

Council approves ordinance

By Linda Schneider
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During the February Bird City Council meeting, members approved the All-terrain Vehicle and Utility Ordinance that has been bouncing around for several meetings. In addition, DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk, and Brad Schneider, city superintendent, reported to the council that they are getting closer to finding out what may have been causing the large water loss that has been a concern for a long time.

All-terrain vehicle ordinance

Several meetings back, Kevin Berens, city attorney, reported to the council that Kansas had passed an ordinance that would prohibit driving all-terrain and work utility vehicles within city limits.

However, the state would allow local city governments to adopt their own ordinance to let the vehicles be driven within their own city limits.

The council has received several proposed ordinances from Mr. Berens over the past few monthly meetings and due to wording, made several revisions. On Monday, the council approved the ordinance with restrictions to allow the above mentioned vehicles to be driven within the city limits.

The ordinance basically spelled out the rules of operations, proper lighting, as well as proper signs for slower moving golf carts.

After a brief discussion, council approved the Ordinance Number 320. For a complete description of the ordinance and penalties, see page 7.

Water loss

Once again the topic of "where is the city's water going," came up during the meeting.

The search for the water loss has been going on for some time and a constant concern for city council and employees of Bird City who have been trying to find out how to solve the problem.

Over the last two years, specialist have been hired to locate underground leaks, city workers have done their own locating and fixing underground leaks, business and residential meters have been checked, maps brought out to locate possible meters that may have been overlooked, pass city workers have been contacted to help find the answer, and the mystery of the water loss continues.

Mr. Schneider and Mrs. Ambrosier presented what may be a missing piece to the puzzle, and has been suspected before, how the meters have been read at the city wells.

Resident's water meters are basically read and recorded and the amount of water used is compared to what is read and recorded that city well meters are pumping out. And they just have not matched.

"The resident's meters are read and recorded properly, it is just when the water usage is added up, it doesn't match what the well meters say is being pump out," said Mrs. Ambrosier.

Mr. Schneider told the council that city maintenance has repaired some very large leaks and still there is substantial water loss. Both he and Mrs. Ambrosier think investigating the well meters is worth the time.

Housing project

In keeping with the topic of water usage, Mr. Schneider reported to the council the construction at the 5th Ave. housing project has water hydrant and water access.

Discussion followed about who would be billed. Mayor Troy Burr told the council that there would be a billing for the usage, but part of the agreement for the project was that there would not be a billing for connection.

The council instructed Mr. Berens to contact the owner of the property and let them work it out with the construction company.

Rehabilitation grant

Mrs. Ambrosier reported that one demolish had been completed at the cost of \$4,500 provided by the Community Development Block Grant awarded to Bird City in the fall.

Mrs. Ambrosier told the council

there was a risk assessment on lead-based paint that needed to be bid out. She added that she thought it would be good to keep the bidding local to bring work to the area contractors.

She continued by telling them that the Cheyenne County Development Corporation had placed an article in the *Bird City Times* asking for local volunteers to help with some of the basic work for those who are approved for some grant money to keep cost down.

"Chuck (Kribs) did this to help — it is not affiliated to Bird City," said Mrs. Ambrosier.

E-waste recycling

On Monday, during the hours of 10 a.m. through noon, Bird City residents can bring their broken, obsolete, or unwanted electronic items for proper disposal to the city maintenance shop on the southeast corner of Cave and Third.

In case of weather inclement, the date will be changed to Feb. 23.

Bird City streets

Councilman Hal Sager presented a proposal to get street cracks filled. He said that an area in front of the city shop had been done at the end of summer last August and was holding up very well.

Both he and Mr. Schneider felt it would be worthwhile to spend some money to seal up street cracks before they get bigger. It was pointed out that during winter as water seeps into the cracks and freezes causing the cracks to get even wider.

Councilman Frank Serrano asked about how it would look after the work was done. Councilman Sager said the work is to seal the cracks now and lay gravel or other material later.

Councilman Dennis Wright was concerned about the spending and how much of the streets would be covered. He didn't want to spend a large amount of money only to get one block street done. In addition, he wanted to know how long the seal would last.

Councilman Sager said he researched online and found that about \$10,000 covered seven miles of streets; however, the amount and size of the cracks will determine how much and how far the sealing material will go. He added that he felt \$15,000 would cover a substantial area of streets and last seven to 10 years, possibly longer. Motion carried to approve up to \$15,000 to seal the city streets.

Bird City pool

Wanting to get ahead of the game, the council is already discussing the public pool and items that need to be in place before opening day which is typically Memorial weekend.

Ann Burr, pool manager, submitted her report from last year and made some important suggestions on how the pool can run more efficiently. Council agreed to invite her to a meeting to discuss all of them.

Miscellaneous items

In keeping with the flow of topics, council heard and discussed the following items,

- A concern over painting a galvanized roof was discussed. Mr. Berens will investigate the city ordinance and get back to the council.

- Linda Schneider informed the council of planning to have another Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 2.

- City maintenance employees will be attending Kansas One-Call Excavation Safety Training in Colby.

- Mrs. Ambrosier will be attending the 2010 Municipal Clerk Training in Salina.

- The Bird City water tower is due for a new coat of paint, Mr. Schneider will get bids.

- Installation of the new lift generator at the lagoon is complete.

- Mr. Schneider reported the waste water lagoon is running smoothly, water and chemical levels are good.

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held on Monday, March 1.



BOY SCOUTS JACOB BRUBAKER (l) AND CASEY VANDIKE retire the flag colors to close of Kansas Day Celebration.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Sainty hosts forum on cuts

By Casey McCormick

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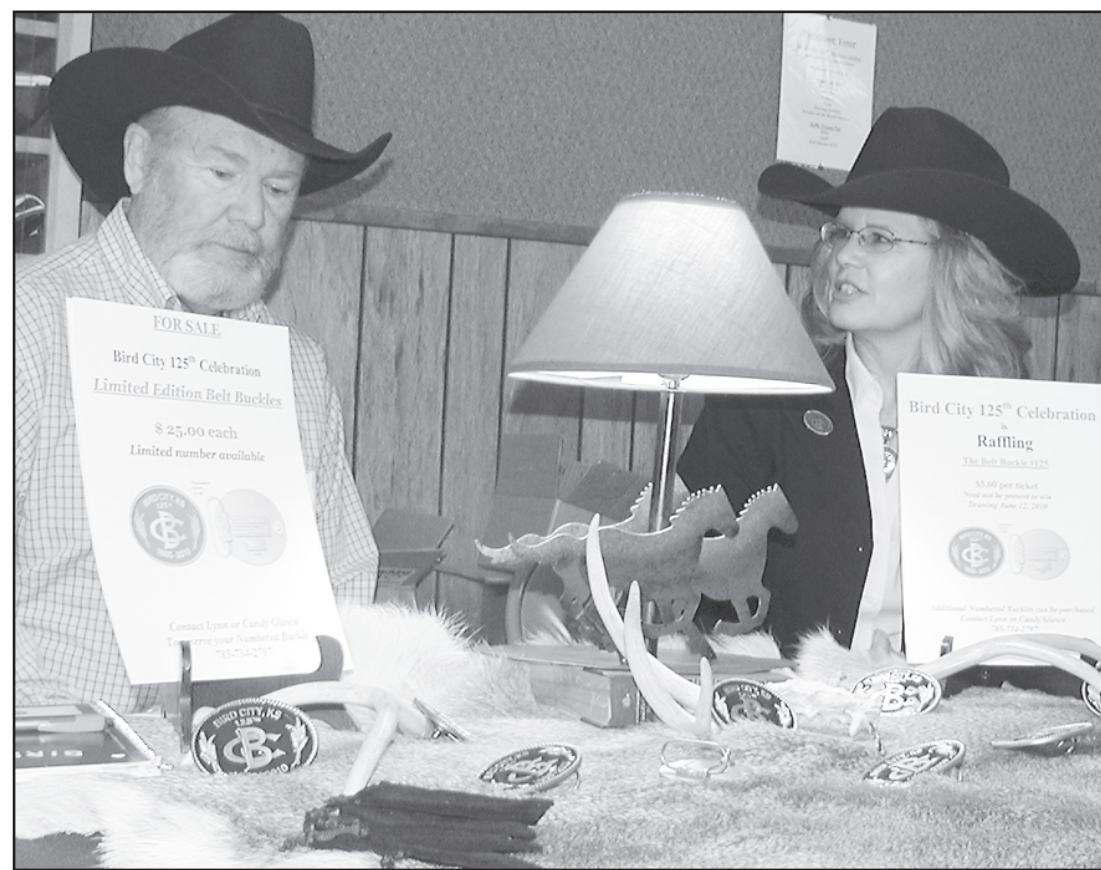
An informational forum will be held on Monday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m., in the Saint Francis high school auditorium. The topic of the evening will be "State Funding Cuts - How will they affect Cheyenne County?"

With the state caught in a financial crunch and population levels on the decline, many are seeking answers to where the county is going. The forum should help individuals better understand the relationship between our government and several area operations. These are the entities that rely on state taxes to operate.

Representatives planning to attend are Rob Schiltz, superintendent of the St. Francis schools, Les Lacy, administrator of the Cheyenne County Hospital, and Dr. Mary Beth Miller, medical director of the Good Samaritan Village. In addition, Dale Patton will be representing the Cheyenne County Commissioners.

A local organization, Community Builders, is sponsoring the forum.

The Builders hope the forum will draw families with children, older citizens and anyone who is concerned about the future of this county.



LYNN (l) AND CANDY GLASCO display the newly designed 125-year commemorative belt buckles during Kansas Day on Friday.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Golf club holds annual meeting

On Jan. 27, the Bird City Golf Club held its annual membership drive meeting to discuss finances and elect new officers.

The members met at the Bird City Diner and sat down to a soup and sandwich meal provided by the club.

After the meal, Demi Shahan, president, began the discussion by addressing Laurie Leonard, recreation commission, about the grants from Century II Development Foundation and the pancake feed fund raiser held in the fall last year.

Mr. Shahan continued by suggesting having another fund raiser in the spring to help with expenses. The last pancake feed brought in \$1,800.

"We had eight students from Cheylin who did well in golf," said Mr. Shahan. "I would like to see the Bird City Golf Course stay open for the kids."

There was one new officer elected to the club, Dennis Hengen will be the new president. Mr. Shahan will no longer be serving after 23 years as the club's president however, he will be on hand for advising.

Hal Sager was voted vice president and Barbara Merklin, secretary/treasurer.

Having served for 23 years, Mr. Shahan said he has seen a lot of changes for the golf club, including seeing a decline in membership.

"We had 50 paying members

E-waste comes to Bird City

By Karen Krien

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Earlier, e-waste collections were held only in St. Francis but, on Tuesday, an e-waste collection has been set for 10 to noon at the Bird City city shop and, then, from 12:30 to 2:30, it will be held at the St. Francis Recycling building.

E-waste collections are a place where people can bring computers, monitors, microwaves, televisions and other electronic items which the landfill will not take.

There are only three remaining free collection dates scheduled after Tuesday's collection: April 20, June 22 and Aug. 24. The storm date for Tuesday's collection is Tuesday, Feb. 23.

It is free to households, government offices and education institutions located in the counties that are members of the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Organization. Fees will be applied to items brought in by businesses and organizations.

For more information, contact Roger Jensen at 785-332-5011 or DeAnza Ambrosier, 785-734-2616.

Tons brought in

Last year, Cheyenne County residents brought in a total of 122.2 tons of recyclable items. Broken down, the items and the tons brought included:

Newspapers, 13.1 tons.
Cardboard, 29.8 tons.
Junk mail and chipboard, 21.5 tons.

Magazines, 21.3 tons.
Plastics, 7.4 tons.
Aluminum cans, 1.3 tons.
Tin cans, 3.2 tons.
Glass, 15.3 tons.
E-waste, 9.3 tons.

The recyclables totals brought in by all county members to the Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling Center located in Colby was 1,121.55 tons and 55 tons of e-waste.



Demi Shahan

when I started," he said. "It has dwindled down quite a bit."

He added that he would like to see more residents taking an interest in the golf course and help keep it open, especially for the Cheylin students that like to play golf.