive". The road presently has no official name, the Pleasant Valley Drive designation requested by a resident on the road.

## As Budget Time Nears— Agencies seek city funding

Agency funding requests occupied much of the Pell City City Council session this week as budget preparation time nears for the new fiscal year in October.

Vickie Brown, with the Child Development Center, approached the council explaining the necessity for local matching funds in order to obtain federal assistance. The Center's budget will jump from last year's \$7,000 figure to about \$10,000 this year, she said, and asked the city to consider an increase in its annual appropriation of \$1,000.

Although the County Commission is expected to contribute \$5,000 to the Center's budget, other communities in the county are not contributing enough to make up the difference, though these smaller towns have shown a greater support than in the past.

Mrs. Brown said so far approximately half the needed \$10,000 has been raised. This figure reflects a 12 and one-half percent matching fund requirement to qualify for

government assistance. Over half the Center's students are from Pell City.

Also approaching the Council for funding consideration Monday night was Layton B. Dorman, Executive Director of the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Association. He detailed budget needs for the coming year among all agencies served by his organization, saying the total budget this year will be over \$6,500,000, with \$347,296 of this from local funding.

Pell City and the County Commission are the only contributors from St. Clair County, Dorman said, although the other towns have been asked to participate in the past. One of the programs involved with this organization is the operation of two satellite mental health offices through the Eastside Mental Health Agency. These two offices are operated in Pell City and Ashville. There are numerous other services available to St. Clair Countians through the mental health programs,

Dorman said.

On hand in the councilroom during Dorman's discussion was St. Clair County Hospital Administrator C.M. Jones who endorsed the mental health program and asked the council to give every consideration to the organization in the city's budget. Jones represents the county on several regional committees such as the mental health agency and emergency medical service program.

MARLON S. HUGGINS was appointed by the Council to replace Ed Ash on the Industrial Development Board. Ash resigned from the post several months ago because of business conflicts. The appointment of Huggins after nomination by councilman Joe Sawyer gives the Industrial Development Board a complete membership for the first time since Ash's resignation.

(See Budget Page 7A)

The city's personnel merit system moved a step closer to enactment Monday night with the adoption of two actions necessary in the step-by-step process of adopting the system. Monday night the Council adopted "Personnel Rules and Regulations" and a classification outline which defines positions in the city government including salaries, descriptions of duties and other details. The effective date was set at October 1 when the merit system is to be completed for the new fiscal year.

In an effort to alleviate traffic congestion around Pell City High School, the council acted on a proposal by Mayor Hugh Williamson to block several entrances to the school campus during class hours. Williamson said cars cruise around the school all day, creating problems in the area with congestion and distraction of the students. Blockades were erected Tuesday morning at the entrances to a circle drive around the school and on a stretch of 12th Street fronting the school and on 2nd Avenue where it intersects 12th Street.

Mayor Williamson told the Council he may have acted too quickly in suggesting at a previous meeting that all charity roadblocks except by the Rescue Squad be banned in the

city. The national Cerebral Palsy fund drive will be coming up shortly, he said, and the effort has for years involved roadblocks in Pell City coinciding with the weekend CP telethon, this year to be held September 10 and 11.

The councilmen agreed to allow this CP roadblock and to consider each future request for a charity roadblock individually rather than adopting a uniform policy at this time. The Council had, at an earlier meeting, voted to ban all such roadblocks in the city with the exception of periodic Rescue Squad efforts.

Pell City Police Chief Ruble Bowlin asked the Council to replace two patrol cars which have accumulated well over 100,000 miles each and have become undependable for service. The city will advertise for bids on replacing the two cars immediately. The Police Department operates five patrol cars on the force.

A joint meeting between the City and the County Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday night, August 30 at 6 p.m. for discussion of the planned Civic Center recreation park. Also present at the meeting will be Rod Goode, with the Soil Conservation Service, which is developing the recreation facility.



# Pell City facelift project gets okay

By MARCELLIOTT  
Pell City's urban renewal plan got the go-ahead from the State Highway Department Thursday, according to a spokesman in the department's Birmingham office.

Although some minor changes must be made in the plan, the architectural firm spearheading the project has been given the okay signal to draw up contracts.

The minor changes to be made are in connection with traffic control. Some details, such as striping, do not conform to the Highway Department's standards, according to Wayne Tucker, the department's spokesman. Once the changes have been made, they will be submitted to the department's office in Oneonta for final approval, but will not have to be submitted to the main office in Montgomery, Tucker said.

Pell City Mayor Hugh Williamson said that the final approval would not be made official until this coming week. Once final approval has been made, he said, the city will begin advertising for bids to begin work.

The architectural firm of Cobb, Allen and Benton of Birmingham is heading the urban renewal project. The firm specializes in urban renewal and has been working with the City of Pell City since the tornado disaster of January, 1975. The project will be funded by a \$900,000 federal grant, applied for by Williamson following the tornado.

With the tentative approval reported this week, the much-delayed facelift should begin the early part of September. After final approval is made, advertisements for bids must run three weeks. Construction will begin immediately once the bids are accepted.

Approval is necessary from the State Highway Department since the Cogswell Avenue portion of downtown Pell City, in which the renovation will take place, is part of State Highway 78. The facelift will cover the area from 18th Street to 21st Street on Cogswell, plus an alley between 18th and 19th Streets. Power and telephone lines on Cogswell will be re-routed to First Avenue North and First Avenue South.

The project has thus far been hampered by several delays. Originally scheduled to begin in June, actual work was forecast to begin the first part of August. Now facing the middle of August, the project should begin construction the early part of

September. Don Cosby, architect and spokesman for Cobb, Allen and Benton, assured Pell City officials earlier this month that the work on the facelift would not interfere with holiday shopping.

The urban renewal is estimated to take 156 working days from the day construction begins. The area covered in the project will be divided and worked on in such a way as to prevent interference and congestion of pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Cosby said that every effort would be made to eliminate any inconvenience for downtown merchants and shoppers alike during the project.

Bricked sidewalks, landscaping, paving, wheelchair ramps, benches and new electrical work are part of the facelift plans. Stores lining the area will be the responsibility of the individual owners. Several stores on Cogswell Avenue have already renovated their exteriors following the 1975 tornado. Cogswell Avenue merchants were declared eligible for federal assistance and loans for renovation and restoration following the disaster.

Sub-contracts for the facelift will be kept on as local a level as possible, according to Cosby. Paving, wiring, pipelaying, masonry and landscaping will be included in work done by local sub-contractors.

Official announcement of the Highway Department's final approval is expected this coming week, followed by the three-week advertising period for contracting bids.

## City gas department cuts supplies to new customers

The old wood-burning Franklin Stove may make a come-back in Pell City, or the electric department will be doing a lot more business.

Newcomers to the city will be forced to rely upon a means of home and industrial power other than natural gas, says

Pell City Gas Department manager James Tyus. The supplies of natural gas to the city system continue to be allocated, as they have been since last Fall, and Tyus says no more customers can be added to the city system unless the supply situation changes.

The city department is in the process of conducting a survey of gas usage here since 1972, Tyus said, to give the city and its supplier, Southern Natural Gas, an idea of how to maintain quantities as near as possible to present needs.

Ordinarily, after the winter cold season the city is released to a "use as need" supply of gas, or unlimited quantities. This year, however, the fuel situation has been so acute the supplier has retained the daily allocations, with no word as to when the "rationing" will be lifted, according to Tyus.

Industrial customers were cut off city gas supplies in November and have not yet been returned to full capacity under the city system. Most of the industries were given partial supplies in February and March to offset the standby fuel systems they had used all winter, and the largest of these commercial customers, Avondale Mills, was also returned to partial allocation two weeks ago, Tyus said.

Whether the industrial customers will be returned to normal supplies in coming months is not the certainty of past summers, Tyus explained, because no one knows yet what action will be taken by Southern Natural Gas in handling these allocations.

The city had maintained adequate reserves of gas with the warm weather since February, allowing the return of partial service to the industries. The situation could change rapidly, Tyus pointed out, with factors other than cold weather forcing another slow-down in supplies. He said it is unknown what, if any, effect the storms this week will have on these daily allocations to the city. For example, ruptured gas lines could cause a loss of fuel that would effect the entire system.

"Right now we're just guessing and hoping," Tyus said concerning future action by Southern Natural.

# City must adopt building code before merchants can get loans

Pell City must adopt building, plumbing, housing and electrical codes before merchants can proceed with plans to apply for three per cent loans to refurbish downtown buildings, Donald Cosby, architect for the redevelopment project, told the City Council Monday night.

Cosby said that funds in the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant could be used to pay the salary of a building inspector after the codes are adopted. However, he explained, HUD would need some affirmation that the codes were being enforced. He said the salary could be paid the inspector for the time length of

the grant.

The council then discussed the legal steps that must be carried out before the codes could be adopted. Cosby told them there was a deadline set

for the last of August for merchants to apply for the loans. Thus, it was necessary that they be adopted as soon as possible. Attorney Bill Trussell (See Loans Page 10A)

told the council that a resolution had to be adopted calling for a public hearing and copies of the proposed codes be made available to the public for inspection 15 days prior to their adoption. The advertising for public hearing will run for two weeks in the newspaper and adding the 15 days would still make the codes adopted in plenty of time for merchants to be able to apply for the loans.

The three per cent loans are available to Pell City merchants in the affected area to redo their buildings as part of the redevelopment project.

Cosby also told the council that a survey would be needed and that it could be paid for from the grant.

The architect presented preliminary drawings of the various sections of the down-

town area with photographs of the sections as they currently are.

In addition, Cosby said it would be necessary for the mayor to sign the agreement between the city and the Alabama Development office for the \$10,000 grant, which would go toward creating a zoning ordinance in Pell City.

Councilman Charles Lockridge, head of the Street Department, gave a report to the council on the current operation of the department. He said they had 42 work orders for drives, 39 pickup orders for limbs and logs, 22 miles requests for water problems, more than 100 miles of roads requested paving. He told the council that with this amount of work to be done a decision needed to be made soon on purchasing equipment for the department. He said a backhoe, sweeper and dozier were needed. "I know we can't do it real quick," Lockridge explained, "but we need to start." The councilman also asked that citizens be patient on work orders because the department has been tied up recently with the paving project.

The council voted unanimously, after a Lockridge motion, to buy a cycle blade for one of the tractors. The estimated cost is \$1,300 to \$1,400.

In other action, the council:

- Heard from Annette Clayton who said she was against the city moving the road at Lee's Landing. A delegation had come before the council one month ago requesting that the road be moved. Mrs. Clayton said the relocation would damage her property. The council said they would check into the legal aspect of the problem;
- Heard a report from Robert Dorough about a water problem near his home in Eden. The council said they had not forgotten about the problem and would get to it as soon as possible.
- Tabled discussion on the extension of city limits into

- Smith Subdivision after Mayor Paul Turner said the citizens were ready for water;

- Rejected all bids on "junk" vehicles owned by the city because they were too low;

- Approved a \$1,000 donation to the St. Clair County Child Development Center;

- Appointed Victor Hunt of Ingram Manor Nursing Home to the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority;

- Paid the bills;

- Approved an off-premise beer license for Arthur M. Calhoun but tabled a similar request from Marshall Lee;

- Approved a taxi operator's license for Edward Kirkland.

# Council shops for new truck

With a jingle in their pocket from a one per cent sales tax, Pell City councilmen went shopping for a new garbage truck here Monday night.

Former News-Aegis Managing Editor Larry Camp, now a representative of Truxmore Company, Richmond, Va., was first in line to give a presentation for his firm's 23-cubic-yard model.

Camp said the company has manufactured garbage trucks 26 years. He brought a demonstrator model he said the company would be "happy to" allow the city to test. Passed February 28, the tax increase becomes effective Friday and is expected to add \$30,000 revenue monthly. Mayor Hugh Williamson said at the time need for new garbage, fire and street department equipment made the hike unavoidable.

In other business the council voted to contribute \$1,000 to the regional mental health center subject to approval by Finance Committee Chairman Paul Turner who was absent from the meeting.

A like contribution was made in 1975. Last year, however, the council made no contribution to the center.

On the advice of Police Chief Ruble Bowlin the council authorized the purchase of two stoplights to be placed in Delwood subdivision two.

The council also voted to purchase eight 45 feet poles for \$125 each from Alabama Power Company to be used for lighting the Bronco League field.

The city officials purchased a quarter page advertisement in the Winston 500 program at a cost of \$150.

A request by St. Clair Rescue Squad Captain C.J. Goodwin for a fundraising road block by the group April 30 and May 1 was referred to the police committee with a decision promised at the next council meeting.

Mayor Williamson read a letter from Coosa Valley Elementary School Principal E.E. Moree commending the city's police department for recovery of equipment stolen from the school March 21, then added his personal commendation to Chief Bowlin who attended the meeting.

Brief discussion was given to enactment of an ordinance to control stray dogs. Councilman Joe Sawyers suggested patterning a local ordinance after those of Selma, Centreville, Alexander City or Sylacauga. Councilman R.F. Cox said the stray dog problem will not be resolved until the city hires a dogcatcher.

City Clerk Bettie Scott reported Fire Station Number Two has been de-termitted at a cost of \$155.

The council set Wednesday as a tentative date to see a demonstration of a mowing machine.

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## Pell City

# Mayor lays out \$4.5 million plan to improve city

By LAURA NATION

PELL CITY — Mayor Lawrence Fields announced a \$4.5 million plan Monday night for city-wide capital improvements, which includes funds for water extensions and meters, new wells and a water tank, along with street paving, recreational facilities and additions for the city's police and fire departments.

Fields said the improvements are necessary for the future growth of Pell City.

Citing recent development along the city's Highway 231 corridor, Fields said, "Pell City is growing and we're behind now. We have to get up and get ready to move if we're going to grow."

Fields noted that presently the city's water system is experiencing a 48 percent loss from broken water meters and other water system problems, costing the city about \$767,000 per year.

Also, Fields said the city currently has a reserve water supply of only one day, and he would like to see it increased to a three-day supply.

There are water lines in town

that are served by two inch mains that cannot handle pumping for our fire trucks," he said.

The proposal was turned over to city finance department head Mike Hudson for study.

**OTHER PROPOSED** expenditures include:

- Sewer repair: \$200,000
- City wide paving: \$950,000
- Industrial park paving: \$225,000
- New fire station and city hall extension: \$729,000
- New fire truck: \$138,000
- Baseball fields: \$175,000
- Swimming pool: \$175,000
- Community area parks: \$65,000
- Police department radio system: \$125,000
- Police cars: \$60,000

Fields said he believes priority areas for the city are water department and sewer system improvements and street paving.

(Cont., see Pell City, Page 4)

## Pell City

(Continued from Page 1)

The proposed improvements came just in time to answer requests for paving from members of the Industrial Improvement Association of Pell City, who appeared before the Council to lodge complaints about road conditions in the city's two industrial parks.

Association member Fred Frost outlined needs in the parks that he termed as dangerous conditions.

"The road conditions are dangerous and I'm certain their appearance does not give visitors a good impression of Pell City," Frost said.

**FROST OUTLINED** three major areas in the parks in need of the city's attention as follows:

—Miles Parkway: Road beds inferior, causing collapse of sections of pavement that could cause drivers of vehicles to lose control.

—Comer Avenue Park: There is only one exit from each side of the Comer Avenue park, which causes heavy truck and automobile traffic to cross the median between Industrial Park Drive and Miles Parkway. Frost said the median is a right of way for a main high pressure gas line buried at a depth of about three feet and that when heavy trucks attempt to cross the median, they frequently become stuck. Frost said that on more than one occasion, heavy trucks had become stuck up to their axles in the median, causing a possible hazard to the gas line.

—The entrance to Miles Parkway is unsightly and unorganized in its layout. During afternoon shift changes, there is a traffic back up that causes drivers to cross the pipeline and short cut around the graveled area around the park entrance.

Frost told Council members that the association is concerned with the safety of employees and visitors to the park.

Until proposed improvements can be made, Fields directed Police Chief Homer "Bojack" Layton to see that a police officer monitors median crossing in the future.

**ALSO ON MONDAY**, Council members agreed to ask Fire Chief Ben Windsor to write letters to five property owners in the city who have property deemed to be dangerous to the public.

The letters will ask that the property owners bring structures up to city building codes or that the buildings be destroyed.

The following property owners will receive the letters:

- T.L. Harmon Sr. for a residence at 1919 23rd St.
- Brentus Fomby for a residence located on 19th St.
- J.W. Ragland for a residence at 601 17th St. S.
- Joe Wheeler for a laundromat at 215 Cogswell Ave.

# No quorum, lots of fireworks at Pell City Council meeting

By CAROL PAPPAS  
PELL CITY — When Mayor Harvey Watson and the present Council took office four years ago, their meetings from the beginning were clouded with controversy.

With only two weeks left before the mayor and all but one councilman leave office, Monday's meeting — even without a quorum — was no different.

The controversy centered this time on expenditures that at least two councilmen thought should be tabled until the new council takes office next month.

Moments before Monday's "pre-meeting," usually set aside as a

time for reviewing the night's agenda, Councilmen Joe Wheeler and Roy Holladay found themselves in a heated debate over expenditures.

Tempers flared and harsh words, including some name calling, were exchanged between the two, according to witnesses in the mayor's office.

Moments later, Wheeler received an emergency telephone call and quickly left, leaving the Council without a quorum.

According to the mayor, Councilman Rickey Staples was ill and physically unable to make it to city hall that night.

AN HOUR LATER, he and Wheeler signed a waiver of notice to hold the meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday. A 24-hour waiver of notice signed by all councilmen is required before a special council meeting can be held.

Tempers again flared when the mayor had attempted to set that meeting for 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Holladay said he would be in Tuscaloosa Tuesday and could not be back until 8 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. and asked for a later meeting time.

(Con't., see Council, Page 4)

(Continued from Page 1)

The mayor countered that it was too late to hold a meeting at that time and ordered City Clerk Nettie Seay to compose a waiver of notice setting the time at 7:00.

Holladay accused Watson of setting the earlier time so that Holladay would be unable to be present to challenge expenditures he claimed the mayor and Wheeler wanted.

"I think this city needs to curtail any expenditures until the next administration takes office. There are several things on here (agenda) that could severely hamper the next administration," charged Holladay.

"Some of them can wait until the next administration," he said, and Watson doesn't want

to wait." One Watson and Wheeler-backed measure gives Mike Martin of the street department a salary increase of \$1.27 an hour.

COUNCILMAN JAMES McGowan and Holladay both contended that it was unfair to give a raise to only one city employee and that it should be tabled for consideration by the new administration that is about to take office.

Watson said it was not a raise, it was a "reclassification" of Martin's position to assistant street superintendent, a position he has acted in for four years.

Also under fire were agenda items, including a resurfacing petition and a bill on a vehicle owned by a councilman.

The resurfacing petition was for Allen Road, where the mayor is building a house. Watson said he did not petition the Council nor did he sign the petition asking for resurfacing.

He said he was simply bringing unfinished business before the Council as required by law. The petition has been pending for several months.

Another agenda item was listed as "Vehicle Rental-St. Clair Air Cooled Motors." Holladay said it involved a piece of equipment owned by Wheeler that he donated or loaned to the street department and now he wants some money for it.

Wheeler said Tuesday that Holladay's statement was "totally 100 percent incorrect."

He explained that the equipment has been owned by his brother, David Wheeler, since 1986. The assessment, he said, was for rental on a water truck the city has been using.

# Building codes adopted

The Pell City Council, at its regular meeting Monday night in City Hall, adopted building, plumbing, electrical and heating codes for the city to clear the way for businessmen to apply for three per cent loans as part of the redevelopment project.

The council pointed out, along with architect Donald Cosby, that the building codes would

affect new construction only and would not affect existing buildings. One citizen at the meeting asked the council about the building inspector and what qualifications would be required of him. Mayor Paul Turner said the council would be "very careful" about selecting an inspector and added that he would be qualified. The citizen said the

construction people were "looking forward to the building code but want it enforced." The council said it would be.

With the adoption of the building codes, merchants in Pell City can now apply for three per cent loans with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to remodel their existing buildings in the storm-damaged area.

A delegation from the Highway 34 area near Cropwell approached the council about the possibility of extending gas lines into their area. Wallace Gover, spokesman for the delegation which numbered about 20, asked the council if anything could be done. Turner said the best thing to do would be to let the council approach Alabama Gas Company in the hopes of working out something. One citizen said that the area might be out of their franchise area but if enough customers would sign up they might take them in. The extension would involve 36 customers in a 1.3 mile area.

A delegation from the Lee's Landing area approached the council about the delay in moving a road near their

homes. Turner said the council turned the matter over to city attorney Billy Church to check into its legality but as yet have not heard from him. R.E. Taylor, spokesman for the group, said they have been waiting a long time and added that he didn't see how the council could be sued. He volunteered to pay for a lawyer to see if building the road was legal and volunteered to pay for an engineer for a survey if the council desired. Turner said that wouldn't be necessary and said he would get back to the group as soon as he heard from the attorney. One home owner in the area is opposed to moving the road and the council is checking into its legality.

In other actions the council:

- Agreed to keep intact a lot owned by Frances Hamby after a request by her;

- Bought a two-thirds page ad in Birmingham Magazine at a cost of \$300 in an issue that will feature Pell City;

- Turned over the Utility Department a request by the county to extend a six-inch water line about one mile toward the airport. The county made the request. Commissioner James Ingram made the request for the project, which will involve the county extending lines from that point to the airport;

- Tabled a request for water in a subdivision owned by Billy Walker;

- Tabled a request for an off-premise beer license for Marshall Lee;

- Agreed to get the contractor to fix a water fountain and a leak in the roof of the ladies restroom at the Civic Center;

- Tabled bids on lighting the tennis courts at the Civic Center. Mathews Electric bid \$6,915 and Royce Carroll bid between \$4,700 and \$5,500.

# Public Hearing Set For Building Codes Adoption

BY ROXANNE ANDERSON

Pell City's City Council, at its regular meeting Monday night, set the date for a public hearing on the adoption of city building codes which will be required before the city's federally-funded downtown renovation plan can get underway.

The meeting will be held Monday, August 9, at City Hall, at 6:30 p.m., for the purpose of hearing any protests or objections to the adoption of the following codes:

The Standard Building Code, 1976 Edition; The Standard Plumbing Code, 1975 Edition with 1976 Amendments; The Standard Housing Code, 1976 Edition; The Standard Mechanical Code, 1976 Edition and The National Electrical Code,

1975.

Don Cosby of Cobb, Adams and Benton, was on hand Monday night to present the first design sketches of the Cogswell Avenue renovation plan which is a part of the improvement program for Pell City being financed by an \$809,000 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant.

A number of local business people have applied for three per cent federal loans to finance the improvements to their business establishments, and the entire renovation program hinges on the adoption of the aforementioned building codes.

ALSO, MONDAY night, the council approved a \$1,000 donation to the Child Develop-

ment Center and unanimously passed a motion to begin accepting bids for a new motor cycle blade at an estimated cost of \$1200 to \$1400.

The motion was brought to a vote after Councilman Charles Lockridge stated the need for purchasing more city equipment and vehicles to help fill the excess of street, ditch, and driveway work orders. Councilman Harvey Watson then suggested any further purchasing plans be held until present bills are paid.

The Child Development Center, which receives federal funds to cover 87.5 per cent of its costs, is in critical need of revenue to cover the remaining 12.5 per cent and pay teachers' salaries for the three extra

summer months, according to Mayor Paul Turner.

Victor Hunt, Ingram Manor administrator, was appointed to the Mental Health Authority. Hunt will join Pell City's two other representatives on the board, Sam Jones and Malcolm Carpenter.

A request to extend the city limits toward Stemley's Bridge was tabled until the next meeting. However, it was suggested that a decision on this be reached as soon as possible so that new home owners could be advised on city water availability.

In other action Monday night: --Mrs. Annette Clanton of Birmingham, representing herself and her husband Hulon, Continued On Page 2

## Public Hearing—

Continued From Page 1

opposed the possible relocation of a street near her summer home at Lee's Landing. The street relocation was being considered to correct a water drainage problem. Mayor Turner advised Mrs. Clanton that no work would be done until the problem "was clarified."

Lynn Dorough of Pell City reminded the council of a drainage problem by his house on 4th Street No. in Eden. The council assured Dorough they were aware of the problem, but pointed out that street repair work deadlines on the federally funded disaster assistance program to correct 1975's tornado damages were causing delays in other repairs.

--All bids for the eight used city vehicles were turned down. The highest bid submitted was \$580 for all vehicles.

The Council approved the transfer of an off-premise beer license for Arthur Calhoun's Service Store (formerly Bruce's Tackle Box).

--A taxi-cab license for Edwin Kirkland was approved.

--The council stated its intention to have the Evangelical Temple driveway graded after the request of former Probate Judge Hoyt Hamilton.

--No action was taken on Marshall Lee's request for an approval of a beer license for Lee's Grocery on Highway 34.



Eyes new doctor plan—

## Council forges ahead on new water system

The Pell City Council Monday night moved to go ahead with plans for a new million gallon water tank and took under

consideration a plan to entice more doctors into the area.

Following a presentation by city engineer Charles Tucker,

the council moved to let for the bid the new million gallon water tank and cost for drilling one or more wells to set up the new system.

Estimated cost of the project is expected to be near \$130,000 to \$150,000. The council voted to go ahead with the plan because of rising steel costs even though the site of new wells has not been finalized.

The council also heard from St. Clair Hospital Administrator Same Jones who presented the council with an outline of a recruitment plan for new doctors in the area, which is federally subsidized.

According to Jones, the government will pay the doctors salary for the first two years provided the municipality "or any non-profit organization" sponsors the doctor and provides a building equipped for the doctor.

"This plan has been tested for the past two years, and so far, seems to work very well," Jones pointed out. "At the end of the two year period, should the doctor want to set up his own practice building, he can do so by repaying the municipality," he added.

The council, after being told by Mayor A.E. Nixon that "we need three new doctors here now," moved to study the plan before taking action.

In other business, the council received a cost report for a sewer system for the Eden area which came to near \$135,000. Councilman Forrest Walls and Engineer Charles Tucker, agreed to make a survey of the number of customers in the area before the council proceeded with the project.

The council referred to the street committee a request by Hubert Stevens and several other Eden area residents that a hill in the Smith-Subdivision be "cut down." Stevens said the  
(See Council page 9-A)

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hill was "very dangerous. . . something needs to be done."

Police Commissioner R.F. Cox asked for and received permission to employ Bill Turner on a trial basis as a new police officer.

City Clerk Betty Scott read the council a petition of parents, umpires and coaches of the city baseball program who commended Bill Bain for his ex-

cellent work in carrying on the program this year. "This is the first time all games have been played on schedule, with the adequate number of umpires and fields in excellent condition," the petition read. The council agreed with the petition.

After being told that the Fraternal Order of Police did not want the old Depot Building, the council noted that it was

"too much of a liability" for the city to purchase the building and added they would help any group interested in preserving the structure.

Following approval of an off-premises beer license for J.D. Butts and an on-premises beer and liquor license for the Big Bull Restaurant, the council adjourned until their next regular session.

## 'No alternative,' Pell City must join federal program

The Pell City Council, saying they "had no choice but to go along with the program," Monday night moved to participate in the Federal Housing and Urban Development Flood Insurance program.

The council, after reviewing maps from the Dept. of HUD, agreed to enlist the aid of the Alabama Development Office and the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission in meeting program requirements.

According to a HUD release several months ago, Pell City, Ashville, Ragland, Odenville and Moody had until July 1, 1975 to comply with program requirements.

This includes the adoption of a land use plan (Zoning or-

dinanaces), a building inspector, building codes etc.

"They (HUD) must have used a 100 year old map in preparing this thing," City Clerk Betty Scott told Councilmen. "But, unless we go along with the program, we will not be able to get any federal grant money, no insurance company will be allowed to insure homes in these so-called flood-prone areas and we cannot issue insurance companies licenses to operate in such areas," she added.

After discussion, the council voted to "go along" with the program. "We have no other choice," Mayor A.E. Nixon pointed out.

The council also passed a resolution allowing the Mayor to make application for a 95 per-

cent grant from the Law Enforcement Planning Agency for \$9,775 for new radio equipment. The council accepted the bid from Motorola Co. after inspection.

In other action, the council entertained a motion by councilman Forrest Walls that sewerage facilities be provided in the Eden area of the city. "Can't we see if we can get an FHA loan or grant money or something for some sewers down there," Walls asked. "Those folks are willing to pay their share just to get the place cleaned up," he said.

After discussion, the council agreed to pursue the matter in any way possible.

### Program

(Continued from Page 1)

Mayor Nixon said city engineer Charles Tucker had submitted five well sites as water sources, two of which were unacceptable. He said Tucker and himself would look into the other three possibilities. The council also was informed that the one million gallon water tank would cost approximately \$125,000 and \$12,500 for a foundation.

After approval of a quarter-page advertisement in the racing program for the Talladega 500 and letting of two dump trucks for bid, the council adjourned until their next regular session.

Sunday, July 7, 1974... ST. CLAIR NEWS AEGIS

## New sewage grant approved for city

Pell City will receive a grant of \$56,250 from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to upgrade the filtration system in its sewage line, it was announced Wednesday.

In a telegram to the NEWS-AEGIS, Senators John Sparkman and Jim Allen and Congressman Tom Beville made the an-

nouncement of the grant that will be used to keep surface water from infiltrating into existing sewer lines.

Pell City has applied for Federal money for a sewage treatment plant but studies have to be made before such a program is approved. The present correction is-

(See Grant Page 6)

### Grant

(Continued from Page 1)

to be used in preparation for the applied-for grant for the sewage treatment plant. Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said he does not know exactly when the funds will be received by the city. But, he said, the money will probably be received right away. The mayor said the city has already started on the project.

# Pell City council talks money woes

The Pell City Council, in a light business session Monday night, discussed the financial situation of the city and possible ways to supplement the city's income.

Councilman Paul Turner brought up the subject, saying the city would have to find some way to meet financial requests from the people. "We need money to fund the programs such as the Library, the Development Center and to pay several Civic Center employees that we'll have to hire," he said. Turner noted that he had been checking into the possibility of a one cent tax on beer to bring additional revenue into the city.

Bill Trussell, member of the Church & Trussell law firm that represents Pell City, said the matter had been looked into. He noted that only additional expense would be in printing the stamps, something that is now handled in the county commission office. It was pointed out that beer tax money is distributed on a volume basis with each municipality in the county getting their share.

Turner said he had understood that the money was distributed on a population basis. "But this is just a suggestion. We need money to fund these programs," he added.

Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said

(See Council Page 6A)

Thursday, October 16, 1975. THE ST. CLAIR NEWS AEGIS

## Council

(Continued from Page 1)

he hopes the city can ease spending in the coming year and noted the gas system has caused the city much expense in the past year. "The gas system has hurt plus we bought two high priced pieces of machinery," he said.

Councilman Harvey Watson said perhaps some expenses to the city could be cut back, primarily the loading of trucks with chert with city equipment. "It stands to reason that an expensive piece of equipment won't last as long when it's used that much," he said. "That equipment costs a lot to maintain and we're loading a world of chert for public use," he added.

Nixon said the council voted in the past not to load outside trucks and also pointed out that the city may be running out of chert. "What we're going to have to do is quit loading anybody's truck," he remarked.

Still discussing finances, Watson said the city may have to go to a privilege license with no limit. "The way it is now, the city only gets one license out of a business no matter what he sells. He may sell more than one type of item," he noted. Watson said that Childersburg has such a tax and, while they had no problems at first, they now have no complaints.

In other council action, Clifford Morrison of the Greater Pell City Arts Association submitted plans on restoring the white house in Cropwell. He mentioned that a live in caretaker would be willing to waiver the city's liability and noted that he would be in the house only as long as vandals threatened. Nixon said the

architect has told him the house must go because of the parking situation and because it obstructs the view of the buildings.

The council agreed that they shouldn't let the group go to any expense and then tell them no and they said a definite decision on the matter would be made at the next meeting.

The group wants to restore the house to sit on the Civic Center property. The city had wanted it either torn down or moved from the site.

The council repealed a resolution creating a Medical Clinic Board to handle the expansion at the Home for Senior Citizens at Cooks Springs and then adopted another resolution recreating the board with Darla Vardaman, Eugene Harris and Freck Smith serving and as board members.

A semi-controversy was apparently settled after three churches brought petitions before the council asking that no beer license be granted to Clay's Grocery. Lonnie Phillips, owner of the store, said no beer license had been applied for and he resented people campaigning against his store. The mixup occurred because the store has recently changed hands. Larry Hollis had owned it and applied for a beer license but has since moved.

Ludford Harmon approached the council with a request to expand his store 20 feet. Nixon turned the matter over to the street committee for study.

Nixon reported that 145 more gas leaks needed to be fixed and suggested hiring Control, Inc. to fix them. Watson suggested their work be spot checked and the council agreed.

In other action, the council agreed to allow the finance committee to look into pay raises for city employees.

Voted to take the low bid on refinishing the tennis courts at a cost of \$21,022.22 and \$16,000.

Voted to extend for six months notes of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$20,000 and hold over.

Paid the bills.

At Monday Night's Meeting—

## Pell City Takes A Look At Its Financial Position

The imminent bankruptcy of New York City has apparently sent tremors which can be felt as far away as Pell City, judging from the mood of financial caution which pervaded Monday night's regular session of the Pell City Council.

Several times the subject of the impending collapse of the east coast metropolis found its way into discussion of Pell City's present financial position. And at one point, Pell City Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon referred to a recent article published in a Birmingham newspaper which listed Pell City among Alabama cities said to be in "financial difficulty."

Councilman Paul Turner expressed particular alarm over the possibility of the city "overextending its means" and said that the city might be forced to seek new means of creating additional city revenue.

One way in which the added revenue might have been raised was said to be through adoption of an additional one cent beer sales tax. The idea was all but dismissed by the council after several council members recalled that county beer tax

revenues are distributed to cities according to the volume sold in that city, and not, as some thought, on the basis of population. The council then seemed to agree that any additional tax would only serve to reduce city revenue.

"Fact is," Councilman Turner told the council, "we have got to start planning ahead better. We're going to have a new civic center next year and someone's going to have to operate it, clean it and maintain it, and that's going to mean more money spent that we really haven't given much thought to."

Councilmen R.F. "Bam" Cox and Forest Walls then brought up the issue of pay raises for city employees, but the discussion was abbreviated after it became apparent that a special session of the council would be called in the "near future" to deal with raises. Councilman Cox said top priority in the new budget would have to go to the purchase of "badly needed" vehicles.

"We have many worthy things in Pell City such as the Child Development Center, which are badly in need of help, and I don't know where the

money is going to come from," Turner said.

The Council agreed that special budget meetings would have to be called in the near future.

In other business, the council:

—Agreed to sign a \$11,500 contract with Control Inc. of Gadsden for repairs to city gasoline leaks. Mayor Nixon estimated that as many as 145 leaks may exist.

—Voted to rescind an earlier resolution of the council which appointed three persons to the Medical Clinic Board. After referring with Attorney Bill Hereford, who presently represents the Baptist Nursing Home at Cooks Springs; and City Attorney Bill Trussell, the council voted to appoint Freck Smith, Donald Vardaman and Eugene Harris to the board.

—Accepted petitions submitted by representatives of Friendship Freewill Baptist Church, Arbor Baptist Church and the Pell City Church of God protesting the alleged granting of a beer license to a neighborhood business; but confirmed that the present owner Lonnie Phillips, had not applied for such a license. Phillips, who was also present for the meeting, came before the council and stated that he had no intentions of ever applying for such a license and that he was being punished because of something a previous owner attempted. "Even if he had been given a license, it would no longer be in effect," Phillips said.

—Voted to install additional street lights at Shadydale.

—Informed Pell City Arts Council President Cliff Morrison that more time would be needed to study his plan for saving the "White House" at Cropwell.

—And, in final business, voted to extend for six months notes in the amount of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$20,000 which had come due.

## Council adopts ordinance; agrees to halt roadblocks

The Pell City Council, in a light business session Monday night, adopted an ordinance on the Eden sewer project and agreed to discontinue roadblocks in the city "until further notice."

The council agreed to begin publishing the notice on the sewer project immediately and scheduled the meeting in which all objections to it would be heard at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 28. The sewer project has been planned by the council for some time and the go-ahead was approved when more than 50 per cent of the Eden residents signed a petition asking that they undertake the project.

On the subject of roadblocks, the council agreed not to allow any more until they could study the situation and find a solution. Councilman Dr. Raymond Cox said people visiting from out-

town on the weekends were beginning to notice all the roadblocks and soon would begin to "dodge" Pell City. The council noted that all the causes were worthy but that they were a traffic and safety hazard. There was some confusion as to what the council had agreed upon at an earlier meeting concerning roadblocks. Those groups wanting to have a

roadblock were either required to get a permit, come before the city council or both. Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said, "We need to put a limit to the number and where they have them and enforce it."

The council agreed not to have any more "until further notice."

The council also discussed (See Council Page 4A)

meeting with the mayors and councils in certain towns where city school systems are operating. They agreed to meet at the City Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 20, and meet with officials in Oneonta, Arab and Guntersville.

In other action, the council:

- Voted to take bids on five confiscated vehicles;

- Heard a report from Police Chief Ruble Bowlin that a police car had received \$520 damage in an accident Saturday night;

- Agreed to allow the police department to build a room for the radio operator to sit in;

- Voted not to meet on Sept. 8 because of the Alabama-Missouri contest and agreed to have it the following Monday, Sept. 15;

- Asked City Attorney Billy Church to continue looking into the city's relationship to the Medical Clinic Board which has been established to pay for expansion at the Baptist Home for Senior Citizens at Cooks Springs;

- Agreed upon recommendation by Cox to cut the shrubbery in back of city hall; and

- Heard a report from Mayor Nixon that he would meet with Jim Ruple and Ed Ash concerning a site for the horse show.

## City Wants Relief From Personnel Act

In its regular meeting Monday night the Pell City Council unanimously passed a resolution which asks Representative Marilyn Quarles and Senator John Teague to introduce legislation removing Pell City from the jurisdiction of the Personnel Appeals Act No. 1729 covering St. Clair County and cities with more than 5,000 population.

Pell City is the only municipality in the county governed by the act based on population.

This is the second time the City has asked for such legislation, the first being during the term of Dr. Roy Coshatt and Senator Aubrey Carr when the bill was not passed. Dr. Coshatt was the sponsor of the personnel appeals act.

Pell City is in the process of adopting its own personnel ordinance.

In other business concerning personnel, Pell City Police Chief Ruble Bowlin told the Council that something must be done soon about salaries for

policemen since they are leaving for more money. The City recently lost a policeman to the County (at a salary increase of \$100) and is losing another, John Washington, this week to the City of Birmingham. Washington reportedly gave the same reason, money, for his resignation. The matter was turned over to the Police Committee for discussion.

Danny Stevens discussed with the council and gained approval of an appropriation of about \$800 for expenses connected with Senior Babe Ruth League tournament. He said coaches must wear uniforms too and that 20 pairs of pants are needed for the players.

The Council also agreed to pay the balance due on the Civic Chorus piano, \$800, provided the Chorus will leave the piano at the Civic Center.

In other business, the Council:

--Approved a street light on the street leading to ballfield.

--Discussed stray dog problem.

Continued On Page 2  
... again and agreed to study an ordinance drafted by Councilman Joe Sawyer. Until the ordinance is finally drafted by the city attorney and adopted, the City will begin picking up stray dogs as soon as a dog catcher can be employed. The public will be asked to put up their own dogs for ten days to aid in picking up the strays.

--Authorized a \$200 reward for proof leading to conviction of persons maliciously destroying city road signs.

--Discussed mosquito spraying and decided not to spray at ball field before ball games. Spraying on Highway 231 South and Highway 78 was also discussed regarding the possibility of accidents.

--Approved supplying forms and concrete for sidewalk between D&W Texaco and Driver, Starnes & Hamilton on Cogswell Avenue.

--Denied an application for an on-premises liquor license for Josephine Moore, and approved a similar license for the Hotsy Totsy Club.

Turned over to the Finance Committee a proposal to purchase 50 copies of a book which would code all existing ordinances and laws affecting Pell City. The book would be compiled by Municipal Code Corporation of Tallahassee, Florida, at a cost of \$4,950. The council also asked clerk Bettie Scott to get costs from another company.

## Pell City redevelopment project awaits release of HUD funds

The required environmental clearance has been completed and funds are ready to be released for the project to redevelop downtown Pell City, THE NEWS has learned.

The 90-day study of the effect the redevelopment would have on the environment was required before the city could begin plans for the project, according to architect Donald Cosby. He said it was routine and wouldn't pose a problem for the overall project.

The city can now apply for the

release of the funds approved to them by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Once the money is obtained, preliminary drawings will be made and engineers hired to do the project. Cosby estimates the project to be completed within 9 to 10 months.

The redevelopment project resulted from a tornado that caused severe damage in Pell City on Jan. 10, 1975. It will upgrade and modernize the downtown area and has been

endorsed by the Greater Pell City Chamber of Commerce as well as city officials.

Cosby has outlined a three-year plan for Pell City in terms of development, including projects that could be undertaken after the redevelopment project.

Plans for the first year include downtown redevelopment, paid for with \$800,000 HUD disaster assistance money; Dye Creek Sewer Plant, paid for through a \$730,000 EPA

grant and \$730,000 local funds; Civic Center Park, paid for through \$40,000 BOR grant and \$40,000 local funds; Sewer Lines in Glen City, paid for through \$100,000 HUD grant; and Health Services Center, paid for through \$15,000 local money. The total cost estimated cost of the first-year projects are \$2,455,000, \$785,000 of which are local and \$1,670,000 federal.

Projects for the second year include an Addition to the Library, paid for through \$150,000 ARC funds and \$150,000 local funds; Water Storage Tank, \$75,000 ARC funds and \$75,000 local funds; Water Lines in Harrisburg and Whitesville, paid for with a \$100,000 HUD grant; Sewer Lines in Harrisburg and Whitesville, paid for with a \$100,000 HUD grant. Cost of second-year projects total \$650,000, including \$225,000 local monies.

Projects listed for the third year include a Playfield in Glen City, \$50,000 HUD grant; Park in Harrisburg, \$30,000 HUD grant; Storm Sewer in Glen City, \$90,000 HUD grant; Sewer in the Downtown Residential Area, \$100,000 HUD grant; and New Police and Fire Station, \$150,000 local and \$50,000 from LEPA. Total for the third year projects is \$470,000, including \$150,000 local.

# Council pays architects; hears chorus request

The Pell City Council, in a light business session Monday night, voted to pay Cobb, Adams & Benton Architects \$20,000 for work done on the downtown redevelopment project.

The money will be paid out of funds approved for the city by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The contract is for work

done over the past 15 months.

Ken Goodman, n Partain and George Williams approached the council about allowing the Pell City Civic Chorus to use the Civic Center for their weekly practices. Williams said, "We're looking for a permanent home for the rehearsals and we feel we've imposed on the churches long enough." Partain asked the council to allow the

Chorus to use the Center dining room on Monday nights from 6:45 p.m. until 9 p.m. He said the Chorus would be willing to move on a given night if an event can only be held on Monday night.

Partain told the council that risers, spotlights, a piano and other equipment owned by the Civic Chorus would be made available to the Civic Center should they be allowed to rehearse there. "We feel our case is an exception because of the broad base we reach," he said.

Councilman Paul Turner made a motion to allow the Civic Chorus to use the facility on a 90-day trial basis. Councilman Al Walls seconded the motion. The council two weeks ago adopted rules and regulations for the Civic Center and agreed that no civic organizations would be allowed to meet there on a regular basis. The vote to make the Civic Chorus the exception was unanimous.

A delegation from Lee's Landing Subdivision approached the council about a road they want paving. The delegation requested that the road be moved to its proper place and then blacktopped. Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said the city would correct the situation this summer when the county comes in to do the blacktopping.

In other action, the council:

—Agreed to put a curb on the street in front of the Civic Center;

—Voted to allow Nixon to accept the low bid for repair work on gas lines on 30th Street.

—Discussed the upcoming trip to Birmingham for the convention of the Alabama League of Municipalities. Attending will be Nixon, Turner, Walls, Lockridge, Bettie Scott and city attorney Billy Church;

—Voted to reinstall a meter on Cogswell Avenue Avenue; and

—Approved the bills.



## Council takes land OUT of city limits

The Pell City City Council Monday night approved a request to remove a 14-acre section from the city limits.

A petition by residents of the area on Highway 231 South asked the area be taken out of the city in order for the people there to obtain right-of-way to the property by a proposed access road.

In presenting the petition, W.H. Holland, representing the residents involved, said they have been unable to develop the land because they cannot obtain right-of-way through property owned by Avondale Mills adjacent to the section. He said the only way they can proceed is with the area removed from the city limits, the section then coming under county jurisdiction.

Although the council discussed whether this action might set an unfavorable precedent, the request was

approved unanimously.

The council also okayed the payment of revenue collected on water services by the city to H.G. Fraim Jr. in his residential development, Skyline Subdivision. The housing area near Highway 34, south of Pell City, was developed with water lines paid for by Fraim. This action of the council will, in effect, reimburse Fraim for his expenses in laying the water lines. The project is not yet completed, but the water lines have to date cost approximately \$24,000. The lines are connected to city water supplies.

The council turned over to the Police Committee for study a request by St. Clair Rescue Squad officer C.J. Goodwin to allow the squad to solicit financial help for Mrs. Theodore Bowman in paying for the loss of her mobile home. (See Land Page 11A)

residence by fire. The late Theodore Bowman was a member of the Rescue Squad.

Goodwin asked permission from the council to solicit contributions to assist Mrs. Bowman from public areas of the city, such as shopping center parking lots. The councilmen were unable to determine whether the city has authority to grant such a request and turned the matter over to the Police Committee for recommendation.

The council also approved the hiring of two new officers to the Pell City Police Department. Ed Pennington, a former Moody policeman, began working with the police force here last Tuesday as a patrolman. Vernon "Judge" Sillie started to work as radio dispatcher last Thursday.

The council discussed the possibility of renting the city's new mosquito fogging machine to the county, and a question arose concerning whether the machine and driver would be covered by insurance outside the city limits. City officials are working on an arrangement to give the county access to the fogger which, the councilmen said, has been effective in controlling mosquitos in Pell City since spraying began last week. The fogger will operate here twice each week.

## Spiraling Recreation Costs Put Cramp On City Budget

Spiraling costs of operation of the City's Park and Recreation Departments forced the city Council at its meeting Monday night to borrow \$10,000 for 30 days from the Peoples Bank of Pell City, just to meet monthly bills.

According to records at City Hall, part of the expenditures includes a \$1,384 electric bill for the Rec-Hall, tennis courts, swimming pools and Civic Center; almost \$3,000 in insurance premiums; \$1,000 for lights for baseball fields; employee payroll taxes and insurance of approximately \$1,200; a \$500.00 popcorn machine and other routine expenses such as cokes, etc.

City Clerk Bettie Scott said that revenue for the Department is received from tobacco tax, sale of concessions, membership in the Civic Center and programs sponsored by the Department. She said the situation this month is not an "unusual one" and that the loan will simply have to be re-paid from the general fund of the City. The loan was arranged at 5 1/4% interest rate.

In other business Monday night, the Council:

Agreed to enter a float in the Christmas Parade, to be sponsored this year by the

Chamber of Commerce, after Chamber President Ken Goodman told the Council that the Chamber has contracted with a company that makes floats and learned that they will provide 12 floats at a cost of \$2,000. Each sponsor of a float will have a cost of \$175.00.

Goodman also asked the City share the cost of the 4th of July fireworks with the Chamber of Commerce. Last year, the cost was divided between the Chamber, the city and the Jaycees. The Council voted to pay \$500.00 on the cost of the fireworks.

--Heard John Fuller, architect for the Civic Center, introduce Frank Howard, his new associate, and discuss the list of things that need attention at the Civic Center. He left the meeting to discuss the list with Center Director Marcie Vandegrift.

--Expressed appreciation to Mrs. Sally Childs, president of the Pell City Garden Club, for a \$300 gift from the Club to be used for the purchase of trees and/or shrubs in the Beautification Project of the downtown Pell City area.

--Heard D.B. Sisson ask that

something be done about several drainage problems in the area around Fifth Street North and about getting the street resurfaced. The Council agreed to investigate.

--Opened bids for a 1/2 ton cab and chassis for the Utility Department. Bids received were Baggett Pontiac-GMC \$3,875; Pell City Dodge \$3,876.97 (\$3,916.64 for a heavy duty truck); and John Rogers Ford \$3,767.74. The Council agreed to turn the bids over to the Utility Committee to examine the specifications.



*Old Turner Saying...*

Nothing is as hard to do gracefully as getting down off your high horse.

## City Moves To Limit Unnecessary Spending

Talk of spending money and controlling unnecessary spending dominated the regular meeting of the Pell City City Council Monday night.

Hard on the heels of approving taking bids on three trucks for the fire department (two cabs to be used with existing chassis and a small truck such as Luv or Courier) and setting up a demonstration of an end-loading garbage truck, the Council unanimously approved a motion by Councilman Charles Lockridge that all items purchased by any employee of the City be first requisitioned with an estimated cost and approved by the Councilman in charge of the employee's department.

The motion came as the Council finishing reviewing invoices for expenditures during the month of March. Lockridge said that his action was not to be considered a reflection on any employee, but was "simply good business."

The Council agreed to meet with all department heads to explain the new procedure which is to go into effect as soon as necessary forms are available.

The Council also gave the green light for work orders to be issued for extension of water lines under a plan which has been approved for some time, and, together with sewer improvements, was the basis for last year's bond issue. While the Council agreed that enough money is not available at this time to complete the project, it will begin in the Seddon Shores area and will be tied into the present system to utilize the new water tank which has just been completed.

Use of the new well and tank will "insure a sufficient supply of water for area residents," was the opinion of the Council.

Monday night's meeting was also an advertised public meeting on the sewer system. No citizens were on hand for the meeting.

It was announced that a grant of \$100,000 for sewer service in the Glenn City area had been approved and that "prospects look good for a like sum for Harrisburg and Whitesville.

In other business Monday

night, the Council:

-Approved a request from the Pell City Jaycees to sponsor a carnival during the week of May 9-15. The exact location of the carnival will be announced next week.

-Approved a request from the Resque Squad to hold roadblocks on Saturday, April 30, and Sunday afternoon, May 1. Exact locations of the roadblocks will be approved by the Police Committee.

-Heard a complaint from "Chick" Moore about loose dogs and gave copies of a Centerville leash ordinance to each councilman for study before the next Council meeting. Councilman Joe Sawyer said that he planned to introduce a leash law at the next meeting of the Council.

-Agreed to complete a map marking flood damage areas for obtaining financial assistance for repairs of the damages.

-Referred several street light requests to committee for reports at the next meeting.

—To decide franchise issue—

# Council to hold special meeting

The Pell City Council will hold a special meeting next Monday night to decide whether to give Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative a franchise to serve customers in the city limits.

The decision to have the special meeting came after the council heard from representatives of Alabama Power Company, who asked that the franchise not be granted.

The Cooperative had asked at the Nov. 8 meeting of the council for a franchise so they could serve new customers in a subdivision owned by Frain Realty near Stemley Bridge.

Alabama Power Company currently has a franchise to operate in the city and the council's decision is whether to allow a dual franchise for the same service in the city.

Members of the Cooperative argued at the last meeting that all they wanted was to be able to continue serving customers in the area where they currently have customers. They said to do this a franchise is needed so they can cross city streets and operate on city right-of-ways.

The request for the franchise

last week came from Chester Baker, a representative of the company. Baker told the council that not giving his firm a franchise would insure dual services in the area since Alabama Power would come in and serve the residents.

Alabama Power Company representative Harold Williams told the council that "It is the hope of Alabama Power Company that a franchise not be granted. We believe it would be in the best interest of Pell City."

Williams said Alabama Power Company has had a franchise to operate in the Pell City city limits since 1914. Williams said this included all new areas taken in by the city, such as the area in question.

City Attorney Billy Church said it was just a matter of getting the ordinance passed and recorded in the Probate Office before the Frain subdivision becomes a part of the city. The council also discussed the Johnny Smith subdivision, an area where residents have requested to come into the city but no action has been taken. Church said he was still waiting

on a legal description of the area before anything can be done.

Williams then told the council points he felt favored Alabama (See Council Page 4A)

Power Company in the issue. He said the APC was regulated by the Public Service Commission and the Cooperative was not. He said the Power Company is a local business and has contributed to the city's economy in way of ad valorem taxes and employees' payroll.

"We feel we've cast our lot with the city," he said. "We feel that we've been a good citizen. M Alabama Power Company is a local business."

Williams also brought up the fact that the APC is required by law to serve in the franchise area. Thus, if one citizen in the city requests it, they must serve him no matter where it is in the city. He said granting the Cooperative a franchise would lead to intertwining of services.

The Power Company officials then left after Mayor Hugh Williamson said the matter would be given due consideration.

After the representatives left, the council discussed the possibility of collecting back taxes from Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative. Councilman Dr. Joe Sawyer made a

motion to bill them for services for the money. Dr. Raymond F. Cox seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Baker had told the council at the last meeting that his firm had not paid the business tax before but they had never been asked to.

Councilman Paul Turner said he could not see the purpose of granting two franchises. "What does the Cooperative want a limited franchise for when APC can go in anyway?"

Turner said the issue was a definite problem for the city and the rest of the council and attorney Church agreed. Williamson then set a special

meeting from for 5:30 p.m. Monday night to discuss the issue.

Dr. Sawyer presented to the council the Street Committee's recommendation for new street lights in the Pine Harbor area. Residents in the area had requested street lights at a previous meeting.

The plan, which was approved unanimously by the council, calls for 12 new street lights.

In other action, the council:  
—Voted to buy a CB radio for City Hall so that emergency channel nine can be monitored at night;

—Agreed to check with the banks on rates for a \$15,000 to \$20,000 loan to cover city debts;

—Voted three in favor and two abstentions to issue a private club license to Mary's Lounge;

—Granted a liquor license to Lakeview Lounge;

—Voted not to give parking meter violations during the month of December after a request by the Chamber of Commerce; and

—Voted to write a letter to the county commission asking that they leave the sanitary landfill in its present location.

At Pell City —

## Bids For New Water Tank, Wells To Be Opened Jan. 3

BY AUGUST LEHE

The Pell City Council met in regular session Monday night and voted to open bids on Jan. 3 for a new 600,000 gallon city water tank and for the drilling of two wells.

Monday's action came after

weeks of preparation and study conducted by the city and the consulting firm of Charles Tucker Engineering. The Council set 2 p.m. as the time for the opening of bids.

The Council also voted, on the recommendation of Pell City Recreation Director John Brigham, to authorize the purchase of athletic field backstop materials totalling \$1659. Mayor A. E. "Dill" Nixon said no bids would be taken since only one firm could be located which would agree to sell the materials without including installation charges. Nixon said the backstops could be installed using city labor, thus saving the city "considerable expense."

Nixon also noted that bids on the new recreation center cannot be opened until a Federal wage-rate schedule has been obtained.

Passed unanimously Monday night was a resolution declaring Saturday, Dec. 14 "Pell City Panther Football Day in Pell City" and authorizing Mayor Nixon to issue a proclamation in recognition of the Panther's teamwork, conduct and achievements, under the direction of the coaching staff consisting of Head Coach Gene Ellison and assistant coaches Pete Rich, Moe Smith and Freddy Hazelwood.

In other business, the Council:

-Voted to give city employees the traditional Christmas bonus (\$10, \$20, or \$30, depending on years' service and \$40 to department supervisors) and their choice of a turkey or ham for Christmas dinner.

-Voted to extend a due note of \$15,000 for 30 days rather than drawing upon city certificates which are earning a higher interest.

-Voted to endorse provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (section 208) in accordance with guidance from the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission. In endorsing the move, the Council agreed to "join in a cooperative effort to implement plans for waste treatment." All plans, it

was noted, would be subject to the approval of Environmental Protection Agency.

-Accepted a statement of appreciation from Charles Hamilton, who came before the Council to recognize the recent removal of several trees located near the Union Investment Building at 19th St., between Cogswell and first Ave. S.

-Directed City Attorney Billy Church to research city ordinances regarding actions open to the city in cases of abandoned property. A house owned by the late Artie Davis said to be in a dangerous state of disrepair.

-Authorized Church to continue negotiations with a local citizen, who has allegedly violated city rights of way by permitting personal property to extend into city thoroughfares.

-Voted to "stockpile" two loads of chert on the site of the old theater. The move was said to be in response to requests from neighboring businessmen who have complained of standing water in a ditch created when the theater was razed.

-Authorized City Street and Utilities department employees to work the next two Saturdays to enable them to take off Thursday, Dec. 26 and Friday, Dec. 27. The agreements, according to Nixon, would not apply to Sanitation employees.

-In final action, approved payment of routine city bills.

All council members were present for Monday's meeting.

# City Gives Gas Customers Reprieve On Rate Hike

BY AUGUST LEHE

City gas customers were granted another month's reprieve Monday night when Pell City Mayor Hugh Williamson and council members agreed to postpone

impending rate hikes until the full extent of announced increases from the city's wholesale supplier, Southern Natural Gas, is known.

Council members revealed Monday night that the city has

been put on notice to expect a 28-cent per thousand cubic feet rate hike in December and at least another 5-cent per thousand increase sometime during January.

In reaching the agreement, the mayor and council said the move to delay the increase was sought for two reasons: first, to eliminate the need for several successive rate hikes throughout the coming Winter; and, second, to enable the city to fix new rates at the lowest level possible.

In apparent anticipation of adverse reaction from city gas customers, Councilman Charles Lockridge told the council that the city has always been reluctant to raise rates and, when forced to, has seldom passed along the full difference to homeowners and businessmen.

"It should be remembered that city gas has gone, in a few years, from a profit-making venture to a losing proposition," Lockridge said.

A typical example of city reluctance to pass along full costs to consumers, Lockridge said, was the current \$37.50 charged by the city for installing a meter on an existing line. The actual cost, not counting labor, was said

Continued on Page 2

closer to \$80.

In other business Monday night, the city council:

--Heard a report from City Engineer Charles Tucker on the status of city water and sewer systems. Tucker informed the council that the Eden sewer plant was now functional and running at 50 per cent capacity. He also reported that the city still needed approximately \$85,000 in order to complete the proposed Glenn City sewer system. Tucker also reported on the new city well and water tank, and described the well as "the best I have seen anywhere." He said the tank would probably be functional by sometime February.

--Agreed to proceed with federal grant applications for

three projects including \$699,350 for completion of the lakeside recreation complex at the new civic center and \$600,000 for construction of a new St. Clair County-Pell City Library to be located between the present library building and city hall. Both were said to be 100 per cent grants.

--Agreed to study a petition submitted by Seddon Shores property owners requesting that their lots be incorporated into the city. Several council members expressed the opinion that the area was either already within Riverside city limits or could not be reached without passing through a portion of the town of Riverside.

--Voted to install a rest room and water fountain at Eden

City Hall.

--Heard a delegation representing Coosa Valley Electric Co-op ask that a city franchise be granted the rural electric association to prevent alleged intrusion by Alabama Power Co. The spokesman said the firm has served the area near Stemley Bridge since 1940 and was willing to now pay the city taxes on service rendered to area customers recently incorporated by the city. The spokesman said if a franchise was not granted, the city would expect to see Alabama Power Co. lines running alongside present lines.

--Voted to make a recent seven and one-half per cent raise granted city employees retroactive to Oct. 1, of this year.

# Pell City treasurer discusses finances, says tax necessary

February 24, 1977... THE ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS

Pell City Clerk-Treasurer Bettie Scott, noting that "the city is faced with immediate need for a number of capital expenditures," said Tuesday she is in favor of the city adding an additional one-cent sales tax to meet the financial obligations.

In a statement submitted to the St. Clair News-Aegis discussing the city's current financial situation, the clerk said the proposed sales tax is necessary.

Reports had been circulating for several weeks in Pell City that the city council was considering adding the additional

sales tax. The reports were confirmed last week when a delegation of businessmen approached the council to discuss the proposal. At that meeting, the council turned the matter over to the city's Finance Committee for review.

Miss Scott said she hopes that by discussing the city's financial situation, more people will understand the need for additional revenue.

"The city is faced with immediate need for a number of capital expenditures," she said. "The front end loader has had to have major repairs at an

estimated cost of \$12,000 to \$15,000. The Utility Department operates with five pick-up trucks ranging in age of from 4 to 27 years. They simply must have two new trucks. Bids have not been taken but it is estimated the trucks will cost \$10,000. The two garbage trucks are shot. We hope that we can take parts from one truck to repair the other truck so that it can be used to pick up garbage containers. But we need two new garbage trucks that we estimate will cost \$50,000. To keep the grass and weeds cut from the street right of way, we will have to have a new mowing machine—\$20,000."

"These are things we must have right away," Miss Scott noted. "We're talking about \$85,000 or more now."

The clerk went on to discuss other items the city needs to purchase.

She said, "We need—as soon as we can afford them—a low boy to transfer our equipment from one site to another. The street department needs a back hoe full time in cleaning out ditches and installing pipes, etc., to allow proper drainage. They need at least one new dump truck now and must replace other trucks as they wear out. The Police Department should replace at least two cars every year and they need a new motorcycle."

"The Fire Underwriters require a new fire truck every 10 years to maintain our insurance rating. The "new" fire truck is seven-years-old."

"We have been petitioned to build four new softball fields near the Civic Center. Do you know what it will cost to fence

one field, build dugouts, a concession stand, bleachers and install lights. Then there's an electric bill (We really should appreciate Avondale Mills for providing the field and lights all these years at the ball park) once the field is built, umpires, scorekeepers and concession stand operators to pay. And that is all after the city has done the grading and the fields have been sod.

"Estimated expenditures for this fiscal year exceed estimated income by \$37,000. Last year the city transferred \$26,500 from the General Account and \$21,000 from tobacco tax to help operate the Park and Recreation Program. Money in the Recreation Department is used for the swimming pools, tennis courts, recreation halls, and the baseball and softball programs as well as the Civic Center."

"Assuming it is necessary to transfer a like amount this year, the city needs \$63,500 for general operation."

The clerk continued, "The city has a total of \$78,460 in outstanding notes payable. Of this total, \$15,000 is the balance due on money borrowed in 1972 and 30,000 is a balance due on money borrowed in 1975. In 1976, the city borrowed \$50,000 to pay on a street resurfacing program. This note is being repaid from monthly receipts from gasoline excise tax and the balance due is \$33,460."

"The only bonded indebtedness the city has are revenue bonds issued through the Utility Department. This indebtedness totals \$1,206,000—\$65,000 on the 1960 bond issue; \$141,000 on the 1964 bond issue; and \$1 million on the 1976 bond issue."

"Business license, ad valorem tax and motor vehicle license income for the year has been practically all collected for this fiscal year. Other sources of income will not produce the needed revenue."

"The only source that will provide anything close to the funds needed is an increase in sales tax."

# City okays Eden sewer project

Following the presentation of a petition by councilman Forest Walls, the Pell City Council Monday night announced it will probably go ahead with a project to install a sewer system in the Eden area that would cost each resident \$1,537.

The petition presented by Walls listed 52 names, or some 66 per cent of the residents in the Eden area, far above the

necessary 50 plus per cent needed to sanction the project. The council said a resolution would be drawn up by city attorney Billy Church and adopted at the next regular meeting.

A public hearing will then be held on the issue to give those opposing the installation a chance to voice their objections.

Also, the council agreed to look into the possibility of providing housing for the Pell City Rescue Squad upon a request by director C.J. Goodwin.

Goodwin said the squad needed a building 200 feet by 200 feet to house the squad and their equipment. Mayor A.E. Nixon said he was certain the city could find a place and suggested the Industrial Park. A possible site mentioned by Goodwin was the area between the Pell City Recreation Hall and the National Guard Armory.

Goodwin also suggested that this building might serve two purposes, to house the rescue squad and the ambulance services. "Each one could help the other out answering the telephone and watching over the equipment," he said.

Nixon commended the Rescue Squad on their efforts in recent weeks following the Jan. 10 tornado and said he would look into the squad's request.

The council also discussed the proposed City School System with resident Jim Ruple. Nixon said the council is studying the matter closely and had scheduled a meeting with the county board of education on Tuesday night to talk about it.

Ruple said he had heard very few objections to the proposal with most of those coming from persons outside the city limits. Nixon said he didn't think the system could be in operation by fall, 1975 but Ruple disagreed saying it could be done if work was started immediately.

In other action, the council:  
—Passed a resolution giving Pell City flooding insurance;

—Approved an off-premise beer license to Flora Ann Lockridge; and

—Heard a report from City Engineer Charles Tucker on the proposed Pell City water system. Tucker said drilling on the wells would begin this week.



# Watson tells Council he is still in charge

By CAROL PAPPAS

PELL CITY — Despite Mayor Harvey Watson's continual declarations of "I'm still in charge!" the Council attempted to challenge that authority Monday night.

An attempt to have the mayor's pay increased by \$1,200 a month was thwarted when Councilman Joe Wheeler's motion to that effect died for the lack of a second.

Also, Councilman Roy Holladay entered a motion to take the mayor's city car away and assign it to the fire chief, whose car is several years older.

Although that motion did receive a second (by Councilman James McGowan), Watson would not allow a vote because it was not specifically listed on the agenda.

Prefacing his motion, Holladay said he was "concerned" about "cars I don't remember voting on. I don't know if the mayor's wife has still got a (police) radio in her (personal) car.

"I'm concerned that we're spending a lot of this money in areas that were not appropriated when we took office. A car is worth approximately \$300 to \$400 per month," Holladay said in reference to the mayor's full time use of a city vehicle.

Holladay called for action on the matter, but the mayor would not allow it because it was not specifically listed on the agenda.

"WE ESTABLISHED WE were talking about the mayor's pay, perks and so on," said Holladay, referring to an earlier agenda item discussion on the mayor's pay and benefits, "and I think we can take it up right now."

Holladay continued, charging that the mayor's use of city property had "gotten out of hand."

"I don't know of anything that has gotten out of hand in my area of responsibility," Watson said. If it has, "then you file some kind of charges or something. In the administration of my duties, it's necessary that I have some of these things to communicate with."

According to various Council members, those "things" include an unmarked patrol car equipped with a police radio, a blue light and a siren.

Holladay further charged that Watson "seized that automobile without our authority." The Council is responsible for assigning city vehicles, and the matter has never been voted upon.

"There are certain things in this budget I look after," the mayor responded.

Holladay again called for a vote, but Watson said, "There will not be a vote on this."

"Do I hear a second?" Holladay asked, and McGowan concurred.

(Continued from Page 1)

Watson started to allow the vote, but then apparently changed his mind. "You'll have to bring it up next time around."

"I'D LIKE TO call for a vote," repeated Holladay. "You cannot call for a vote. I'm still in charge," answered Watson.

"I vote to take it away," retorted Holladay, to which Watson repeated, "There will be no vote in this meeting. I'm still in charge!"

The discussion ended with no vote on the matter, but Holladay said after the meeting that he will bring the measure up for a vote on the next agenda.

Leading up to the mayor's use of a city vehicle, there was another controversy over raising his pay.

1 of 2

While it is illegal to raise the pay of a mayor during a term in office, there is a provision for naming him superintendent of utilities, which calls for a pay raise of a maximum \$1,200.

Wheeler entered the motion for naming the mayor full time utilities superintendent, but kept inserting the title of "full time mayor" instead.

"You should pay the mayor for working since you seem to be willing to pay everybody else for working," Wheeler said, referring to the Council's approval of a pay hike last week for city employees.

Wheeler voted against that 25 cent an hour raise for employees making less than \$6 per hour and 4 percent for employees making more than \$6 per hour.

"I don't understand," said Holladay. On a 4 percent raise for employees last week, Wheeler was opposed, but this week, he favors a 400 percent raise for the mayor, Holladay said.

**EARLIER WHEELER TALKED** of pay "discriminations" in the revised budget adopted Monday. He claimed that the rest of the Council discriminated against 46 employees who received 25 cent an hour raises, while 37 received 4 percent.

He explained that the percentage raise gave a bigger boost to higher paid employees, thus discriminating against lower paid employees.

Wheeler's motion to raise the mayor's pay, which later died for the lack of a second, would have

hiked his income to \$1,600 per month or \$19,200 per year.

While Wheeler contended that the mayor has worked full time for the city and deserves full time pay, Holladay countered, "The only person that appointed the mayor full time is the mayor. I haven't voted on that."

Holladay then referred to the former city administrator position, which was done away with in an apparent campaign promise to save the city money.

According to city records, that position first paid \$1,950 per month and \$2,050 per month the next year when all employees received a raise.

Since the mayor has assumed that position, he has hired a personal secretary who currently makes \$13,520 per year, installed a private telephone line at a cost of \$608.92 and carries a base rate of \$109.30 per month and has full time use of a city vehicle, including gas and maintenance.

"We're spending that money (city administrator savings) now?," asked Holladay.

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"THE CON COUPLAND (former city administrator) money is being spent, it's not being saved," Holladay charged after the meeting.

He also addressed the mayor's block of the vote on taking his car away. "We can call for a vote anytime, regardless of what that agenda says."

Holladay then referred to a point in the meeting when Watson asked that the Christmas week meeting be cancelled even though it was not on the agenda.

"One minute we had to operate by the agenda, and the next minute he wanted to vote about not having the Council meeting.

"All I want is to play by the same set of rules. This Boss Hog attitude. I can't cope with because I'm trying to do what's right for the city of Pell City."

Addressing the mayor's raise issue, Kilgroe said the mayors receiving part time salaries in the past used "their own time and spent a lot of their own money, and I think they did a pretty good job over the years. We were certainly not in the situation we're in now."

to enlarge the representative churches and welcome any and all support in the effort to defeat this bill, states Cole Skelton, a Co-Chairman.

The pastor and at least three or four key laymen from each church are being urged to attend. Any and all citizens who are not related to a church but who share this groups' concern will be welcome. The meeting will set out the organization and basic plan of attack as well as enlist active support.

THE ST. CLAIR OBSERVER September 13, 1973

Also For 36th St. —

## Industrial Sewer Plans Finalized By Pell City

After several months of delay agreements with residents on the securing of assessments, the new sewer

system for 36th Street and into Industrial Park in Pell City is ready for construction.

At Springville—

### *Bob Allman Choice To Fill Council Vacancy*

Springville Mayor Wayne Harrison announced this week the appointment of Bob Allman to the Town Council, filling the vacancy created by the recent death of Councilman R. G. "Shorty" Galbreath.

In making the announcement Mayor Harrison said that several people were considered by the Council to fill the vacancy, but after studying the recommendations and discussing the nominees with Mr. Galbreath's widow, the Council decided unanimously to appoint Mr. Allman. Mayor Harrison said that Mrs. Galbreath commented that she felt Mr. Galbreath, who died suddenly on August 28, would have been pleased with the appointment.

Mr. Allman and his wife, who is employed at the Springville High School, have been residents of Springville for the past 20 years. He is employed at Gordon Transport Company in Birmingham.

A candidate for the office of councilman in last year's election, Mr. Allman is a member of New Lebanon Baptist Church and active in the Masonic Lodge.

The Allmans have two children, Kim, 19, who is presently a student at Jacksonville University on a football scholarship, and Teresa, 14, who is a student at Springville and a Junior High Cheerleader.

Councilman Harvey Watson, at Monday night's meeting, stated that the remaining citizens on 36th Street had agreed to pay the necessary assessments for installing the new system and that the required papers are being signed.

Councilman Watson also announced that there will be a public hearing with the entire Public Service Commission present Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the Pell City Courthouse.

Mayor Nixon pointed out that the city had received a bill from Pell City High School amounting to \$425.00 for refinishing the gym floor. It was agreed by the council that the bill would be paid if the gym may be used at night free of charge.

The Mayor pointed out that the base and foundation of the new shop building, which should arrive the 15th of the month, is not completed and the city should hire a party to haul chert and the city load the chert.

The council agreed to take

Continued On Page 2

Said "Our Only Chance"

CLAIR NEWS - AEGIS

## Council okays redevelopment

By unanimous approval the plan of redevelopment of the Pell City Council Monday night, downtown area of the city after voted to move forward with a its presentation by a

representative of Cobb Adams Benton Architects Inc.

The plan which calls for near \$5 million worth of improvements would create a "Pell City Center" with drastic economic parking land use and structural benefits.

Submitted in booklet form the plan points out that following the tornado of January 10, 1975, over 56 per cent of the commercial and public structures were either substandard or dilapidated.

It also pointed out that 52.82 per cent of the residential areas in the downtown area were in like condition.

Calling for improvements such as parks improved parking facilities a "Pell City Center" shopping area centered around Cogswell Avenue, and many other improvements, the plan allows for the improvement not only of appearance but of the economy and revitalization of the downtown area which would serve the needs of the community for the next 20 years.

It also provides for renovation of store fronts along Cogswell Avenue from 18th to 21st street, construction of 37,500 feet of new retail space, acquisition of land and construction of an office plaza, and construction of a multi-family residential complex.

"I don't think we have any choice other than to pursue this plan," Mayor A.E. Nixon told the Council. "I think it's the only chance we've got," he added.

The plan, as it is put into effect will cost \$4,818,400, all of which is Federal money to be obtained by grant application.

**Council**  
(Continued from Page 1)

In other business, the council agreed to visit the Guntersville City School system and area on their first available Wednesday following a request by the Citizens for Better Schools.

Though discussion was had regarding the set up of a city system, the council took no action other than to assure the committee spokesman Ray Miller that they would attend the meeting in Guntersville.

The council also referred to committee action awarding of bids on a pick-up truck for the fire department. Bidding on the unit was Baggett, Pontiac and Pell City Dodge with Baggett Pontiac the apparent low bidder.

On request from Attorney Bill Herford, the city reappointed Aaron Smith and Roy Coshart to the Medical Clinic Board and appointed Rev. Goode of the First Baptist Church to a term on the board. Herford explained the board will be used by the Baptist Nursing Home at Cooks Springs as a medium for financing expansion of that facility with no liability to the city whatsoever.

Following approval of \$150 advertising expense for the race program at Talladega, postponement of a city ordinance calling for the Eden Sewer Project assessment and the moving of seven street lights from the 231 N. area to the First Avenue South area, the council adjourned until their next regular session.

# Glenn City Delegation Seeks Sewer Extension

The Pell City Council, meeting in regular session Monday night, heard a delegation of residents of the Glenn City community request that the city extend sewer lines and service into the area.

Heading up the group was Earnest White, who also presented the council with a petition which listed the names of more than 45 citizens said to be in favor of the move.

White told the council that the petition represented roughly 95 percent of the citizens now

residing in the Black section of Glenn City and was a clear indication of local sentiment. White also pointed out that the Black area had long been overlooked by the city.

"I think this move is long overdue and, on behalf of the Black citizens of this area, I request that the city take immediate action to extend sewerage service to this community," White said.

After a brief discussion the Council agreed that the city take preliminary steps

extending sewerage service to the Glenn City Community.

Pell City Mayor A. E. "Dill" Nixon told the delegation that

the city engineer would be instructed to draw up schemes for extending lines into Glenn City and estimate the per customer assessment of the extension.

In a surprise move, the Council heard Councilman Paul Turner read a letter addressed to the council by Dr. Culver Lee in which Dr. Lee asked that the city "not act hasty" in attempting to move or demolish an old building situated on the future site of the Pell City Recreation Center, now under construction at Cropwell.

In the letter, Lee said any action should be deferred until "funds can be obtained to restore and preserve the old, white Victorian-style house." Dr. Lee's written comments also indicated that the house might be useful as a "museum, or information office" and could also serve to house such functions as garden shows, etc.

Following the reading of the letter, the council agreed to study the matter further.

In other business, the Council:

—Received a delegation of Alabama Power Officials which included George Williams, Homer Turner and Harold Williams. The three reportedly appeared to request clarification of a recent proposal by the Rural Electric Association asking that the REA be permitted to "stay within its present area." The discussion centered around a 16-customer area of the city located north of the Big Bull Restaurant and east of Hwy. 231. The Council referred the question back to committee for study.

—Noted that road conditions at the Truss Ferry Railroad Crossing had been repaired, as promised, by Southern Railway.

—Accepted bids from Johnny Smith Construction and Richard Guthrie for the use of a back hoe, front end loaders and tractor with spreader.

—Granted an off-premises beer license to Flossie Summerville on behalf of Smith's Tackle Shop.

—Agreed that action should be taken to improve street lighting conditions on a two-block area of First Ave. South between 19th and 21st Streets.

—Moved to approve routine bills.

City-

# Council Takes Action To Speed Recovery Effort

BY AUGUST LEHE

The Pell City Council in separate storm-related actions, voted Monday night to employ

Cole Tree Surgeons of Anniston to trim trees ravaged by the Jan. 10 tornado, directed City Attorney Billy Church to draw up a resolution expressing thanks to persons and organizations who assisted in local cleanup operations, and accepted a proposal from Artis Weems to increase city insurance coverage from the present \$1,100,000 to \$2,300,000.

The Council also directed Church to draw up an ordinance which would permit citizens to locate mobile homes, on a temporary basis, in areas previously forbidden—as long as proper water and sewerage hookups are made.

The ordinance will permit placement of trailers for six months, after which time, the city may authorize, on a case by case basis, an extension period of up to six more months.

In addition to a general resolution of thanks, the Council voted to draw up a separate resolution commending St. Clair Civil Defense Director R.L. Timmons for his service during the recovery period.

Also, discussed were resolutions which, it was said, would enable Pell City to qualify under the Flood

Insurance Act. No formal action was taken.

The Council then heard a report from City Engineer Charles Tucker regarding the status of bidding for a proposed 600,000 gallon city water tank and for the drilling of two new wells. Tucker said the matter of bidding was still in the early stages.

Tucker also presented the Council with two schemes for the extension of sewer lines in the Eden Community.

Councilman Forest Walls said he would attempt to make personal contact with all property owners in regard to the planned extension and the question of assessment to determine whether citizens in the affected areas would support the plan.

- OBSERVER, Pell City, Ala. January 30, 1975

## Pell City Opens Bids For Center

A total of eight bids were opened Tuesday at noon at Pell City Hall for the construction of the proposed City Recreation Hall, with the low bid of \$552,000 submitted by C.D. Wilson and Sons, Inc., of Ashville.

Other contractors whose bids were opened Tuesday included J.A. Childs Construction Co., of Gadsden, Diversified Development Corp. of Jacksonville, Goodwin Construction Co., of Talladega, Hugh M. Motes, Inc., of Sylacauga, Rives Construction Co., of Birmingham, Southeastern Porcelain and Construction of Birmingham, and Wallace Construction Co., of Gadsden.

Bids for the proposed recreation center, which were submitted Tuesday in response to specifications released last month by project architect John

M. Fuller, ranged up to a high of \$695,146 submitted by Southeastern Porcelain.

Estimated time of completion included in each bid varied from 270 days to 365 days, according to the official tabulation of bids released by the city.

Estimates in individual categories included \$14,800 for blacktopping submitted by Diversified, a \$6,360 bid for lighting submitted by Wallace, and a \$9,409 bid for construction of tennis courts by Wilson and Sons.

Pell City Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon said Tuesday further study of the bids would be necessary by the City Council before the city awards a contract for construction of the center.

# Pell City dreads ABC bottle swap

How will Pell City be able to tax liquor when the miniature bottles are phased out?

The council had no immediate answer to that dilemma at their meeting Monday night.

Councilman Charles Lockridge offered two options after looking into the problem: he suggested either charging a large annual license or levying a tax on gross sales at places with on-premises liquor licenses.

He observed that miniatures will be a thing of the past by July unless the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Board votes otherwise. He added that some miniatures have already been replaced by big bottles.

Only a few restaurants and clubs serve mixed drinks in Pell City.

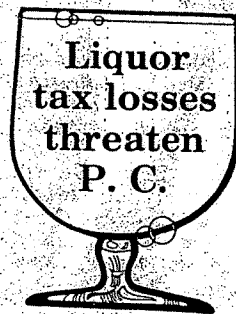
Police Chief Ruble Bowlin commented that the city receives about 10 cents tax on each of the

miniatures point out that bartenders can (and in other states do) get more drinks by using less liquor. And for tax receipts to be the same, a greater volume of liquor would have to be sold under the new set-up.

Mayor Hugh H. Williamson asked Lockridge what other cities plan to do to prevent loss of revenue. Most have no plan, replied Lockridge. He said he has asked around, and none have a solution.

Lockridge and the rest of the council agreed that they need to make a decision fast, since the changeover is expected for July.

Mayor Williamson instructed clerk Bettie Scott to contact Mr. Throckmorton, a lawyer with the Alabama League of Municipalities, for advice.



small bottles.

Lockridge pointed out that it will be extremely difficult to tax a fifth or a gallon for an equal number of drinks.

That same notion has raised concern elsewhere in Alabama for other reasons. Supporters of

# Garbage business dumped in city's lap

Pell City may soon be in the garbage business. The county's landfill closes June 30; their garbage contractor wants more money, and residents want more frequent service.

Pell City councilman Dr. Joe Sawyer urged that the city "consider operating our own (garbage service) or we'll be priced out of the market."

The situation is becoming critical, said Sawyer, due to the county's landfill being closed on June 30. He said that their contractor will then be forced to haul garbage to a Talladega Co. site, creating more expense.

The garbage company is already dropping service to Ragland and outlying areas as an

economy move. Sawyer said that the company has only raised rates 75¢ since 1974.

Councilman Dr. Raymond Cox agreed that garbage collecting and disposal is an expensive proposition, "and if we could break even we'd do real well."

Charles Lockridge asked what they would need to operate such a service: "land, a tractor, and a man to run it?" The other councilmen answered yes.

Mayor Williamson and the council discussed several parcels of land the county has been offered if they want to buy and operate a landfill. They also talked about what type of bulldozer or equipment they would need to dispose of the garbage

according to State Health Department standards.

Mayor Williamson pointed out that they need to think toward having a landfill site close to the city to save gasoline. They heard one estimate that garbage trucks have mileage of about "one mile per gallon."

Lockridge noted that the gas situation alone would eventually lead the city to starting its own garbage service. Councilmen Sawyer and Forrest Walls agreed that they need to make a move, but not by leasing land for a fill site.

Sawyer suggested that perhaps the county could help. But he urged that the city look into it quick. "We only have a month."



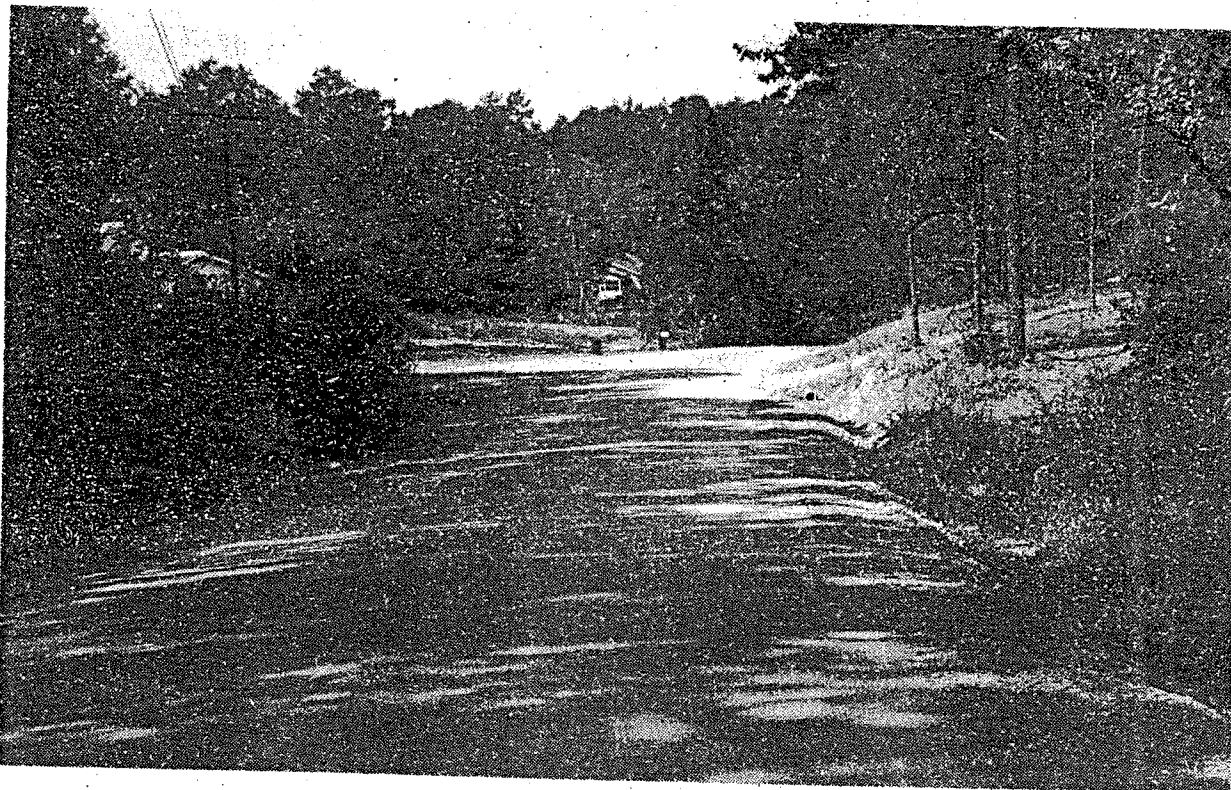
# road work

## new Council's top priority

The mayor explained that the new street plan will include priority

areas, and only one area will be worked at a time.

Next, the street crew moves to Park Hill.



The new Pell City Council has begun one of its most important tasks — needed street work. Work began in the Whitesville area, continued through Harrisburg and

ended at U.S. 231 near Food World. Shown is an example of what is being done to improve roads. Ditches have been pulled, and drainage

problems are being alleviated. The new Council plans to concentrate on one area at a time. (Carol Pappas photo)

PELL CITY — When the new City Council began its term Oct. 1, it also began a new system of street work.

According to Mayor Harvey Watson, the Council is setting priorities for road work and attempting to improve the worst areas before bad weather hinders the crew.

Work began off U.S. 78 near Eden on Whitesville Road, pulling ditches and alleviating drainage problems.

The work then continues through Whitesville and Harrisburg and goes up to Third Avenue in one direction and to U.S. 231 near Food World in another direction.

Watson noted that this first area worked was a priority situation with residents unable to get in and out of their driveways.



# Pell City Council temporarily

By CAROL PAPPAS

PELL CITY — As one of the first official duties of any new administration, the council considers re-hiring city employees.

Pell City's new Council, though, has elected to delay the matter — at least temporarily.

In Monday night's first regular meeting, Mayor Harvey Watson stated that "all employees" have been re-hired on a temporary basis "until such time we make evaluations" and place them on

permanent status.

Watson said Tuesday that the Council is in the process of evaluating "departments, personnel and the administrative set-up we have now."

Since the present administration is "entirely new," the delay in re-hiring permanently will give the Council time to make the necessary evaluations.

He noted that the new Council may "see some things in a different light than the prior administration. This

is the time to make any changes we want to make."

At present, the Council has not completed its evaluations to see what changes may be made.

However, evaluations should be completed by the next Council meeting, the mayor added.

"I don't have anybody in particular I want to get rid of," Watson said. But, if he sees that a department could be run more efficiently, "I won't hesitate to replace them."

He also noted that he still intended



**DURING THE** final meeting of the outgoing Pell City Council, Alabama Show Horse Association President Charles Hulsey presented Mayor Hugh H. Williamson with a trophy denoting the city's recent hosting of

the "Best Horse Show in the State." Helping with the organization of the show were local businessman Johnny Turner and Boys Ranch Director Tony Birchfield. From left

are: Birchfield, Turner, Williamson, Hulsey and wife, Shirley. Hulsey also commended the city on its excellent facilities at the Tom Tucker Arena. (Carol Pappas photo)

## re-hires all city employees

to "fulfill my promise to the people concerning the city administrator (Con Coupland)."

When Watson ran for the mayor's job, he promised to abolish the city administrator's position.

"I'm talking solely about the position, not the man," said Watson. "I have nothing against him personally."

When Watson ran for mayor, he had promised to be a full-time mayor and administrator.

"I don't see that you need a man

hired specifically for a function that I'm doing.

That's not to say that he (Coupland) wouldn't be valuable to me," but "I ran with the intention of abolishing that position."

In order to abolish the city administrator's job, it will require a majority vote of the Council to rescind the ordinance that created the position.

In other business Monday night, the Council:

— Approved an application for Donald Hannah as a taxi cab operator;

— Approved a lounge retail liquor license for Ollis Forman and James Orr at the Southside Lounge;

— Approved an off-premise, retail beer and wine application for Robert Lawrence McKee for Lil Mart on 19th Street South.

# Council hikes gas rates

Citing an increase of rates charged by Southern Natural Gas, the Pell City Council voted unanimously Monday night to pass on that rate hike to city gas customers.

Mayor Paul Turner said Southern Natural Gas had increased the cost of gas to the city and recommended that it be passed on to the customers. The council agreed to use the suggested rate schedule from Control, Inc., for the rate increase. The council said they had no choice in the action and voted unanimously to raise the rates.

The rate hike does not affect the minimum rate or the rate for the next 700 cubic feet. The

rates for 300 cubic feet (minimum) and 1,000 cubic feet are the same but the rate hike takes effect on the next level. For the next 1700 cubic feet, the rate is raised from \$1.85 to \$1.90; the next 17,000 cubic feet sees a raise from \$1.75 to \$1.80; and the biggest raise takes place on the next 20,000 cubic feet from \$1.46 to \$1.70. Gas rates for industries have also been raised from \$1.40 to \$1.70 per 1,000 cubic feet.

The council also heard from a delegation from the St. Clair County Fire Ant Committee, asking that the money pledged from Pell City several months ago be paid in order to help finance the spraying of the

## Turner appointed mayor of Pell City; Cox mayor protem

Councilman Paul Turner was appointed Monday night to fill the unexpired term of the late Mayor A.E. "Dill" Nixon by unanimous vote of the council members.

Turner, who had served as Mayor Protempore since his election to the council in 1972, opened the meeting by saying that it was the duty of the council to elect a mayor to fill out the term. The motion to appoint Turner was made by councilman Dr. Raymond F. Cox and seconded by councilman Forest Walls. The motion passed unanimously.

The appointment of Turner leaves a vacancy on the council that will be filled in the upcoming city elections.

Nixon, who had served as mayor since 1972, died of a heart attack early Friday morning in St. Clair County Hospital. Funeral services were held Saturday.

In other appointments, the council voted in favor of a

motion by councilman Charles Lockridge to appoint Dr. Cox the new Mayor Protempore. The motion to appoint Cox, a former mayor, to the post was seconded by Forest Walls.

Also, the council voted to give councilman Harvey Watson the power to cosign checks along with the mayor.

After being appointed Mayor, Turner said, "We all who served with Dill Nixon know and appreciate the efforts he made in building a progressive city. He had a lot of dreams and a lot of accomplishments. And some of the plans he had for the city hopefully will be realized."

Turner told the council was Nixon actually a full-time mayor but that he could not be because of his job situation. "We'll have to shoulder the load and work as a team," he said. "A man like Dill Nixon can't be replaced but we can utilize the talents we have. Pell City has unlimited potential."

county on August 25. Les Pair,

county extension agent and J.B. Reaves, member of the Fire Ant Committee, explained to the council the history of the program and why it has been delayed. (See details elsewhere.) The council agreed to pay the \$2,128 (20 cents per acre) that had been pledged to the program.

Ted Campbell and Jim Ruple from the Pell City Chamber of Commerce were at the meeting to discuss with the council a proposed project to paint seven fire hydrants red, white and blue for the Bicentennial. Campbell said the project was a joint effort of the Chamber, the Rotary Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW). He said some 14 high school students have expressed interest in entering a contest, with the winner receiving a cash prize. Campbell said the Chamber would buy the paint and noted that it would involve seven fire hydrants in the city. The council agreed to allow the civic groups to pursue the project. Campbell also asked the council about the possibility of painting a star on the street intersection of Cogswell Avenue and 19th Street. The council said they could and to work it out with the police chief on the best possible time to do it.

Campbell told the council of a planned fireworks display for the July 4 celebration. He said he had already contacted the State Fire Marshall and was told the rules and regulations concerning such a display. Campbell noted that the display would last 45 minutes and would be sponsored by the Chamber

and the Pell City Jaycees. He said the cost of the project would be close to \$1,000 and asked the council to pay a share of the cost. The council voted to pay one-third of the cost of the project.

In other action, the council: —Heard a report from Charles Myers on the Spanish Garden subdivision that is seeking admission into the city limits. Myers requested that one section of the original plan remain outside the limits.

—Heard from a delegation complaining about construction of a shop off Corner Avenue in Pell City. They complained that workers left garbage out close to their home and that their working was interfering with their electricity. The council agreed to look into the matter.

—Agreed to have the police chief draw up specifications and ask for bids on two police cars and a pickup truck;

—Agreed to hold the Civic Center opening on June 27. (See details elsewhere;)

—Approved an off-premise beer license for James Howard of The Country Store; and

—Agreed to begin looking for someone to fill the vacancy on the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority.

# Council Joins War Against Fire Ants

The Pell City Council voted unanimously Monday night to endorse the efforts of the newly formed St. Clair Fire Ant Committee and agreed to assist in collecting funds to be used in financing county-wide spraying next year.

Appearing before the Council, on behalf of the fire ant control effort, were St. Clair Extension Chairman Les Pair, Farm Extension Agent W.D. Jackson and committee vice chairman, Don Walker Jr., Pell City.

"We have called the Council to inform you gentlemen of the success other counties have experienced and to ask your help in collecting the 20 cents per acre required before spraying can begin," Pair said.

Pair noted that similar efforts in Talladega, Randolph, Chambers and portable Calhoun County have already proved that fire ant control can be successful.

"I would like to clear up one point by saying that the spraying is intended only as a control measure and will not mean complete eradication of the insect," Pair said.

Walker then informed the council that the Fire Ant Committee needed the assistance of the city in collecting money for acreage

within the city limits.

"Acreage owned by the Board of Education and private industries and that covered by rights of way can be taken care of," he noted.

Pair and Walker estimated that spraying might begin as early as the Fall of 1975, if the money can be collected by the April deadline.

After a brief discussion, the Council voted to participate in the program and assist in the collection effort.

In other business, the Council heard from Jim Cox, city bonding advisor, regarding the city's present state of indebtedness. Cox told the Council that based upon the number of city gas, water and sewer customers, the city had a borrowing capacity of \$2,473,100. He said that any funds raised by the city would have to go toward one or more of the utilities.

The Council also:

Learned that bids for the new recreation center cannot be sent out until the city is provided with a wage-rate schedule.

Heard a report from City Attorney Billy Church regarding alleged infringement of city property by several local citizens. Church informed the Council that negotiations were making progress toward resolving the difficulty.

Agreed that a number of potholes discovered along

Continued on Page 2

sections of 16th St. and 17th St. should be repaired as soon as possible.

Voted to donate \$500 to the St. Clair Child Development Center, increase the monthly library allocation by \$50 and make a one-time donation of \$1,000 to the County Health Department.

Voted to give city employees Thanksgiving Day off.

Announced that the regular Thursday garbage pickup would not be made this week.

Voted to erect a street light at the main intersection leading into the industrial park.

On the recommendation of Councilman Harvey Watson, the Council authorized Fire Chief Cecil Guthrie to send letters to owners of property in disrepair warning that citations may be issued later if dangerous conditions are not corrected.

Read a letter from the Pell City Jaycees inviting the Council to participate in the Dec. 14 Christmas Parade.

Read a letter from Southern Railway officials which noted the "dangerous" condition of the Truss Ferry Road crossing. As reported in a letter sent earlier by the city to the railroad, the officials said the installation of signals at the crossing was being considered by Southern.

ERVER, Pell City, Ala. November 27, 1974

## Council oks road patrol brake repair

In a light business session Monday night, the Pell City Council agreed to repair the brakes on the road patrol at a cost of \$1,000 and voted to begin working up specifications on asking for bids on a cycle blade to cut grass.

The council also agreed to pay Cobb, Adams and Benton Architects for all work done on the merchants' applications for the three per cent redevelopment loans. Mayor Paul Turner said it is his understanding that the money that would be paid by the city could come out of the HUD grant.

In other action, the council:  
—Heard from Johnny Smith about tying on city water to his subdivision. The subdivision is currently in the process of coming into the city limits.

—Tabled a request from the Wolf Creek Road where residents want to buy water from the city after putting in their own lines.

—Heard a report from Turner

that he has not yet talked to Alabama Gas about gas extension down Highway 34.

—Said again that a special meeting was needed on hiring a building inspector.

—Agreed to check into the possibility of doing repairs to the recreation hall and painting.

—Voted to write Rep. Tom Bevill a letter about frequency interference in the mornings with the police radio.

—Discussed roadblocks and agreed that they should be approved by the council before.

—Complimented the principal and coaches at Pell City High School for the improvements made at Alumni Stadium.

—Agreed to check into hiring a dog catcher.

—Approved an on-premise beer license for Bachelors II on 16th St. South.

—Nominated Grady Bishop to serve on the Birmingham Regional Planning Com-

(Continued from Page 1)

missioner Citizens Advisory Committee.

—Heard from C.J. Goodwin, captain of the St. Clair County Rescue Squad, that their problems have been straightened out. He said only two members have left the squad and thanked the city for their support of the squad.

—Heard from Barbara Eidson of the St. Clair County Child Development Center. Mrs. Eidson said the Center will need \$7,900 to keep operating and possibly another \$3,000 if they decide to add a new unit. The money is 12.5 per cent matching money for a grant. The council said they would consider it at budget time.

—Discussed the possibility of making it a one-way street in front of Pell City High School.

To Aid En Emergencies ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

# PC CBers reveal plan to monitor channel nine

A plan for constant monitoring of emergency channel nine on citizens band radios was discussed at Monday night's meeting of the Pell City Council.

Julian Gossett and Dean Owen were at the meeting and told the council about plans to monitor the channel and asked that a CB radio be placed in City Hall so that the channel could be monitored from midnight to 6 a.m.

Gossett explained that about 35 to 40 CBers have joined together in the program, which is designed to aid persons who need emergency help. Gossett told the council that channel

nine on the CB is for emergency use only and that persons respect its use only for that. He said the radio operator would not be bothered by noise because the channel is not used for normal traffic. He estimated a CB would cost the city \$150. Owen also told the council that the group had been working with St. Clair County Civil Defense Director Bob Timmons on what to do in emergency situations. He said it would be a big help to have direct communication to the police department and suggested the possibility of having CB radios in all police mobile units

Councilman Paul Turner said

a request similar to thiers had been made previously and approved by the council. Mayor Hugh Williamson said the matter would be given consideration.

In other action, Williamson turned over to the police committee for study the matter of how the city handles wrecker calls. The action came after a request by Neal Pate, owner of Pate's Alignment. Pate asked the council how he could go about getting on the rotation for calls. Police Chief Ruble Bowlin said the city had no rotation, pointing out that Goodgame had been getting the calls because

they have a place to store vehicles for several days. Pate said he also had a place to keep the vehicles. Williamson then turned the matter over to the committee.

Also, the council:

—Appointed Mayor Williamson and Mayor Pro-Tem Turner to the 208 Policy Committee of the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission. The action came after Mike O'Donoghue, BRPC staff member, explained the 208 study to the council and asked that they appoint a member to the committee. The 208 study involves Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair and Walker counties and is designed to study waste pollutants and the possibility of getting rid of them. The representative stressed that the matter is very important and the meetings must be attended. Williamson will serve as the member and Turner the alternate. O'Donoghue also asked that a person be appointed to the 208 Technical Committee. No action was taken on that.

—Tabled a request by Ludford Harmon for permission to expand his building either 14 or 16-feet. Harmon had made a similar request one year ago but no action was taken.

—Heard from St. Clair Emergency Rescue Squad Captain C.J. Goodwin who presented sketches of a proposed building for the squad. This matter was also tabled.

—Agreed to check with Southern Natural Gas on their proposed rate hike

schedule. Gas recently went up 28 cents per 1,000 cubic feet for the city.

—Agreed to study a contract submitted by architect Donald Cosby for his work on the redevelopment project. The council reported that preliminary sketches are being drawn up and that Cosby wants to meet with property owners in the area.

—Agreed to go along with the governor's proclamation making Halloween Saturday night instead of Sunday.

—Agreed to turn over to the city attorney a request to strip mine inside the city limits.

—Turned over to the police committee a request for beer license from Josephine Moore;

—Approved an on-premise beer license for Mac's on U.S. 231 South.

—Renewed notes of \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$20,000.

—Heard a report from Williamson that he would interview all applicants for building inspector and make a recommendation.

—Turned down a request that city equipment be used at the Looney House because the city wouldn't be insured;

—Turned over to the Police Committee a request from the Pine Harbor Improvement Association for more street lights and more police protection in the area.

—Agreed to hire a dog catcher; and

—Agreed to have a meeting of the utility committee to discuss problems.