

# Council discusses the problems on Third Street

By Doug Sloper  
dsloper@nwksas.com

The St. Francis City Council meeting began with Neva Wahrmann discussing the problems in her neighborhood, on East Third Street regarding asphalt and general street deterioration.

"This issue has been going on for a couple of years now," she said. "I don't like to complain, but it's time for something to be done about it."

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger agreed that the street is a mess and that it is on the list to be repaired. He also pointed out that due to the fact that this street has no curbs or gutters, the rain and water runoff is more inclined to destroy any repairs that are done. Roger Jensen also pointed out that due to street budget limitations a complete street replacement is not possible at this time.

### Police report

Police chief Shane Guggenmos reported that the 125th celebration went very well. He was very impressed with the way the committee and volunteers had the celebration organized and how attendees conducted themselves.

"There was only one snafu that was handled quickly," he said.

Chief Guggenmos is still looking into options for a 4-wheel vehicle. The chief is leaning to-

ward a Polaris model, which is a better vehicle and less expensive. He is interested in three different models. He asked that Superintendent Landenberger look at the models he is interested in to see if they would also work for the maintenance department. Cost would be from \$6,165 to \$9,199 depending on what model options would be selected.

### Band shell

Two companies submitted bids to do restoration work on the band shell. Pishny Restoration Services came in with a bid of \$139,700, while Building Restoration Corporation came in with a bid of \$188,000. After a discussion, Mayor Schultz said that all bids be rejected as too high and that the council negotiate with Phisny Restoration as they had put in the lowest bid. He is asking them to resubmit their bid, within 15 days to be more in line with the \$70,268 grant money the city will receive from the state. Council approved.

There have been rumors that a planned Fourth of July concert had been run out of the park and that there is favoritism involved in who is allowed to use the band shell. After much discussion there was a decision that a committee would be formed to review the current application form to make it more clear what is currently allowed. The

committee will also determine whether or not the band shell can be used for proprietary purposes and make a usage policy that is more clear to avoid any future misunderstandings. Citizens are urged to contact the city clerk or any council member, if they are interested in being on the committee.

### Digital sign

Carla Lampe thanked Scott Houtman, J.R. Landenberger and Carol Sloper, for all their work keeping the sign updated. She also reported that the alumni association had donated \$1,500 to help with funding of the sign. Funding is still \$5,000-\$6,000 short, however donations are still coming in. There was also discussion to add some sort of indicator, such as a thermometer, to demonstrate the progress of donations.

### Property cleanup

The Neitzel property is still falling far short of what was expected, said Superintendent Landenberger. A letter has gone out to Mr. Neitzel and the next step is enforcement by the police department. A letter has also been delivered on the Toler property. Mr. Toler has assured the council that the property will be cleaned up within the stated 10-day deadline.

There was discussion regarding the condition of the Sauers

property at Webster and Quincy. This will be more formally addressed in the near future.

### Building permits

Building permits were reviewed and approved for the following: Gene Voeller, garage; Rodney Shay, remove steps and build deck; Toby Dirks, storage shed; Empire Motel, fence.

### Superintendent's report

Superintendent Landenberger reported that last week's power outage was caused by a transformer jumper that had come loose, causing a chain reaction through the system grid. The jumper was fixed by Saturday morning with assistance from an outside contractor.

Mr. Landenberger is still waiting on 2012 numbers to come in to be used in determining next years budget. A big concern is the projected 6%-8% increase in the cost of electric power, which would result in a substantial loss in city revenue. Historically since 1997 the revenue has stayed basically the same while cost and consumption has increased dramatically, said Landenberger. There have been many cost saving measures instituted over the years including reducing staff from 24 to 15 to help offset the cost of power.

### Pool report

Council member Bruce Swihart, reported that swimming

lessons have been completed and lifeguard training is almost over as well.

There will be a movie and swim the evening of July 3, along with games and fun activities on the July 4, said Mr. Swihart.

A group is forming to start a fund-raising effort for a new pool. They wish to remain anonymous at this time until they are better organized. Currently there is \$75,000 encumbered in city funds earmarked for a new pool. Discussion was started on different ways funds could be raised.

"Bake sales and fundraisers are not going to raise enough money in time," Mr. Swihart said, "but it will raise awareness through out the community. We need to get larger contributors interested and involved."

"There is a significant cost associated with replacing the pool and the money has to come from somewhere," said Carla Lampe.

The city may also create a straw poll to see what the true community interest is in keeping a pool.

### In other business

In other business:  
• Fireworks licenses were approved for Donna Stevens and Brunk Brats. A business incentive application submitted by Adam Peter for his business Adam's Welding was approved.

• Council member Jensen asked for an update on the no parking signs that are to be put up along the service road in front of the museum and church off of Highway 36. Superintendent Landenberger said that the signs have been ordered and it will take a few weeks to be delivered.

Mr Jensen also reported that employee costs at the recycling center are up due to increased volume and will be looked into. We are a victim of our own success, he said.

• Council member Lampe asked if the results of the vision survey could be posted on the St. Francis Community website. Council will review the results before they decide.

• Mayor Scott Schultz requested that a thank you card signed by all council members be sent to Glenn Zwegardt for his sculpture donations to the city.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the city council is set for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, July 8, in city hall on main street.

The mayor and city council members would like to remind all citizens that the city council meetings are open to everyone. Contact the city clerk if there is an issue you wish to have added to the agenda.

## ANNOUNCING

### The Winners of the 2013 Harvest Countdown

**Carol Redding - First Place \$50**

**Ted Busse - Second Place \$35**

**Tom Williams - Third Place \$15**

**The official first load of wheat was brought in on June 27 at 10:51 a.m. by the Bracelin Brothers.**

## 1st Loads of 2013 Wheat at area elevators



**WHEELER EQUITY —** Bill Bracelin and Brady Dinkel wait for Dale Weeks to get the test weight and moisture in their first load of wheat.

**ST. FRANCIS EQUITY —** Shirley Zwegardt, Kip Weise and Doug Ross check out a sample from the first load of wheat they received from Silver Crest Farms.



*The Saint Francis Herald*

## CAPTAIN HOOK'S FINE DINING

WHEELER ---332-3275

Daily Specials

Hand pressed hamburgers never frozen

Like Us On FACEBOOK To See Our Daily Specials.

DINE IN --CARRY OUT • 785-332-3275

W. Hwy. 36 in St. Francis  
or (785) 332-2601  
Carry-Out or Dine-in

### HOURS:

Thursday • 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Fri. & Sat. • 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sun. • 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.



Accepting Credit Cards

## Majestic Service

Truck Stop

- ▶ Gas ▶ Diesel ▶ Snacks
- ▶ Restaurant ▶ Grocery

West US 36 • St. Francis • 785-332-2905

Here as part of the community  
**The Bank — The Choice**



PO Box 40  
Bird City, KS 67731  
785-734-2100  
785-734-2121 (fax)



We are here for all your financial needs!



**WESTERN STATE BANK**



785-332-3100 www.wsbs.com  
P.O. Box 1102 ~ 400 E. Washington ~ St. Francis



**St. Francis Equity**

St. Francis  
(785) 332-2113

Haigler  
(308) 297-3223

Owned by the farmers and ranchers of this community since 1913