

Council plants ideas for landscaping and improvements

At the regular meeting of the Bird City City Council on Nov. 5, Wade Carmichael, councilman, reported he hadn't put together a specific cost estimate for the landscaping he would like to install outside of city hall. He would like to plant a couple of trees on the west side of the building, plant either bluegrass or buffalo grass, and install an underground sprinkler system. They should probably just focus on the front and sides of the building and not worry about the backyard, he said.

Mr. Carmichael estimates the cost being approximately \$1,200 for everything if city employees did the work themselves.

We shouldn't be in a big hurry right now, said Shannon Ambrosier, councilman, noting that he didn't want to jump into something without carefully planning it out.

Mr. Carmichael suggested scal-

ing the project down and doing landscaping just in front of the building.

The discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

Thresher show grounds water meter

Clerk DeAnza Ambrosier said she and Rod Klepper, Thresher Association treasurer, had discussed the on-going issue with the water lines at the Thresher show grounds. Mr. Klepper was unable to attend the council meeting.

Mrs. Ambrosier said the Thresher grounds meter and the Carson's meter were both replaced with identical one-inch meters and the Carson's water usage is subtracted from the Thresher's usage each month because the meters are on the same line. Mr. Klepper still feels that they are being charged for more water than is actually used.

Mr. Klepper requested that the

city consider teeing off of the main line with their meter so that an actual reading can be recorded each month. Mr. Schneider said the cost to move the meter would cost approximately \$1,000.

Mayor Troy Burr said he will meet with Mr. Schneider and Mr. Klepper to find out specifics and to see if they can work out a plan.

Scout Hut grant application

Councilman Dennis Wright said the Girl Scouts would like to apply for a grant with Century II to replace the windows in the Scout Hut. He said they would like Council approval prior to applying.

Mr. Carmichael expressed some concern about changing the look of the building. Mr. Wright reassured the council that they will try to keep everything looking as original as possible. He said Larry Schultz has agreed to donate labor to install the windows.

The council approved that Scouts apply for the grant.

Park improvements

Mr. Carmichael reported that they are finally installing the pergola at the park and that the project is almost complete. He said the pool and the shelter house have both been winterized and Brad Schneider, maintenance supervisor, is working on getting the park water lines blown out.

There are a few lights out along the walking trail and Mr. Carmichael said he would like to use some of the remaining park grant funds to purchase another truckload of mulch for the playground.

Temporary-vacation disconnections

Clerk Ambrosier asked the Council if she could place customer utility accounts on inactive status while they are gone on vacation or out of town for an extended period of time. She

had presented this option to the council in the past and was told that if a customer is connected to the system, they will be required to pay the minimum each month whether or not they use any water.

However, the clerk received another request and would like the council to reconsider their previous decision. The issue of whether or not the water meter should be pulled was discussed. Frank Serrano, councilman, said pulling the meter would prevent the meter from freezing up while the customer is gone.

After discussion, the council agreed that customer accounts may be put on inactive status when the customer is out of town. The customer will be required to pay a \$25 disconnection fee and the meter will be pulled, tagged and stored at the maintenance shop. Upon the customer's return, they will be charged a \$25

reconnection fee to have their meter reinstalled and services re-activated.

In other business

In other business:
• Clerk Ambrosier has been notified that the city was over-paid by the county of the Intangibles Tax. Phyllis Carson, treasurer, explained that the overpayment must have been over several years. She said she will have more details after meeting with the county treasurer.

• A building permit for the construction of a new porch was approved for Shannon Ambrosier.

• Mrs. Ambrosier reported of the revenue generated following the water rate increase in October 2011. She showed that from Nov. 1, 2011 to Nov. 1, 2012, water sales revenue increased by \$108,965 from the previous year's time frame. The sewer fund revenue increased by \$17,268.

City discusses maintenance matters

City maintenance was one of the matters discussed at the Nov. 5 Bird City City Council meeting.

Shannon Ambrosier, councilman, said he had asked other members of the council to take a look at the Frontier Ag water line he had discussed at the previous meeting. He said the line has never been metered and needs to be capped by the city.

If that line freezes, he said, it would be the city's responsibility because it is a main service line. Other council members agreed.

Frank Serrano, councilman, said that something needs to be done because no one is paying for

the water that is coming out of the line. Brad Schneider, maintenance supervisor, said he will get the line dug up and capped.

Wade Carmichael, councilman, reported that he had received a quote of \$8,500 from Shaw Construction to creating a parking area on the portion of land offered by Nick and Heather Boyson. The quote includes curb and gutter, handicap accessibility and cement.

The homeowner's water meter barrel, he said, is in the project area and would need to be moved at the expense of the city.

Hal Sager, councilman, said the addition of parking in the proposed area would give room for approximately five or six vehicles.

Mayor Troy Burr asked when Shaw Construction would be able to do the job. Mr. Sager said they could begin anytime.

Mr. Carmichael asked Mr. Schneider how much it will cost the city to move the meter barrel. Mr. Schneider said fittings, a yoke, digging, etc., to move the meter and barrel will cost approximately \$500.

Mr. Carmichael said he would like to see the project happen but he would also like to see the school

share in some of the cost, if they were to proceed. He asked if the city really should spend \$10,000 for a little bit of extra parking for the school right now.

Councilman Dennis Wright agreed, asking if that was the best way to spend that much money. Mayor Burr decided to leave the issue for more consideration in the future.

Water leak

Mr. Schneider reported that he had repaired a water leak at 3rd and Burr Ave. He was able to locate the main line. The valve was leaking but they ran a new service line and installed a new meter barrel.

Mayor Burr asked if he was documenting hours spent and materials used for each water leak so they have records of each leak. Mr. Schneider said they have been keeping records of each leak.

Clerk DeAnza Ambrosier suggested taking photographs of a water leak before and after each repair so that Miller and Associates will know all the specifics of each repair.

East 5th Street water line replacement

Mr. Schneider reported that the repair of the valve on East 5th Street was complete. He said they replaced a 2" line on Ketchum but did not replace all of the lines they were planning on. He said the service line going to the second house looked okay.

Line locator purchase request

Mr. Schneider said they accidentally caused some unnecessary damage due to not being able to locate the service lines. He said the Line Locator tool they have doesn't work properly so he'd like to purchase a new one.

Mr. Wright asked him if he has been installing metal tracer wires in the plastic pipe they've used to repair leaks. He said they haven't been, but it would be a good idea to start doing that.

He said a line locator costs approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500. He said they use the locator on almost every dig to locate lines.

Mr. Schneider was instructed to bring specific prices to the next meeting.

Cougar Activities

By Bru and the Crew Football wrap-up

The combination of season ending-injuries and a difficult schedule put a third straight league and district championship season out of the Cougars reach. However, being the resilient team they are, the Cougars were able to come together and make the best of the

season.

The Cougars finished the year with five wins and four losses. This marked the third straight winning season for the Cougars and a three-win one-loss league record was enough to give the Cougars the league runner up spot. Both Northern Valley and Weskan held undefeated league

records and were both named league champion.

The top performers for the Cougars this season are as follows:

Passing: Heath Churchwell, 12 completions, 20 attempts; 141 yards; 4 touchdowns; 1 interceptions. Kenan Reeh, 24 completions; 59 attempts; 356 yards; 6 touchdowns; 5 interceptions.

Rushing: Eddie Frisbee, 89 carries; 418 yards; 3 touchdowns; Austin Cobb, 70 carries; 226 yards; 4 touchdowns.

Receiving: Walker Janicke, 20 receptions; 316 yards; 4 touchdowns.; Joshua Keltz, 12 receptions, 152 yards, 2 touchdowns.

Congratulations to Kenan Reeh on being named second team All-league defensive-back, Ruben Razo on second team All-league kicker and honorable mention All-league defensive lineman, and Joshua Keltz on honorable mention All-league defensive lineman. Congratulations to all our Cougar men on a great season.

We'd also like to congratulate Stephanie Busse on her All-league First team selection and Shayla Hubbard on her All-league honorable mention selection.

Good luck to the Cougar basketball teams in their games against Grinnell/Wheatland this Friday. Go Cougars!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Society budget defined from last weeks story

In last week's Herald and Times newspaper, there was an article on the Good Samaritan Society's visit with the county commissioners. There was a sentence that read: "Because there had been no budget submitted by the Society, the commissioners had not put a line item in the 2013 budget for the nursing home."

Jeff Paulsen, Good Samaritan Village administrator, reported the Society had submitted a 2013 bud-

get to the commissioners in June.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, he said the commissioners had not put in a line item for the Village because the county did not own the facility. The auditor said that they could not put in a line item on something they did not own.

However, the commissioners had padded other line items so there would be enough money if it were needed.

Word Facts

- Americans routinely use about 10,000 words, but can generally recognize between 30,000 and 40,000.
- More than 40 percent of the water used in the United States is used for irrigation.
- When the Krakatoa volcano erupted in Indonesia in 1883, the sound was heard 3,000 miles

away.

- The unit of electric measurement called the "volt" is named for the Italian scientist Alessandro Volta.
- The helicopter was invented in 1907.
- With an estimated 250,000 species, flowering plants are the most numerous plants on earth.

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2008 Ford Explorer XLT, Leather, Clean,	\$20,200
2008 Dodge 2500 Diesel, great shape	\$31,995
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