



NO, THIS IS NOT DECEMBER! The first week of May started the month off with blizzard-like conditions. The

snow brought much needed moisture to the region.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Council talks about fixing city streets

By Linda Schneider
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The main discussions between city council members on Monday evening were issues dealing with fixing Bird City streets, progress of waste lagoon, cleaning up properties and unfit structures, equipment repair or replacement, and a request for an increase for the library budget.

City maintenance

Craig White, city maintenance, brought several issues for the council to review and approve. One of them being the condition of the city streets and what is needed to repair them. The council approved for Mr. White to look for an asphalt saw, with a cap of \$1,500.

Motion carried to purchase the patching material, but to look for a paving company to purchase the street sealing rock. When Mr. White tried to buy the sealing rock, he was told that all orders should have been in two months ago. Chris Miller, who is was present concerning the lagoon, said that he would help find a paving company who would provide the service or the materials to do the work.

Mr. White mentioned that in the past when buying the patching material, it was not use immediately and some was wasted. Mayor Troy Burr suggested that measurements be made prior to purchasing the material to avoid the waste.

Lorne White and Deb Smith, council members, expressed the need to fix the streets not just pave over them. It was discussed by council to do one street at a time. Mrs. Smith suggested starting with Bressler Street in front of Hometown Market. Mr. White mentioned it would be a good idea to do curbs at that time.

With Century II Development Foundation providing the funds for cleanup of properties, the council is moving ahead by creating a task force of Lorne White, Wade Carmichael and Craig White, to determine the properties and unfit building that need to be addressed first. It was mentioned that Roy Shrader would be asked to help in making the determinations.

City equipment

Craig reported the mosquito fogger needs repaired. He said it could be just a wire or the controller, which costs around \$4,000, or a new fogger would cost \$8,000. Lorne asked Craig to try the wire and report to the council at the next meeting.

Lorne discussed painting the city shop. The paint would cost \$700. Ray Magnani, council member, suggested that Frontier might have an airless the city could use.

Mr. Carmichael, Recreation and Park Committee, is working to have the community pool opened on Memorial Day after some minor repairs and painting.

Public agenda

The council approved a donation of \$750 for 2008, to the Northwest Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. Carol Redding for the organization made a report of offering assists to eight calls in the Cheyenne County area.

The money will go to the shelter houses and office workers. Ms. Redding made an appeal for the council to approve 2009 donation at their next budget meeting. Council approved.

The Bird City Library board members requested the council to approve an increase in the budget from \$6,700 to \$8,000. This increase would help pay the utilities, building insurance and the salaries.

"We have a beautiful library. When visitors come to Bird City, the library is a place to visit," said Jane Brubaker, president.

Mayor Burr said the 2009 budget meeting is in July and will have an answer then.

Mrs. Brubaker asked the council to appoint a replacement for Jane Young who retired as board member. The council appointed Stan Dorsch to replace Mrs. Young.

Building permit

Council approved one of two building permits submitted by William Johnson. The new construction of a metal shed on residence was approved. The new fence permit will be approved contingent on submitting fence material.

The council approved to purchase an air bleeder for \$200 for the problem Ted Partch is having with air in his lines.

Sheriff report

Sheriff Craig Van Allen reported 123 hours of patrol and duties within city limits. Cody Beeson will be graduating on Friday and returning for duty.

City clerk items

Council approved for Mrs. Diers to be out of the office May 8 and 9 for her daughter's surgery. Angel Pham will be in the office.

Mrs. Diers reported that water loss is still a problem. Down 40 percent from 45 percent last month, the reason is unknown. The council decided to take precautionary measures to find out where the water is going.

"The token system that is in place is very important for knowing where the water is going and needs to be observed," said Frank Serrano, council member.

Mrs. Diers said three cyclists would be coming through on May 15 and pitching two tents in the city park. They will be instructed to pitch the tents on the buffalo grass.

The council called executive session for personnel.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting June 2.



MOVING THE DIRT right along side of the big tractors, this John Deere gets the job done digging the lagoon.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Lagoon progress moving quickly

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Chris Miller, Miller and Associates, attended the city council meeting, answered questions on the progress of the waste lagoon, and submitted the first of several monthly requests for payment. Up to date, construction is moving quickly. There is three weeks of dirt moving left before the rip rap is piled on sides and top of the levy.

Deb Smith, council member, asked Mr. Miller if he had the information about the rate increase that would be passed on the consumers. He said that it is very close to what he had estimated in the beginning, about \$1 a month.

"At the end of the project, we will have a more accurate rate proposal," said Mr. Miller.

Wade Carmichael, council member, expressed concern over the northeast corner of the lagoon. The lagoon is concealing a large area of the eastbound traffic at that intersection. Mr. Miller said that there is already a yield sign in place, but that a stop sign is really needed at the intersection of Road 29 (Tom Sawyer Road) and Road M.

The possibility of cutting back a 100-foot corner was discussed. Mr. Miller said now would be the time to do this while the equipment is here. He would get an estimate on the cost since the wall has already been constructed.

"Drivers on that road need to take personal responsibility on driving safely through that intersection," said Mayor Troy Burr.

Sheriff Craig Van Allen mentioned that having just a yield sign might create liabilities in the future. He strongly suggested a stop sign.

Mr. Miller provided the council with a monthly progress report and requested payment for work done to date.

The council approved the payment of \$57,273 for work completed of which \$28,000 comes from the Community Development Block Grant through the Kansas Department of Commerce, and the balance of \$29,273 from the revolving fund. The payment to the Northwest Kansas Planning Commission, for administrative fees, of \$9,500 comes from the Community Development Block Grant.

Physician assistant retires after 19 years

Patrick Delano will be retiring and the hospital and clinic staff are honoring him with a party from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday in front of the hospital.

Mr. Delano, a physician assistant, was recruited by Dr. Bruce Alter in June 1990. For five years, he ran his own clinic, returning to the hospital's clinic in 1999.

Through the years, he worked with Dr. E.R. Cram, Dr. Alter, Dr. Stan Naramore, Dr. Adam Paoni,

Dr. Melody Armstrong, Dr. Omer Abdullah, Dr. Stephen LaBash, Dr. Willard Werner, Dr. David Reed, Dr. Mary Beth Miller and Dr. Rebecca Allard.

Mid-level practitioners he has worked with include Ken Jenks, Marilyn Barrett, Nadja Button, Kristle Neuhalfen and Tyler Raile.

From the day he arrived, Vicki Coates and Julie Brunk have worked for him.

Grant received to buy ambulance

By Karen Krien
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The grant has been received to purchase a new ambulance and the emergency medical service director was present to tell the commissioners what the emergency medical technicians had decided to buy.

Jannelle Bowers, director, said the majority of the technicians had agreed to purchase a four-wheel drive ambulance. She noted that there were three technicians who did not think a four-wheel drive was necessary. The commissioners said that it would probably be more expensive to purchase plus there would be more costs in servicing, repairing and gas. They also questioned the necessity of a four-wheel drive.

Mrs. Bowers said that it was estimated that a four-wheel drive ambulance would cost about \$3,500 more, which was less than the commissioners had thought. The cost of the ambulance would also need to be within the grant allowance which is \$171,000.

There were five other technicians present: Rod Young, Mike Hanson, Stacy Hazuka, Nancy Semler and Clayton Janicke. Mr. Janicke was one of the three objecting to the purchase.

Mr. Young read a statement about why they needed a four-wheel drive ambulance. He said that only 14 percent of the county roads are paved.

The technicians said there had

been times when they couldn't reach a patient but, if they would have had four-wheel drive, they could. The commissioners agreed that when the roads are icy, the four-wheel drive would be safer.

The ambulance will be a Bird City ambulance, and, while they have fewer runs, the technicians said they spend more time getting to and from the hospital and it was necessary for them to have the new ambulance. They also said that the technicians in both cities worked as a team and if there was a need for the four-wheel ambulance, it would be available.

The director will be seeking firm bids for the ambulance. The commissioners asked that, if possible, it be a Ford product as that is the dealer in the county. The final purchase will need to be approved by the commissioners but they agreed that they will go with the technicians' recommendation.

The commissioners had been informed that any changes made at the new emergency building in St. Francis should be approved by the city superintendent, J.R. Landenberger. This included the new keyless entry which Mrs. Bowers had proposed at the previous commissioners' meeting.

Since it is hard to get any money in the sale of an ambulance, the commissioners said they had no problem with the technicians keeping the old ambulance for training purposes.



Gift shop opens doors to the public

By Linda Schneider
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Bird City has a new business that has opened its doors, Cards & Gifts by Wanda.

Wanda Dowdy has started to sell handmade items that range from \$1.50 for personalized greeting cards to \$40 quilts that are designed and hand-painted by Ruth Moore, her sister who lives in Denver.

Mrs. Dowdy's shop is full of one-of-a-kind items such as her beaded baskets, dolls and angels. She will be creating and displaying a different angel every month.

Wanda and Ruth have taken many hours to design and create those special gifts that make memories that will last forever.

Some of her gifts, such as children's books, Wanda will personalize with a child's name without the book leaving her shop. Another great gift idea is a personalized

graduation memory book.

Wanda will be changing inventory often to reflect the seasons and different occasions throughout the year. Presently, she is displaying Mother's Day and graduation gifts.

Along with the personalized gift items, the shop carries many handmade quilted articles such as therapy bags that can be heated in the microwave oven or put in the freezer for those achy muscles and quilted pot holders.

Wanda is still selling the Americana Sweetheart dolls as seen on her website, www.dowdytreasures.com. She continues to make available her late husband's, Marvin Dowdy, unique formed glass bowls and vases.

Her shop will be open 10 a.m. through 1 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. People may also call to make an appointment. (see advertisement)



WANDA DOWDY looks through greeting cards that she will personalize.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider