

GOBLINS COME OUT FOR HALLOWEEN



SAD TIGER - Kaylei was dressed as a tiger at the Fall Festival held at the fairgrounds Monday evening. She is held by her father Jeff Kabureck. Right, Gloria Cassidy, first grade teacher, walked with Jace Landers and Jesslynn Houtman.



Citizens meet with council

By Nathan Fiala
nfiala@nwkansan.com

The St. Francis City Council met on Monday night, Oct. 24. Mayor Scott Schultz and city attorney Michael Day were not present. Since there were a number of visitors present, they were addressed first.

Jeff Paulsen, administrator of the Good Samaritan Village, said that two transformers at the Village are not connected and he requested the city to take them down so they do not leak, and also to have on hand for an emergency.

Michelle Shannon, who lives above Donna's Territorial Store, asked about a curfew for kids in the community, that they were littering and drag racing down Main Street on Friday and Saturday night. Council member Carla Lampe confirmed there is no curfew and said she didn't really feel the kids were a big problem here. Police Chief Shane Guggenmos said he would keep an eye on it.

Glenda Krien asked the council about the Royce Peter property and who owned it. Superintendent J.R. Landenberger said that, uncontested, she did own half of it, but that the deeds showed the city owned half as well. Councilman Roger Jensen said the issue has gone on for too long, that the value of the property is minimal. He said that he would be for surrendering the property if the city did not have to pay for the title search and lawyer. With no formal decision on the matter, Glenda will consult with a lawyer further about the issue.

Donna Stevens then pointed out that she was unprepared for the utility increase due to renting out the apartment above her business. Mr. Landenberger said that it was clear in the city ordinance that there is a minimum charge for a business and one for a dwelling and that these are separate fees.

Kansas Municipal Energy Agency

After the visitors had left, Neil Daney and Tom Saiti gave a presentation for the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency. Kansas Municipal Energy Agency is an energy broker, obtaining electricity from providers and reselling it. They had many graphs and spreadsheets

showing projected costs and comparisons to current prices. After they left, the council discussed the pros and cons to going with a power broker and would not make a decision until after a presentation from a Prairie Land representative at the next meeting.

School and Development Conference

Tom Keller came and talked to the council about attending the fall rural school and community development conference at Northwest Tech in Goodland. He said a regional manager from Apple computers was there, as well as the account supervisor for the school and a representative from the Department of Commerce. He said the school gives every student an iPad as part of their tuition and that they are utilized to learn in different ways, and that the school, in conjunction with Apple, is going to offer classes on building apps for the iPhone and iPad.

Mr. Keller said another topic at the conference was how to get people to move back to rural Kansas and that the large cities in the general area like Denver and Kansas City have been targeted for that initiative, and that the apps program at the school would be a way to retain people in the area and allow them to telecommute for their careers.

Mr. Keller also said he had spoken to Randy Hrabec about the Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA) and he volunteered to be a representative for St. Francis at these meetings. The council thought this would be a good idea and to have Mr. Keller set up e-mailing to the city office as well.

Property cleanup

Roger Sauer had a final appearance on his property on Webster street. He has made progress and is currently off the hook but will still be watched. There were some trees on River street that had grown to interfere with power lines, and Mr. Landenberger said they had been trimmed.

Police report

Mr. Guggenmos reported that there had been one applicant respond to the police officer position, and that he still had two applications on file. He said that they

are understaffed and that the overtime is horrendous. He wanted to have the council decide on hiring the applicant at the meeting due to overtime concerns but Mr. Landenberger had reservations and said he thought there should be interviews, or at least attempted interviews of all the applicants.

Mr. Guggenmos also said he would want to hire some part-time officers as well. Councilman Bruce Swihart asked about the cost of all these officers and if there was a way to see any paperwork and cost comparisons between paying a full-time officer overtime versus hiring part-time help.

At this point, Mr. Guggenmos said that the police need the help because he's been told that the Sheriff's office cannot respond to calls in town, and he receives little to no help from the agency and has also had communication problems with the dispatch office.

Mr. Guggenmos said that he will contact the other two applicants for possible interviews, but that with training time, he needs to hire someone as soon as possible and a special meeting may need to be called to approve a hire.

Superintendent report

Mr. Landenberger said the pump at the reservoir is back in use and that he bought a new pump because an extra pump has to be on hand.

The clear coat has been applied to the scout hut and will be reapplied in the spring. The concrete perimeter had also been poured at the scout hut and Mr. Landenberger said that the west side had to be modified. Chris Doyle did the cement work and Mr. Landenberger also had him do some replacement concrete work at the time.

Clerk report

City clerk Glorienne Milne said she'd received a bid for carpet cleaning from Beckman's cleaning for \$207 for cleaning the carpet and \$37 for mileage. The council approved the quote and approved the bill for Chris Doyle's cement work.

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