

City criticized for high utility bills

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house in Goodland, and that he was using a city car to drive to his former home.

City Manger Wayne Hill interrupted Jackson to say he wanted to correct that statement.

"I do live here," Hill said. "I pay rent and I pay utilities. I do not use the city car for anything but city business."

"I think the city is in trouble," Jackson said. "We have higher taxes and probably a third more employees than we used to have."

Hill said the number of employees has gone down over the past two years.

Daniels said the city commission

has tried to take control and lowered the property tax levy.

Billinger tried to explain how the cost adjustment worked and why it was high in August.

Jackson interrupted saying he used less electricity and the bill was higher. He said that is unacceptable.

"I agree with you that the rate was unacceptable," Billinger said. "We have to have a plan in place to keep this from happening again."

"We are hoping the power plant at Caruso gets built because at the moment we only have one company we can buy power from," Daniels said. "We don't have a lot of choices. We want to see the power plant get running so we have an option.

"We don't want people to think we are sitting here and not doing anything. I moved back here 10 years ago because I wanted to come home."

"I am moving out of here," Jackson said. "I can't get a good deal here,"

Garcia said he felt the city was trying to help and they were able to drop the property tax for next year by 7.4 percent. He said that does not include the school district or county, but that the city was trying to cut costs.

Rate study delayed for new equipment

STUDY, from Page 1

at 3 cents per kilowatt and sell it at 5 to 6 cents and pay for things like the swimming pool. We cannot pay for everything out of the electric fund.

"It is not something we can fix tonight, but we have to get on this and made some decisions."

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked what the estimate was for doing the rate study.

Volk said it would be \$80 an hour with a maximum of \$5,400 and

\$1,600 per trip to Goodland.

"So the expense is about \$8,000," Billinger said. "I am not sure he is going to tell us that we can change it (the operating cost adjustment.)"

"Do you want to do the rate study or wait until we get the new equipment in and see how that works," Volk said.

"He can come in and say if you don't want to cover all of your costs you can put it at this level, or if you want to cover all the costs it needs to be here," Billinger said.

"Unless we are willing to adjust the other parts where we transfer money I think that is what we have to decide. I think we need to put some parameters in that if this happens again we have a plant to be able to adjust it at that point."

"It is in the ordinance," Volk said. "You would have to change the wording to give you the flexibility."

Commissioner Josh Dechant said if the cost adjustment is out of hand the commission needs to have a special meeting to let people know.



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Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project Program

Notice of Public Meetings

The State Conservation Commission will conduct three public meetings regarding implementation of the Water Right Transition Assistance Pilot Project Program (WTAP) in the proposed NW KS GMD#4 target areas. The purpose of the meetings is to promote public interest and awareness, to inform the public of possible economic and hydrologic impacts of the program, and to facilitate participation by assisting potential applicants. The meeting locations are as follows:

1. September 24 at 1 p.m.-Colby: Colby Community College, Room #107
2. September 24 at 7 p.m.-Goodland: NW Kansas Technical College, Lions Room
3. September 25 at 9 a.m.-Hoxie: Midwest Energy, Inc., Community Room

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program that permanently retires privately held water rights in exchange for payment by the State of Kansas. A program passed by the 2006 Legislature, WTAP is intended to help restore aquifers and recover stream flows in critically depleted areas. The Fall enrollment period begins on October 1 and ends on November 15. The program rules and regulations, maps, and other details are posted on the SCC web site at:
www.scc.ks.gov

If you are physically unable to attend a public meeting or would like more information about WTAP, you may contact the program administrator electronically at:
steve.frost@scc.ks.gov or by phone at (785) 296-8964. Correspondence can be mailed to the State Conservation Commission, Mills Building, 109 SW 9th Street, Suite 500, Topeka, Kansas, 66612-1215. For additional information about the public meetings or the proposed NW KS GMD#4 target areas, you may also contact Wayne Bossert, Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District #4, at (785) 462-3915.

ONE OF A KIND PROPERTY AUCTION

The Burlington State Armory Building
Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 12 a.m. (noon)
191 14th Street, Burlington, Colorado
ADDRESS: 191 14th Street.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lots 1-2-3, Block 49, New Burlington addition to the City of Burlington, Kit Carson County, Colorado
GENERAL INFORMATION: This is absolutely a great, very well constructed building consisting of 13,794 square feet +/- . The main level has approximately 6300 square feet. +/- and there is a full basement with approximately the same square footage. There is also an upper level area over the front portion of the building which has been converted into a 1250 square feet. 2 bedroom apartment. There is also a one bedroom loft over the stage area on the west end of the building (loft is not finished). The main level has 2 offices, large meeting room with wet bar, entrance way leading to a huge high ceilinged gymnasium with a stage on the west end with infrared heat, updated electricity, well lit and 2 air circulating fans. The basement has 12 large rooms which also includes a 74 foot shooting range, 2 out side entrances (one walk in and one for vehicles with ramp). There is a new furnace for basement areas and upstairs meeting rooms and offices. A new roof has been installed in the last few years. The original blue prints will be available at the preview showing. There is such a variety of potential use for this building from a large gymnasium training center, several business center, apartment loft complex, community center, museum, convention headquarters, plus more. Use your imagination. This could be the best investment of your life. **DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!**

PREVIEW SHOWING
Wednesday, September 24, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

To view pictures, floor plans, historic registry information and terms go to:
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