

Council calls meeting to study budget

By Norma Martinez
bc.times@nwkansan.com

A special Bird City City Council meeting was called on June 24 to discuss the upcoming budget for 2014. Under the present budget it only allows the city to maintain one full time and one half time city worker. During the July 1 meeting Councilman Dennis Wright suggested with the increase in maintenance of the streets and additional mowing the city needs another full-time employee. After a brief discussion the decision was to raise the 2014 budget amount of ad valorem tax to \$129,675 to allow the city to pay for two full-time city workers.

The 2014 budget presented by the treasurer, Dana Wright, was approved. This budget was published in the July 11 *Bird City Times*. An open hearing is set for 6:45 p.m. on Aug. 5 for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of 2013 ad valorem tax.

New equipment purchases

For some time the city has been looking into purchasing a new truck. Councilman Ned Smith looked into purchasing a new truck with Fleet Discounts from Yost, Finley's, Dan Brenner, and Long McArthur. Ford is the only company that offers Fleet Discounts and Yost doesn't participate in the program. The cheapest bid came from Long McArthur for a 4 by 4 pickup with cruise control for \$20,801 after a discount is applied for \$8,400.

Councilman Smith presented a bid from Yost Farm Supply for a new mower selling for \$17,090 leaving a purchase price of \$8,820 after a trade in. With the absence of Frank Serrano a tied vote was broken with the yes vote from Mayor Hal Sager.

Discussion was held on the city's need for a new push mower, shop vac, weed eater and a pressure washer. At the suggestion of councilman Wade Carmichael it was decided the city should purchase these items but not to exceed \$2,500.

Water grants

With the acceptance of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment loan for the city's

water project; discussion was held on applying for a grant from Century II for \$80,000. These funds will cut down on the amount the city will have to pay on the Department of Health and Environment loan.

Bird City audit for 2012

Angela Ketterl from Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball presented their findings in the city's audit. She found no items of concern and the cash balance to be healthy, but offered the following recommendations: The policy of allowing too many people to make purchases for the city; and she felt the amount currently approved should be lessened.

Building permits

A permit was approved for Lynn Glasco at 501 W. 4th Street for a building permit for his residence. Plans are to have this project completed in six to seven months.

The building permit for Heidi Glass was tabled last month due to the completion time of 2020. Mayor Sager felt seven years was too long of time for extending a project. During the July meeting the decision was made to issue Ms. Glass a permit for one year to allow her to get started on this project and she would have to resubmit her request at the end of July 2014.

Complaints

A few weeks ago someone tripped on the curb in front of the Legion hall. A suggestion was made at that time to paint the curbs to prevent future accidents. Ned Smith reported that could not be done as there are color restrictions due to colors representing various safety issues. In the future, he said, plans are being made to redo the entrance to the Legion hall. At the suggestion of councilman Shannon Ambrosier, the decision was made to leave the curb as it is and redo the entrance in a few months.

Councilman Carmichael reported a wire hanging from the water tower to the well house. It is low enough, he says, children are trying to jump and touch it. A previous complaint was reported on this and it has not been taken care of. Mayor Sager said he would see that it is taken care of.

Editor's note: This report was taken from the unapproved minutes of the July 1 city council meeting.

Thresher Queen crowned July 25

This year's Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show Queen attended country school up to the third grade, then the family moved to town where she completed grade school, then high school, graduating in 1951.

"Have you guessed who she is?" asked Phyllis Wright, Queen Committee.

This year's queen will be crowned at 1:15 on Thursday, July 25, the 2013 Thresher Show and will carry the title for the next year.

Following graduation, the queen was employed as a nurse's aide in Atwood.

In 1952, she married and lived on a farm for five years. In 1957, they moved from Kansas and were gone nearly 18 years. This was a different lifestyle change from farm life, she said.

While the queen and her husband were away from Kansas, they were blessed with two children. When they returned to Kansas farm life in the 1970s, their oldest child had "left the nest," and began his livelihood elsewhere. Their youngest, of course, learned about farm life - gathering eggs, feeding hogs and helping in the garden as well as cooking chores.

The queen became a grain truck driver during harvest as well as driving the tractor during tilling and planting times. She also gained crop irrigation knowledge.



2013 Thresher Queen

Today, as always, she enjoys several different hobbies. Traveling has also been enjoyed by her and her husband.

You've seen her in church, teaching Sunday school, Bible school and many other places. She wears a pleasant smile and is always a willing worker wherever she is. She and her family support her every interest.

The family consists of two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They all thoroughly enjoy family gatherings, wherever they may be.

Come to Bird City Thursday opening day of the 60th annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show. The honorable queen will be officially introduced at 1:15 p.m. at the announcers stand.



STAN WAMHOFF, left, and Norm Dorsch moved the miniature steam engine into the shop. They had spent the morning cleaning up. The homemade steam engine, patterned after a Russell steam engine, was made by Fred Brubaker.

His grandson Stan Whamhoff is the present owner. This is the steam engine used for the tug-of-war to test the children's strength. Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

Thresher show starts next Thursday

Workers are putting in extra hours getting ready for the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show which begins Thursday, July 25, at the show grounds east of Bird City.

The new Thresher Queen's identity will be revealed at 1:15 on Thursday. Bailey Merklin will be on hand throughout the show to throw in the first bundle of wheat to be threshed.

Through Saturday visitors will find the antique steam engines in action, threshing, plowing, corn shelling and wood sawing. The parade of cars and tractors will be held each day at 1:15 p.m. Earlier, the parade of old machinery and early-day harvest equipment is held at 10:45.

Thursday entertainment is the Highway 385 band from Colorado. The music starts at 7 p.m. following the Community Club meal at the American Legion hall. Serving begins at 5 p.m.

On Friday starting at 6:30 p.m., the antique tractor and steam engine pull will start. Note, this is a new night. The association hopes the change will increase the attendance by not competing with shows being held at surrounding county fairs. It will also allow the out-of-town volunteers a chance to attend and participate before heading home Saturday evening.

Before the pull on Friday, there will be a barbecue at the dining hall on the thresher grounds. The barbecue is a fund raiser for the high school golf team.

Saturday morning from 7 to 10 a.m. will be the chuck wagon breakfast at the thresher grounds. The meal will be cooked outside over the coals by John Schaffner, famous chuck wagon cook.

Activities

There are numerous other activities for the kids and adults. The kid's favorite is the tug-o'-war with the little steam engine which starts at 1 p.m. New on both Friday and Saturday is the children's Treasure Dig where kids can dig into a big pile of sand and find toys, trinkets and buried treasure.

Farm Credit will be providing free watermelon on Saturday afternoon.

People are welcome to visit the many buildings filled with articles



WITH JUST 10 DAYS LEFT Bonnie Burr and Vernetta Haack are relaxing with a cup of coffee after working all morning cleaning show cases in the Eggers 8 Museum.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



used in the past. There will be demonstrations, new items to see and other activities. The swap meet will be held on the grounds. This is an attraction that draws collectors looking for certain items.

Special section

The Thresher Show special section is inserted in the *Bird City Times* and *The Saint Francis Herald* this week. It is being delivered to subscribers throughout the United States. Extra copies will be available at the show.



Mark and Mildred Berry will be setting up a teepee and buffalo hunting camp on the thresher show grounds at 11 a.m. on Friday, July 26.