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Beaver BUZZ

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City of Gaylord, Kansas, 509 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Gaylord, KS 67638
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Have you seen our newest resident?

Have any of you noticed a strange animal around town lately? Seen a brown colored animal running around and said to yourself, "What in the heck was that"? Well chances are you have seen the newest resident in town Woodchucks or more commonly called Groundhogs. Groundhogs do have a celebrity status as each year many anxiously await as if a shadow is seen or not on February 2nd as to how many weeks of winter remain. These critters currently are being seen mainly in the northwest part of town but sightings are occurring further into town all the time. Groundhogs are large rodents, brown in color with bushy tails, small ears and short legs. They can grow up to 32 inches long, and weigh up to 14 pounds. They like to live in in fields, woods, lawns, gardens and burrow under decks and abandoned structures. Groundhogs are more active during the day, with early morning and late afternoon their peak active times. Groundhogs usually dig large burrows that can be up to five feet deep and thirty feet long. A typical burrow with have a nest chamber lined with grass, a main entrance, and several escape openings. When digging a burrow a single ground hog can move of to 700 pounds of dirt in a single 24 hour period. Burrows can become large enough they have caused structures to collapse. A main entrance can be up to a foot wide, and will have a large mound of dirt beside it. Their burrows will even have a separate chamber used as a restroom. Females live alone in a single burrow with her young until they are weaned. Males also maintain their own burrows and only visit the females once each year during April or May for mating purposes. A groundhog will produce one litter each year, having up to five young each season. Diets consist of mainly plants but will also include snails, insects, baby birds and/or eggs. Fall is when they will really pack on the pounds to build extra fat before they hibernate in their nest chamber for the winter. Due to their size, they do not have many predators and the number one killer is vehicles. A loud, sharp whistle is made if they feel threatened before running to their burrow. They are very good swimmers and climbers. Groundhogs will live up to six years.

While groundhogs are not harmful to humans, they can become infected with rabies and may become aggressive and attack humans. Once they have moved into an area they are very difficult to remove and the best methods are to trap them and permanently remove them from the area, or they can be trapped and harvested for their fur.

Council would like to know how widespread these animals are throughout town, so please let us know where you see them!

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A Groundhog's territory size is usually 2-3 acres, with many separate burrows located within as they only stay a few weeks in a burrow.

Water Leaks/Reconnection Fee Policy

The Gaylord City Council would like to remind residents of our current policy concerning reconnection fees of \$25.00 and how they are applied to emergency water leaks. Currently any resident who has water services with the City of Gaylord and requests to have their water turned off for the sole purpose to have a water leak fixed, and then requests to have the water turned back on, after the water leak is fixed, no fee will be charged to have the water turned back on if the requests are made during regular business hours of Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. A fee of \$25.00 may be charged if requests are made after hours or on weekends if the governing body or the representative of the city deems a \$25.00 fee is necessary.

Current City Code Section 15-208 Unauthorized Service states: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation, other than duly authorized city officials or employees to turn water on or off at the water meter or curb cock shut off, with a key or in any other manner, without first obtaining written permission from the mayor or the governing body. (Code 2006)

Current City Code Section 15-211 Tampering With Meter states: It shall be unlawful for any person to break the seal of any meter, to alter the register or mechanism of any meter, or to make any outlet or connection in any manner so that water supplied by the city may be used or wasted without begin metered. It shall be unlawful for any person except an authorized employee of the water department to turn any curb cock on or off. (Code 2006)

Current City Code Section 15-215 Prohibited Acts states: a) Perform any work upon pipes or appurtenances of the city's waterworks system beyond a private property line unless such person is employed by the city; b) Make any connections with any extension of the supply pipes of any consumer without written permission to do so having been first obtained from the governing body; c) Remove, handle or otherwise molest or disturb any meter, meter lid, cutoff, or any other appurtenances to the water system of the city. (Code 2006)

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the City Office or any member of City Council concerning this policy.



Budget Hearing for City of Gaylord

The 2017 City of Gaylord Budget Hearing is set for Wednesday August 10th, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. This hearing will take place before the regular City Council meeting. Public is invited to attend this Budget Hearing to discuss the 2017 Budget for the City of Gaylord.

As much as 50% of all water used outdoors is wasted due to inefficient and poor water methods.

Minutes from the July City Council Meeting

City of Gaylord - Minutes of July 13th, 2016 Regular Meeting

The Gaylord City Council met in regular session in the Community Center at 7:00 p.m., July 13th, 2016.

Present Members: Barb Lehmann, Wil Neussendorfer, Jim Muck, Wendell Felsburg

Absent Members: Gene Casteel

Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

Present also: City Clerk Aubrey Neussendorfer, Treasurer Crystal Ifland, City Man Ed Burt

Citizen's Report: Dennis Maximova from AMI addressed council concerning the \$10.00 late fee and its maturity length. Dennis felt a late fee should be allowed a full 30 days on an account before it comes due and not 15 days as the policy currently stands. After a lengthy discussion concerning this matter, council stated they would discuss the policy and offered suggestions of alternative options of making payment arrangements or check into online banking services offered by his bank to make payments on time in the future.

Council Member Felsburg entered meeting during the Citizen's Report.

The minutes of the June 8th Regular meeting were read. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Wil seconded, motion carried.

The minutes of the Special Meeting on July 5th, 2016 were read. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Wil seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. Jim made a motion, seconded by Wendell, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out \$6,131.93.

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, AMI, Darin Godsey with three accounts, and Dyania Palm. Mayor Tucker issued notices of disconnect on said accounts on June 20th, 2016. All accounts were paid by Monday June 27th, 2016.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Account #44 was paid in full by July 10th as agreed upon. No paperwork has been received to change authorized users on account as of to date.
- Ed reported on fire hydrants which need to be removed, replaced, and relocated and after a lengthy discussion it was decided these still need to be reviewed again with Stan, Gene and Ed when Gene returns to town.
- Mayor Tucker reported after talking to Kathy with the Appraiser's office the decrease in our 2017 assessed valuation was a result of the Farmers Bank Building being removed from the tax roll and a substantial decrease in the value of the old grade school. Aubrey stated if there are no changes to the presented budget she would publish the budget as required with our hearing date of August 13th, 2016 the night of our next regular council meeting.
- Clerk Neussendorfer reported the City was awarded the 50/50 matching grant as part of the waste tire grant program to purchase two wheel chair accessible picnic tables.
- A contract was received from Jerry Boettcher to sign over ownership of the arsenic system to the City of Gaylord. Ed reported there is currently a leak with a check valve on the arsenic system he has made Chris Miller aware of this problem. Council agreed to table this matter until the leak is fixed.
- Clerk Neussendorfer reported in the handouts there is a copy of the Emergency Water leak and Reconnection Fee Policy explanation to place on the backside of the water bills in August. Council had no objections or corrections to this matter.
- Council discussed Account #25 concerning the water leak and the reconnection fee and after discussion council agreed to charge account #25 with the reconnection fee of \$25.00 and allowing the charge to be paid with the August Billing cycle.
- The draft of the August newsletter was reviewed by council. No changes were made at this time.
- Clerk Neussendorfer reported the estimate from Vohs Electric was received today and is still working on the loan application and will keep council updated and call a special meeting if needed to keep the application moving forward.
- Council discussed options of obtaining rock for the city streets. If the situation arises, we may need to purchase a load or two from Lyon's to get by until another source becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ed reported there was a propane tank by well house #6 that is no longer used with approximately 220 gallons of propane. Council agreed to contact Central Plains to see if they would come and drain the tank.
- Clerk Neussendorfer reported a complaint was received concerning the musk thistle in property at 809 9th Street and she has contacted the County Weed Department about this property since it was out of town. It was decided its too late in the season now, and these issues need to be addressed in the spring.
- Mayor Tucker reported a letter received about Lead & Copper testing as with the recent Flint, MI incident the testing requirement are changing and when samples are sent out for testing, instructions will be provided.
- Council addressed a report of a resident using the electrical plug-ins for personal use where the Christmas lights are plugged in on the street lights. Council discussed options for placing lockouts on these outlets on the street lamps.

REPORTS:

STREETS: Wendell reported there are numerous trees with branches overhanging onto the streets throughout town. Ed reported they can be trimmed but would need additional help to run equipment.

SEWER/TRASH: Gene was absent. Ed reported they are beginning to irrigate from the third pond in the lagoons.

WATER: Jim reported he is hearing fewer reports of brown water and the reports he has, the sediments seem to be minimal. Ed reported he will attempt back flushing the arsenic system himself as a valve is currently leaking.

FIRE: Wil reported the department wants to sign up for a two year contract to allow their emergency pages to come through on their personal cell phones. These will be in addition to their pagers for now as they test out the system and may eventually phase out carrying individual pagers. The cost for the contract is \$500.00 per year and would pay \$250.00 from the Fireman's account, \$125.00 from the Rural Fire Fund and would like for the City to pay \$125.00 from the General Fund for the cities portion. Wendell made the motion to pay the city's share of \$125.00 from the General Fund for the e-paging system for the Fire Department. Jim seconded, motion carried.

Wil reported the Fire Department received a 50/50 Grant from the Kansas Forestry Service to purchase 5 radios.

Barb made a motion to accept Mayor Tucker's appointment of Ryan Lewis as a Part-Time Member to the Gaylord Volunteer Fire Department. Wendell seconded, motion carried.

Wil reported the department had two runs in the past month: a truck fire and a motorcycle accident.

Wil reported the price for a quick-attachment for the 4020 tractor from Landmark Implement new would be \$500.00.

Wendell asked what should be done to repair the large mud hole developing on the road going to the City Burn Site. Ed stated when rock is delivered he is going to have an entire truckload dumped on the road and will place rock along the entire road.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: 8 units are rented.

PARKS: David reported the park will need watered if it does not rain. Wil suggested to check with Stan as the water in the fire trucks needs to be drained and could be used to water areas in the park. Ed reported the bathroom in the park seems to be used often and is still in operation.

CITY MAN: Ed reported he is looking into options for cleaning out debris from meter pits. Ed stated there is water school training in Smith Center in August he would like to attend. Ed stated the rim on the back tire of the backhoe cracked and is in the process of being repaired. Athol Coop and Jones Welding have been contacted. The backhoe also had a couple of hydraulic hoses which need repairs and replaced. Ed reported the meter pit at Lehmann's was lowered and will need a disk blade placed over the meter lid to prevent damage.

TREASRUER: no report

CITY CLERK: no report

Mayor Tucker stated the next council meeting will be August 10th, 2016 at 7 p.m.

With no further business before the council, a motion was made by Wil and seconded by Barb to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

(City Clerk)

Approved:

(Mayor) (Date)

Disclaimer: These minutes are unofficial and not official until the Gaylord City Council approves them and are signed by the Mayor.

Back to School Tips

It's hard to believe summer is coming to an end and it's almost time for your kids to head back to school. For children, it's usually an exciting time of the year as new clothing, shoes, and supplies are purchased, and they anxiously await to put these new items to use. Reconnecting with friends, learning new things, or a new year of sports seasons are on the horizon. Parents, after three months of having the children at home during the summer, are typically equally excited to have the kids back in school as well. Here are a few tips to ease the transition of going back to school for everyone involved.

- Set your kids' sleep schedules to a school routine two weeks before the first day.
- Go through the morning routine of getting ready to ensure they will have enough time to prepare for when the bus arrives or its time to leave for school. If your kids will be walking, you may want to walk with them to ensure they know the route.
- Establish rules or guidelines for expectations for what is allowed for after school options. Such as places they can go, when to be home, when and how to check in with parents.
- Reacquaint kids with calendar schedules and plans for the week ahead and day ahead. Let the children choose their planner or method which works best for them.
- During the week before school starts, set times for them to play or focus on one project or task at home and then switch when the timer goes off. This helps them to begin to focus on one type of activity at once.
- Set and enforce regular bedtimes to weekdays and weekends two weeks before school starts.



Please remember to have all trash in secure boxes or bags placed out for pick-up on Tuesday mornings. Any loose trash in containers will not be picked up and left in the container.

Fire Department receives grant

Congratulations to the Gaylord Volunteer Fire Department as they have received a \$3,500.00 Grant from Central Plains Coop to help with expenses on the new Fire Station. This brings the total for the department to \$19,700.00 in grants this year to apply for expenses on upgrading equipment and completing the Fire Station.

City of Gaylord receives grant

Congratulations to the City of Gaylord and Gaylord Parkview Manor for receiving a matching grant of 50/50 through the Kansas Department of Health & Environment Waste Tire Program to purchase two wheel chair accessible picnic tables. One table will be placed at the city park while the other will be placed for resident use for the Gaylord Housing. These tables are made for 100% recycled tires all from tires collected in the state of Kansas.

Community Calendar

We would like to add a calendar to this newsletter each month containing local birthdays and anniversaries for area residents and their families. We would also like to include, upcoming local events. In memoriam of loved ones may also be included. Please submit your information to Abby at the City Office at any time, but no later than the third Friday of each month, so this information can be placed in the following month's newsletter. You may submit your information by calling the City Office at 697-2697, mail to: City of Gaylord, PO Box 548, Gaylord, KS 67638, drop in the box located in the City Office, or e-mail to cityofgaylord@gmail.com.

City Council

The Gaylord City Council meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in the Gaylord Community Center. The public is *always* invited and can attend the entire meeting, except during Executive Session. If you wish to discuss a particular concern, please let our City Clerk, Abby Neussendorfer; know by the first Friday of the month, so she can add your name to the monthly meeting agenda. We WELCOME the public, and wish we had more citizens attend our meetings. The City Council does their best to address the issues of our citizens, and tries to provide our citizens with a healthy, safe environment with the funds available. Please join in and help our decisions. Please do your part to maintain the quality of our community.

Contact Information

Please make sure to keep your contact information current with the City Office, as when events occur such as Boil Advisories you can be informed as soon as possible. By which ever means you prefer to be contacted: phone, text message, e-mail or via Facebook, please keep this information current with the City Office.

Gaylord Library

Come check out the latest books added to our selection at the Library. We also have a great traveling book selection. Beat the heat on these summer days with a cool glass of tea and a “good” book. Gaylord Library Hours are 9am to 11am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

City of Gaylord

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WATER BILL IS ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER!