



CITY MAINTENANCE WORKERS, Craig White, left, and Brad Schneider inspect the new wastewater lagoon.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider



LEFT TO RIGHT ARE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, Deb Smith, Wade Carmichael and city maintenance, Craig White listen as Chris Miller, Miller and Associates, stands as he presented the updates during the Monday meeting.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Council gets lagoon updates

*By Linda Schneider
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At the Bird City City Council public meeting on Monday, Chris Miller, Miller and Associates, updated the members on the progress of the wastewater lagoon. The company representative also explained the request for payment from BSB Construction for construction done in August that was tabled at the September meeting.

Mayor Troy Burr asked if the payment request was for work up-to-date. Mr. Miller said that the lagoon was 85-percent complete up to Aug. 22.

Councilman Loren White was

concerned about having enough money to finish the project, or could there be some unforeseen expense coming up?

"There can be no new charges without the council's approval," said Mr. Miller. "And the charges first have to come to me with a change order, which I then come to council with the order. There are no changes."

He added that BSB Construction won the bid with \$737,713 for the completed job and it has not changed. In addition, Miller and Associates retain 10 percent, \$66,000, of the money until the project is completed and signed off. Furthermore, the construction of

the wastewater lagoon has a 1-year guarantee that if any part of the lagoon not acceptable, BSB must fix it or the money needed to fix it will come out of the 10 percent.

Mr. Miller told the council his company was the liaison between them and the contractors. Everything has to be to their satisfaction and permits in place before final payment is made.

City maintenance Craig White and Brad Schneider asked about grading the roads and overall maintenance of the area. Mr. Miller mentioned that grass seeding and grading the roads were part of the contract and must be taken care of.

"This lagoon should look good and something this town is proud of," said Mr. Schneider. Mr. Miller assured him that even the grass has to sprout before he will consider the project complete.

The council approved payment of \$253,154.66 to BSB Construction for work done June 21 through Aug. 22; \$4,750 to Northwest Kansas Pioneer Country and Development for administrative activities; \$4,506.05 to Miller and Associates for construction inspection; and \$1,360 to Mid-State Engineering and Testing, Inc. for geo technical services.

Meeting held to hear auditor's report on finances

*By Linda Schneider
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Bird City Council had a public meeting on Monday to hear the audit report from Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball, Certified Public Accountants.

The city audit was done in compliance with the requirements for receiving the Community Block Development Grant from Kansas Department of Commerce and a loan from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for

the wastewater lagoon. The city is required to have an annual audit until the loan is paid off. The audit is to assure Department of Health and Environment that the city is handling their finances properly so the loan is paid.

Brian Staats and Angela Ketterl, auditors, presented the report to the council with their findings, recommendations, and get council's approval.

Mr. Staats reported that Bird City is in compliance Kansas Cash

Based Law with cash receipts and spending in balance, a negative balance of any size would be a state statute violation.

Mr. Staats continued with the city's financial fiscal report that goes from August to August. He report that the city was in good shape with plenty of budget room and no violations.

Something the audit was to assess was the revenue sources and out spending of the city. They were looking for over spending and

found the city was taking a little more in revenue than spending, no violation.

As part of the report, Mr. Staats talked about the revenue the lagoon would generate to pay off the loan and long-term payment schedule.

The audit revealed one non-compliant violation and that the city is required to designate within the organization where public money is kept.

Recommendations from the audit were:

- Put in the meeting minutes where public money is kept.
- Have a standardized personnel manual, specifically payroll policy two signatures on checks.
- Have two sets of eyes reviewing payroll, the city clerk suggested treasurer and city clerk both receive bank statements.

At the August council meeting, all of the above recommendations had been approved and implemented.

"What is our overall grade, if

10 is the best?" asked Mayor Troy Burr.

"Five, in the middle," said Mr. Staats. He went on to say the recommendations are to increase the council members' control and management over the city funds. However, from the standpoint of the lender, the report is acceptable. In addition, if the city follows the auditor's recommendations for next year audit, the overall grade will increase.

Treasure resigns from post

*By Linda Schneider
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When the September Cheyenne County Fair Board meeting started, it lacked enough members to make a quorum, with Dick Bursch, Gary Cooper, Brian Hobrock and John Finley present. However, the meeting would continue and members were able to go over bills and proceed with payments. Later in the meeting, Jared Douthit, Megan Douthit-Downey and Clay Zimbelman arrived to make the quorum.

It was agreed by all present the voting on important issues would wait until the October meeting when there would be a full board meeting for the board elections. There would be a mail-out to all board members as a reminder.

Mr. Zimbelman said Erika Zimbelman would be submitting her resignation from the board, citing that she had "many irons in the fire" with first responders, emergency medical service and grant writing. Mr. Bursch said that Mrs. Zimbelman had told him a few months back she had been thinking about resigning.

Lacy Reed, treasurer, was not present to read the financial report. President Bursch had excused her to serve a family reunion gathering and attend the state fair on Saturday. Mr. Bursch read the outstanding bills to be paid were to KLOE radio station and the newspaper. Members agreed to pay the bills and Mrs. Reed would bring a correct balance of account to the next meeting.

Joe Leibbrandt, county Extension agent, recognized the board for making this year's fair a "good one." The premium sales were \$21,000 over last year and the 4-H kids and families appreciated all the hard work the board did.

"They were a pleasure to work with," said Mr. Bursch.

Mr. Bursch mentioned that he had received many compliments from exhibitors. He continued by saying that he asked them if there were any areas that needed to be changed or made better? Two things came up the most included: 1) Could the board consider hiring judges outside of the area? 2) Could the board consider raising the open class ribbon cash prizes?

People were concerned that there could be a conflict of interest involved with local judges. A 10-minute executive session was called to discuss hiring judges.

No official decision was made, Mr. Bursch said. The matter will be brought up at a later date.

The matter of raising the open class ribbon cash prizes was briefly discussed, with no action taken.

Mr. Hobrock said that several 4-H parents had noticed a crack in the roof at the south door, above the scales. He said that it was difficult to locate at first, but once he saw it he knew it needed to be fixed. The matter was tabled for next month's meeting.

The horse exhibitors suggested spraying for the weeds by the fence and crows nest. It was not a great concern but they thought it would just look neater.

Mr. Zimbelman brought up the concern about Butch Ewing's fence, saying that it needed to be fixed as promised. Everyone agreed and discussed times when it could be done.

Mr. Bursch set the time to get started on digging the holes and getting the materials for 9 a.m. on Saturday. He said that he would get in touch with Nick Ketzner to see if Mr. Ketzner would be available. Mr. Zimbelman said that he would be there.

"We may not get it done, but

we can get started on it," said Mr. Bursch.

A safety issue was brought up about the Demolition Derby. Mr. Bursch reported that he saw drivers deliberately hit other driver's car door, which should have been an automatic disqualification. However, the judges either did not see it or just did not do anything about it. He went on to say that it is a liability issue. No action was taken.

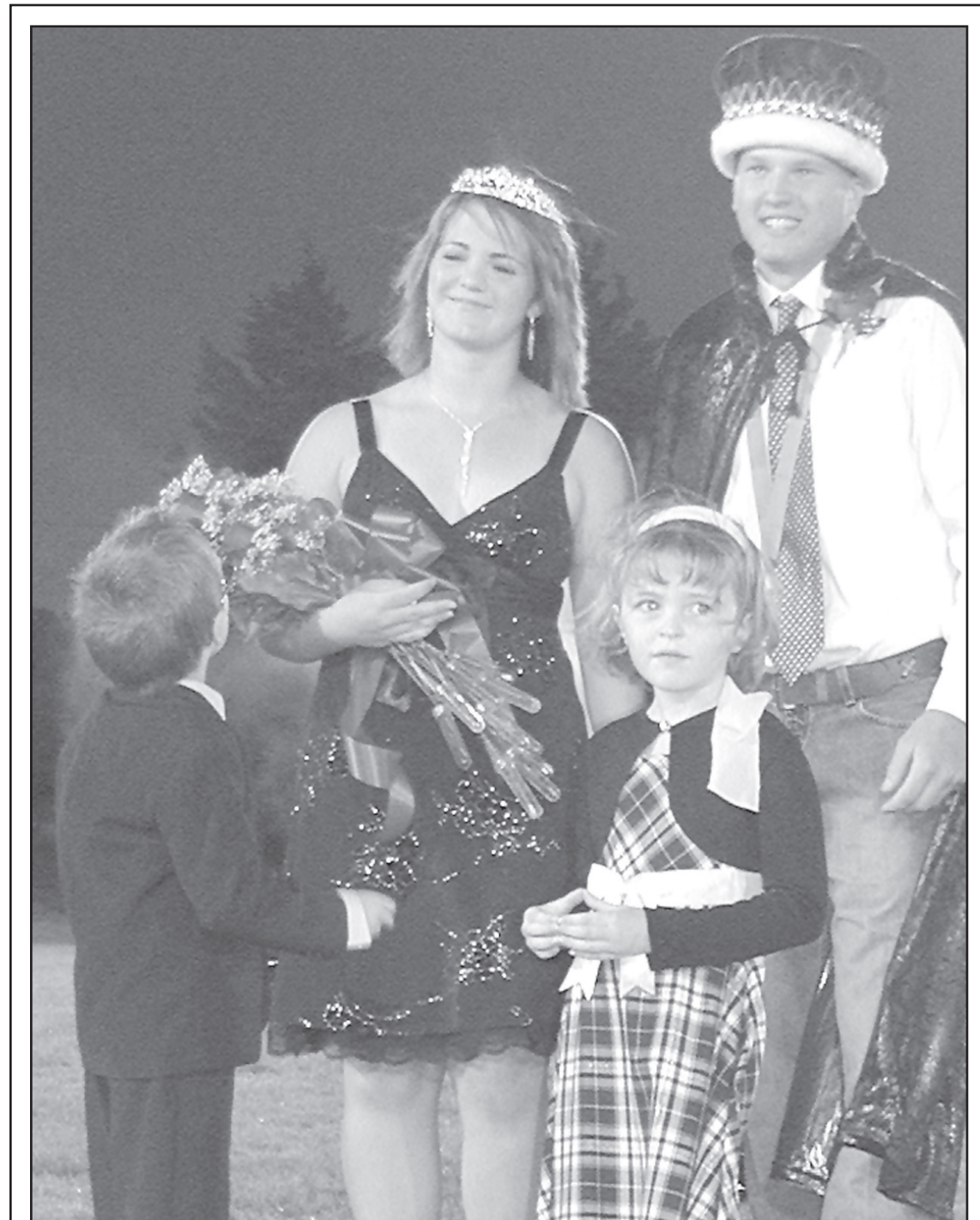
Mr. Hobrock asked the board if they had authorized a reimbursement to the fire department to recharge the fire extinguishers. No action was taken.

The discussion then went to paying the ambulance technicians to be at the derby. John Finley, board member, said the ambulance technicians were getting \$20 each, but the firemen are volunteers. Mr. Bursch said the board would get a ruling from the auditors and commissioners.

Mr. Zimbelman changed the discussion a bit by asking if the board was a member of the Fair Board Association. He said they have workshops throughout the year to help with entertainment, hashing over new carnival ideas, etc.

He went on to say that, he is not complaining about how the fair is going only that being a member would be progressive and bring in new ideas. Membership fees are \$50 annually and \$55 per person, per workshop. The next meeting is Jan. 9 through 11, in Topeka. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Bursch closed the meeting by saying he received many compliments on the cleanliness of the fairgrounds, especially the ladies' rest rooms. He recognized Dan Carson and Pamela Stevens for their outstanding work.



JAYDEN CAHOJ AND SYDNEY BUSSE are crowned the 2008 Homecoming King and Queen during the pep rally held last Thursday. Front (L to R) first graders Jayden Boyson and Kaylynn Hendricks presented the crowns, flowers and cape.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider