

Council decides to increase water rates in city limits

After the Oct. 3 City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Burr, Charles Coleman and Hal Sager presented the United States of America and State of Kansas Flags to the Mayor and City Council members. After the two presenters posted them, Mayor Burr led the visitors and council members in the Pledge of Allegiance. He suggested that all future council meetings should begin in the same manner.

Water rates

The water rates have been the main discussion of the city council members for months. DeAnza Ambrosier has been checking out every angle as to what is needed to bring the rates to where they need to be in order to apply for grants. In order to be considered for state funding the rates need to be at an average \$33.60 for 5,000 gallons. The way Mrs. Ambrosier figured they could accomplish this was by establishing a 40/100 plan. She suggested raising the sewer rate and base water rate by 40 percent to \$19.60. The percentage increase amount, she explained, is what the Council decided would cover the City's estimated expenses and any future loan payment. By not including any gallons of water in the base fee of \$19.60, and including a \$2.80 per 1,000 gallons fee the residents would have the conception of only paying for the water they actually use. The 40/100 rate plan would meet the states suggested average of \$33.60 for 5,000 gallons of water. Hal Sager was not in favor of taking off the 2,000 gallons from the base rate. His suggestion was to charge \$33.60 per meter and offering the inclusion of 5,000 gallons instead of the current 2,000 gallons. This way he suggested would bring them to the state average of \$33.60, and they would be able to determine what the revenue is each year. Dennis Wright did not feel this would be fair to all residents. He felt it would benefit those who use high volumes of water, but burden the residents that will never ever use the 5,000 gallons of water in a month. Mr. Sager asked Wanda Dowdy, and Charles and Val Coleman, for their opinions on this. Mrs. Dowdy replies that she knew an increase "has to be done" so she understands. The Coleman's were in agreement.

Mr. Sager moved to raise the City's water base rate to \$33.60 including up to 5,000 gallons of water, to increase the \$19.60 flat fee. The motion was carried with three yes votes and two nos.

Wellness center

Rod Kleppers request was approved for a building permit on behalf of Cheylin USD 103 for the new construction of the Community Wellness Center. He said the Center will belong to the school but open to the community for the residents use. The size he said may be changed from the original plans to a fifty by one hundred feet facility. This would allow more room in the center of the building for group sessions, such as yoga or aerobics. The main construction work will be done by the School Construction class and

community volunteers. A state certified engineer and architect will oversee all the construction plans. Mr. Klepper explained that since this is a community project, contributions are being asked for from residents, and organizations. Cheylin USD, Century II and the Recreation committee have each pledged \$20,000 and they will be applying for grants. Cheyenne County will be donating loads of dirt to be hauled in and used to level the ground as their contribution. Mr. Klepper told the council that he was aware that the city was low on funds and he would like to see the City listed as a contributor towards the building fund. He was asking the city to donate the labor and materials for installing new water and sewer lines and meter for the center at an approximate cost of \$900 to \$1,000, and wave the costs for these services for five years as the city's contribution.

Mr. Klepper said they would have a bathroom with no shower, a drinking fountain, and they plan to plant bluegrass that will require some watering. Frank Serrano was concerned about a means of calling for help in an emergency if someone was utilizing the equipment alone and ran into a medical emergency. Mr. Klepper said he will check into what procedures can be implemented. A decision was made of the council to table this until the November meeting.

Unsafe structure demolition

DeAnza Ambrosier submitted a proposed request for Bids to tear down the Old Theater structure that was determined to be an unsafe structure. City Attorney Kevin Berens said the bids needed to specify the proper amount of insurance required by the contractors for the demolition and requirements for the disposal of the hazardous waste. These items will be looked into and discussed at the next meeting.

Propane contract

Agland propane submitted the new contract for the 2011-2012 winters heating season showing a price increase from \$1.59 per gallon to \$2.05 per gallon. Mrs. DeAnza reported that during the 2009-2010 season 661 gallons of propane was used, and for 2010-2011, there were 610 gallons used. Based on this last year the City contracted for 1,000 gallons at \$1.59 per gallon. A motion was made and carried to accept the Agland, Inc. contract.

Historical request

The State Historical Association approached Wade Carmichael with a suggestion that some of Bird City's buildings qualify as historical properties, and by deeming them as such would open up opportunities for grant funding. After council members discussed the pros and cons of this, Mayor Burr said he wasn't interested in seeking historical status for City buildings.

Equipment

Shannon Ambrosier presented several quotes for new tires for the skid loader. The lowest bidder was Frontier AG, Inc. in the amount of \$291.99. Council members were in favor of accepting this quote.

Street patching

Hal Sager reported the maintenance department has been busy patching the pot holes in the streets, in preparation for the winter months. He had authorized the purchase of another load of gravel so the crews could continue working during the warmer days in the month. Maintenance workers have been utilizing the asphalt tar salvaged last month in the oil spill. Mr. Sager said, "I realize it was a mistake, but it has been working out real well." Mr. Carmichael pointed out the dip on the east side of Bird Ave at 7th street has become an issue for the school buses and other vehicles, and requested it be taken care of.

Water meter replacements

The water meters on the new housing units are not compatible Brad Schneider said, it would simplify things if these meters were replaced to be read along with the rest of the city meters. Permission was given for Mr. Schneider to purchase 7 new meters for replacement at an estimated cost of \$78 each through Water Products, Inc.

In other business

Tom Baily was appointed by Mayor Burr to fill the vacant Library Board position.

Stacey Hazuka was appointed by Mayor Burr to fill the vacant Housing Authority position

After advertising for a buyer of the old storage tank by the city shop and no response, the City Clerk was granted permission to check into salvage bids.

The next City Council meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 7.

Parts of this report were taken from the unapproved minutes of the Oct. 3, city council meeting.



CODY GRAHAM from Shaw Construction Co. is finishing the concrete foundation for the Wellness Center. Times staff photo by Norma

Cougars defeat Titans

By Nathan Fiala
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The Cougars traveled to Brewster and won another football game last Thursday against the Triplains/Brewster Titans in a first half blowout, 48-0.

Jeremiah White put up some crushing stats with six touchdowns and one 2-point conversion in 200 rushing yards. Adam Orten ran in one touchdown with 38 rushing yards, had three unassisted tackles and five assists. Austin Manners ran in two conversions with nine rushing yards, had three lone tackles and four assists. Ethan Young had two sacks and two tackles. Noah Jones had five tackles, 11 assists and one sack. Luis Solis had two tackles. Joshua Keltz and Ruben Razo each had a tackle and Ty Carmichael, Shawn Pochop and Cory Rucker each had a quarterback sack.

The Cougars record is 8-1 this season and they will play the Victoria Knights on Tuesday at Home.



NOAH JONES, senior, making a tackle during the Cheylin vs. Triplains/Brewster game last Thursday. Also pictured is 33, Ty Carmichael, sophomore. Photo by Darci Shields

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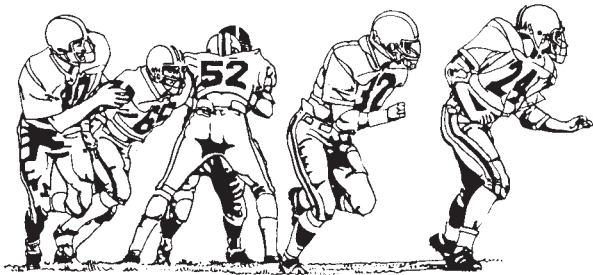
Cheyenne Bowl

November Events

Cosmic Bowling
Every Saturday 10:30-12:30
Family Cosmic Bowling
November 18, 8:00-10:00 p.m.
reservations recommended
Tuesday Night Pizza
Buy a large pizza, get a medium at half price
Wednesday Night
Waffles 5:00-7:00 p.m.

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Monday Night Mixed
Short season starts Nov. 7,
ends Feb. 27
Thursday Night Womens
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November 17th
Nutrient Management
By: Tim Shaver

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Thurs., November 17, 2011 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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