

Council discusses refurbishing the city water lines

By Norma Martinez
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Wade Carmichael called the June 3 City Council meeting to order and conducted the meeting until Mayor Hal Sager arrived from a late doctor's appointment. Mr. Carmichael began by briefing council members on the special meeting held at 4:30 p.m. with Corina Cox from Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission. Ms. Cox presented the paperwork to reapply for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment loan for refurbishing the water lines and installing insert valves to isolate sections of the system and limit the area of service that has to be shut off to repair future breaks. The loan application was signed during that special meeting.

Councilman Dennis Wright advised building superintendent Brad Schneider that he needed to compile a list of dates and details of improvements the city has made to the town. He also told him Mrs. Cox recommended before and after pictures to be taken of any repairs he does. This information, she said, will be helpful in applying for future grants. City attorney, Kevin Berens said all council members needed to review Ordinance 330 that was published in last week's paper.

The city should be advised of the status of this loan sometime in January.

Sheriff report

Sheriff Cody Beeson and undersheriff, Tony Rodriguez were in attendance at the regular meeting. They reported that most of their time recently spent in Bird City has been with dealing with criminal mischief due to property damage and dogs at large. These reports have almost become a weekly thing, Sheriff Beeson said.

Most of this criminal mischief and property damage is due to underage drinking which they are cracking down on. During the fall and spring the sheriff's department tried verbal warnings, to no avail. As a means of tackling this situation they have changed their times of patrol and routes. Mr. Beeson also said Cheyenne County is showing an increase in illegal drug use. They are working on finding the suppliers of the drugs and alcohol.

Plans are being made by the department to do more public relations work. They are thinking of holding leadership classes and other events such as laser tag to entice teenagers' interest and participation.

With the present situation the sheriff has started spending less time patrolling Bird City during the daytime and will be around much more in the evening when the trouble is apparent.

They are also cracking down on serving summons for reports of dogs at large. (See the separate article on these regulations).

Sewer cleaning and check

Lewis Hyatt with Johnson Service Company from Kearney, Neb., was in attendance to present the company's sewer cleaning

process. They use a process of cleaning the lines with a jet vacuum which sucks debris out of the system rather than pushing them farther downstream. They also use a camera to locate roots, cracks and other issues in the sewer pipes from manhole to manhole and generate a report showing the issues and locations. Mayor Sager asked where they would obtain the water to run the vacuum. Mr. Hyatt said they usually use the fire hydrants or bulk water.

Ned Smith asked about the time frame they would have to do the job. Mr. Hyatt said they were presently scheduled until late summer or early fall so the council decided to hold off on a decision to use these services until a later date.

Street and mower repairs

Mr. Schneider reported the gravel is in, and one-third of it has been mixed for use and the rest is being stored. The mixture looks good, he said, we are ready to go, but weather and other situations that crop up have prolonged getting started.

Yost Farm Supply said the mower would be ready so they can start mowing the park on Thursday.

City clerk

Clerk Ailysa Blair reported that Angela Ketterl from Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball was here on May 14 to complete the office portion of their audit. This report will be presented at the July meeting.

A suggestion she gave Mrs. Blair was to use Quickbooks to do the payroll. This program automatically enters and figures taxes and deductions from the employee's paychecks, and keeps track of vacation and sick time. Mrs. Blair was given permission to obtain the quickbooks program.

Swimming pool

Lifeguard Forrest Burr appeared as a representative of the pool lifeguards. She was asking permission to purchase a gallon of paint at a cost of \$27 to paint the triangles on the exterior of the pool house. She assured Mayor Sager it would only be the lifeguards that would be doing the painting, and to Wade Carmichael it would only be the triangles. Her request was approved.

Report on city worker

Mayor Sager asked city worker Robert Sharp to attend the meeting so he could introduce him to council that he has not had the opportunity to get acquainted with. Mr. Sager stated he is doing a very good job, and Mr. Schneider is very pleased with his work, says he is a hard worker and willing to do anything he is asked to do.

Councilman Carmichael was asking about the budget for this year and it was decided they would discuss the budget at the council meeting on July 1 and have it published in August.

Editor's note: Items for this report were taken from the unapproved minutes of the June 3, council meeting.



ASHLEY RAILE is instructing Norma Martinez on the proper use of the equipment she will be using for her program to get into shape for her age.

New director takes over center job

Ashley Raile, the director of the Wellness Center, was at the Center from 8 a.m. – noon on Monday thru Thursday last week. She came full of enthusiasm to have her first job working with her degree from Sterling College.

Things were slow in taking off for her, but on Thursday Norma Martinez and Beth Klepper gave her lots of homework for the weekend. After showing them how to use the equipment and instructing them on how to form a workout program, she said she would do the research needed to help them form a plan toward establishing their goals in weight loss and building strength. She also stressed the importance in doing it in a safe manner.

"I am not a personal trainer, but I will assist anyone who may need help with equipment and help them with planning a workout,"

Mrs. Raile said.

Ashley was born to Neal and Judy Gasper in Tipton and graduated from Tipton High School. Since she had been involved with sports all her life, she knew she wanted to continue with sports. She majored in sports management and played basketball at Sterling College. With her degree she had an emphasis on coaching and being involved with recreational committees.

Growing up on a farm in a small town she was used to small town life, so it was easy for her to relocate to St. Francis where her boyfriend, Michael Raile, lived. She went to work at Bankwest in January 2012. They became engaged in February and married that September. She quit the bank to coach the junior high girl's basketball and substitute teach at Cheylin.

"Exercise is very important as

people can accomplish a sense of wellbeing through exercise," she said. "Being active through exercise will help you feel better about yourself; give you more energy to be able to accomplish tasks that may not have been so easy before. It takes motivation to want to take that first step towards exercising. Ask a friend, your spouse, kids or take your pets to get out and start walking."

Ashley said she is involved in exercising programs. After moving to St. Francis, she said she heard of N'Balance. Natalie Knodel is the trainer/owner and Ashley said working out two days a week has made a tremendous difference in the way she feels.

All it takes, she said, is just telling yourself that you can get up and moving. I am very thankful to have spent the last year working out with Natalie because I have

learned so much in being able to pass on my knowledge off to others.

I look forward to meeting new faces around the community and continue seeing those I have met since I have been here. Bird City is an amazing community, she said, with a lot to offer and I hope to have a part in its continued growth.

Get out your clean gym shoes and come on out in the mornings to meet Ashley and offer support to Norma and Beth. Proper exercise has no limit for age or handicaps. Ashley will help establish goals and limits toward becoming healthier for a longer life. If the demand grows she will extend her workout to Fridays.

If you are more into weights, come in from 6:30 -7:30 a.m. on Monday – Friday and work out with Anthony Blair.

Harvest expected to be later this year

By Tim Burr
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The 2013 wheat harvest is approaching. Last year, the first load of harvest was delivered on June 9, which may be as early as harvest has ever started. This year harvest looks to be a little later than normal, with expectations of the first loads being around July 4. Of course, many factors affect the crop's ripening and the timing

of harvest. This week's forecast for extremely hot temperatures, along with little to no rainfall, certainly will be a factor.

Every crop year is different, and this year is no exception. Dry weather last fall at planting, dry winter, dry spring, insects and a late freeze all have had an influence on the crop's condition these few weeks before harvest.

In areas of the county that

received some of the spotty rains, the wheat looks fair, generally north of U.S. 36. In areas that missed the rains, many fields look dismal, generally south of U.S. 36.

Crop Insurance adjusters have been about the county, with reports of adjustments on some fields near zero. Some fields, on the other hand, look pretty darn good driving past at 65 miles per hour.

The county grain elevator

operators, all of whom will be participating in the Harvest Countdown contest, believe that storage space will not be an issue.

Although we want and need rain, storms that bring rain usually include hail and damaging winds. As always, the wheat crop, and the producers who depend on it, will have to withstand a number of potential disasters to make it to harvest.



LAST YEAR ON JUNE 9, the first load of wheat was harvested. This year on June 9, Rob Jensen was swathing his alfalfa and storing it for feeding his cattle this winter.