

McGowan completes police training

James McGowan, right, is pictured with Paul Headley, the director of the State Police Academy at Jacksonville State University. McGowan, who serves as the head of the police committee for the Pell City Council, recently completed a 35 weekend course which ended with his certification in law enforcement.

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

Thursday, July 3, 1986

Homer Layton officially named Pell City chief

Homer 'Bojack' Layton, a 15-year veteran of the Pell City police department, was officially named police chief, replacing the retiring Ruble Bow in.

In an interview Tuesday morning, Layton stated he expected no drastic changes or serious problems in the change over.

One reason for the smooth transition is the fact that Layton has watched the department grow from five men and two patrol cars to 12 men and five patrol cars.

The new chief is a native of Pell City, having grown up in the Avondale Mill Village of Pell City and is a graduate of Pell City High School. He is married to the former Ruby Roe. The Layton's have four boys including a set of twins that are 9-years old.

"Yeah, they were really excited about all this," Layton commented on the reaction of his family to his new appointment.

Joining the department as a patrolman only two days after Bowlin was named chief in 1965, Layton was promoted to Captain in the early 70s.

Among the first order of business will be finding a replacing for himself and

possibly hiring of two new officers. "I don't see any problems. It will just take a little time to get into the routine of things here," Layton said.



Chief Layton

Thursday, October 9, 1980

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

Pell City police chief announces re

By DAVID HAYNES

PELL CITY — Police Chief Ruble Bowlin caught everyone off guard near the end of Monday's City Council session when he stood up and announced his intention to retire effective Sept. 30.

In making the announcement, Bowlin also recommended that police Capt. Homer "Bo Jack" Layton, senior officer in the department, be appointed as his successor.

Bowlin was hired as police chief nearly 16 years ago, in June, 1965. At that time, the Pell City Police Department numbered only four, including the chief, and had two "ole wore out cars."

Today, his department has 13 officers and five patrol cars. Bowlin says he is proud that when he retires every officer will have completed police academy training, with the last officer to finish Friday.

"We've got a good department here," said the chief. "We could use some more men and a detective and some more space, but I'm real proud of these boys."

BOWLIN SAYS he has had only four full-time jobs in his life.

He started with Stockham Valve in Birmingham in 1938 and stayed on for 15 years. Then, after running a service station in Pell City for "a couple of years," he ran for Sheriff of St. Clair County and won.

He was Sheriff for two terms, from 1951 to 58. After his second term, he said he "laid out four years and didn't run." During that time he worked at a Pell City furniture store.

He ran again for Sheriff in 1964 and lost by 75 votes to Joel Woods. Then he was hired by Pell City as Chief of Police.

The Monday night retirement an-

nouncement was the second of his career. Last year, Bowlin has made all the necessary preparations for retirement, but said he decided to work another year when "the council talked me into it."

"I GOT THREE Social Security checks and had to send them back," he said.

Bowlin said some of the council members tried to talk him out of retiring Monday night, but says his mind is made up this time.

The man Bowlin wants to be appointed chief, Capt. Homer "Bo Jack" Layton, has been with the department nearly as long as the chief.

He signed on in June, 1965, as a patrolman and since has been promoted to sergeant, and in 1967, to captain.

Bowlin says he hopes the council will follow his recommendation, reasoning

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that other officers will see that
seniority counts for something in the
department.

Mayor Hugh Williamson, contacted
Tuesday, said a temporary police chief
probably will be appointed at the
organizational meeting scheduled for
Oct. 6 at 6 p.m. Williamson would not
make any predictions on who the new
chief would be Tuesday.

ALSO AT THE organizational
session, appointments of council
committee chairmen will be made by
the mayor. He said he Tuesday he has
discussed individual preferences with
members but has not yet decided on
any appointment.

He did say the appointment of the
new police chief will be a decision of
the entire council rather than a rubber-
stamping of a committee decision.

Discussing Bowlin's announced

retirement, Williamson said he has
been "an excellent police chief and will
be sorely missed."

But Bowlin doesn't plan to fade into
the wallpaper. "I'm not going to just
sit down and dry up," he said,
chomping down on a half-smoked
cigar.

An avid motorcycle rider since he
bought an Indian Chief motorcycle in
1935, Bowlin says he plans to keep on
riding and camping during retirement,
although he now rides a 1972 Harley-
Davidson.

RUBLE AND WIFE Gay Nelle are
both active members of the Ding-A-
Ling Camping Club of Pell City and he
plans to see some more of the country
with his camping trailer after retiring.

The Bowlins had two children, Ruble
E. Bowlin Jr., now 28, and Janet Ann
Bowlin, who died in an automobile
accident in 1968.

They have one granddaughter, 6-
year-old Bridgette Bowlin, who
probably will not be sorry to see her
grandfather have more free th



RUBLE BOWLIN

Lockridge new police com

BY MIKE MOSER
News-Aegis Editor

As members of the Pell City city council for the next four years held their organizational meeting Monday night, they wasted little time in living into the routine of city business.

Following a brief swearing in ceremony conducted by Circuit Court Judge Edwin H. Holladay, Mayor Hugh Williamson announced various commission posts and committees and council discussed several issues affecting city residents.

With little fanfare, Pell City Police Captain Homer 'Bojack' Layton became Police Chief Layton. Williamson noted the appointment stating Layton was named chief with the approval of council.

In announcing th. various commission and committee posts, Williamson reported he had labored over the

various decisions, especially over the past two weeks. "I have put a great deal of thought into these appointments," Williamson said.

He added that there had been a lot of interest expressed in the various positions with a lot of apprehension among city employees as to the leadership of departments in the city.

He then announced the following commission and committee appointments.

Charles Lockridge, who was out of town Monday night, was appointed the new police commissioner, replacing Dr. Raymond 'Bam' Cox. Serving on the committee with Lockridge as chairman will be Forest Walls and Keith Porter.

Paul Turner will retain his position as head of the finance committee. Joining him on that committee will be Barnett Lawley and Keith Porter.

Lawley was named new fire commissioner, replacing Lockridge, and

Lockridge and Turner will serve on that committee.

Keith Porter was named ne commissioner of the utilities, street and sanitation committee with Turner and Lockridge serving on the committee.

Walls will serve as commissioner of the recreation department, a position he held the past four years, and serving on that committee will be Porter and Turner.

Williamson also approved the formation of a new committee, which will also be headed up by Keith Porter. This committee will be called the judiciary commission.

He making this announcement Williamson noted that Keith Porter will oversee the operation of the municipal court system and that all the requirements and duties of the city are carried out as required by

Williamson said that the judiciary laws place the courts under the

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udge but added, "We, too, have a responsibility and we can be removed from office if the court is not addressed properly."

A motion Porter and seconded by Council veteran Paul Turner, was unopposed in his reelection was unanimously approved as a two term of council.

Council approved to retain the same date and time of the session for the fourth Monday of each month. The next council meeting will be next

by law, council also heard a number of bookkeeping reports and also heard a request from the city to have the city committee with a list of exact capital expenses for the upcoming year by the last meeting of the

for discussion of all house chores, and also into discussions concerning the operation of gasoline tax

purchasing of a landfill for limbs and leaves and continued dog problems in the city.

Mayor Williamson told councilmembers the time was approaching for the city to investigate purchasing land for its own landfill and also negotiating with Mrs. Billy Kendericks for purchase of around 10 acres off Alabama 174.

The Kenderick property is currently being used by the city as a dump ground for leaves and limbs and the city might have the opportunity to purchase the property if it were its own.

Turner brought up the subject of continual dog problems in the city. Williamson noted the city is in consideration of a fee for the removal of dogs to the full extent on a company basis to be considered.

Lawley brought up the subject of the city that some gas dealers and companies might be paying gas taxes and the city could be

\$50,000 annually as a result. He suggested a monthly check using more than one means might catch those who are not paying taxes.

Lawley, who owns Lawley Oil Company, an Amoco distributor, also stated that a survey of only five companies doing business in the city revealed that four were operating without a city license.

Porter, who is currently on the phone, stated that the city should have a treatment facility for the city's garbage. The city currently has a garbage dump which is costing the city \$100,000 a year. Porter stated that the city should have a garbage treatment facility which would cost \$1,000,000. Porter stated that the city should have a garbage treatment facility which would cost \$1,000,000.

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II City police chief

Bojack' Layton is a friend to everyone

By LAURA NATION

PELL CITY — When Pell City Police Chief Homer "Bojack" Layton joined his home town's police force in May of 1965, it was a

five man department with two police cars.

Now, 25 years later, the Pell City Police Department employs 18 full-time officers, four fulltime radio dispatchers, two part-time dispatch-

ers and has a fleet of eight police cars and one motorcycle.

In a job that requires having an understanding of the law and law enforcement along with knowing how to handle dangerous situations, Layton says the most important tool he can use is common sense.

"When you're dealing with as many personalities as we do in police work, you have to use common sense to know how to help people. Sometimes people just need someone to listen to them," said Layton.

Spending 25 years in the same field of work and working his way up through the ranks has been rewarding to Layton. "It feels good to be able to help people," he said.

Hearing the town's troubles with a sympathetic ear is just part of the job. Layton believes that being a good police chief — and officer — also at times involves being a psychologist, a preacher, or a father as well as an officer of the law.

"It's something new everyday, just when you think you've seen it all," says Layton. "It's hard to describe a typical day."

The only other career he says he really ever considered was that of a bus driver.

Former Pell City Mayor and Councilman Harvey Watson said Layton is probably best known for his habit of "going out of his way

to help people and knowing just about everyone in town. Because he knows so many people, most of them, even if it's a potentially dangerous situation, Bojack can talk them into going with him to jail if they're being arrested or misbehaving themselves."

"He's a fixture in Pell City," says Watson.

Watson recalls one day in particular when he was riding in the police car with Layton that illustrates the point of "knowing everyone in town."

"If you've ever ridden around with him, it's very interesting," said Watson. "Every time he sees someone, his hand goes up to wave at them. We met a dog walking down the street one day and up went the hand. I didn't say anything — I just sort of chuckled to myself."

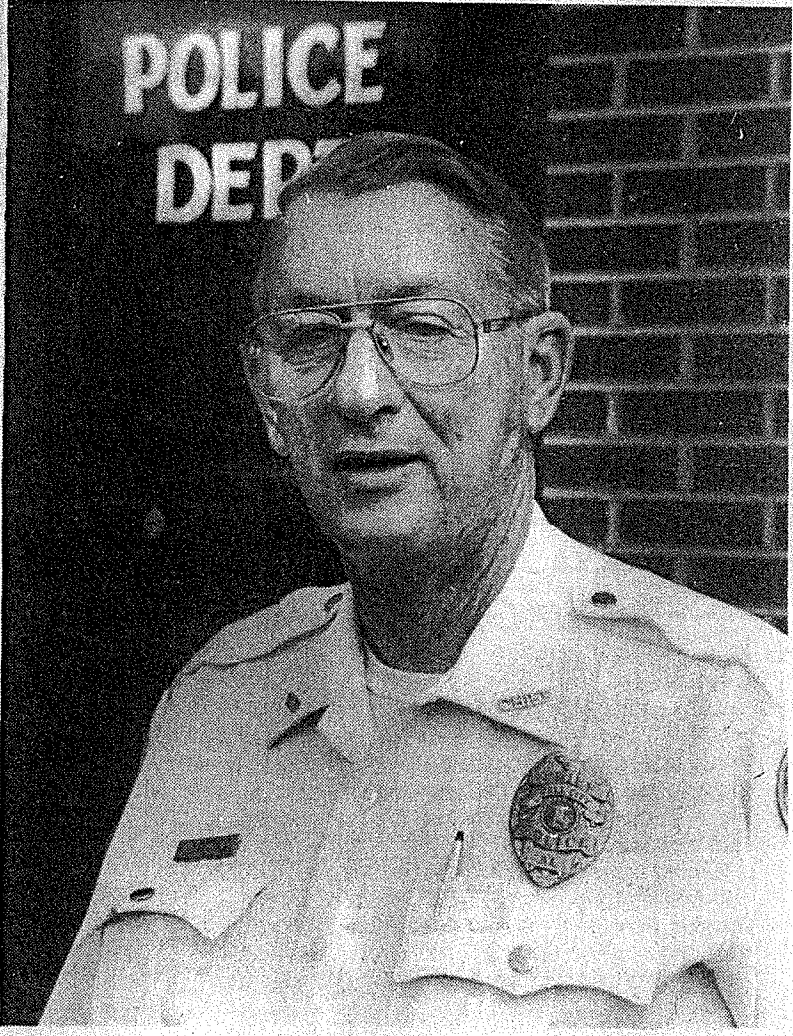
Watson said Layton had "always devoted more time to his job than was required."

Detective Bill Turner said Layton "expects us to do our jobs and lets us do them — it's his nature to be easy going."

Layton said he has enjoyed his years in police work, especially working for the people of Pell City.

"Police work in Pell City has changed over the years," said Layton. "The calls we get now are more frequent and a lot different."

of his willingness to make tough, even unpopular decisions" and his "ability to



Pell City Police Chief Homer "Bojack" Layton passed the 25 year mark in May in years of employment in the city's police department. Layton has been chief for 10 years and well known to everyone. (Bob Crisp photo)



Paul Harvey

A father is . . .

A father is a thing that is forced to see childbirth without an anesthetic. A father is a thing that growls when it feels good and always laughs loud when it's scared half to death. A father is sometimes accused of giving too much time and attention to business when the little ones are growing up. A father is partly fear, too. Fathers are much more easily frightened than mothers.

A father never feels . . .

Council discussion goes to the dogs in Pell City

Has your dog been meddling in other people's trash cans? If so, you had better curb his appetite because the city is hot on the trail of these dogs.

After numerous complaint calls to City Hall and to members of the City Council, Mayor Hugh Williamson has recommended the hiring of a city dog catcher to control the number of stray animals here.

Williamson and members of the council said they have received complaints continuously about dogs upsetting garbage cans and scattering trash in many areas of the city. There is presently no dog catcher—or rabies control officer—in the city, although the position has been used in the past.

There also being no leash law here, both pets and stray animals have been allowed to run free in neighborhoods across the city, creating problems such as damaged gardens, flower beds and missing or shredded newspapers.

Williamson suggested that before a dog catcher is sent out to hunt the strays, a warning be posted to people in the community asking that pets be kept confined for a period of ten days during the round-up to avoid the loss of these pet dogs.

The city maintained a pound at the old City Springs in the Mt. Carmel community when a dog catcher was used last time, and this facility may be put in operation again.

In addition, Councilman Joe Sawyer is working on a city ordinance regarding the control of animals. These recommendations were delayed until a future council meeting. ST.1

governing police departments. Deadline for initiating such a program is August this year, and the choice is either the individual city establish its own program or the state will do it for them under state guidelines.

The Alabama League of Municipalities, of which Pell City is a member, has proposed a general program outline for a personnel policy which would include all city employees. This recommendation is under study here, with local applications amended to it.

The city may include in its program the hiring of a personnel officer to maintain the program and be responsible for matters involving city employees. The personnel policy program is not required to be completed by August, but steps must be underway for incorporating it into the city government by that time. Pell City is the only municipality in St. Clair County affected by this

officer—in the city, although the position has been used in the past.

catcher was used last time, and this facility may be put in operation again.

In addition, Councilman Joe Sawyer is working on a city ordinance regarding the control of animals. These recommendations were delayed until a future council meeting. SL1 m. he council also discussed establishing a personnel policy for the city, an action mandated by the state legislature last year. The act requires each municipality in the state of greater than 5,000 population institute a personnel policy

matters involving city employees. The personnel policy program is not required to be completed by August, but steps must be underway for incorporating it into the city government by that time. Pell City is the only municipality in St. Clair County affected by this legislation.

The council also heard a proposed program to update city ordinances. A recommendation has been presented to the city by a private firm, Municipal Code Corp. of
(See Council Page 12A)

Tallahassee, Fla., which calls for a complete revamping of the municipal codes to exclude outdated codes and maintain those still pertinent as well as devise any needed sections to the codes.

The city has been in discussion with the Tallahassee firm for a number of years on the project, and the company sent representatives to town earlier this month to go over the present codes and draw up a proposal for presentation to the city in booklet form. Cost of that company's program would be \$4,950 for a 250-page plan. The council decided to seek other bids before committing themselves to this proposal.

In other action Monday night, the council approved paying the balance owed on a piano used by

the Pell City Civic Chorus as requested earlier this month by chorus spokesman Sally Childs. Mrs. Childs told the council at its previous meeting the chorus needed \$1,000 from the city to pay the balance due on the piano or the chorus would lose all the money invested in the instrument. The council voted to pay the remaining note of approximately \$500, with the city then owning the piano, requiring that it remain at the Civic Center as city property.

A request from the Rescue Squad to solicit donations to help pay for the mobile home residence of Mrs. Theodore Bowman, whose husband passed away with no insurance coverage to pay for the home.

The Rescue Squad had asked permission to solicit these

donations in parking lots and shopping center areas in town and the council told Squad spokesman C.J. Coodwin the matter must be taken up with

business owners in the shopping centers since the parking lots are private property.

The council also approved an expenditure of \$800 for the purchase of baseball uniforms and supplies for a Babe Ruth League youth baseball team. Included will be insurance coverage, umpires' pay, balls, bats and 20 pairs of pants for the team members and coaches.

The city had earlier been asked to sponsor a team in the 16 to 18-year-old summer baseball program.

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. Nov. 17, 1977

City Defers Action On Petition Asking 4 Cops' Suspension

BY CAROL PAPPAS

Pell City Council took no action Monday night on a petition to suspend four police officers from duty for their part in the shooting of Jeffrey Molson on Sunday night, November 6.

Molson was shot while fleeing on foot from Pell City police officers following a high-speed auto chase. Officers Morris Smith, Bill Horton, James Pemberton, and Robert Shaddix were involved in the incident according to Police Chief Ruble Bowlin.

Molson was shot twice in the

again.

The present plan reduces the sidewalks from all-brick to partial brick and scored concrete and reduces the size of trees from 5" to 2" in diameter.

Poles for traffic lights were changed to the standard steel type, but the chandalier-type street lights will not be changed.

In other council business, landowners in the new subdivision on Highway 34, just before the Holiday Park turn, requested that they be included in the paving program for 1978.

sign the petition, but it was because he was out-of-town. As soon as he signs, the area will be considered for paving.

Also, an ordinance establishing the municipal court system in Pell City was tabled until the next meeting to allow a more thorough discussion.

A section of the ordinance that was discussed was raising the salary of the judge and reducing court sessions from four Saturdays to two Saturdays a month.

More funds from HUD will be applied for and other areas included in the original plan

high-speed auto chase. Officers Morris Smith, Bill Horton, James Pemberton, and Robert Shaddix were involved in the incident according to Police Chief Ruble Bowlin.

Molson was shot twice in the left side of his back and the bullets lodged in his abdomen.

He is charged with assault to intent to murder with an automobile, reckless driving, resisting an officer and destroying city property.

The petition, bearing 463 signatures, was presented to the council who referred it to the Police Committee for its consideration.

The downtown development plan presented Monday had undergone changes from the time it was originally presented to the council and bids were reviewed.

The original plan included Cogswell, 1st Ave. South, and side streets but the plan now calls for redevelopment of Cogswell Ave. only, since bids have far exceeded early cost estimates.

The low bid of \$815,000 by Henderson and Coker was twice what the council anticipated for the budget.

In order to reduce the cost, the size of the project was reduced and bids will be taken

changed.

In other council business, landowners in the new subdivision on Highway 34, just before the Holiday Park turn, requested that they be included in the paving program for 1978.

Only one landowner along the two-acre stretch did not

ing the salary of the judge and reducing court sessions from four Saturdays to two Saturdays a month.

More funds from HUD will be applied for and other areas included in the original plan will be developed if the application is approved.

City To Accept Bids On Redevelopment Dec. 8th

The City of Pell City will accept bids on December 8 for the revised redevelopment plan for the downtown area, according to an invitation printed in full on page 7-A of this week's Observer.

The revised plan includes an area on Cogswell Avenue between a line 55 feet northeast of the centerline of 18th Street and northeast to an through the intersection at 21st Street.

The cutback on the area to be redeveloped came about when bids opened in September on the original plan were found to be far in excess of engineering estimates. The best bid for paving, curb and gutter, lighting, etc., was \$815,000 with an engineer's estimate of \$395,000.

Low bid at that time for the upgrading of sewer, relocation of water lines, etc., was \$583,000 with an engineer's estimate of \$316,000.

The new bid invitation calls for the removal of existing curb, gutter, sidewalk, and for new concrete curbs, new concrete sidewalks, foundations for and new light standards, conduit installation for new street lighting, standards for traffic lights, and bituminous paving of streets, curb inlets, fire hydrants, landscaping, and related items incidental for improvement of sidewalks, curbs and gutters and streets.

This present plan reduces the sidewalks from all-brick to partial brick and scored concrete, and reduces the size of trees from 5" to 2" in diameter. Poles for traffic lights were changed to the standard steel type, but the chandelier-type street lights will not be changed.

Work on the project, if a feasible contract is acquired, is expected to begin early next year.

P.C. Police Chief Wants Pawn Shop Ordinance

By MARK BOLTON

PELL CITY — Police Chief Ruble Bowlin appeared before the Pell City Council Monday night to ask a ordinance be adopted regulating pawn shops in the city.

Bowlin noted there are several pawn shops in the city, but that no license schedule has been set up for the shops exclusively. Pell City currently has no ordinances requiring the police be notified of merchandise pawned.

The ordinance would solve problems caused by individuals who may bring

stolen merchandise into the shops to be pawned.

In other business the council:

—Heard from Albert Nixon, manager of a baseball team, who asked for help from the city in purchasing equipment for his team. The council agreed to look over the list of supplies needed by the team and report back to them.

—Appointed Johnny DeGarris to the Industrial Development Board.

—Approved a \$10,576 bid from

Southern Electric Contractors to provide lighting for the 19th Street tennis courts.

—Noted that repairs were needed for the little league field and the Hilltop swimming pool. Total cost of around \$800 was approved.

—Noted that Gary DeWeese had resigned from the police force and a replacement was needed.

—Noted no one had been nominated for the Equalization Board, and said the council knew of three people who may be interested in the position.

Pell City Pawn Shop Ordinance Approved

PELL CITY — A new city ordinance regulating pawn shop owners was approved by the Pell City City Council Monday night.

The ordinance was suggested by Police Chief Ruble Bowlin at a previous council meeting and will affect operational procedures.

Pawn shop owners now will be required to purchase a pawn shop license and keep all transactions on file. A description of anyone pawning merchandise as well as a thumb print must be taken by pawn brokers.

The resolution also calls for the police to be informed of all transactions biweekly, and no merchandise can be sold without written permission within 60 days of pawn

date.
City Clerk Bettie Scott was given approval Monday night to draw up a resolution opposing pending legislation that would change the present municipal auditing procedures.

The council said the current method of auditing at the end of the fiscal year with an independent auditor was "efficient and time tested."

In other business the council:

—Approved routing for a benefit Bike Hike May 12 and said police and National Guard members would help with traffic.

—Suggested a meeting be held between land owner Bill Harmon, Mayor Hugh Hardy Williamson, council members and the city attorney

about a purchase of land behind the Civic Center in Cropwell.

—Received permission from Billy Kendrick to build a new road to the city limb and tree dump.

—Suggested the city road patrol level off the baseball field at Glenn City and rechart the Avondale baseball field, which was damaged by floods.

—Noted the city will sponsor a ball team for the 17-year-old and above league.

—Approved a motion to update a list of mayor's names on a monument outside city hall.

—Noted Morgan Arnold will be hired as a fireman on a customary probationary basis.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of Pell City will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 30, 1979, at 7:30 p.m. at The Civic Center. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain the views and proposals of citizens on a proposed zoning ordinance and map for Pell City. Copies of the map and the proposed ordinance are available for public inspection in the City Hall and in the Civic Center.

Thursday, July 12, 1979

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

Pell City begins crack-down on dog control laws; funding request studied

By ARROL SHEEHAN

PELL CITY — All dogs running loose in Pell City, whether they wear tags or not, will be picked up, the City Council agreed Monday.

Mayor Hugh Williamson noted that under the city ordinance passed in 1953, all dogs running at large are subject to being picked up.

Williamson said, "It is not right, in my opinion, to allow a pack of dogs to run loose in the city and worry our local citizens." He added many older persons are particularly disturbed by the animals.

The council voted unanimously to enforce present dog control laws.

A funding request from the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority was also turned over to the finance committee. Authority Chairman Sam Jones introduced a representative of the authority, who said some 117 persons from Pell City received services during 1978.

A request from Johnny Hubbard to locate a mobile home on his property on Alabama 34, which is zoned R-A, was also approved.

Miss Scott asked that the council close out the Park and Recreation Department's special and meter bank accounts and they be combined with the general account. This is because these must constantly be transferred from the general and special account.

Nominations for the position of building inspector and for members of the Board of Adjustments will be taken, Williamson said. A chairman

and four members of the board will be appointed to staggered terms on the board, he said.

In other business the council:

—Approved a request for liquor and beer licenses for Isaih Carson at Lakeview Lounge.

—Asked City Clerk Bettie Scott to prepare figures on utilities charged to schools in the city before budget meetings next week.

—Accepted a proposal from Kurt Lang to make 2,000 copies of an updated city hall map at a cost of \$1,200 with an extra charge of \$200 for each additional 1,000 maps ordered.

The council voted unanimously to enforce present dog control laws.

A funding request from the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority was also turned over to the finance committee. Authority Chairman Sam Jones introduced a representative of the authority, who said some 117 persons from Pell City received services during 1978.

Wrecker services will be placed on a rotation basis, Councilman C.F. Cox said. A request from Pate's Alignment and Wrecker Service means they will be placed on rotation with other services on a three-months basis.

Street repairs in the Harrisburg area will begin within a week or so, the council told a resident who attended the meeting.

Speed breakers are now being installed on Seventh Avenue South and on 30th Street. Police Chief Ruble Bowlin was instructed to check on a request for speed breakers at Ridgeway Road.

Councilman Charles Lockridge asked the police department to enforce speeding laws on 16th Street near the Intermediate School.

The street committee recommended the city accept Case Power and Equipment Co.'s low bid for a backhoe-loader which was opened at the previous council meeting.

A request from C.J. Goodwin that a driveway be paved at the Rescue Squad building was referred to the St. Clair County Commission. Goodwin was also asked to discuss with the police chief the upcoming country carnival the squad is planning for next month.

Officer accused of discarding evidence in case

The Anniston Star, Sunday, Oct. 16, 1988

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH
Star Staff Writer

PELL CITY — Police Commissioner James McGowan said he will reach a decision next week on a formal complaint against a Pell City police officer that he improperly discarded physical evidence from a hit-and-run accident.

McGowan, a Pell City councilman, said he received the formal complaint from a resident and is investigating events surrounding the Sept. 3 incident. Sgt. Dale Spradley allegedly threw out paint chips which should have been sent to the crime lab in Montgomery to possibly help determine responsibility for the hit-and-run, McGowan said.

Pell City resident Matthew Mills has also charged that Spradley amended an incident and offense report once Mills began complaining about the missing paint chips. Mills said he never approved the lengthier version of the report which bears his signature.

McGowan said Spradley's actions were a violation of department procedure.

Spradley has not returned phone messages left by the Star during a two-week period.

BUT ONCE at the police station Spradley brought Paul Centilli into a room to interrogate him, according to Mills' account.

When the interrogation was over, Centilli reappeared and Mills quoted him as saying, "I'm not going to pay for your car and I'll see you in court."

Paul Centilli was given permission to leave by Spradley. Spradley then left to assist another officer who was putting Patrick Centilli into jail for disorderly conduct. The Millses waited at the police station until after 5 a.m. for Spradley to return. Mills said that when Spradley finally returned, he said he had discarded the paint chips because there weren't enough for the crime lab to test.

"It's the judgment of a crime lab whether there is a sufficient sample," said Wayne Burrows, criminalist with the state forensics lab in Montgomery. "I could tell you whether a paint chip less than the size of a thumbnail is consistent with what's on your car."

Detective Bill Turner told Mills that he found at least some of the paint chips in an envelope sitting on top of a file cabinet in the police

Inside today's Star

SUPREME COURT: The race for Alabama Supreme Court Place 4 has veered away from the usual courtliness which marks supreme court campaigns. Details Page 2A.

LORD'S PRAYER: Jesus probably didn't write or use the Lord's Prayer and may have uttered only a few of the phrases it contains, a group of biblical scholars has concluded. Details Page 12A.

COMPLAINT: Pell City Police Commissioner James McGowan will reach a decision next week on a complaint that a police officer improperly discarded physical evidence in a case. Details Page 3A.

ETOWAH: A County Commission seat and a probate judgeship are up for grabs in Etowah County elections in November. Details Page 2A.

DEATHS: Margaret Miller, Frank W. Miller, James L. Randall,

report once Mills began complaining about the missing paint chips. Mills said he never approved the lengthier version of the report which bears his signature.

McGowan said Spradley's actions were a violation of department procedure.

Spradley has not returned phone messages left by the Star during a two-week period.

The charges stem from an incident Sept. 3 when Mills' 1986 red Trans-Am was hit while parked outside Bear's Junction lounge around 11:30 p.m. An eyewitness said a white Cutlass with a maroon top hit Mills' car.

AFTER BEING told what happened, Mills and his wife phoned the police and Spradley came to the scene. The trio then went back to the police department and made out a report, Mills said.

Afterward, the Millses left to look for the Cutlass. Around 2 a.m., they noticed a Cutlass outside Bear's Junction with a smashed rear bumper with red paint chips on it. Mrs. Mills summoned Spradley while her husband stayed by the Cutlass.

Spradley arrived and questioned the owners of the Cutlass, Paul and Patrick Centilli, according to Mills' notarized account of the incident. Neither of the Centillis has a driver's license although that was not learned until after the incident. Police Chief Homer "BoJack" Layton said.

At the scene, the Centillis denied hitting the Millses' car but said they would pay for the damage anyway, according to Mills' account.

"Does that sound normal to you?" Mills asked.

Mills' account of the incident, which McGowan said Spradley did not dispute, states that Patrick Centilli flashed several \$100 bills and said he could buy Mills' car if he had to.

Spradley and another officer took paint chips from both cars and at the Millses' request everyone went back to the police station so that the Centillis could commit their promise to writing, Mills said.

whether there is a sufficient sample," said Wayne Burrows, criminalist with the state forensics lab in Montgomery. "I could tell you whether a paint chip less than the size of a thumbnail is consistent with what's on your car."

Detective Bill Turner told Mills that he found at least some of the paint chips in an envelope sitting on top of a file cabinet in the police department several days later.

In a meeting about the incident, McGowan, Layton and Mills quoted Spradley as saying that given the chance, he would not have handled the situation differently.

The damage to Mills' car was \$750, two-thirds of which was covered by his insurance, he said.

McGowan said he would arrive at a decision about the complaint by the end of next week.

complaint that a police officer improperly discarded physical evidence in a case. Details Page 3A.

ETOWAH: A County Commission seat and a probate judgeship are up for grabs in Etowah County elections in November. Details Page 2A.

DEATHS: Margaret Miller, Frank W. Miller, James L. Randall, Sidney L. Simpson, Helen Stephens Williams, Alexis Winkler, all of Anniston; James Herman Dunkin of Oxford; George R. Hanks of Eastaboga; Archie H. Sullivan of Lincoln; Robert G. Taylor of Wellington; Chester Lee Smith of Trussville; and Sarah Lyle Whisenant of Cedar Bluff. Details Page 13A.

WEATHER: A lovely autumn day. Details Page 17A.

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Watson makes charge against Rick Simmons

By CAROL PAPPAS

PELL CITY — Mayor Harvey Watson Monday called a press conference to show discrepancies on a reinstated policeman's time card, but it turns out that the time clock may be the culprit instead.

Sgt. Rick Simmons, the officer in question, is the man who was suspended for a month for conducting an unauthorized investigation into a theft report filed by the mayor's wife, Evelyn.

The council took no action to fire Simmons, and he was reinstated Friday.

Supplying the media with a year's worth of time cards for Simmons, Watson charged that many of the days show that Simmons "worked the second shift for six months, which he didn't."

FOR THE MONTH of January 1987 Watson showed eight instances of Simmons' clocking in on the evening shift even though he works the day shift.

"Somebody had to punch the card on a different shift or someone has a key to the time clock," the mayor said.

Discrepancies were found in comparing them with any other city employees using the same time clock.

A random sampling of other city employees' time cards for one month, however, revealed that they clocked in on the evening shift and clocked out the following day.

The sampling included a policeman, two clerks and the mayor's secretary — all of whom work the day shift and who use the same time clock.

All cards studied also showed November entries for the entire month of January, meaning that the time clock had not been set correctly.

WATSON ALSO alluded to time sheets turned in by Police Chief Homer "BoJack" Layton that could have been "doctored." He said the original time sheets were not the same time sheets that should have been turned in.

Watson said "marks" had been placed in the corners of certain time sheets during a given week, apparently so he could monitor them, but sheets with marks weren't turned in.

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"Somebody had to punch the card on a different shift or someone has a key to the time clock," the mayor said.

Watson stressed that no discre-

time clock had not been set correctly.

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(Con't., see Watson, Page 2)

"Other people have access," he charged. "You can better believe that other employees have keys to everything downstairs and keys to almost everything in the city.

"So there is ways that his (Layton's) report could be doctored before it's turned in upstairs.

"I don't think the police chief would deliberately change a person's time sheet," he added.

In another round of allegations, Watson said that Simmons' time cards were somehow tampered with while they were in the mayor's office.

HE POINTED TO three instances where Simmons apparently failed to clock out, and times were "penned in" on the original time cards and the xeroxed copies that lay on the mayor's desk.

He said the tampering came some time after he had last checked the cards months ago.

"Somebody has had access to the clerk's office and my office. . . . Somebody has been in this office and removed these time cards or done it in here and has altered some of the time cards in my office."

He reasoned that "about half the city" has a key to city hall and once inside, a person could open his lock with a knife without showing signs of forced entry.

Late Monday, no burglary report

concerning the mayor's office had been filed.

Watson said his motive behind calling a press conference rather than taking the matter to the Council was that he "can't get enough of the Council together to get something done."

Watson also said he would not "sit back and be crucified" in the news media by Simmons.

He said Simmons knew about the time card investigation and was "afraid it would come out before he got something on me."

Simmons said Monday, "On the afternoon of the hearing when the City Council exonerated me of the charges against me by Chief Layton, I stated then that I was apprehensive of Mayor Watson and the actions he may take.

"I was afraid something like this would happen. I am discussing it with my attorney at this time, and he has advised me to make no comment at this time."

In a highly publicized incident, Simmons had investigated Mrs. Watson's report of a stolen ring. He claims that the ring was accidentally lost and not stolen.

Simmons gets to go back to work

BY KELLY BRYAN
News-Aegis Writer

Police Sgt. Rick Simmons asked Homer "Bojack" Layton what time he was to report to duty on Friday night.

And, while that may not seem out of the ordinary for the 10-year veteran of the Pell City Police Department, when he dons his uniform, it will be the first time in weeks that Simmons has reported to work as a shift supervisor.

He has been on a paid suspension after Layton asked that the Pell City Council terminate Simmons.

Layton's request stemmed from an "unauthorized" investigation that Simmons undertook centering on Mayor Harvey Watson and his wife, Evelyn Simmons investigation and conclusion was written up on a police form that drew press attention, though it could not be found within the files of the Pell City Police Department, where all incident reports are kept.

The investigation targeted the Watsons claim to Pell City Investigator Bill Turner that Mrs. Watson's diamond ring was stolen while she was a patient in St. Clair Regional Hospital. Policeman Sid

Scott signed a report (which is on file in the department) in which the ring was listed as "stolen."

The amended report, written by Simmons, lists both Watsons in suspects of filing false information with the police department because Simmons writes that the "it was widely known" that the ring was lost (flushed down the toilet).

Simmons asked for a hearing on the termination and on Friday afternoon he walked into city hall with his attorney, John C. Falkenberg, to testify before the council in an effort to keep his job. Watsons recused himself from the hearing.

A small group, mainly reporters and city employers, had gathered in the council chambers to listen to the hearing. However, after city attorney Bill Trussell said the city was in favor of the hearing being open to the public, Falkenberg said since "the good name and character of a person" was going to be discussed, he wanted the hearing closed to the public. With that, the audience was escorted out.

Two and a half hours later, the council was ready to vote on whether or not Simmons could return to

(See Simmons page 3A)

Falkenberg said after the hearing that he hoped that was the "end" of the matter. He did add that there are problems in all aspects of municipal employment, though some of the problems are the same as other workers in the general marketplace face. "I don't think that we did anything to change the plight of public employees who may have personality conflicts with employers during this hearing," said Falkenberg.

Councilman James McGowan, who heads up the police committee for the council, said that the fact that no motion was made does not signal the council was split in a tie (which would have also granted Simmons his job back). "We never did get as far as seeing how each of us would have voted," said McGowan, who did add that he was fearful of a lawsuit being filed if the council had chosen to fire Simmons.

McGowan also explained that his thinking after the hearing is that a policeman has the right to investigate any matter, "though the chief should know about it." Layton did not know about Simmons' investigation into the Watson matter, and he outlined this in his letter recommending termination as the prevalent reason for such action.

However, McGowan did say that Simmons testified during the closed-door hearing that "he did not trust Layton." McGowan also said that everything else brought up at the hearing had already been discussed publicly in the weeks since Simmons' report hit the newspapers. "There was nothing new that came out during the hearing."

Pell City Police Department, where all incident reports are kept.

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on a person was going to be discussed; he wanted the hearing closed to the public. With that, the audience was escorted out.

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work. They had the opportunity to

question both Simmons and Layton during the hearing.

The council chambers were opened and Mayor pro tem Joe Wheeler as if anyone on the council had a recommendation to make. After a minute, Wheeler asked if

there was a motion; and Councilman Rickey Staples made a motion to adjourn.

And, so, the fact that the council did not make a motion and pass it with a 3-1 majority puts Simmons back on the job.

everything else brought up at the hearing had already been discussed publicly in the weeks since Simmons' report hit the newspapers. "There was nothing new that came out during the hearing."

And, was Simmons elated after being returned to the force?

Not quite. He openly admitted that he was "nervous" about reporting for duty. And, he also indicated that his nervousness would continue until the new council reported in October.

"There is no doubt in my mind that Mayor Harvey Watson was simply carrying out a personal vendetta against me throughout all of this. There is overwhelming evidence to support that," said Simmons.

Simmons goes back two and a half years when he started working part time for Riverside as the straw that broke Watson's back. "Mayor Watson wanted me to quit this force and when I refused to, he began looking for things to get rid of me. He hates me. There is no such thing as disagreeing with this man," said Simmons.

He did, however, offer a clue as to how two of the councilmen might have voted if a motion had been made. Simmons took time to recognize both McGowan and Councilman Roy Holladay "for having the guts to stand up."

Watson offered no comment when he was told about the council's lack of action putting Simmons back to work.

This was the first due process hearing in Pell City's history. Trussell, who represented the city's interest during the hearing, said the due process provisions allow for a hearing before the council. And that does not mean that the hearing has to be before a group who has no knowledge about the events leading up to the hearing.

In Pell City—

Stray Dog Roundup Begins

The Pell City Council took decisive action Monday night at its regular meeting to finally begin picking up stray dogs, a complaint citizens have plagued council members with for year.

Brock Brascho was hired by the Council to begin picking up dogs without collars and tags on Tuesday, June 14. A description of the dogs will be posted in the City Hall and Courthouse for three days, during which the dogs will be held in the City Pound near Mt. Carmel Church on the Odenville Cut-Off. If the dogs are not claimed after the three-day holding period, they will be destroyed.

The Council asks that citizens seeing stray dogs call City Hall.

On a motion by Councilman R.F. "Bam" Cox, the Council unanimously approved a \$200 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons damaging or stealing public property in the city.

City Clerk Bettie Scott told the Council that the sales tax check for the month of April was \$29,000 - a \$7,000 increase over April of 1976. April was the first month that the additional 1% tax was collected and also the first month the tax was collected by the

Page 2-A OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. June 16, 1977

Dog Roundup—

Continued from Page 1

State of Alabama.

In other business, Monday night, the Council:

--Opened bids for a new garbage truck, with all bids referred to the Sanitation Department for study as to specifications, etc. Bids received were Joe Money Machinery Company \$25,654; Ingram Equipment Company \$20,243.33 and \$23,546.17 (rear loader); Truxmore \$28,750 for 1978 Ford and \$24,250 for 1976 International Harvester; Easy Pak \$19,254.70 F.O.B. Pell City and \$15,000 for a demonstrator.

--Approved the hiring of 20 summer workers under a

CETA Summer Program which is federally funded. The Council also approved the hiring of a supervisor for the program for six weeks and recommended that the workers hired be from the City.

--Approved the reimbursement to the Pell City Civic Chorus for the amount previously paid by the Chorus on a piano. At the last regular meeting, the Council approved paying an approximate \$800 indebtedness on the piano, with the condition that it remain at the Civic Center.

--Discussed the relocation of a street in the 17th Street area of the City.

Thursday, June 16, 1977... THE ST. CLAIR NEWS—AEGIS

Dog catcher begins rounding up strays

Is your dog feeling less secure these days? Do you know where your pet is this morning? Better check because the dog catcher is cruising about somewhere in the city, ready to nab any dog wandering loose on the streets.

The Pell City Council Monday night made it official...a rabies control unit will attempt to remedy a problem of stray animals roaming the community, creating problems with overturned garbage cans and trash being littered in yards and streets.

THE CITY Hall had been swamped with telephone calls about stray animals, so Mayor Hugh Williamson and the five councilmen last month approved hiring a dog catcher to control the animals. The position of city dog catcher was revived Tuesday after a final discussion on the situation by the council Monday night.

The city's plan is to pick up all animals found loose on the streets and to investigate complaints on dogs in the community. A list will be posted in City Hall and in the Pell City courthouse with descriptions of the dogs

the new tax. The councilmen shared an opinion that the situation would resolve itself "in a month or two."

A REWARD for "information leading to the arrest and conviction" of persons damaging city and public property was approved by the council. The \$200 reward is being initiated by the city to halt vandalism such as defacing or destroying signs, breaking windows and damaging property in the community.

Before approving the reward, council members examined a similar program in Talladega. The council's action Monday night authorizes the mayor to post the \$200 reward which includes information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons involved in vandalism and theft.

The council Monday night adopted the city's budget for the present fiscal year 1976-77 and conducted a public hearing on required on

BIDS were opened for proposed purchase by the city of a new garbage truck. Four companies submitted a total of seven bids ranging from \$15,000 to \$28,750 and these were turned over to the Street Department for study and recommendation to the council at a later meeting.

The city's specifications called for a rear-loading truck and bids were received on both rear and side-loading vehicles. Plans are to pay

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Dogs picked up by the rabies control unit will be kept for three days at the city pound in Eden. The council stressed that all dogs will be picked up when found roaming loose, regardless of whether they are wearing rabies inoculation tags as required by state law.

Brock Brascho was hired as dog catcher and will work with an assistant on the truck used in the rabies control. The position was in use here previously but was discontinued for two years until this week.

A \$3 fee will be charged to persons recovering their pets from the city pound. The animals will be housed there for three days before being put to sleep.

In other business before the City Council Monday night, Mayor Williamson announced the city has received its first check from the state Department of Revenue reflecting April's city sales tax increase.

Expecting the amount received to be doubled that of amounts prior to the tax increase, Williamson said he was disappointed at a revenue increase of only \$7,000 in the initial check.

In April 1976 the city received \$22,000, this April's check came to \$29,000. Williamson said a figure of near \$44,000—double last year's amount—was anticipated.

Some of the councilmen speculated this variation from the expected amount may have been the result of taxes paid late by merchants and possibly a slight confusion in the initial payment from the state after the city instituted

Monday night authorizes the mayor to post the \$200 reward which includes information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons involved in vandalism and theft.

The council Monday night adopted the city's budget for the present fiscal year 1976-77 and conducted a public hearing on required on disbursement of revenue sharing funds. The general fund budget totaled \$852,644 which includes \$131,644 in revenue sharing allocations.

Under guidelines instituted this year, the city was required to conduct a hearing on the revenue sharing funds to ask citizen input to use of the money. These funds were earmarked two years ago by the previous city administration in paying for the Civic Center. The revenue sharing money was actually paid to city utilities from which funds had been transferred earlier toward the Civic Center project.

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The city's specifications called for a rear loading truck and bids were received on rear and side-loading vehicles. Plans are to for the truck from increased city income gained with the April city sales tax hike.

A former city police officer was placed back on the police payroll after an absence of several years. Ottie Stokes began duties as patrolman Tuesday at beginning salary for the Police Department.

Stokes has worked with police departments in other county communities and was recently employed as jailer for the county jail in Pell City.

Pell City Hires Two More Police Officers

The City Council of Pell City at its regular meeting Monday night, hired two new police officers and disposed of numerous other matters of importance on a lengthy meeting agenda.

Chief Bowlin reported that he had employed Sid Scott in the Police Department and recommended that the probation period be waived since he has previous experience and will not be required to attend school. The recommendation was approved.

Chief Bowlin told the council that Morris Keith Smith of Vincent had been given good recommendations and recommended that he be em-

ployed as policeman on three months probation with plans that he be sent to school after this period but within nine months as required by state law. This recommendation was approved.

Talmadge Fambrough and Ed Wilson were present with regard to the complaint registered against Ed's Lounge as they understood the ABC officials were to be present. They were advised that the ABC officials had met earlier in the day with the council and that no action was to be taken at this meeting. Mr. Fambrough stated that they were ready to assist in any investigation and would cooperate with the city. He also requested to be notified

Continued On Page 8

PAGE 8-A THE ST. CLAIR OBSERVER June 14, 1973

Meeting

Continued From Page 1
of any action to be taken so that they could be present.

Mr. Fambrough reported that a chapter of A.A. had been started in the county and held the first meeting last Sunday at the Court House. The next meeting will be in his office. If the size of the organization increases, they will need a more adequate meeting place and were told that they could use the city hall.

The engineer had advised that the cost for extending the sewer line to serve 36th Street and 12th Circle North would be \$7.50 per foot and Councilman Watson had talked to several of the property owners. This would make the cost excessive for some property owners so it was

up to date on the Industrial Park.

Police salaries paid by other cities still were not available and no recommendations were made.

Councilman Turner was concerned about the possibility of having no ambulance service available and the council discussed possible action that the council could take. The Mayor agreed to talk with James Baggett of Civil Defense and with Dr. McClendon about possible action.

It was reported that the radar gun has been received; that publicity was given and that 18 cases have been made to date.

The Street Committee recommended that William F. Martin, Superintendent of Streets, be given an increase in salary to \$675.00 per month. The recommendation was approved by the council.

that the cost for extending the sewer line to serve 36th Street and 12th Circle North would be \$7.50 per foot and Councilman Watson had talked to several of the property owners. This would make the cost excessive for some property owners so it was decided to ask for bids two ways -including the extension and not including it. When the bids are opened, the council will determine whether to include the extension or not.

Mayor Nixon and Charles Tucker spent last Thursday looking for a site for the disposal plant. The Dickey property has been sold to Dr. Culver Lee and he quoted a price of \$2500 per acre for a site and his agent also proposed that the city purchase the whole farm and let him sell that portion that the city will not need. Cost of the lines to put the plant on the Charnel Hannah property would be excessive so they are still looking for a site.

The Ashville Band Boosters extended an invitation for the city officials to take part in the 4th of July parade and celebration and the council accepted the invitation.

On motion of Councilman Walls, seconded by Councilman Turner, the council approved the employment of Harold Gumpf and Associates to make the annual audit for the city.

Mayor Nixon had talked with Adrick Goodgame about negotiating the cost of constructing a shop building and he agreed to try to work out something. Since he was low bidder, the bid can be negotiated. Mr. Goodgame asked if the city could make payment as the work was done so that he would not have to finance the costs and could reduce the cost.

The council asked that Ed Ash, Chairman of the Industrial Development Board be invited to attend the next council meeting and bring the council

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The Street Committee recommended that William F. Martin, Superintendent of Streets, be given an increase in salary to \$675.00 per month. The recommendation was approved by the council.

Councilman Walls reported that replies to letters written to the Water Improvement Commission about the need for sewer south of the railroad in Eden had been received and stated that within a year grant money will be available for collection lines. He asked that Charles Tucker get a request prepared and submit plans so that the city would be ready when funds become available. It was also asked that Park Hill be included in possible future extension of sewer service.

The council discussed the possible adoption of an ordinance repealing that ordinance establishing a Park and Recreation Board but decided that the Board members should be written a letter stating that the council was following their recommendation to do away with the Board and asking if this is still their wish. If the Board has any suggestions or recommendation, the council would like to have them meet with them at the next council meeting.

Request for an on-premises beer license for Elisha Borden d-b-a The Borden Inn was referred to the Chief of Police for investigation.

The proposed agreement with the National Guard for use of the armory was discussed and it was recommended that an addendum be added as follows:

If the National Guard Armory is not made available to the City at such frequent times that would justify payment of the utility bills, janitor service, etc., then the city would have the right to cancel this agreement for the unexpired period.

Council to buy pickup truck, two police cars

Low bids on two police cars and a pickup truck totalling \$12,845.85 were accepted by the Pell City Council at its regular meeting Monday night in City Hall.

The council received three bids on the purchase of two new police cars: Sutherlin Chevrolet bid \$4,586.61 or \$9,173.22 for two cars. Ben Coker Ford bid \$9,593.84 and Baggett Pontiac bid \$8,596.16. Councilman Dr. R.F. Cox made a motion to accept the bid of Baggett Pontiac. Councilman Harvey Watson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Three bids were also submitted on a new pickup truck to be used by the Street Department. Ben Coker Ford bid \$4,519 with air conditioner and \$4,116 without. Pell City Dodge bid \$4,654 bid \$4,654 with air conditioner and \$4,235 without. Sutherlin Chevrolet submitted a bid of \$4,328 with air conditioner. Councilman Charles

was pleased with the turnout. He thanked the council members for the job they did in getting the facility ready, especially Charles Lockridge, who headed the project. He also thanked the Fire Department and Street Department for work

they did.

In another Civic Center related matter, councilman Cox brought up the possibility of cutting a bicycle path from downtown, down 19th Street to

the Civic Center. The path would make it easier for kids to make the trip to the facility. The council thought it was a good idea and agreed to check into it.

Councilman Al Walls asked when the landscaping around the Civic Center was going to be finished. City Clerk Bettie Scott said the men wanted to wait until the Fall to plant some of the shrubbery to give it a better chance to survive.

The council then discussed the possibility of hiring someone to maintain the grounds and agreed that they would need to hire a full-time maintenance man for both inside and outside the facility.

Roger Pate, principal at Pell City Middle School, was at the

meeting to discuss his plan for rerouting traffic at the high school. The council discussed his plan to make the street one way going out near O.D. Duran and asked if the residents in the area had been contacted. They said they would try the plan to see if it works.

In other action, the council: —Heard a report that the traffic lights along U.S. 231 had been reset and that traffic last Sunday ran more smoothly.

Also, it was pointed out that a manual operation light would be placed at the main intersection.

—Councilman Cox said the city needed to make a formal request to the State Highway Department to put a traffic light at the intersection of 19th Street

and it passed unanimously.

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With the purchase of the new vehicles, the council discussed the possibility of selling some of their older vehicles. They include two dump trucks, a fire car and several police cars. The council agreed to put all the vehicles on the list up for bids.

A delegation headed by Mike Reece approached the council about the possibility of getting work done on the streets near their homes. The delegation requested work be done in the Woodmont and Dalewood subdivisions. The roads concerned were Ridgeway Road and Meadowview Drive. Mayor Paul Turner said the council was aware of the problem and said the city would make an effort to correct it.

Turner said he thought the Civic Center dedication ceremony went well and that he

said the men wanted to wait until the Fall to plant some of the shrubbery to give it a better chance to survive.

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—appointment but took no action on an to the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority.

—Voted to raise the pay of Wilbur Fluharty from \$2.50 to \$2.90.

—Heard a report from the mayor on the cleanup project. He said the highways have been cleaned up and expressed the hope that they would remain clean. He also asked the police department to strictly enforce the litter laws.

—Tabled a request for an off-premise beer license for Michael Hutchins; and

—Thanked the "press" for their coverage of the Civic Center dedication and grand opening.

Police work a way of life for Layton

By DAVID HAYNES

PELL CITY — When Homer "Bo Jack" Layton signed on as a Pell City patrolman in 1965, he worked up to 64 hours a week. The small police force consisted of five officers and two cars.

Today, Layton is Pell City's police chief. His men work 40-hour shifts and the department is steadily compiling more and more crime-fighting equipment. The force now boasts 15 officers and five cars.

Layton came to the Pell City Police Department nearly 17 years ago, shortly after Ruble Bowlin became police chief.

From then until Oct. 1, 1980 — when he was named chief after Bowlin's retirement — Layton has steadily moved upward through the ranks. As a patrolman, sergeant and captain, he learned the ins and outs of police work from the bottom up.

City Council members voted unanimously last October — on Bowlin's recommendation — for Layton to serve as police chief.

A native of Pell City, Layton grew up in the Avondale Mill Village section of town and graduated from Pell City High School. After two years in the U.S. Army, he returned to Pell City and worked another year "doing odd jobs."

"I had always wanted to be in police work," he said. So when Bowlin of-

Series: The Law-----

Lawmen have been attention-getters from early history, an attribute of the profession that hasn't changed much in modern times. In this series on those people who make up what many call "The Law," area sheriffs and police chiefs will be featured.

ferred the patrolman's job, Layton accepted.

"I've been with the Police Department ever since," he added.

During his years in law enforcement, Layton has seen St. Clair County go from a wet county to a dry one. He says going wet probably benefitted the police department because there was less illegal drinking and more revenue. The extra money indirectly boosted the city taxes that fund the police force.

He also has seen the city undergo a population boom due to an influx of residents eager to live on the shores of Lake Logan Martin.

"The lake has been very beneficial economically and in increasing the population, but it's put a heavier workload on the police department," he said.

"Burglaries and break-ins are our biggest problems today, but I don't think it's any worse here than anywhere else."

since he became chief, three new officers have been hired. With this additional manpower, Layton said he was able to reduce the 50-hour work-week to five shifts of 40 hours.

Now a policeman walks a beat all night downtown checking businesses, and another door-checking patrolman serves the outlying areas by car, he added.

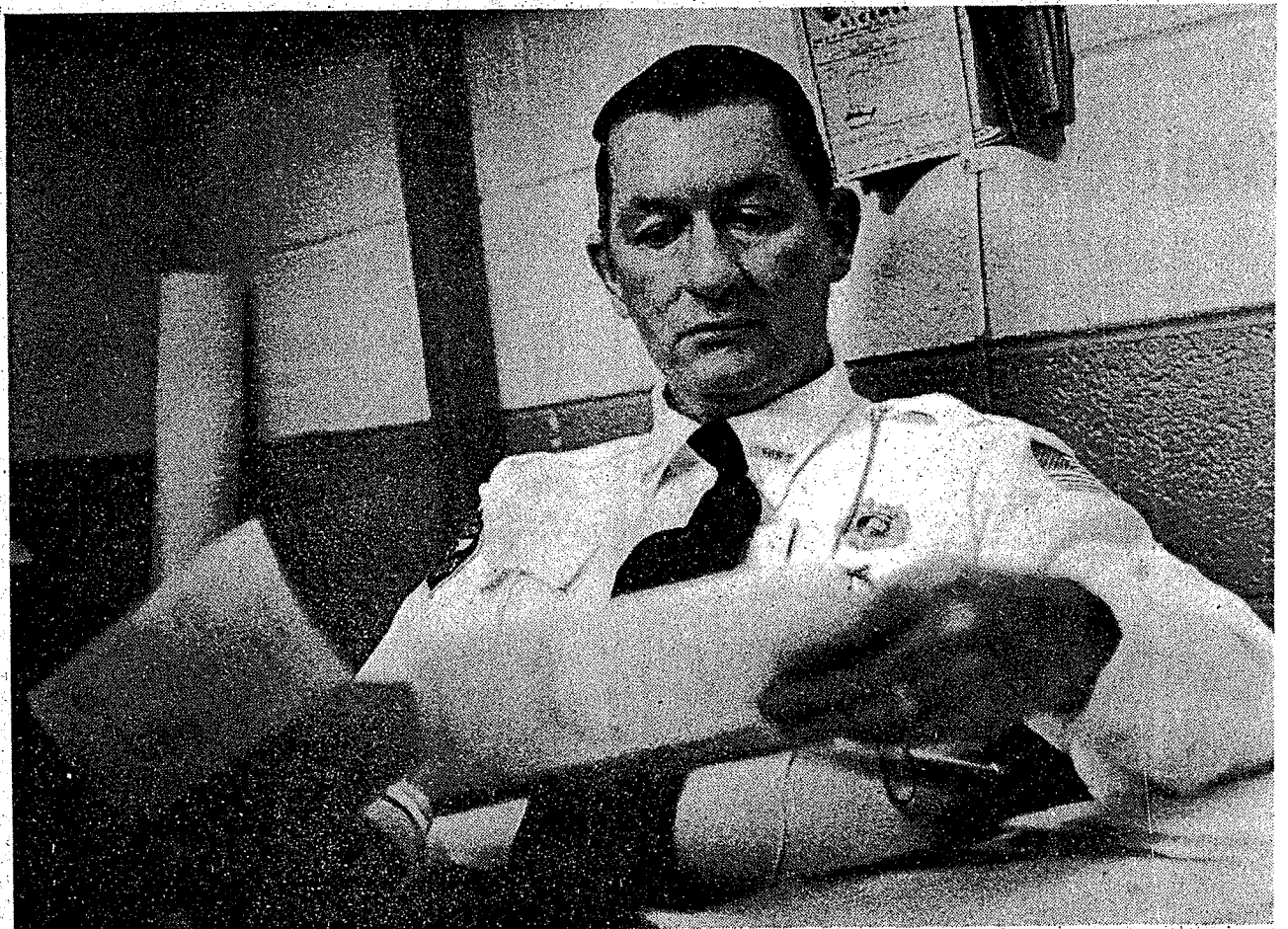
"I think it's helped curb some of these burglaries already," Layton said.

Other improvements in store for Pell City police in the near future include screens and shotguns to be installed in the five patrol cars. Layton said the screens have been ordered and are expected anytime.

He also hopes to replace two patrol cars this year. In addition, the city fathers have given a tentative go-ahead for renovation of police headquarters that will include enlargement of the squad room and two additional offices.

"I think we've got a good bunch of men here now," Layton said. "The police department's looking good — we've got good working conditions and everybody gets along. That's the main thing."

Layton married the former Ruby Roe 20 years ago. They have four boys — Jeff, 19; Clark, 14; and twins Lee and Paul, 9.



Pell City Police Chief Homer "Bo Jack" Layton didn't get his job without experience. A 17-year veteran of the

Pell City Police Department, Layton began his law enforcement career as a patrolman and came up through the

ranks until last year when he was unanimously appointed chief by the City Council. (David Haynes photo)

Hears Speed-Break Gripes—

City Cites Radio Misuse

BY CAROL PAPPAS

Councilman Bam Cox expressed concern Monday night, at the meeting of the Pell City City Council, over the "misuse of the radio system in the city."

He said there is "too much jabbering that shouldn't be and it is time to do something about it." It's used "almost like a CB system now," he added.

In complete agreement with Cox, Councilman Charles Lockridge said that people were carrying on nothing more than "childish play on our frequency."

Cox explained that those authorized to have a crystal set, who should not be, were interfering with the "normal function of duties" of the police and fire departments.

Mayor Hugh Williamson said he would check with the Federal Communications Commission to see how the problem could be alleviated.

Dick Black appeared before the council to complain about his encounter with a misleading speedbreaker sign. He said he was traveling in a 30 mph zone and saw a sign that said speedbreaker.

Twenty feet from the sign was the speedbreaker, and Black contended that that distance did not allow enough

to study them and at the next meeting take bids to "see what we're working toward."

Sawyer added that by the next meeting he would have a recommendation for the job of city manager that he proposed at the previous meeting.

Miss Vandergrift presented prices for lights for the tennis courts in which she said the best suitable lights and poles would run about \$6220.

The recreation committee is to study the prices and check into other alternatives for the poles before making its recommendation to the council.

City Attorney Bill Church reported he had contacted Alabama Gas Corporation officials on the sale of the

city's gas system and they told him that when the city determined the sale was "feasible" to meet with them again.

In other business:

—Councilman Lockridge reported that the fire department is now in the process of enforcing the new fire codes.

—The council instructed the street committee to study a proposal to lower the curb in front of the courthouse to coordinate with the other side of the street under construction in the downtown redevelopment project.

—Councilman Sawyer's motion to give city employees July 3 off for Independence Day died for a lack of a second.

OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. June 29, 1978

ing speedbreaker sign. He said he was traveling in a 30 mph zone and saw a sign that said speedbreaker.

Twenty feet from the sign was the speedbreaker, and Black contended that that distance did not allow enough time for a driver to slow down enough to avoid doing damage to his vehicle.

He added that the sign was singular, meaning there should only be one speedbreaker ahead, yet there were four more with no warning.

The street committee, headed by Councilman Joe Sawyer, is to study the problem.

Linda Waldrop of Linwood area requested city water for her property but the Council advised her that since that particular section is outside the city limits, the city can not furnish water there.

Councilman Sawyer complained that the recreation committee was doing a poor job of taking care of something the people requested and what the council had voted on; in reference to the hiring of professional umpires to call baseball games.

Marcie Vandergrift, director of the Civic Center, said there had been a meeting in City Hall after that and it was decided to leave the umpire situation as it was.

She said that Councilman Cox had stated then that the umpires were "doing a good job. She added that the league has had a certified baseball umpire for the past three weeks.

Mayor Hugh Williamson recommended that before the season starts next year, certified umpires for each league should already be hired.

Councilman Sawyer presented a list of streets needing resurfacing work to the council. He asked the council

AN OBSERVER Pell City, Ala. Aug. 25, 1977

To Relieve Hazard—

City To Barricade Streets Leading To High School, Duran

In an effort to prevent a congested and hazardous condition at Pell City High School and Duran Junior High School, the Pell City Council Monday night approved a plan which will barricade 12th Street and Second Avenue South in the area around the schools from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. each school day.

A barricade will be placed on 2nd Avenue, South, on the left side of Duran; one will be placed at the entrance to 12th Street just off Highway 78, one will be placed on First Avenue South at the entrance to 12th Street and another will block a driveway which runs around the back of the high school.

Mayor Hugh Williamson said the plan had been worked

Mental Health Authority, added his comments to Dr. Doran's, asking the Council to consider the request.

--Heard Sherman Hill, a resident of the Billy Walker Subdivision in the Seddon community, ask that an approximate two-block long road to his property be chirted by the City. The Council referred the matter to the streets committee for study.

--Appointed Marlin Huggins to the Pell City Industrial Development Board, replacing Ed Ash who resigned several months ago.

--Approved the final draft of subdivision regulations. The regulations, after approval by the city's planning commission, will be published some time during the month of

will be placed on First Avenue South at the entrance to 12th Street and another will block a driveway which runs around the back of the high school.

Mayor Hugh Williamson said the plan had been worked out with officials of the two schools and the Board of Education in an effort to stop automobiles from "going around and around the schools creating an extremely congested and hazardous condition." Police Chief Ruble Bowlin approved the plan and was instructed by the Council to get the barricades up as soon as possible.

The Council also discussed the possibility of making 12th Street a one-way street, but will make a decision after determining the results of the barricades.

The Council adopted a resolution Monday night which classifies the jobs of all city employees, with full job descriptions to be written and published as soon as possible.

In other business Monday night, the Council:

--Heard Mrs. Vickie Brown, director of the St. Clair Child Development Center, ask that the Center be included in the City's budget appropriations for the coming fiscal year, and also heard Dr. Layton D. Dorman, executive director of the Jefferson-Blount-St. Clair Mental Health Authority make a similar request. Sam Jones, administrator of the St. Clair County Hospital, and member of the board of the

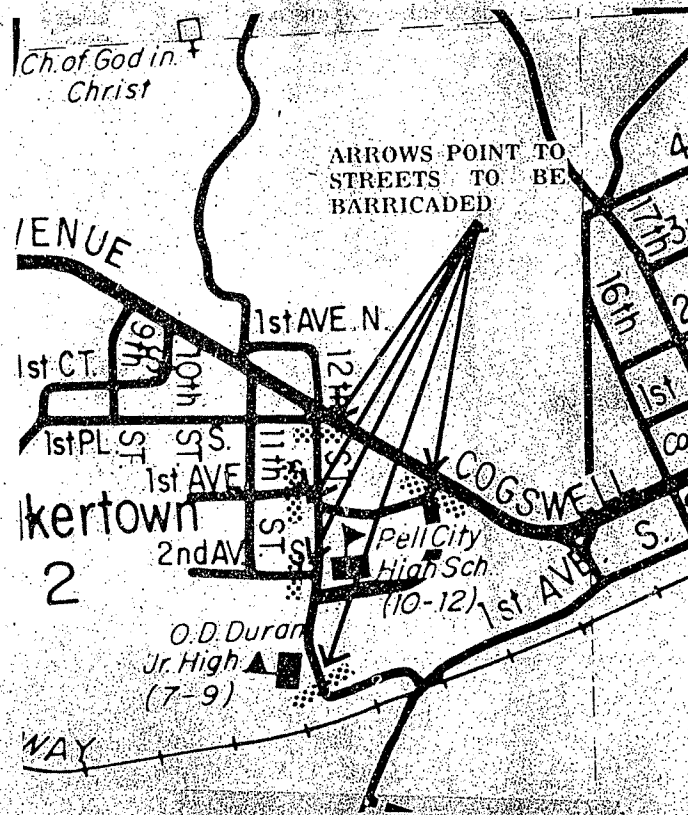
Board, resigned several months ago.

--Approved the final draft of subdivision regulations. The regulations, after approval by the city's planning commission, will be published some time during the month of September.

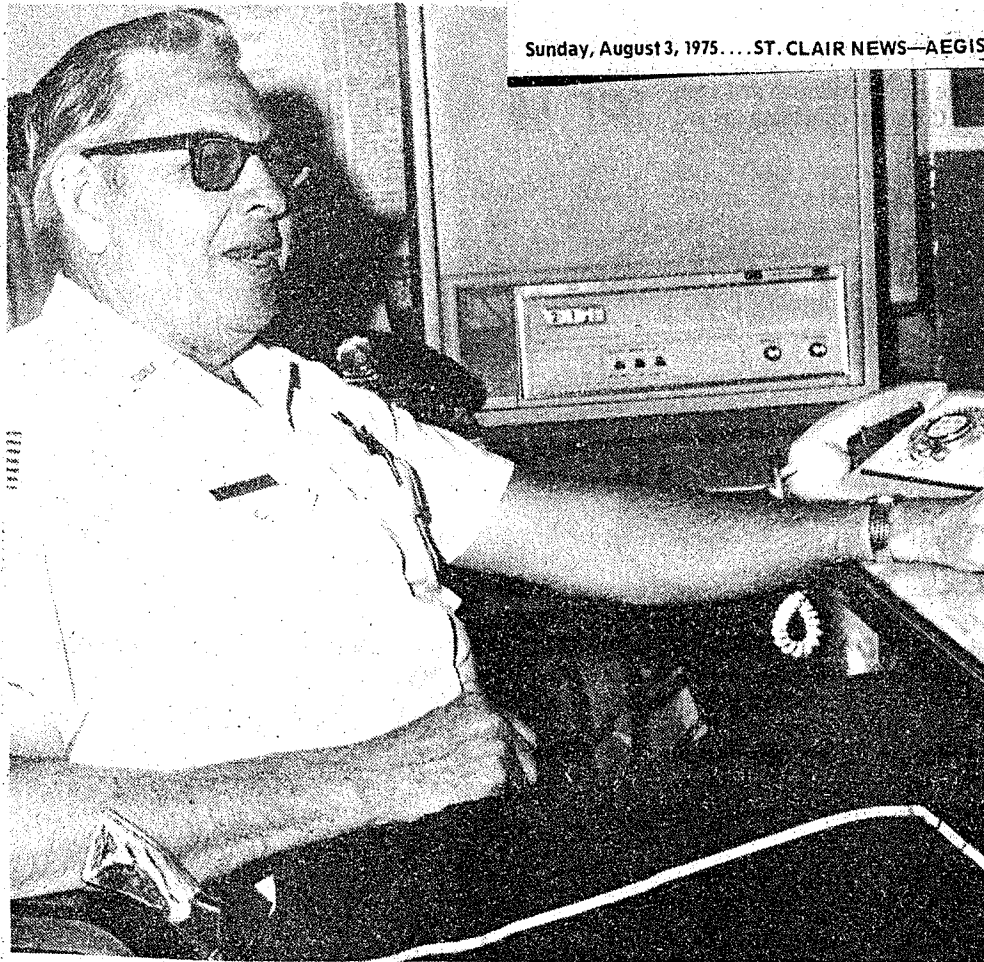
--Approved a road block in September for the national cerebral palsy fund raising campaign.

--Approved the taking of bids for two new automobiles for the police department.

--Approved an amendment to an existing city ordinance which will allow council members to be paid for each council meeting whether or not attended.



CITY MAP SHOWS SCHOOL STREETS To Be Barricaded During School Hours



New Radio Equipment

Pell City Police Chief Ruble Bowlin is shown at his desk with a new radio system that is currently being installed. Bowlin said the new system is "much better" than anything the department has had previously. The new equipment is being paid for through a grant from the Alabama Law Enforcement Planning Agency (ALEP). (NEWS Photo By Louis Muro)

Pell City Police Dept. receives new equipment

The Pell City Police Department will have a new feature soon with the completion of a new radio system for the department, Chief Ruble Bowlin said Friday.

Workers are currently installing the unit but have yet to complete the project which will give Pell City its best radio equipment ever. Bowlin said the new system is "just a whole lot better" and added that he doesn't know when the installation will be finished.

The radio equipment for Pell City was made available through a grant from the Alabama Law Enforcement Planning Agency (ALEPA).

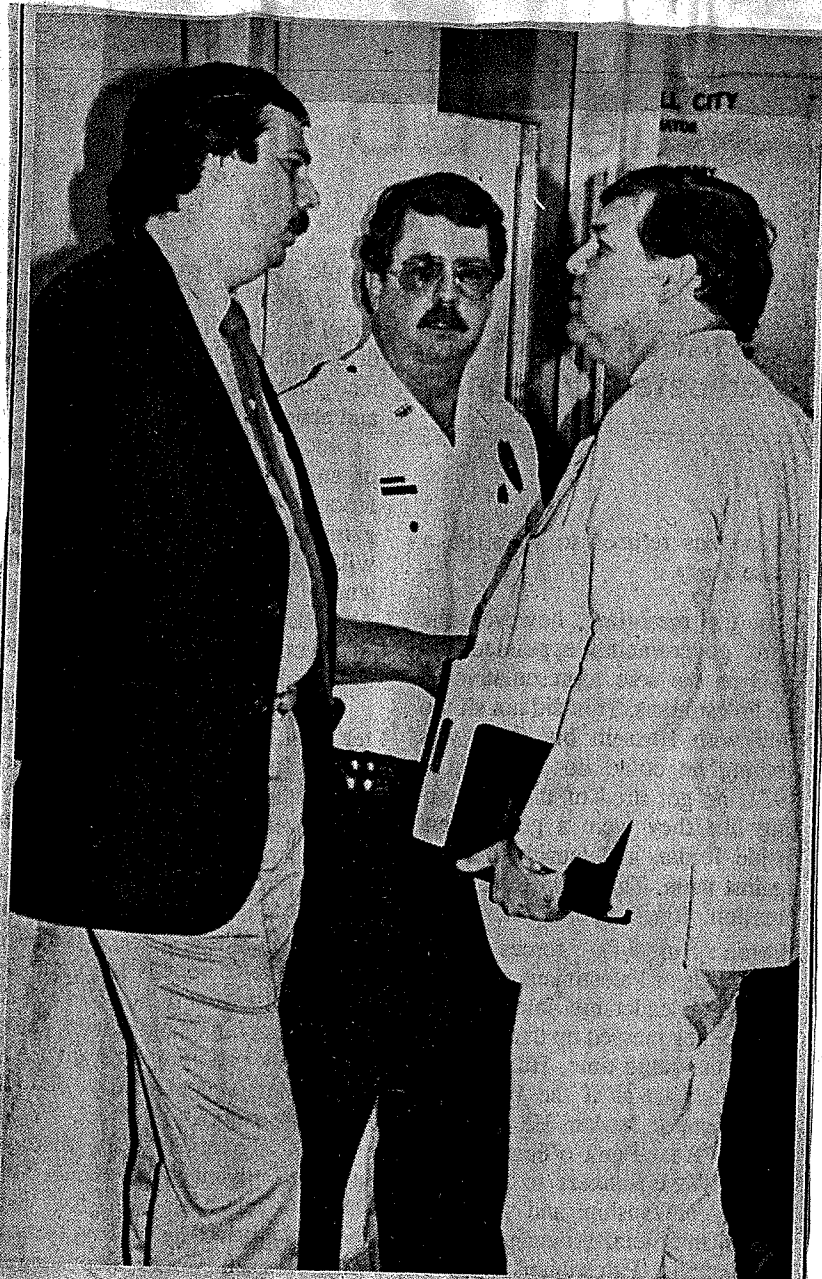
The chief said the new unit is more powerful and the microphone is more sensitive and can pick up voices farther away. "One of the best things about it is that we can call the Birmingham Trooper station by just pushing a button," Bowlin explained.

He added that a "private line" will be installed on the new equipment which will allow the base to talk to the patrol car without anyone listening to it. Bowlin said this will help if important messages need to be transmitted or if a burglar alarm goes off.

A set in the Clerk's Office upstairs in City Hall is also being installed.







Simmons awaits decision

Rick Simmons, left, talks with Assistant Chief Ed Pennington of the Pell City Police Department, and Birmingham attorney John C. Falkenberry, right, while he awaits the decision from the Pell City Council as to whether or not he can return to work. Simmons was suspended with pay until the Friday hearing upon a recommendation from Chief Homer "Bojack" Layton. (News-Aegis photo by Kelly Bryan)



Chief Congratulates Horton

Pell City Police Chief Ruble Bowlin, right, congratulates City Patrolman Billy Joe Horton on receiving his certificate of completion of the Photo-Electric Intoximeter and courtroom procedures course. The course was presented at the Alabama Police Academy in Montgomery.

Pell City Officer Completes Course

UNIVERSITY, AL.—Elbert Turner of Pell City is one of 32 law enforcement candidates completing the sixteenth session of the Law Enforcement Academy of The University of Alabama.

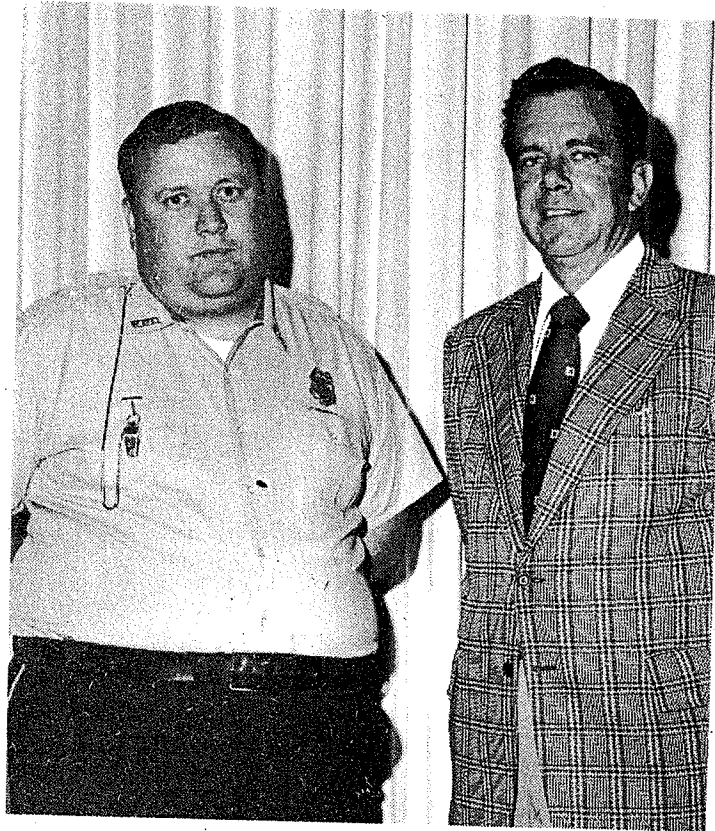
Turner completed the three-part course and was graduated at exercises at Martha Parham West June 13. Gen. Taylor Hardin, Alabama's Commissioner of Mental Health, was the speaker.

Upon graduation, Turner plans to work with the Pell City Police Department.

The Law Enforcement Academy of The University of Alabama, established in 1972, is one of four regional academies that offer the 240 hours as required under minimum

standards of Alabama law. Six six-week sessions are conducted per year.

"We feel this academy performs a vital function in meeting the increasing demand for professionalism in law enforcement," Russell Summerlin, Director of Law Enforcement Training at the University, said.



Local Officer Graduates

Pell City Police Officer Elbert Turner (left) is shown as he appeared June 13 following Law Enforcement Academy graduation ceremonies at the University of Alabama. Pictured with Turner is Russell Summerlin, director of law enforcement training at the

Turner wins by landslide —

BY MIKE MOSER
News-Aegis Editor

It's official! Councilman Paul Turner who has served Pell City for ten years was the first councilman certified as a winner in the current city elections.

Paul 'Landslide' Turner was the only incumbent unopposed in this summer's municipal elections and Monday night at the regular council meeting, fellow councilmen certified his victory.

This action came since write-in candidates for office are not allowed in municipal elections.

After the deadline for qualifying passed and it became obvious Turner would have no opposition, he told the News-Aegis, "I am really pleased and honored that the people have shown faith in me. I really consider this an honor and would like to thank the citizens for this show of support."

In other business, council met in executive session following the regular meeting to discuss the recent firing of firefighter Frank Ogle, who requested a public hearing. Details of that session were not available but no action was taken.

Council also:

-HEARD a complaint from

Elizabeth Singleton and Prentice Fomby appeared before council armed with a petition bearing over 60 names of Glenn City residents requesting installation of speedbreakers to slow down traffic. Problem areas included 7th, 9th and 10th avenues and 16th Street.

-APPROVED an on-premise beer and liquor license for Robert Posey and Billy Frazier for the Hotsie Totsie Club.

-DISCUSSED adopting an updated license schedule for liquor and beer as well as including table wine when the later becomes legal this fall.

-DISCUSSED sewage problems and drainage problems in the Glenn City area and also on 6th Street near Arbor Church. The Plaza Shopping Center drainage problem was also touched on.

-DISCUSSED enforcement of the no bicycles on the sidewalks in the business district ordinance.

-APPROVED a resolution that will abolish side street parking meters throughout the city on recommendation of councilman Charles Lockridge and heard a request for a pedestrian crossing in the middle of the block behind the courthouse.

-REAPPOINTED Dennis Abbott as city recorder.



Paul Turner

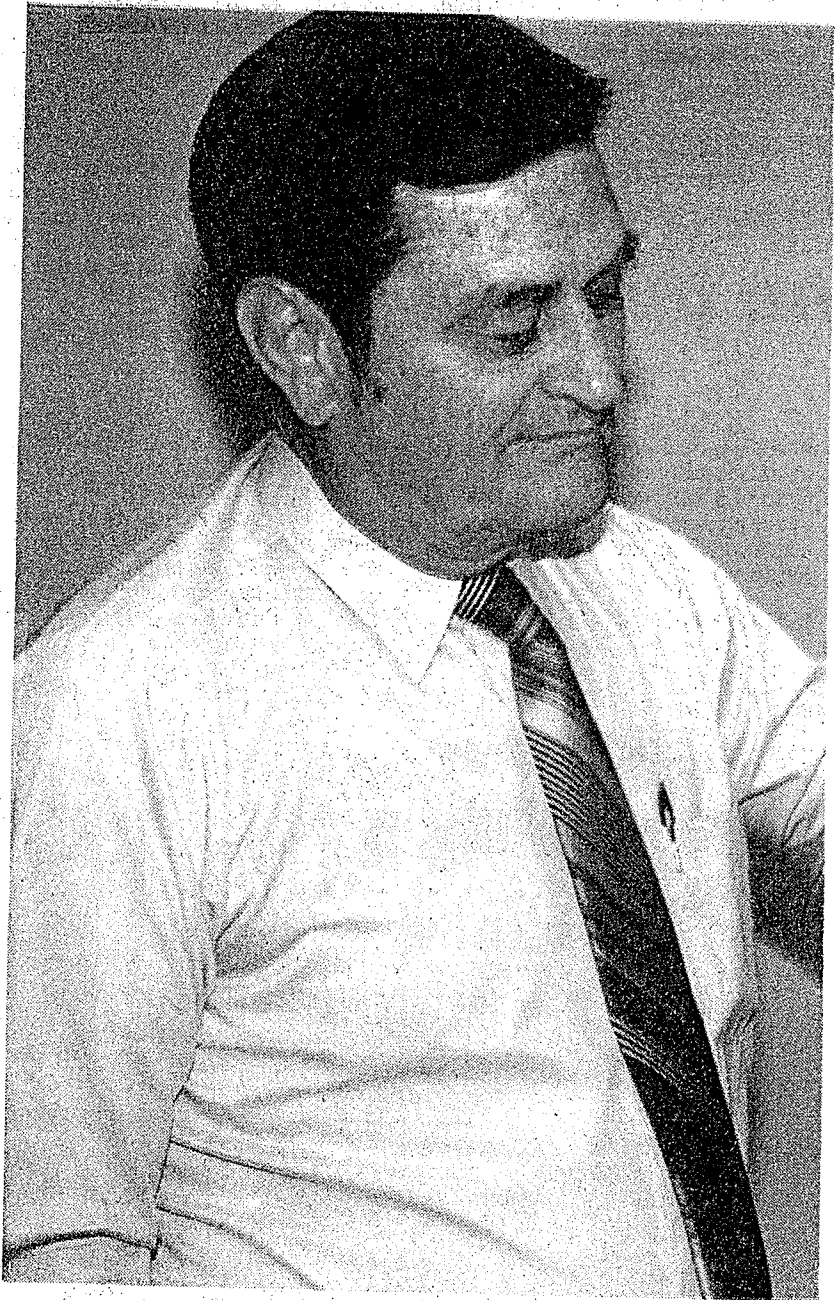


Chief Honored

Monday night Pell City Mayor Hugh Williamson presented Police Chief Ruble Bowlin a plaque for his participation in the children's safety program on behalf of the Police Safety International Annual Safety Award. The city has participated in the program for several years.

Thursday, June 12, 1980

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AGEIS



New

With the return of short sleeve shirts this spring, Pell City police officer will be sporting new police department patches which were designed locally to signify the city department. The new, colorful patches replace patches wor



look

s for several years by city officers which were black and gold. Above, City Ad-
o ministrator Con Coupland studies the new patch displayed by Police Chief
n Homer "Bojack" Layton. (News-Aegis photo by Mike Moser)



"Calling Pell City"

Pell City Mayor Hugh H. Williamson, a radio operator during his stay with the U.S. Air Force, uses a familiar means to proclaim National Guard Week in the Pell City Area. Warrant Officer Paul Vaughn is holding the radio. National Guard Week is March 30-April 6. (NEWS-AEGIS Photo by Joey Kennedy)

Police support group said to be organizing

A "concerned citizen" approached the Pell City City Council Monday night to voice his support for the city's police officers. This action, he said, was in response to recent criticism in the community over a police shooting incident which hospitalized a 19-year-old youth following a high-speed automobile chase in the city.

City resident Don Hamlin said he plans to present a petition to the council at a later date with the signatures of persons supporting the policemen. At an earlier council session in November, a group of local residents brought a petition before the council containing the names of over 160 people protesting the November 6 shooting of Jeffery Molson as he

was reported attempting to escape on foot from city police officers who had pursued the youth through city streets before disabling his vehicle on Highway 231. Molson was shot while running from the officers, police accounts stated.

Hamlin said a petition is being circulated through the community at this time and he would present it to the council soon. Hamlin also indicated he plans to organize a local "concerned citizens" group in the county to support the officers.

Hamlin identified himself as an employee of the Internal Revenue Service at the time of the council session Monday night, but said on December 1 he will enter practice as an attorney at law in Pell City. Hamlin is also one of two applicants for the judgeship of Pell City's newly-adopted municipal court.

In other council action this week, three resolutions involving the city's municipal court system were adopted, moving toward a December compliance deadline by the state on setting up such a local court system.

The resolutions adopted Monday included 1) the hiring - of a municipal judge, the city having received two applications for the position thus far, from Don Hamlin of Pell City and Larry Ward, a Birmingham attorney. 2) A second resolution limits of fines on misdemeanors was set at a minimum \$1 and maximum \$500. This, Mayor Hugh Williamson said, is in line with state figures. 3) The municipal judge's salary was established at \$150 per session, not to exceed \$300 per month. The council had agreed earlier in the month to limit city court sessions to twice monthly, to convene on Saturdays.

In another matter, a resolution was also adopted in regard to the city's intention to annex property outside the city limits in conjunction with plans for a new industrial park on Highway 78 East. The land, already under development by Vollrath Industries, lies adjacent to Ribverside police jurisdiction and, in one area, Riverside town limits. The resolution sets forth the city's intent to annex a portion of land beyond the present city limits and seeks legislative action from the county's representative and senator to initiate local legislation required to move across police jurisdictions of another community.

The council also took under consideration a plan for the

city's contribution to the state unemployment compensation program, changed as of January 1978 to require the city participation by its choice of methods.

The two plans discussed were a "tax method" or "reimbursement method", the council opting to "reimbursement method". The tax method would mean compensation benefits taken jointly from employees and the city for the unemployment program. The reimbursement method requires the city to reimburse the state for any compensation paid to city employees from the state fund.

The council agreed the reimbursement method would be the least expensive and most suitable for the city and was recommended by the Alabama League of Municipalities, of

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ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

Thursday, July 17, 1980

Page 3-A

Curfew, problems fill council agenda

Enforcement of the city curfew and street and sewer problems filled the agenda for the Pell City Council Monday night during the regular bi-monthly meeting.

The curfew discussion was sparked by the presence of Rev. Prentice Fomby of the Glenn City Community who requested more city patrols in the black community just off 19th Street.

Fomby stated that an increase of patrolling in his area by city police might help slow down vehicles and keep people from congregating after hours.

Councilman Forest Walls suggested that the 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew be enforced. "We have an 11 p.m. curfew on the books and I think we ought to start enforcing it," said Walls. Police commissioner Dr. Raymond Cox added, "I think we can get some police cars over there (Glenn City)."

Mayor Hugh Williamson noted that he had received complaints of teenagers and young adults gathering at the community pool in Glenn City after closing hours and Police Chief Ruble Bowlin added, "We can move them out."

The city curfew states that only persons on legitimate business can be on the streets of Pell City after 11 p.m. at night, including places like the Plaza Shopping Center, a favorite gathering place for some of the younger population.

Bowlin noted the curfew could affect businesses and added, "If you want me to enforce it (the curfew law) then we'll enforce it." The curfew will be discussed at the next council meeting.

A number of citizens appeared before council with road or sewer problems. Fomby presented a petition bearing some 100 names of persons in the Glenn City Community

seeking sewage service.

Acting as a spokesman for the community, Fomby told councilmembers, "We're just tired of smelling human waste."

Williamson told the group he would ask city engineer Charles Tucker to conduct a study of the area and make estimates of the cost. "It may be that each property owner might be assessed a pro rata amount of the cost to get these sewer lines installed," Williamson told Fomby.

Ironically, council received bids for a sewer line extension of some two blocks in the Glenn City Community which will add eight homes. Funds for the project are from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jonathan Brison appeared before council seeking aid in getting a road paved and garbage pickup at his home. Brison, who lives just off Alabama 34 in Cropwell, told council he currently has to carry his garbage down to the highway and often dogs scatter the garbage before service arrives.

Martin Patterson appeared before council on behalf of Friendship Freewill Baptist Church seeking help for a drainage problem. Patterson told council he felt a drainage ditch near the church, which is located on Comer Avenue, needed cleaning.

C. J. Goodwin, captain of the South St. Clair Emergency Squad appeared before council and asked members to consider permission for a children's carnival. No action was taken.

Council approved a zoning variance for Mrs. Norman Stephens of Wolf Creek Road South for a mobile home on recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Council received off-premise

wine applications from Archis' Super Saver and Thrifty Inn on 19th Street plus a request for an off-premise beer license for Big B Drugs in Plaza Shopping Center.

Williamson also requested the

street department consider a lease-purchase agreement on a bulldozer after Councilman Dr. Joe Sawyer notified council of the need of a bulldozer to clear a chert pit.

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\$5 or higher. The Library will require you to pay below \$5 before you can use it again.

7. If you have several immediate family members who also have accounts, the family must keep their collective fine below \$5 in order to use their accounts.
8. Any copies or printouts made on our public printers are .10 per printed side.

Pell City Council hears gas proposal; dog complaint

A Pell City resident who has had trouble with stray animals in the past and a salesman armed with a slide presentation on natural gas conversion of city vehicles appeared before the Pell City council Monday night.

H. O. Whaley, who lives at the intersection of 1st Avenue and 4th Street, appeared before council to request enforcement of the city dog leash law, explaining he has been troubled with stray dogs for months.

Whaley, who was arrested last year after he shot a dog on

his property, asked council to either see that the law is enforced or take it off the books.

Mayor Hugh Williamson and Police Chief Ruble Bowlin both expressed concern with Whaley's problem and pledged to attempt to capture the stray animals in the citizen's neighborhood.

A representative of Phillips presented council with a slide presentation telling of the virtues in changing over vehicles from regular gasoline to natural gas. Currently the cities of Atmore and Brewton

police departments operate their vehicles on natural gas, reporting a substantial savings.

Over the past several months council has expressed an interest in investigating the advantages of such action.

Council approved an off-premise beer license for the Corner Grocery Store, formerly Richey's Grocery, on U. S. 231 South.

Council approved a zoning change in the Walker subdivision area which will allow mobile homes in that area.

On a motion from Dr. Joe Sawyer, council agreed to purchase reflectorized vests and red attachments for patrolmen's flashlights as a safety precaution when officers direct traffic at night.

Council accepted bids for paving around the new Cropwell fire station. Six firms bid on the project with a price span from \$5,046.60 to \$9,962.12.

Council agreed to purchase little league football equipment from Smith and Hayes Sporting Goods of Pell City.

To Police Dept.—

Pell City adds "meter maid"

By JENNA WHITEHEAD
NEWS Staff Writer

Pell City's first female law enforcement officer joined the force on Monday, April 8, excited, a little apprehensive and eager to get to work.

Marie Cooper, 23 year old native of Anniston came to St. Clair County from Auburn, where she spent four and one half months as dispatcher for the Auburn Police Department.

Prior to her experience in Auburn, Miss Cooper worked as dispatcher for the Forestry Commission at the fire tower in Fredonia, Al. for four years.

Miss Cooper's primary duties at present will include checking the meters, issuing tickets for improper parking, assisting office work for the police department, assisting other officers with female prisoners, and law enforcement training school in the future.

Miss Cooper is a welcomed addition to the Pell City force and the fact that she is a female will serve the force in good stead, as was pointed out by a fellow policeman, "We can't search women."



Marie Cooper



It Only Hurts When You Laugh

When Observer Associate Editor Anne Cornett heard that Pell City had a pretty new "Meter Maid" on duty Monday she did what any other red-blooded reporter would do: Grabbed a camera and went looking for the comely Miss. After a detour through Pell City Drug where Melba Till Allen was campaigning, the inquisitive editor resumed the search for the meter maid and soon spotted her across the

street, busily writing a ticket. Good time for a picture. But while she was focusing her camera, Associate Editor did a double take. Turned out the car about to receive the ticket was HERS. But she persevered, and it wasn't long before the Meter Maid, Miss Marie Cooper, had herself another violator — one Fate Gossett, shown above receiving his citation. But from Fate's expression, one gathers, it hardly hurt at all.

Pell City Policemen Ask For Raises At Council Meeting

Pell City Police Department employees presented a petition to the Council at its meeting Monday night for raises for the department.

The Council told the petitioners that the raises should have been discussed first with the police chief and then presented to the finance committee for study.

The City has in the past reviewed salaries for all employees on an annual basis and made increases to all city employees at the same time, when warranted. The Council asked Chief Ruble Bowlin to make a study of police department salaries in cities comparable in size to Pell City and report to the Finance Committee.

Plans have been finalized for extension of city sewer service to the Industrial Park and invitations for bids will be sent out according to specifications drawn by the engineer. A study will also be made of the possibility of adding some sewer lines for residents of 12th Circle at the same time.

Louie Payne discussed with the Council a delinquent sewer service assessment and asked

for a reduction in accumulated interest charges. The matter was referred to the Utilities Department for study. However, the Council felt that if the request was granted for one property owner, than it would be necessary to do the same for everyone.

Gerald Ensley also met with the Council and discussed the possibility of extending water service to a trailer park which he is constructing behind the Industrial Park to Highway 78. The project had been reviewed with the Utilities Department and after discussion, the Council agreed to run the water from the Industrial Park to his property.

Ensley will pay for the cost of the materials in his subdivision and the City will pay for the installation. This is a practice which has been followed for private developments in the past. Gas for the anticipated 126 lot project was also discussed but no investigation had been made for that utility.

It was reported to the Council that the old ice house on Cogswell is in the process of being torn down and that the old

Continued On Page 2

Policemen-

Continued From Page 1

Davis house on Comer Avenue has been sold and will be torn down.

Mayor Dill Nixon reported that he had learned from Southern Railway that possible funds might be available through the revenue sharing "death trap" funds for the railroad crossing problem on Truss Ferry Road and the Council will investigate the possibility.

The Council voted to pay for paving for a strip between the present curbing and paving at the First Baptist Church so that the paving will be solid.

While this paving is being done, the City will also pave the ramp going from Highway 78 to 231 (behind Post Office) and the right of way across the street from the Pell City Steak House.

Bids were opened for the planned city shop building and all bids were rejected since they exceeded expectations. New invitations to bid will be sent out.

Mrs. Jean Brandli introduced Mr. Lee Shaver, new General Manager of the Coosa Valley Telephone Company, to the Council and reported on the installation of new electronic switching equipment for the company. She said that when the installation is complete, her company will be the first independent telephone company to have this ultra-modern equipment.

The 50 miles per hour speed limit on Highway 231 South as set by the Alabama State Highway Department was discussed and the Council felt that the new radar equipment and extra patrolling would help solve the problems being experienced with motorists exceeding the new speed limits.

An on-premises beer license was approved for Odell Wallace and Otis Smith, proprietors of the Hotsie-Totsie Club.

Possible paving projects for the summer were discussed and the City will study the needs and requests and work toward a contract with the County for

Pell City Council adopts ordinance for pawn shops

With the blessing of the Pell City city attorney, a full council unanimously approved passage of a new 'pawn shop ordinance' Monday night during a special council meeting.

The meeting was moved up one week as city fathers will be out of town next week.

Attorney Billy Church gave to council a copy of the proposed law which address operations of pawn shops operating within the city. This action was done on request of Police Chief Ruble Bowlin.

The law, which will go into effect immediately upon publishing of a legal advertisement one week, calls for pawn shops to keep a numbered book in which serial numbers, descriptions and name, age and address of the person pawning the item will be kept.

The pawn shop owner is to report to the police chief transactions every Tuesday and Thursday and violation of the law could result in fines ranging from \$1 to \$200.

Council decided to keep pawn shop license at \$200 for the city fee. State license cost \$250 and county license cost \$125.

In other action by council:

-a unanimously approved resolution to League of Municipalities was made voicing objection to a proposal by the state auditor's office calling for the state to audit city books once a year. The proposed measure, according to Mayor Hugh Williamson, would simply place an additional tax burden on the public and was designed solely for the purpose of being used as a vehicle to expand the auditor's office.

-Councilman Dr. Joe Sawyer commended city engineer Charles Tucker for work recently performed on a drainage problem.

-Agreed that a survey was needed of a drainage problem near the Intermediate School and a drainage problem between the Old Coal City Raod and Hwy 78 just east of the Avondale Ball Park.

-Agreed again to sponsor a summer baseball program for young men up to \$500 as last year.

-Approved Morgan Arnold as a new firefighter for the city. Arnold is an EMT I and is in the process of getting EMT II certification.

-Approved updating of a monument at city hall which has names of mayors displayed.

Pell City officer returns to work Monday after month's suspension

By **Scottie Vickery**
News correspondent

PELL CITY — When Pell City Police Officer Rick Simmons reports to work Monday, it will be the first day he's been to the office in a month.

Simmons, 33, has been suspended with pay since July 26 when Police Chief Homer "BoJack" Layton told him that he would recommend to the City Council that Simmons be fired.

Layton said he made the recommendation because Simmons secretly conducted an independent investigation concerning an insurance claim filed by Mayor Harvey Watson's wife, Eveyln, who said her diamond ring was stolen.

The City Council decided not to accept Layton's recommendation Friday at a hearing Simmons had requested. Simmons' attorney, John Falkenberry, of Birmingham, asked the hearing be closed because Simmons' good name and character would be discussed.

After almost three hours of discussion, Mayor pro-tem Joe Wheeler asked the council if there was a motion to accept the chief's recommendation. No one answered, so Simmons was reinstated to the police department.

"I consider this to be as much of a victory as if the council had voted unanimously to reject the chief's recommendation," Falkenberry said after the hearing.

Simmons, who has been with the Pell City Police Department for 10 years, said he was "very nervous" about going back to work, because Watson "hates me."

"I was expecting to be fired. I was just going to ride on until the next mayor took office," he said.

Watson, who unsuccessfully ran for re-election, said last month that Simmons conducted the investigation because of the bad feelings between the two.

Mrs. Watson filed a theft report in April with Sgt. Sid Scott that said her oval diamond ring was stolen between March 25 and March 26 when she was a patient at the St. Clair Regional Hospital. Mrs. Watson listed the value of the ring at \$4,295.

A document dated June 27 shows that the Watson's received \$1,000 from the Fidelity and Casualty Co. of New York for the loss of the ring.

Simmons said he interviewed five hospital employees who said Watson said he accidentally flushed the ring down the toilet after he emptied his wife's dirty sponge-bath water in it.

In a report filed July 14, Simmons said, "... there was overwhelming evidence that the ring was lost and not stolen as reported."

Watson said that when his wife first realized the ring was missing, he was afraid he had flushed the ring, but he said he found out later that couldn't have happened.

Pell City police officer to return to work Monday

By CARL A. MOSLEY

PELL CITY — Pell City Council members failed Friday to take formal action on Police Chief Homer "BoJack" Layton's recommendation that Sgt. Rick Simmon's employment with the city be terminated.

The Council's failure to act means that Simmons, who has been suspended from his duties with the police department since late July, will return to work Monday at 7 a.m.

The meeting, which began at 3:30 p.m. Friday, was closed to the public at the request of Simmons' attorney, Jack Falkenberry.

Falkenberry said the request to close the hearing to the public was made because it "involved the good name and character" of his client.

After listening to testimony for more than 2½ hours, Council members Roy Holladay, James McGowan, Ricky Staples and Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Wheeler deliberated for a short time without reaching an agreement on whether or not to affirm Layton's recommendation.

Mayor Harvey Watson had earlier recused himself from the proceedings.

"That's the end of it," said city attorney Bill Trussell. "The Council made no decision to take any action on Chief Layton's recommendation. That means that Sgt. Simmons will be able to return to work."

A 10-year veteran of the Pell City Police Department, Simmons was charged by Layton with several counts of insubordination and failure to follow proper departmental procedure stemming from the investigation of a theft report filed by Mayor Watson's wife, Evelyn.

In the report, Mrs. Watson claimed that her \$4,295 diamond ring was stolen between March 25 and 26 while she was a patient at St. Clair Regional Hospital.

According to documents, a New York City based insurance company subsequently paid the Watsons \$1,000 on the loss.

While investigating the incident, Simmons said he discovered evidence indicating that the report filed by Mrs. Watson was fraudulent and that the ring was accidentally lost.

Dog ordinance violators' arrests 'a mistake,' Pell City mayor says

By CAROL PAPPAS

PELL CITY — In the aftermath of three residents being arrested last week and fingerprinted for allegedly allowing their dogs to run at large, Mayor Harvey Watson says the arrests were simply a mistake.

The alleged violators should have been issued a written citation, not arrested, he said Monday.

Police records show that eight people were to be arrested last week, but only three were actually taken into custody. The other five warrants were recalled and citations were issued in their place.

Terming it a misunderstanding, the mayor said he called a halt to the arrests when he learned of them.

"It was just a mistake, but we were humiliated," said one resident who was arrested.

She said she was warned by the dog catcher to put her dog on a chain and she had not complied. "He didn't tell me he was going to

get a warrant if I didn't do it."

When the dog catcher returned — with a police officer — "I thought it was a joke." But, she soon found herself down at city hall getting fingerprinted.

"They crack down on dogs, what about murderers and thieves?," she added.

Watson stressed that dogs running loose are a growing problem around the city and in recent weeks, he had warned the dog catcher and police chief to help curtail the problem.

While the mayor said he eventually told dog catcher James "D-Bird" Barber and Pell City Police Chief BoJack Layton to arrest violators, he said he meant that arrest was only to be used as a last resort.

When it was pointed out that there is no arrest provision in the dog ordinance, Watson said he meant there might be another charge they could be arrested on.

As an example, he used a threat of bodily injury against the dog catcher as grounds for arrest.

The three who were arrested last week, however, were arrested under Ordinance No. 86-734, the dog ordinance.

Since there is no arrest provision in that ordinance, their cases are expected to be dismissed and a record of their arrests done away with, Chief Layton said.

According to the ordinance passed in May of 1986 by the present administration, violations carry only the threat of fines.

The ordinance states that dogs are prohibited from running at large. They are to be confined on private premises with a fence, wall or other enclosure or they may be restrained by a leash, cord or chain.

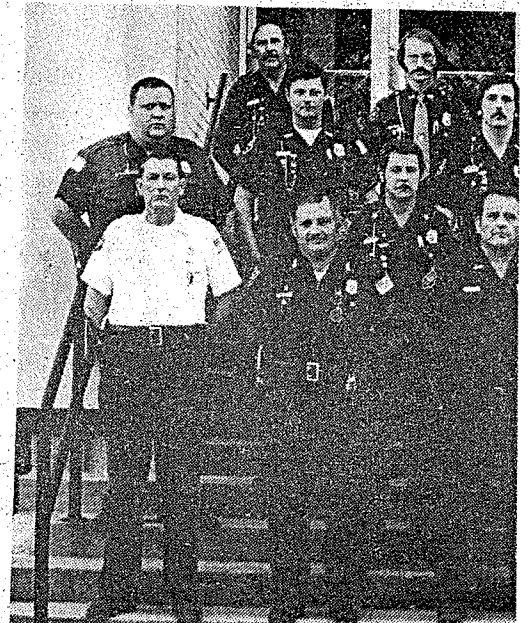
The penalty for violating the ordinance is not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 upon conviction.

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Progress is changing...for the better. The more challenges we meet...the more discoveries we make...bring us closer to our goal of a better life for all. Let's aim for continued success for Pell City in the '80s.

Pell City Police Department
Bottom Row (L-R) Chief Homer Layton, Ptl. Morris Smith, Ptl. Noel Washington, Ptl. Mike McCombs, Asst. Chief Shaffer Griffin. 2nd Row (L-R) Ptl. Bill Turner, Ptl. Joe Davis, Sgt. Ed Pennington, Ptl. Ricky Simmons, Ptl. Larry Hyatt, Cpl. Oscar Callahan. Top Row (L-R) Sgt. Sid Scott, Ptl. Bill Gurley, Ptl. Ray



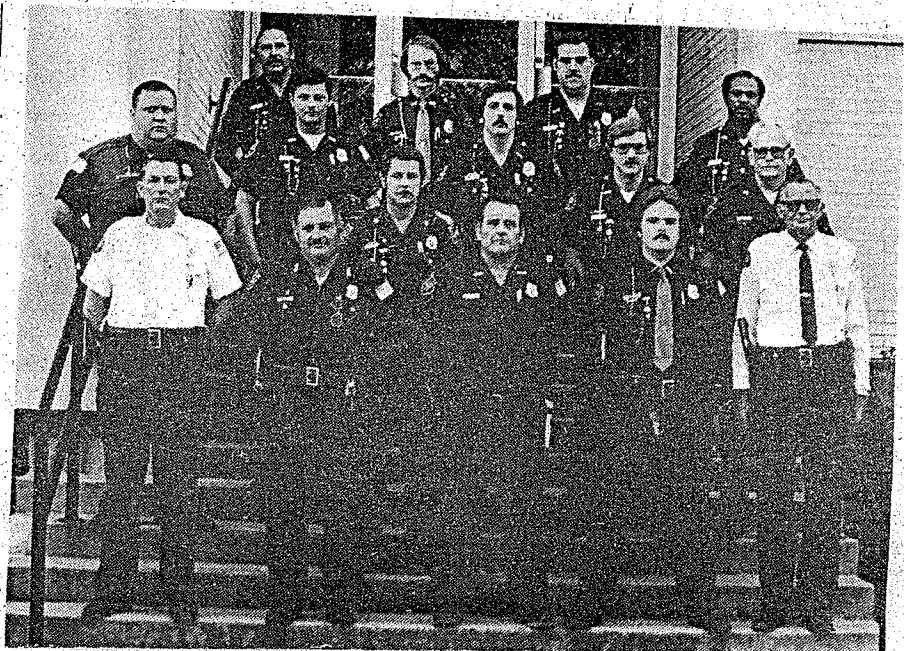
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Pell City Police Department
Front Row (L-R) Chief Homer Layton, Ptl. Morris
I. Noel Washington, Ptl. Mike McCombs,
Ptl. Shaffer Griffin. 2nd Row (L-R) Ptl. Bill
I. Joe Davis, Sgt. Ed Pennington, Ptl. Ricky
Ptl. Larry Hyatt, Cpl. Oscar Callahan. Top
Row (L-R) Sgt. Sid Scott, Ptl. Bill Gurley, Ptl. Ray
Ptl. Robert Beavers



New Cropwell Fire Station

This new structure was completed February, 1981. It is manned by two firefighters 24 hours per day and houses the city's rescue truck, pumper and ladder-tower truck. This gives added fire protection to the southern part of our city.

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H.H. Williamson
Mayor



Paul Turner
Councilman



Charles Lockridge
Councilman



Forrest Walls
Councilman



Barnett Lay
Councilman

Billy Church, City Attorney - Bettie Scott, City

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New Cropwell Fire Station

as completed February, 1981. It is manned by two
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**Construction will soon
begin on a modern**

SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITY

It will be located on Tucker Road and will oc-
cupy approximately 600,000 sq. ft. The plant is
being designed and constructed by Charles E.
Tucker, Consulting Engineers, Birmingham.
This new facility will afford sewage services for
hundreds of more homes in our community.



Paul Turner
Councilman



Charles Lockridge
Councilman



Forrest Walls
Councilman



Barnett Lawley
Councilman



Keith Porter
Councilman

Billy Church, City Attorney - Bettie Scott, City Clerk

THE CITY OF PELL CITY