

By Norma Martinez  
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After calling the Bird City City Council meeting to order on April 7, Wade Carmichael led the council attendees in the pledge of allegiance to the flag in his official position as Mayor of Bird City. After the minutes and all the outstanding warrants were approved as presented, Mr. Carmichael read a letter that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment grant for \$640,000 was granted and Bird City can now proceed with their plans to install new water lines, isolation valves, meters, purchase a new meter reader and paint the water tower as planned. Sheriff Cody Beeson was in attendance but said he had nothing to report.

### Rate increase for owners of larger water meters

At the present time Bird City residences and businesses are being charged the same water rates, regardless as to the size of their meters. Rate comparisons were submitted by Mr. Carmichael as to what other cities are charging for those who have larger meters and using more water than the average resident. Once these comparisons are complete, council members will determine a list of new rates, and inform those to whom these new rates apply.

### Vacant board member replacement

Members of the council gave four suggestions for prospective persons to be considered for filling in the vacancy left with the recent loss of Hal Sager and advancement of Wade Carmichael to fill his position as mayor. Those that will be interviewed by Shannon Ambrosier and Frank Serrano are: Nick Boyson, Chris Howard, Loren White, and Steve Carpenter.

### Ordinance exempting board requirements

City attorney Kevin Berens read the newly written ordinance on the requirements for library board members. The present ordinance requires all seven members on the board to be from the city limits of Bird City. The new ordinance broadens the outreach for two members to live within the area of Cheyenne County or USD 103.

The full ordinance was first published in the April 10 newspaper and will go in to effect after 60 days, and the charter board min-

utes are approved.

### Street repairs

Dennis Wright reported he had received sample material for patching the streets. The company had left him two 5 gallon buckets of UPM Cold Mix Patch to try out before purchasing it. They will probably use this on one of the worst areas, which is north of the school. With a bid of \$8,000 per block, Bird City workers would do the prepping and the company would finish it.

Council members were in agreement that this work should be prioritized as to the areas that are the worst down to the cracks which are not as important as the holes. Wade Carmichael told superintendent Brad Schneider and Dennis Wright to get started on trying it out, and if it works they will order a truck load. Ned Smith was in agreement they should get started on it before it gets too late to be able to work in the heat.

### City cleanup projects

During last month's meeting, Brad Schneider reported a trailer had been added at the recycling center for cardboard boxes. It is built with an opening just deep enough to insert boxes that have been broken down. Brad Schneider reported that it has been working out very well and has eliminated the problems they were having with the wind catching boxes that have not been broken down and filling

up the recycling bin.

Shannon Ambrosier reported the areas where tree branches have been piled up are getting out of hand, and something needs to be done about them. "They need to be checked out," Ned Smith said, "and we need to do a spring clean up."

### Building permits

Greg Potter was in attendance at this meeting, seeking a permit to do some improvements to his and Zona Potter's residence. After the council approved his request, Mr. Potter said he needed to pull the electricity in one area, and he knows several electricians who can do it, but was not sure if the city would allow him to have one of them do this work. Council said it would not be a problem in his asking one of them to do this work.

Century II's permit was approved to construct a vinyl fence for the open space between Second Beginnings and the office space occupied by the Kansas Small Business Development on Bird Avenue.

St. John Lutheran Church's permit was approved for replacing some curb and gutter and installing a handicap entrance.

Robert and Heidi Glass' request for an extension on their previous permit to add two bedrooms on the back of their house was extended for 60 days.

Shannon Ambrosier and Brad Schneider have been working on

a follow up process to be routinely conducted checking on all permits to see that the projects are finished and not left uncompleted when the permits expire.

### Council chamber decorations

City clerk Ailysa Blair was given the go-ahead on purchasing three pictures at a cost of \$200 to decorate the council chamber walls.

### In other business

A planning session for planning the new budget has been set for May 15.

The pool committee will be meeting for reviewing their policy procedures within the next two weeks.

Reports have been received on several street lights being out, but so far the maintenance workers have not located any that need to be replaced.

Maintenance workers have new time sheets to keep better track of their time spent on projects. Brad Schneider said they are working on it, but still finding it hard to keep accurate time on some of the projects. "We will give it another two weeks and then see how it works out" he said.

Meeting was called at 8:30 p.m. for a short 10 minute executive session to discuss personnel. The meeting was then adjourned with nothing acted on from this executive session.

Next city council meeting will be held on May 5, at 7 p.m.

## Obituary

**Dwayne Alan Nelsen**  
Sept. 3, 1955 - March 25, 2014

Dwayne Alan Nelsen died Tuesday, March 25, at his home in Stockton at the age of 58. He was born Sept. 3, 1955 to Harold and Annabelle (Williams) Nelsen in Bird City.

Dwayne graduated from Cheylin High School in Bird City, served in The United States Navy, and then attended Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland. He was united in marriage to Teresa Talkington (Gleason) Nelsen, they later divorced. To this union were born three children, Chad, Christine "Chrissy," and Andi.

Dwayne worked as a plumber and electrician as well as acting as a housing and building inspector. Really though, he was a "Jack of All Trades." There wasn't any job or project too big or difficult to take on and do a good job on while he was at it. He enjoyed old time Rock-n-Roll music, and was known in certain circles as a Pinochle Shark.

To say that Dwayne loved the lake would be an understatement. Fishing wasn't a way of life, it was life. Every day he was out at the lake, fishing with his daughters, with his friends, or even by himself. Often he would live at the lake year round in his camper. He was a true outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting,

fishing, and all of the peace, joy, and happiness that nature provided. Second only to his love for family and friends was Dwayne's love for Bob and Luke, his prized boxer dogs.

Dwayne is survived by his son, Chad Lee Gleason of Osage City; daughters, Christine "Chrissy" Nelsen and partner Thomas Pinkston of Pratt and Andi Wallisch and husband Derek of Effingham; brothers, Doyle Nelsen and wife Linda of Concordia, David Nelsen and wife Deanna of Bird City; and three grandchildren, Avery, Katie, and Gunner Gleason.

He was preceded in death by his parents Harold and Annabelle Nelsen; and a brother Darrel Nelsen.

Sometimes by luck, sometimes by chance, but most often by his love, skill, dedication, and hard work, Dwayne could always turn life's challenges into winning bids. For all who knew and loved him best, Dwayne leaves a legacy that has taught us how to find the Queen of Spades and the Jack of Diamonds while everyone else is going set. He will live forever in our hearts, in our stories, and in our memories.

Memorial service was held at Goose Flats on Webster Lake in Rooks County on March 29.

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