

City plans \$3.3 million water plant

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The Oberlin City Council has approved a contract with Miller and Associates to design a \$3.3 million water treatment plant.

The McCook engineering firm also designed the new waste water treatment plant, now under construction, and planned the city's water system improvements.

The contract will pay Miller up to \$327,200, including a pilot study at \$20,000, test hole drilling \$1,200, a design fee \$271,000 and post construction work \$35,000. The contract also includes hourly

fees for supervising construction.

The council approved the agreement at its meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19.

Although the council joked a little with engineers Chris and Reed Miller about knocking some of the price out of the contract, there wasn't much discussion. The firm worked on the water project four years ago, which added a blending pipe into the city's system as well as a larger main down Cass Avenue. The blending pipe has never been used, however.

City Administrator Gary Shike said cost

of the treatment plant is estimated at \$3,350,500, though that could change. The plant will use a method called coagulation filtration. The council looked at several different kinds of plants and agreed on the filtration after talking with the engineers.

Now that the contract is signed with Miller, said Mr. Shike, the first step will be the pilot project, which will determine how much water the city will treat.

The city hasn't made a decision on financing yet, he said. They plan to apply for loans and grants as the city did with the sewage

treatment plant. Utility bills will go up to help pay for the project, said Mr. Shike, although he couldn't say when or how much. The last time water bills increased was in June 2001, he said.

The city won't know what the increase will be until the design of the plant is done, and they know how much it will cost, he said. If the city can get federal or state aid, that might reduce the bills, he said.

The city won't treat all of the water, Mr. Shike said, because it would become "too aggressive." Aggressive water will take the

stuff off the inside of the pipes, he said, and it would end up in customers' homes. People will still need a water softener in their homes, he said, but they might work better with treated water.

Putting a water treatment plant in isn't a choice, said Mr. Shike, because the arsenic and uranium levels at city wells are too high to meet new federal standards. With the treatment plant, though, the city can use several wells that can't be hooked up to the water system today because of contaminant levels.

Birds, dinner attract

Hunters eat beef, chase pheasants

Hunters from all over tried their hand at bagging a few birds this weekend, as the pheasant season opened on Saturday.

Three hunters from Texas staying at the LandMark Inn for the weekend said they had good luck finding birds.

David Beyer, David Cummins and Lin Bingham left on Sunday for the long drive home to Houston. Mr. Beyer said he has been coming here for years. He said he has friends in Oakley, where they also hunt. Another of their hosts was Greg Lohoe-fener of Oberlin.

The men agreed that the hunting was great and the weather had been good.

Mr. Beyer said he has seen more birds in past years, but that didn't change the fact that the hunting went great. The three said they ended up with 12 birds among them.

It was great fun, said Mr. Cummins.

The men attended the Pheasants Forever banquet Friday night at The Gateway. They said the banquet was fun; they all became members of the



Outfits decorate parade

AT THE PARADE on Halloween, Isabel Grafel (above), dressed as Belle from "Beauty and the Beast," went trick or treating on Main Street. The Oberlin Business Alliance sponsors the "Trick or Trunk" parade yearly for all of the kids in the area. They march down the street in costume, and then get treats at the businesses. Ryan May (right), dressed as a woman, was a little scary.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



McEvoy wins despite votes for write-in

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

Republican Stan McEvoy won the Decatur County commissioner seat for District 1 on Tuesday with 276 votes, 114 more than his closest opponent, write-in candidate Marcia Lohoe-fener, at 162.

Democrat Brian Keahey has 61 votes and Jody Robertson had four as a write-in after a complete preliminary count Tuesday night.

Mr. McEvoy won the primary in August 167-137, 30 votes more than Mrs. Lohoe-fener, setting him up to face Mr. Keahey in the general election Tuesday. About a month after the primary, though, Mrs. Lohoe-fener decided to throw her hat back into the ring as a write-in. Later, Mrs. Robertson also declared.

Mr. McEvoy, reached at a campaign party Tuesday night, said the victory was a good birthday present.

Mr. McEvoy, a former Oberlin city councilman, said the support he received was amazing, both in his district and the entire county.

"I really believe that I live in the best community," he said. "I can't thank everyone enough."

He said he owes a special thanks to Carrie Morford, his campaign manager, who he said worked hard for his victory. There were also lots of volunteers who helped with yard signs, mailers and more, he said; without them, he couldn't have won.

The candidate said he was surprised when Mrs. Lohoe-fener decided to run as a write-in after losing the primary. He said he was concerned about how the vote would turn out with a three-way split, but he respected Mrs. Lohoe-fener for not giving up.



Stan McEvoy



M.Lohoe-fener

Mrs. Lohoe-fener said this will probably be her last try for public office. In the 1980s, she said, she ran for county clerk, then in the primary for the commissioner seat. If she had been elected, she said, the four years would have been good, but she wants to do other things too.

"I sure appreciate everyone's support," she said, "because they knew that I would do a good job."

Mr. Keahey said he might run for another office in the future. At least, he said, his running gave voters a choice. Mr. Keahey said he was proud of the good turnout in the district, which covers the east half of Oberlin and the northeast quarter of the county. There were 503 votes cast out of about 700 people registered, more than 70 percent, he noted, and maybe the race drew people to the polls.

Mr. McEvoy will take over the position held by Patricia Glenn when the commission reorganizes on Monday, Jan. 8.

"I look forward to working with Commissioners Doyle Brown and Ralph Unger," said Mr. McEvoy, "and believe we will be able to work together to move the county forward. I am looking forward to the experience."

Representative holds on to his seat

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

State Rep. John Faber of Brewster will serve a sixth term in the Kansas House after winning the election Tuesday over Bob Strevey, the Democratic candidate from Norcatour, for the third time in a row.

While Mr. Strevey didn't take any of the five counties in the 120th District, he lost by only eight votes in Norton County, 925-917. A Decatur County resident, Mr. Strevey lives in Norcatour, near the Norton County line.

Mr. Faber won Rawlins, 873-303; Cheyenne, 764-283; Phillips,

1,125-695; and Decatur, 719-571 for 62.8 percent of the vote. Mr. Faber had 4,406 votes to Mr.

Strevey's 2,769. Two years ago, the vote was 6,662, or 54 percent, for Mr. Faber to 3,609 for Mr. Strevey.

Reached at his farm near Brewster, Mr. Faber said that he has been surprised by some of the turnover in the Kansas House and Senate. Incumbents he thought would return have lost, he said, and some he wasn't sure about have won.

The biggest fight over the next

(See VOTE on Page 12A)



John Faber

Water lawn now or risk big sewer bill next year

If you need to water your lawn or wash the car one last time before winter, best do it before next Wednesday.

The city crew will read water meters starting next week and won't look at them again until about March 15.

The water bills are figured on the monthly basis.

The crew reads the meters in the middle of November and again in the middle of March, said

City Clerk Deanna Castle. The city uses the reading over those four months to determine what a customer pays for sewer use for the following year.

Watering and other outside uses might cause next year's sewer bills to be higher than normal. While there is no rule against watering over the winter, she said, people on city water may want to hold off for the next few months to save money.