

The parent company of a grocery firm with a store in Whispering Pines has asked the village for a gambling permit. Village Attorney T-C Morphis Junior said this week that gambling of the kind being sought has been declared legal by the North Carolina General Assembly after a court challenge failed. S-A-S hopes to establish an electronic gambling business in a building next door to the Blue Top Grocery. An S-A-S Representative said the building has been empty for a long time and that the enterprise would bring business activity and employment. He explained that S-A-S would own the hardware and rent the software. The customer, he said, would put money in the machine and play. Winning and losing, he said is predetermined, depending on the programmed payoff set by the operator. Mayor Pro-Tem Randy Saunders suggested caution in the face of many unanswered questions and the hearing was recessed until the next council meeting.