

City to Hold Referendum

A referendum on the Council-Manager form of government for Clinton is scheduled for April 12.

The move was determined at Monday night's meeting of city council when the body adopted a motion to that effect following the appearance of President J. C. Thomas and R. L. Plaxico, representing the Chamber of Commerce.

Thomas and Plaxico requested the council to call a referendum and set the date.

At the same time, letters from the Chamber were presented to the mayor and council stating that on January 7 the Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution endorsing the Council-Manager plan of government for Clinton and "commended it to all citizens of the community for their thoughtful consideration and to the Clinton city council for appropriate action."

"It is the feeling of the Chamber of Commerce that such a change in our city government should not be entertained by the city council without the benefit of a favorable expression by a majority of the qualified voters of Clinton in a duly called election."

"We, therefore, respectfully request that the Clinton city council set an advisory referendum as soon as possible after the first of April, 1960, to ascertain the feelings of the citizens of Clinton with regard to the Council-Manager plan of city government."

The motion calling for the referendum and setting the date was introduced by Councilman James P. Sloan and passed unanimously.

Messrs. Thomas and Plaxico, in presenting their personal request, said that the move was not hastily determined, but had been under consideration and discussion in the Chamber of Commerce for more than a year.

The Chamber of Commerce action came after a study and recommendations by the Public Affairs Committee composed of James P. Sloan, chairman, Harry C. Layton, J. Robert Cox, and W. Carlisle Neely, together with representatives of clubs in the city: R. L. Plaxico, Kiwanis; H. L. Eichelberger, Lions; Van Jones, Exchange; Lynn Cooper, Jr., Junior Chamber of Commerce; and Ellis Huffstetler, Civitan.

The referendum will be conducted under provisions of election laws of the state, which require presentation of registration certificates by those seeking to vote at the three precincts in the city, No. 1 at Hampton Street School, No. 2, at the city hall, and at Clinton Mills.

Managers will be appointed for each precinct. Ted Prevatte, director of civil defense for the Clinton area, requested each councilman to make recommendation for warden in his ward.

A motion also directed the chief of police to develop and execute a plan (1) to prohibit parking on the north side of East Carolina Avenue from the square to Clay Street, (2) to insure the flow of traffic on Pickens Street, (3) to insure the flow of traffic on Enterprise Street from Musgrove to Clay street. A report will be made at the March meeting of council.

The session was presided over by Mayor J. P. Terry, with all councilmen present: Frank M. Boland, S. A. Pitts, Harry C. Layton, James P. Sloan, George W. Bagwell and Charles R. Leatherwood.

Clemson Professor To Address PC Students On Feb. 11

Dr. George Hubert Aull, chairman of Clemson's department of agricultural economics and rural sociology, will address Presbyterian College students next Thursday, Feb. 11, at the monthly meeting of their Economics and Business Association.

He is to speak on the general field of taxation in the Douglas House assembly room at 7:30 p. m. Dr. Aull, an outstanding leader in his field, has served on the Clemson faculty since 1921 and in his present capacity since 1936. His services have been utilized on several occasions by the national government. He was a consultant for the Farm Credit Administration in Washington at one time and served as a U. S. delegate to the United Science Conference on Conservation and Utilization of Resources in 1949. Dr. Aull was named "man of the year for service to agriculture" in 1945.

The Economics and Business Association at PC is composed of students majoring in this field of study. John Madden, instructor in economics, serves as faculty chairman.

Senate Names Three Members To County Registration Board

The three members of the Laurens County Board of Registration have been confirmed by the South Carolina Senate.

J. J. Clark of Clinton, and Mrs. Gladys Cook of Fountain Inn, are reappointments, while J. J. Mahaffey of Laurens, is a new member succeeding H. C. Sims of Waterloo, who recently resigned.

The Council-Manager Plan of Government

The Chronicle today publishes the third in a series of questions and answers on the Council-Manager (or City Manager) form of government.

Does the council-manager plan make adequate provision for political leadership?

Political leadership in a council-manager city is vested in the councilmen and mayor. They represent the citizens in all policies and decisions. In a democracy the citizens elect their political leaders; under the council-manager plan the councilmen and mayor are the responsible political leaders. They carry the responsibility for the policies and decisions which control the manager.

How and to what extent does the manager participate in policy determination?

The manager makes recommendations to the council on any matters which require council action, but his opinions and recommendations usually are not released to newspapers in advance of council consideration. The council may or may not adopt his recommendations or may change or modify them. The manager is bound by whatever action the council takes. When the council has acted affirmatively on a policy or program, the manager, as an administrative duty, may join the council in informing and "selling" the policy to the people.

How is the city manager selected?

Normally, a city council is interested in obtaining the services of the best qualified person for the position of city manager. Therefore the council is interested in receiving as many applications as possible. Managers, assistants to managers, and others who are interested apply directly to the council. The council sometimes makes a search for candidates, perhaps by inviting managers in other cities to apply if they are interested.

Does the city manager have to be a local resident at the time he is appointed?

No, local residence is not, and should not be, required in the appointment of a manager. Eighty per cent of the managers appointed in recent years have been recruited from outside the city and most laws and charters specify that prior residence is not required.

What salary does the manager receive?

Salaries in 1958 ranged from an average of \$6,500 in places of less than 5,000 population up to a top salary of \$35,000 in one of the largest municipalities. The council sets the salary of the manager.

Where do city managers get their prior experience?

Eighty-nine per cent of the 1,169 men appointed to manager positions during a recent four-year period (1955 to 1958) came directly from other governmental positions. Of this number, 60 per cent had been managers or assistants to managers in other cities; 26 per cent came from public positions, other than city management; and 3 per cent came from governmental research or other specialist positions. Eleven per cent were from non-governmental positions.

Do city managers participate in local politics?

A city manager is expected to stay out of local politics. He neither supports nor opposes candidates for the council in elections and is capable of serving through changes of council, like school superintendents under elective school boards.

Funeral Services Are Held Friday for John W. Finney

Funeral services for John W. Finney, 66, who died Wednesday night, were conducted Friday at his home, 309 East Carolina Avenue, by the Rev. Joel E. Cannon, Dr. J. M. Dick and Dr. C. B. Betts. Burial was in Rosemont cemetery.

Pallbearers were nephews: William and J. P. McMillan, Alfred and Charles Johnson, L. H. Davidson, and William M. McCrary.

Mr. Finney, a retired druggist, was a native of Laurens County where he spent his entire life. He was a son of the late William M. and Nancy Tribble Finney, and was a member of Broad Street Methodist Church and the Lions Club.

He was connected with Young's Pharmacy for a number of years, retiring in 1942. At the time of his death he was executive vice-president and a director of the Citizens Federal Savings and Loan Association and also a director of the Bank of Clinton.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Sallie Bell McMillan Finney of Clinton; two sons, John W. Finney, Jr., of Clinton; and W. Mac Finney of Myrtle Beach; three sisters, Mrs. Neil Turner and Mrs. Hubert Johnson, both of Clinton; and Mrs. Mitchell Herndon of Tallahassee, Fla.; and four grandchildren.

\$8,412.72 Christmas Seals Are Sold In Laurens County

J. Allen Thompson, Jr., president of the Laurens County Tuberculosis Association, reports the latest tabulation on the 1959 Christmas Seal sale as being \$8,412.72. The association still hopes to reach the 1951 total of \$8,514.98, which is the largest amount ever collected.

J. LeRoy Burns is serving as chairman of a budget and program committee to determine how best these funds can be spent in the association's year round fight against tuberculosis. Mrs. T. P. Kendrick of Laurens, and Mrs. Lucian W. Bobo of Gray Court, are serving with Mr. Burns.



Here is a group totaling collections made during the Mothers March phase of the campaign for the March of Dimes Friday night. Left to right, are: L. V. Powell, chairman of the county and Clinton drives, Mrs. Tommy

Wasson Gets Tax Position

The expected appointment of Laurens County Senator Robert C. Wasson to membership on the South Carolina Tax Commission was sent to the Senate Tuesday.

The appointment, made by Gov. Hollings, is subject to Senate confirmation. The position pays \$9,250 a year.

The nomination was confirmed immediately, according to reports from Columbia, but Senator Wasson is not expected to take the oath of office until a later date, pending passage of some county legislation principally the appropriation bill, through the General Assembly.

The appointment of Wasson to the Tax Commission post will leave Laurens County without a senator until after the general election in November, unless a special general election is held in the meantime for filling the vacancy.

Wasson is in the final year of a four-year term which ends in November. His successor will be nominated in the June primaries, with election in November.

The Lieutenant Governor, Burnet R. Maybank, who is president of the Senate, can call a special general election, but he has stated that he is inclined not to do so.

Justin A. Bridges, Laurens attorney, this week announced his candidacy for State Senator in the June primaries.

Others mentioned as possible candidates include R. L. Plaxico of Clinton, chairman of the County Democratic party; William C. Dobbins, presently a member of the House of Representatives; King Dixon, Sr., of Laurens, former Representative and now a member of the State Highway Commission; and George Phinney of Laurens.

Wasson, who served seven terms in the House prior to his Senate service, will replace James W. Crain of Greenville County on the Tax Commission. He is a merchant and farmer of the Hickory Tavern section of the county.



NORMAN HOLDER



JERRY L. HARRIS, JR.



FLOYD CUMMINGS



JESSE L. WELCH

In Shooting of George Sherfield

Four Men Held on Murder Charge

Clinton Employer Shoots Watchman In Argument

Charlie Walker, 54, night watchman at the Barrel stove manufacturing firm located four miles north of Clinton on Highway 56, was shot and seriously wounded Saturday night by his employer, Gene Buffington, 52.

Walker, shot once in the left shoulder, the bullet lodged in his left lung, was described in serious condition at Blalock Clinic.

Sheriff C. W. Wier said that the shooting occurred about 7:30 p. m. Walter Lee of Bluford Street, Clinton, the only eye witness, told officers that he had driven Walker to his job at the firm, that Walker had been drinking. Lee said he was sitting in his car when Walker and Buffington walked out of the office as if in an argument and that the employer fired once when Walker

shook a hand in his face. Buffington surrendered and turned the gun over to Clinton Police-man Ted Ward and told him to call the sheriff.

Buffington was released on \$1,000 bond Monday after being charged with assault and battery with intent to kill.

The warrant was issued by Magistrate Lucile Watts of Laurens, and was signed by Sheriff Wier. Buffington told officers that Walker threatened him and told him he was "going to kill me." He said that he had told Walker that if he came to work drinking again he would fire him and that that was what happened.

Walker lives in a house near the stove plant, and Buffington resides on North Broad Street in Clinton.

Totals \$475,867

County Bill Introduced

The Laurens County appropriations bill was introduced in the House of Representatives last week by the county legislative delegation, when it had first reading. Second reading was expected some time this week. The measure will go to the Senate after third reading in the House.

The bill calls for total appropriations of \$475,867, about \$400 more than last year.

Estimated revenues of \$379,530 will be received from sources other than direct county taxation, leaving \$96,337 to be raised by a 9-mill county-wide tax levy.

Legislators in Laurens Monday stated that the bill probably will be amended in several instances before enactment.

Leading appropriations is the Board of County Commissioners for a total of \$215,385. Largest item is for \$164,280, which includes \$49,280 for salaries; \$90,000 for maintenance of roads and bridges and supplies, and \$25,000 for trucks and road machinery.

Appropriations for other offices are Clerk of Court, \$33,600; Auditor, \$13,005; Treasurer, \$10,855; Supt. of Education, \$5,586; Sheriff, \$83,159; Judge of Probate, \$11,650; Health Dept., \$18,533; Magistrates, \$7,794; Agriculture, \$6,230; Dept. of Public Welfare, \$9,775; County Service Officer, \$7,500; Domestic Relations Court, \$5,520; County Library, \$17,000; Coroner, \$2,400; County Physician and Medical Supplies, \$1,550; Forest "Fire Control," \$200; Miscellaneous, \$17,625; National Guard Units, \$1,200; Contributions, \$2,300.

Estimated revenues are: fines, licenses and fees, \$50,985; gasoline tax, \$131,000; alcoholic liquor tax, \$34,756; beer and wine tax, \$10,207; bank tax, \$2,998; bond premium and interest, \$2,000; county's part of income tax, \$64,934; delinquent taxes, \$10,000; delinquent tax

fees, \$6,000; insurance license fees, \$19,000; treasurer's fees (recording, etc.), \$12,000; national forestry funds, \$9,050; miscellaneous, \$18,000; sheriff's fees, \$1,000; birth certificate funds, \$1,500; Service Officer, \$5,100; NYA building rent, \$1,000.

The bill also provides a school tax in Districts 55 and 56 of 35 mills each, with one mill for retirement of indebtedness, and for mills of the total in District 56 for bond retirement.

A one-mill county-wide fund tax of one mill is also included.

Second Semester To Begin Friday

The second semester of Presbyterian College's 79th academic session will get underway Friday morning with registration for classes.

Students return to school after a week's intermission following final examinations that closed out the first semester last Saturday.

They will begin second semester classwork on Saturday morning under a revamped schedule which finds the first class starting at 8 o'clock instead of 8:50 as previously. Classwork then will proceed uninterrupted until April 14 and the start of a week-long Easter vacation.

Hampton Ave. PTA Group In Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Hampton Avenue Parent-Teacher Association was held Tuesday evening with the president, Claude Crocker, presiding.

Following the opening prayer led by Dr. Fred Holcombe, John Minnaugh treasurer, presented the proposed 1959-60 budget, which was adopted after discussion.

The program on "Health and Your Child" was presented by three doctors, Dr. R. M. Fuller, medical; Dr. N. C. Wessinger, dental; and Dr. Fred Holcombe, optometry.

Jimmy D. Bass, Jr. Named Manager Of Todd Grocery Co., Inc.

Jimmy D. Bass, Jr., has been named manager of the local office of the J. C. Todd Grocery Co., Inc., succeeding J. Pratt Prather, who recently retired.

Mr. Bass held a position with the Spotts Wholesale Grocery in Laurens before being transferred to the Clinton office. He is a graduate of Clinton High School, attended Presbyterian College and a graduate of the Greenwood College of Commerce.

Four Clinton men are being held in the Laurens County jail on a charge of murder in the shotgun slaying of George Sherfield, 36, last Wednesday night.

A coroner's jury found Monday afternoon that Sherfield came to his death by a gunshot wound and recommended that the men be held for grand jury action.

Sherfield, manager of the Lake Thomas place on the Laurens-Clinton highway, was dead on arrival at the Blalock Clinic after the shooting around 9:45 p. m. outside the tavern.

Norman Holder, 36; Jerry Lamar Harris, Jr., 32; Floyd Cummings, 24, and Jesse L. Welch, 24, were charged with murder in warrants issued after the inquest. The warrants were signed by Sheriff C. W. Wier.

A large crowd attended the inquest conducted by Magistrate Sam McCrary, acting coroner, at the Laurens County court house. Solicitor W. T. Jones questioned the five witnesses who testified.

Olin Daniels of Clinton testified that he was in the Lake Thomas place with a companion when trouble developed between the four men and Sherfield around 9:00 p. m.

The witness said he heard Sherfield tell the four that he "didn't want any trouble." Daniel said a fight then occurred between Harris and Sherfield after an exchange of words.

After the fight the four men left the place, according to Daniels, and about twenty minutes later someone called "George" loudly from the outside. He said Sherfield went out the door and that the witness walked to the door and looked out and saw the blast of a shotgun.

He said the man holding the gun was beside the fender of a car and that Sherfield was getting up some four or five feet away from the man. Daniels said the wounded man ran to a car and got inside and when he went to see about him he could not see a pulse.

He said the four men jumped into a Packard automobile and pulled off toward Laurens after the shooting.

When questioned as to whether he saw Sherfield with a gun the witness answered that he did not see a gun and that if Sherfield had had a gun he would have noticed it.

June Cantrill told the jury that he lived near the place and that he was in bed when he heard someone call out loudly, "George, George, come on out." He testified that a short time later he heard a shot and a woman's scream.

Deputy Sheriff George Blackwell testified that he took statements from Welch, Cummings, and Harris after the shooting. The deputy said the three men admitted there was "trouble" at the place prior to the shooting and that they left with Holder, went to his brother's in Clinton, picked up a 16-gauge shotgun and returned to Lake Thomas. They said Holder and Cummings went to the tavern door and had words with Sherfield, and a fight followed, according to the deputy.

He said that according to their statements Sherfield and Holder were fighting near a car and Hoyt Blackwell and Cummings were fighting in front of the door.

The deputy said that according to the statements Harris was in the automobile and that Holder went to the car and got the gun. Deputy Blackwell said that one of the men said that Sherfield "had a gun in his belt."

Sheriff Wier said the four men were apprehended by Clinton City police shortly after the shooting. He said Holder admitted to him that he shot Sherfield when the latter "threatened him with a pistol."

The sheriff said that Sherfield was shot behind the left shoulder. The coroner's jury was composed of Gene Bostic, Johnny Wilson, Leonard Bishop, Hugh Ballard, Howard Dunaway, and John Tucker.

Commerce Directors To Meet This Morning

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce will be held this (Thursday) morning at 10 o'clock, officials state.

The session will convene in the Forum Room of the Bank of Clinton.

To Open Bids On County Road Work

Bids will be opened by the State Highway Department in Columbia on Feb. 16 for resurfacing sections of U. S. Route 76, 76 By-Pass and 276, and Road 99, in the Laurens area. Total mileage involved is 6.18 miles.

Legion To Meet

The regular monthly meeting of Copeland-Davidson Post American Legion will be held tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 at the Legion building on the Whitmore highway.

INVITED TO PARLEY

Claude A. Crocker, Industrial Relations Director, Clinton - Lydia Mills, has been invited to attend the President's Conference on occupational safety in Washington, D. C., March 1-3.

Death Claims R. R. Blakely, Former City Postmaster

Ralph R. Blakely, 69, former Clinton postmaster, died at an early hour Saturday morning at Blalock Clinic after several years of declining health. He was a native of Laurens County where he spent most of his life. He was the eldest child of the late John T. and Ella Bennett Blakely. He was a member of Broad Street Methodist church, a veteran of World War I, serving in the U. S. Navy. He was also a past master of Campbell Lodge 44, AFM.

Mr. Blakely was in the hardware and seed business here for a number of years and in recent years had been connected with the operation of Tanglewood Farm near the city in a shrubbery and plant growing enterprise, both in partnership with his brothers.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lois Newkirk Blakely of Clinton; two daughters, Mrs. H. R. McLeod of Mcbee; and Miss Florence Blakely of Durham, N. C.; three grandchildren; one brother, J. Aldine Blakely of Clinton; six sisters, Mrs. G. A. Burton, Mrs. M. L. Robertson, Miss Iona Blakely and Miss Lois Blakely, all of Clinton; Mrs. James Monroe of Latta; and Mrs. Harris Covington of Hamlet, N. C.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at his residence, 305 South Owens St., by the

Rev. Joel E. Cannon. Interment was in Rosemont cemetery. Pallbearers were Jeff D. Boland, Jr., Carlton F. Winn, Davis R. Holland, Sr., Mac B. Hipp, Jr., Rufus E. Sadler, A. A. Ramage, Jr., M. Dillard Milam, Jr., and J. Kenneth Haselden.

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RALPH R. BLAKELY As Master of His Masonic Lodge A Number of Years Ago