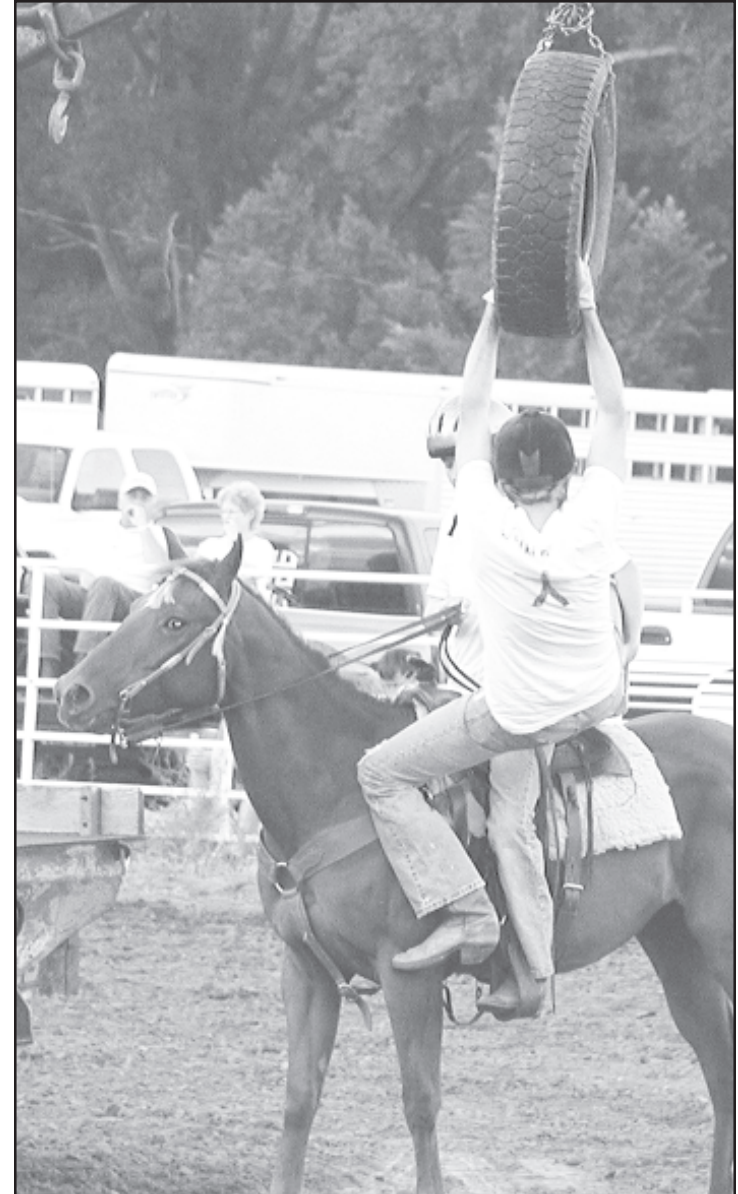




Living Waters Church - First place - Organization Division



THE FASHION REVUE winners, Aryn Sturgeon, Kaycee Williams, Shakota Blanka and Dalton Straub threw candy during the parade on Saturday. (Right) The hangman's race



Times photos by Karen Krien, Lezlie McCormick and Chase Barnhart

## Several attend council meeting for budget hearing

**By Melinda Basnett**  
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There was an audience for the Monday evening Bird City City Council meeting. Many had come for the budget hearing (see related article) and most stayed for the rest of the meeting to discuss other matters of concern.

Mayor Troy Burr recognized Hal Sager's request of the floor.

He had a few questions concerning hiring policies. He wanted to know why Craig White was hired even though there were two other applicants more qualified with verifiable high school educations.

"He was hired at the council's discretion," Mayor Burr answered.

Mr. Sager also asked questions concerning wages; who the city superintendent is and why he was not in charge of the city employees; and why this wasn't being addressed.

"Also, where is the plan for the corner of Bird Avenue where the new sign was installed?" he asked.

"Does the city have a plan of what it will look like? Was the family of Ann Maring notified of the

changes? They donated the money for that area. Where is the plaque? Where will the Bird Avenue sign be placed?"

"Did the council give permission for the solicitation for maintaining eight spots in the park? The city does still own the park — right?!"

"I'm just asking. I don't enjoy being lied to in front of a council meeting, and I'll leave it at that," he concluded.

"Why couldn't the merry-go-round and animal swings stay in the park?" Darlene Burr asked. "The little kids have nothing to do. The swings are too high for them."

"We need to decide if this is Bird City's park or a Century II Town," Ted Partch said. "You, as a council, have let a few who don't even all live here make all the plans and then you approve them."

Cathy Domsch, Century II director, spoke up, after many rude interruptions.

"I have had five town meetings with ample opportunities for any suggestions," she said. "I have been to numerous council meetings ask-

ing for input and, if anyone has any questions or suggestion, they can come to my office and talk to me — I'm an easy person to talk to."

A final complaint was heard from Darlene Burr asking what could be done about four-wheelers on the streets. It was explained that they are legal on city streets, but must obey all traffic ordinances. She was told that if someone is speeding and she wished to file a complaint, she could do so.

**Waste water project**

A representative from Miller and Associates, the engineering firm hired for the waste water project, was present to ask the council members for their preferences on the fencing options for the waste water facility. After hearing the options, the council approved putting up a four-strand barbed wire fence around the perimeter of the property.

The next issue on the project was the demolition of the existing waste station. It was explained that most structures are removed to a depth of 3- to 4-feet below grade and then

back filled. Complete removal of footings would cost a great deal more so members voted to go with the 3- to 4-foot below grade demolition including the building.

**Building permits**

Two building permits were approved. The first for CR Interest to build a sidewalk on their property located on the corner of Third Street and Burr Avenue. The second permit was for Sherry Carmichael to build a sidewalk on her property at 216 E. Fifth Street at the rear of the home adjacent to the patio. **Both were approved with one abstention from voting on each.**

**Park project**

The council was informed that the new grass is coming in nicely and is needing mowed. Council members discussed whether it would be better to use a push mower on it the first few times, and if it needed to be mulched or bagged.

"Will the chicken and duck swings be put back?" Frank Serrano, councilman, asked.

"Yes, they will be moved over some, but yes, they are in storage

waiting to be painted and put back once the improvements are further along," Wade Carmichael, council member, said.

**Cleanup**

Members discussed properties needing cleaned up.

There are ordinances in place that can be enforced, but the council would like to find ways of being proactive instead of reactive to these properties and their owners.

The concerns are that some areas get more attention than others. They would like the city, as a whole, to look nice. Buildings and structures along the highway and entrance to town give anyone entering Bird City their first impression.

The city attorney will be contacted for more information on the process of cleaning up nuisance properties.

**Other business**

In other business:

- Complaints about a black lab running loose were voiced and Cody Beeson, deputy, said he would check into it.
- Mayor Burr said he had spoken

to Dave Hickert and grant applications for the emergency building were being worked on. Century II is helping with the process.

- Mayor Burr had also spoken with Marcia Hickert and things are going well at the housing authority and information for a storm shelter there is still being looked into.
- Approval of using Eagle Wireless internet and sharing the cost with the sheriff's department was given.
- Bids for spraying the park area will be opened.

The Threshers Show board asked about a roll top desk in the city hall and using it in one of their displays. Council had no problem with this as long as the city's name was put on it.

Executive sessions of 10 and 15 minutes were called for employee reviews and to discuss personnel. Upon coming out, the council agreed to give Janna Diers, city clerk, a \$.50 per hour raise. After reviewing Mr. White's 90-day review, it was agreed to give him the 90-benefit packet.