

# Office space in city hall topic of conversation

By Linda Schneider  
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Before the regular monthly Bird City City Council meeting began for August, Phyllis Carson, treasurer, presented the members with the 2010 budget for approval.

There will be raised taxes in the general fund to cover the swimming pool expenses. In addition, members visited the pool expenses briefly and were glad that costs stayed under the projected \$30,000 for the 2009 swim season.

### Century II Development Foundation

Cathy Domsch, executive director of Century II, visited with the council members on several different issues.

Mrs. Domsch presented a project concerning establishing a small business development center. She was asking for space, in particular, the small office that is in city hall. However, she was flexible about where it could be set up.

At present, the office is used by the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Department, it has not yet opened to the public.

Mayor Troy Burr asked Sheriff Craig Van Allen what is necessary to maintain a sheriff's office.

"It must be secured to keep records from anyone getting to them," said Sheriff Van Allen.

He went on to say the department is also flexible, but the office should be easily accessible to the public.

The discussion then continued with Mrs. Domsch explaining the business center will be an outreach for nine counties in the state and it would receive state funding.

Mayor Burr and the council all agreed it was a good project to follow up with, however, as for the office space in city hall, the sheriff office will stay. In addition, he asked council to look for space for the small business development center or the sheriff department. No further discussion.

Mrs. Domsch spoke about the entrepreneur booth at the Thresher Show. She presented a list of suggestions visitors had wrote down, both young and old, concerning Bird City community.

"There were a lot of dreams written down, like opening a Starbucks," said Mrs. Domsch.

She continued by asking for approval to set up a tether ball game in Van Doren Park. After some discussion and questions about funding, she assured the members

it would not come out of city funds, council approved for her to proceed with the project.

The final item she wanted to discuss was getting approval for Bird City to get on board with an Audubon Society project called "Bird City, USA."

Since Bird City is the only Bird City in the United States, the Society has asked Bird City to be the first "Bird City, USA." A committee would be formed and an annual "Bird Migration Day" would be in order. This is a national project with fees and dues, however, the Society would pay all of them for Bird City. Motion to join was approved.

### Building permits

The council approved the submitted building permits from John Kamla, which had been tabled from July meeting to research materials, and for a shed on the corner of Bird Avenue and 7th Street from Diana Weinstein.

### Sidewalk improvements

Dana Daniels, Miller and Associates, followed up on the presentation given in the June meeting concerning the beautification of downtown Bird City.

While the council was looking seriously at fixing up the sidewalks, there was much concern about the cost, between \$800,000 and \$1.1 million.

Mr. Daniels answered questions how other communities were able to fund their own downtown projects, he stressed that each one had a different approach to paying and applying for grants are a part of the process. No further discussion.

### Rehabilitation grant

Mayor Burr informed the council that Bird City had been approved for the Community Development Block Grant for rehabilitation, demolition, and repairs in a specific section of the city.

Because of the limit of writing space and complexities with the grant, and not to be confused with the medium housing project, a news release is forthcoming and will explain the process and procedures in applying for assistance.

### New city superintendent

The subject of what is the definition of a disabled/nuisance vehicle and how to approach the problem was discussed again.

Kevin Beren, city attorney, reported that after reviewing the city ordinances that are already in place for addressing a disabled/nuisance

vehicle, it was good enough and added changes would not be necessary. However, he would reword the ordinance and present it to the council for approval.

Mr. Berens did suggest for the council to appoint someone who the public could come to and report such items as an abandoned vehicles and unkempt properties. Motion carried to appoint Brad Schneider, city maintenance, as city superintendent.

Bruce Nickel, McDonald city manager, has been contracted by the city to do the water samples and reports. He told council he has been meeting with Mr. Schneider and training him to do the reports. He continued by saying the state is requiring new testing if water samples prove positive for bacteria, however, Bird City has not had a positive report on bacteria for many years.

### Miscellaneous items

The council visited briefly the following items,

- Linda Schneider asked the council for assistance in appointing someone from the city council to head up the 125-year Bird City celebration. In addition, the first meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 27, in the city hall conference room

- St. Francis police department is interested in purchasing the city's J-signs. Mr. Schneider will research the cost and report to council.

- Relocation of the recycle bins on Demirck Street. A possible location is on the northeast side of the emergency medical service building.

- Approval for the Boy Scout troop to use the Van Doren Scout house under the direction of Gary Brubaker, the troop will clean out the building. Items will go to the city storage unit.

- Weeds growing on the streets will be sprayed next spring before street resurfacing. Council instructed Mr. Schneider to shovel gravel on areas where the gravel is thin and oil is showing.

### Executive session

Executive session was called to discuss personnel. Upon reconvening, motion carried to give Mrs. Ambrosier a \$1 pay raise.

In addition, motion carried to hire Andrew Thomas for the position of temporary city maintenance.

### Next meeting

City Council approved special meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 2, for its regular monthly meeting.



Thresher Queen Mary Dorsch and her sister Betty Miller look at the dolls of previous Thresher queens.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

## Recreation Commission holds annual budget hearing

Additional expenditures for the Cheylin Recreation Commission was one of the topics discussed when they held their annual budget hearing on Monday. The meeting took place at the high school library.

In January, the commission notified the Bird City Council of their decision to no longer manage and lease the pool, which is owned by the city. This allows the commission to offer the community a variety of additional programs.

In addition, the commission has been able to lower the requested

mill levy amount from 12.5 mills to 1.3 mills. Due to the fact that Cheylin valuation levels have dropped, the commission was prevented from lowering the requested amount further.

Since the beginning of the year, the commission has held monthly meetings to discuss possible new activities. Upon hearing suggestions from community members, coaches and senior citizens, they have set their new budget guidelines.

Starting in the fall of 2009, the commission plans to hire a recreation director to organize

the following programs based on interest, National Football League flag football, junior hoops, art camp, 5-on-5 football passing tournament, dance classes, tennis lessons, mixed sports camp (tennis, golf, various lifetime sports), sand volleyball tournament, hunter safety courses, junior garden camp, swim lessons, swim team, water aerobics, camp scholarship assistance, youth Punt, Pass and Kick, junior golf, yoga/tai chi, T-ball, coach pitch baseball, C-team baseball and girls softball to name some of the ideas discussed.

Members of the rec commission have felt that with the release of the pool to the city, they now have time and opportunity to benefit the community as a whole, year round for all age groups,

Community members who have any suggestions or questions may contact commission members: Laurie Leonard, Randy Miller, Jane Young, Belinda Serrano and Amy Hendricks.

The next monthly meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 19, in the high school library.

### South of McDonald News

By Sandy Binning

Marilee Gundlach, Gracie, and Seth of Flower Mound, Texas, arrived Thursday for a visit at the Lynn and Rita Officer home.

Jim Montgomery and his brother-in-law, Fred Allison of Arkansas were weekend guests of Diane Montgomery.

Kristina Springer and Braxton of Manhattan were guests this week of Tom and Kelly Dewey, Tayten and Tru.

Ashley Wahrman and Alyssa were weekend guests of Tom and Kelly Dewey and children.

Brandon and Amanda Winter were weekend guests of George and Kathy Banister and family. Amanda ran the 3K Fun Run in Bird City Saturday morning.

The George Banister family enjoyed supper Saturday evening at Big Eds in Bird City.

Brandon and Amanda Winter,

and Kathy and Debbie Banister called on Amelia Banister and Karlyne Atchison Sunday morning in McDonald.

David Banister attended a wedding Saturday evening in McCook.

Bethel Goltl attended the Steam Engine Show in Bird City Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

### Health Information Management Director

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If you are unable to make the dates above, please call for an appointment.

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Please call Dundy County Hospital at 308-423-2204 ext 229 if you have questions.

### Dundy County Hospital

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