

New business owners concerned with utility rate

By Karen Krien
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The St. Francis City Council visited with Rodney Neitzel and Wade Krien when they met on Monday, March 25. They were concerned about the commercial rate they would need to pay for their small, temporary greenhouse.

We were surprised, said Mr. Neitzel, when we went to fill out the building permit, that when we finished, we would be paying a business rate. It struck a nerve, he said.

There are other home businesses that are on regular rates, he said. This is just a temporary business which will hire two full-time employees.

If there are businesses being run out of homes that are not paying commercial rates, said J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, they are violating the city ordinances. We need to know so they will be put on the commercial rate.

He pointed out that the water rate stays the same, the electrical rate is only an additional \$10 and there is another \$2 for trash pick up. Also, there will be a tax added to the rate. He figured that they would probably pay less than \$20 a month extra.

Mike Day, city attorney, advised the two men to wait and see what the difference is in utilities.

Mr. Neitzel and Mr. Krien said they will be selling bedding plants, some hanging baskets and

some trees. They are working with the company where they bought their Christmas trees.

In other business

In other business:

- Superintendent Landenberger was appointed as a Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) voting delegate. Dan Blair, city employee, will be the alternate.

- George Harper, city fire chief, asked the city for funding to recertify equipment and bunker gear. He will be writing a grant to help with the expense of the bunker gear and he thought the county will share with some of the expenses. They also talked about the fire trucks. In the future, the city will need to probably purchase one but right now, they are passing inspections.

- Paula Keller, council woman, said Penny Keller, rec director, had asked about the lights at the sand volleyball court. The superintendent said he planned to have them installed this spring.

- Superintendent Landenberger said there will need to be bids put out for pouring the slabs of cement for Glenn Zwegardt's art sculptures to be placed before June 15. However, he felt that the Kansas Historical Society needed to be informed before they are poured. He noted that Eddy Schultz is paying for the cement.

- Building permits were approved for Ruth Milliken to put a roof on the Classic Rose building; Bob Holzwarth to tear down the old antique store on the highway; and for Wade Krien to put down

some permanent footings for the new business.

- The superintendent said it is time to trade off the riding mower. He said the cost for a mower was in the budget and he will start getting bids. He said the council needs to start thinking about a new trash truck.

- Spring is here, Mr. Landenberger said, and there are problems with property clean up. He will have photos for the council to see at the next meeting. Some people have done a good job cleaning up but there are others who have done very little if anything.

- Carla Lampe, council woman, said she has had complaint about the holes in the city streets. The superintendent said this time of year is too cold to do anything because the filling won't stick. The area on College Street has been a problem for years because of the water runoff on the football field. Within the next six weeks, the city will start fixing the holes.

- The bids for the work on the band shell will be advertised. Bids will be opened at 2 p.m. on April 22. Mr. Landenberger said he had put in a request to the Kansas Historical Society to remove the benches around the band shell and he was told "absolutely not!"

Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8, at city hall on Main Street.

Donations still needed for Sainty's 125th celebration

Plans for the St. Francis 125th celebration on June 14 through 16 continue. A meeting was held on Monday, March 25, where committees reported. Unfortunately, so many activities planned for the celebration require money. Donations have been coming in slowly and activities are being planned to deliver fun on a shoe-string budget.

One of the major activities is a fund-raising community garage sale held the day of the St. Francis Car Show, May 11. The sale will be held on the school playground, just across the street from the show. Committee members, Dennon Flemming, Cara Hunt, Kelsey Andrist and Robin Burr, have made and hung posters, asking people to donate items.

The garage sale promises to be a great fundraiser along with giving people a way to help by donating unwanted items. Suggested items include furniture, toys, clothes, knick knacks, kitchen items and exercise equipment, just to name some.

Just look around and give what you don't use or want, said Mrs. Burr. All proceeds will go toward funding the "birthday celebration."

For donating items or for more information, contact Dennon at 332-2844, Cara, 332-4734, Kelsey, 332-6025 or Robin, 332-3433.

The schedule of events include:
Friday, June 14
7 a.m., walk-run registration;
9 a.m., sidewalk, vendors and

games; 3 p.m., cake decorating contest; 4 to 7 p.m., art walk; 5 p.m. music in the park, flag ceremony and prayer; 6 p.m. beer garden and barbecue; 8 p.m. beard competition; 8 to midnight, street dance; and 9 p.m., softball tournament.

Saturday, June 15
8 a.m., farmers market opens and golf tournament begins; 9 a.m., bike rodeo, sidewalk, vendors and games; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Touch-a-Truck; 11 a.m., sand volleyball; 11 to 12:30, museum brat feed; 1 p.m., archery shoot; 6 to 8 p.m., St. Francis high school alumni activities; 8 p.m. to midnight street dance, beer garden.

Sunday, June 16
9 a.m., church service; 1 p.m., trap shoot.

4-1-1

The Cheyenne County Development Corporation (CCDC) will be sponsoring two seminars on April 8. The seminars are free of charge, but do require prior registration in order to have enough supplies available.

Start-up Basics Workshop will be offered from 5 to 6 p.m. Starting a business is an exciting thought that requires deliberate planning and investigation.

This session offers an overview of what it takes to start a business in Kansas. You will receive information, tips, suggestions, resource contacts, and receive a

start-up kit. You can learn about naming the business, choosing your legal form of business, and basic requirements.

Business Plan Essentials Workshop will be offered from 6 to 7 p.m. This class will teach you how to start a new business so that it is sustainable and workable in the future. You will be learning how to put together a business plan from start to finish, as well as learn the beginning moves to open your business.

These seminars will be held at the Cheyenne County Development office at 107 W. Washington in St.

By Helen Dobbs



Francis. Advanced registration is required. Register online at <http://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com> or contact Megan at 785-734-2592 or mlhorinek3@fhsu.edu.

Seminars coming up on April 30 will be "Social Media: Reaching In" and Marketing. May seminars will include Customer Service and Web Design.

If you have any questions, call Helen Dobbs, director, at the office 785-332-3508.

Property bids opened at council meeting

By Karen Krien
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The bids for the Emerson Street property were opened at the March 25 St. Francis City Council meeting. There were six bids and after much discussion, the council voted to accept the bid from Cary Miller, a man from California who is moving to St. Francis.

The property, consisting of two lots in the 400 block of East Emerson, had been acquired by the city. The council wanted to have the lots cleaned up and trees removed. Bids varied in work and money offered.

J.R. Wilkening's bid was to clean up the lots, move a house onto it and put up a garage. Gene Voeller had offered \$40 for one lot and \$30 for the other, to clean up the yards and fix up the houses within three months. Pastor David Butler's bid did not state an exact amount of money but he would renovate both properties, clean up lots, put in a sprinkler system and use as rental properties. Jordan Easter said he wanted to be a carpenter and plumber, saying he would like the experience of

remodeling the homes but said nothing about cleaning up or removing trees.

Mr. Miller offered \$1,000 for both homes, would remove trees, clean up, tear down the houses and put a single family dwelling on the site. The work would be done within 90 days.

Eric and Leslie Hook offered \$2,500 for both houses. They would clean up the property and remodel both of the houses. However, they planned to remodel the first house and sell it by 2013. The second house would then be remodeled in 2014. They had sketches of the plans and the council noted that the Hooks have a history of remodeling houses and making them look good.

The council eliminated the bids down to the final two, Miller and Hook, and, after considerable discussion, agreed that their main goal was to make sure the property was cleaned up and to get rid of it as soon as possible. Mr. Miller had said the lot would be cleaned up with a house on the property within 90 days. They accepted Miller's bid.



SECOND AND THIRD Graders: Back; Left to Right: Cutter Neitzel, Ben Nelson, Ben Busse, Elle Krien, Jesslyn Houtman, Talexa Weeter, Amanda Neitzel, McKenna Poling, Kaden Lee Front; Left to Right: Jayce Landers, Preston Witzel, Bree DeWaal, Hadleigh Hilt, Lyden Lampe.



FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH: Back : Left to Right: Bryce Raby, KC Krien, Jordan Raby, Joslyn Ketzner, Jessica Confer, Colton Neitzel, Draven Houtman, Alex Queen, Shalyn Zwegardt, Jesse Baxter, Middle: Left to Right: Cody Baxter, Brady Dinkel, Connor Keller, Lindsey Johnson, Lauren Johnson, Tayton Weeter, Isaiah Lee, Wyatt Hilt, Emmanuel Fierror, Front; Left to Right: Kattie Wurm, Audrey Meyers, Taighe Weeter, Cassidy Busse, Karly Bandel, Emma Johnson, Mason Schmid, Kobe Tice, Rylan Doyle, Adam Krien, Garin Cooper.

Photos courtesy of Traci Neitzel

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