

# City council: finalization near, arbitration mentioned

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He said everything should be finalized within a month. If an agreement regarding the issues cannot be reached, it will go to arbitration.

Mr. Miller said that in the last few weeks, the treatment process in the plant has been going very well. They hope to eliminate some portions of Phase II, and optimize the plant using different chemicals. He said this might eliminate the need for the third clarifier, which will save a significant amount of money.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Becker gave a semi-annual report to the council about the progress made on the Strategic Plan.

Miss Becker said a business retention plan and expansion survey is being completed. The Economic Development Committee, she said, is working with existing businesses to see what services would help them. Additionally, she said, they hosted a job fair and also sponsored a "buy local" day.

Miss Becker said Miltech Machine Corporation received a Kansas Minority-Owned Business Award in 2007, Pure Prairie and United Northwest Federal Credit Union each received a Business Appreciation Award, and Kellie's

Alltel was nominated for the 2008 Kansas Woman-Owned Business Award.

Miss Becker said they have researched business incubators and are looking for a building to house the project. She said the storefront renewal project provides matching grants to business owners to help rehabilitate the business district. She asked the city to consider whether they want to offer any local incentives to new businesses to locate in Norton.

Miss Becker said the Norton Community Foundation has been revived and they are working on various projects. She said they would send her director's report to the mayor and council so they can stay updated on monthly activities.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she as been working with the state Americans with Disabilities Act and the Department of Transportation regarding handicapped mobility. She said the Federal government will be adopting new guidelines regarding these devices and will ask municipalities to adopt some standards for them. In addition, the state has some guidelines that have to be met.

Mrs. Griffiths reported that the state says the city can require proof of disability and a doctor's statement that claims their type of

mechanically propelled vehicle would meet their needs. The city can determine if the accommodation is justified on a case by case basis. She said that if there is a sidewalk, the mobility device must be ridden on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, then they need to follow the pedestrian rules on the side of the street. The device would not need to be licensed or insured, and the disabled rider would not need a driver's license to operate it.

Mayor David Corns said he was contacted about the condition of the swimming pool sign on Highway 36 and West Street. He contacted Here's Your Sign to see how she would recommend to fix it, and the cost for vinyl lettering.

Mr. Corns said he has also received complaints about the drainage on West Street by the pool, and asked the committee to look into the possibility of putting in an underground storm drain.

The mayor also said the city needs to do an assessment of the trees in Elmwood Park to see which damaged branches need to be removed before they fall down on someone.

**In other business:**  
• Councilwoman Kim Snyder made a motion to approve a temporary beer license for the American Legion to have a beer garden

during the county fair. The motion was passed.

• Mr. Lawson reported there was damage at the power plant from lightning. The transformer was tested, but one of the engines would not generate electricity. He thinks there may be a problem in the switch gear, so it will be tested to see if it was also damaged by the lightning.

• Ron Briery said the 2009 Budget Hearing will be held on Aug. 6 at 5:45 p.m. He reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the preliminary budget and the mill levy will remain the same.

• Councilman Ron Briery said it was suggested to him that the balance of the Hansen Foundation grant money be used to purchase recycling bins for all the residents of Norton. He asked the council to consider the idea.

• Mr. Briery also made a motion to move into executive session for no more than 30 minutes with Mayor Corns, council members and the city administrator present to discuss non-elected personnel. They resumed the open meeting at which time Mr. Briery made a motion to return to executive session for no more than 15 minutes with Mayor Corns, council members and the city administrator to continue discussing non-elected personnel. When the council

reopened the meeting no action was taken.

• Councilwoman Donna Foley made a motion to approve Superintendent Greg Mann's request for 100 feet of sidewalk replacement at 307 W. Crane, and Dean Husted's request for 90 feet of sidewalk replacement at 202 E. Waverly, with the condition that the city will provide the labor and the property owner will pay the cost of materials directly to the concrete provider. Mrs. Foley said refuse rates have not been increased for eight years and income is no longer covering expenses.

• Councilman Toby Kuhn made a motion to schedule a public hearing on July 28 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss which low-powered mechanically propelled vehicles a disabled person should be allowed to use in the city. Citizens who would like a specific type of power driven mobility device to be allowed should attend the hearing. Mr. Kuhn said he was disappointed by some of the wording in Mr. Rushton's letter to the editor. He stated the Public Safety Committee and staff have been researching the scooter issue, and unfortunately the issue could not be resolved in one meeting.

• Mr. Briery asked the Public Safety Committee to review the ATV ordinance regarding not being able to ride an ATV from dusk to dawn, even though it has lights and signals. Mr. Kuhn said he would rather take the ordinance under advisement; he has not heard anyone else complain about the ordinance, and if complaints by other citizens are made, then it would be reconsidered.

• Mrs. Snyder made a motion to approve Appropriating Ordinance #14 as a whole. The Appropriating Ordinance is to pay any city bills that have come up since the last meeting.

John Millan's building permit for \$300 to remove 10 to 15 feet of curb and gutter at 409 N. Brown was presented.

Present for the meeting were: Mayor Corns, council members Jeff Otter, Donna Foley, Toby Kuhn, Kim Snyder, Elaine Mann and Ron Briery. Others present were Economic Development Director Diane Becker, Chris Miller, Chris Frack, Joe Leroux, Deena Wente, Pat Morel, Karen Griffiths, City Administrator Rob Lawson and City Clerk Darla Ellis.

The meeting, which started at 5:30 p.m., adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

# Election: Polls open from 7am to 7pm

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American Legion Building  
Now, here are the candidates the two major parties will see on their particular ballots:

**National Offices**  
United States Senator — Lee Jones, Democrat; Jim Slattery, Democrat; Pat Roberts, Republican  
United States Representative, 1st District — James Bordonaro, Democrat; Jerry Moran, Republican  
State Senator, 40th District — Ralph Ostmeier, Republican  
State Representative, 120th District — Robert G. Streyve,

Democrat; John M. Faber, Republican  
District Judge, 17th District — William B. Elliott, Republican.

**County Offices**  
County Commissioner, 2nd District — Carolyn Applegate, Republican  
County Commissioner, 3rd District — John Miller, Republican  
County Clerk — Robert D. Wyatt, Republican  
County Treasurer — Cynthia Joan Linner, Republican  
Register of Deeds — Wanda M. Vincent, Republican  
County Attorney — R. Douglas Sebelius, Republican  
County Sheriff — Troy M.

Thomson, Republican, Brent A. Bohl, Republican  
**Township Offices**  
Norton, Ward One Committeeman, Joe E. Ballinger, Republican; Committeewoman, Bernice R. Becker, Republican  
Norton, Ward Two Committeeman, J.C. Berry, Republican; Committeewoman, Ruth Lofgreen, Republican  
Norton, Ward Three Committeeman, Curt Archibald, Republican; Committeewoman, Norma Archibald, Republican  
Almena Precinct Committeeman, Wayne Archer, Republican; Committeewoman, Shari Archer, Republican

Highland #1 Precinct Committeeman, Steven L. Berry, Republican; Committeewoman, Joni K. Berry, Republican  
Highland #3 Precinct Committeeman, John Miller, Republican, Clarence E. Wetter, Republican; Committeewoman, Rebecca C. Wetter, Republican  
Center #1 Precinct Committeeman, Jon Lofgreen, Republican; Committeewoman, Elaine Lofgreen, Republican  
Township Trustee, Almena, Shad Chandler, Republican  
Township Treasurer, Almena, Abner Williams, Republican  
The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

# Scooters: public invited to express their opinions, too

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and the doctor's note is to determine if the scooter is an accommodation to meet their needs."

The city can determine if the accommodation is justified on a case-by-case basis.

Mrs. Griffiths explained that if there is a sidewalk, the mobility device would have to be used on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk available, then it would have to be used on the side of the street, following pedestrian guidelines.

Anyone who wishes can present evidence that these vehicles should be allowed on the city streets, to be used by physically disabled persons when sidewalks are not available.

Anyone who is opposed to the scooters is also welcome to attend and voice their opinions.

Mrs. Griffith will be present at the meeting, as will Mayor David Corns and public safety committee members Toby Kuhn, Jeff Otter and Donna Foley.

Mrs. Griffiths also said the Federal government is asking for public comments on the issue.

To send comments or other data, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or written comments can be mailed to: ADANPRM, P.O. Box 2846, Fairfax VA 22031-0846.

The meeting will be Monday, July 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the city council room in the City Building.

## Teff Field Day

**August 1, 2008 — 8:00 a.m.**  
**4-H Building in Hill City, KS**

0.7 mile south of the spotlight at the intersection of Highway 24 and 283

**FIELD DAY SCHEDULE AUGUST 1, 2008**  
8:00 A.M. — Bus leaves Graham County Fairgrounds for tour of teff fields in Phillips and Graham Counties  
**NOON — FREE CATERED LUNCH AND SPEAKERS**

SPEAKERS: Carolyn Nichols-Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy for the Waconda Watershed; Dr. Merle Vigil-Agricultural Research Service and the Benefits of No-till

**TO RSVP BY JULY 29 CONTACT THE RC&D AT:**  
Solomon Valley RC&D, 320 South Sixth Street, Stockton, KS 67669  
Phone: 785-425-6647; Fax: 785-425-6308;  
E-mail: [teresa.webb@ks.nacdn.net](mailto:teresa.webb@ks.nacdn.net)

Norton County Hospital, New Age and The Rojas Family are Sponsoring a Benefit Dinner for

## ASHLEY EBNER

An account has been opened for Ashley and her family for anyone that wants to help and donate money towards the costs of being in Kearney, and upcoming medical bills.

The account is at the Credit Union, under the Ashley Ebner benefit.

**The Rojas family will also be doing a benefit for Ashley on August 3 at the Town and Country Kitchen from 4-9 p.m. They will have a buffet and carry out orders will be available.**

★

ANNUAL

## Christmas In July

Whispering Pines A/L and Retirement

**Free Will Donation**  
**Homemade Ice Cream and Cookies**

## Saturday, July 26

From 2:00-3:45 p.m.

### Whispering Pines Retirement

1001 W. Highway 36, Norton, Kansas

Kansas Dept. of Aging-Partnership Loan Program-  
Medicaid Approved- NCBS Approved

## CATCH THE FIRE REVIVAL

**MONDAY JULY 28TH THRU SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD 7 P.M. NIGHTLY**

**NORTON NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY  
GATHER THE OUTCAST MINISTRY  
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and Norton, KS

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