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Beaver BUZZ

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Traditions of Halloween

Every family has their own traditions as they celebrate the fall holidays, but have you ever wondered how other countries celebrate? Or ever wondered how the traditional holidays ever got their start?

Halloween dates back to the early 20th century, and was scarcely mentioned in the 19th Century. This holiday was brought to American by the Irish and Scottish immigrants and stems from a mix of Celtic and Christian holidays. Historic celebrations included: feasting, divinations (according to dictionary.com means “the practice of seeking knowledge of the future or the unknown by supernatural means”), and mischief making.

Jack-o’-Lanterns have always been a key component in Halloween in American culture. Children each year typically enjoy this activity with their parents of picking of the ideal pumpkin, scooping of the insides, and creating their masterpiece to showcase on display with a candle for all to see on Halloween Night. Historically people have carved pumpkins and gourds long before the Halloween holiday was recognized. In 1850, for example, poet John Greenleaf Whittier mentioned the practice of his boyhood in “The Pumpkin: “When wild, ugly faces we carved in its skin, Glaring our through the dark with a candle within!” I was unable to find an exact date of when these lanterns where first associated with Halloween, but the connection was firmly established in the early 20th century. The name Jack-o’-Lantern has changed meaning numerous times over the years. The first recording was for a night watchman, dating back to 1663. It began to be used for pumpkin lanterns sometime in the 19th century, and it’s possible the name went from the night watchman to the lantern itself. Irish legend tells of a miserly man name Jack who, while alive, tricked the Devil in agreeing not to take him in into Hell. Upon his death, St. Peter would not let Jack into Heaven, because he had been too stingy and sinful. The Devil would not let him into Hell because of the deal they had made. Jack was then condemned to wander between Heaven and Hell with in lantern looking for a place to rest, but would never find one.

Halloween night has always been known as a night of mischief and pranks and dates back to the late 18th century. For example, boys would make “tick-tacks” by cutting notches in wooden spoons and winding string around then. The spool would be placed right up against the window, with a nail serving as an axel. When the string was pulled, it made a loud and rapid “tick-tack” noise. Other pranks included throwing corn and decaying vegetables at houses. While this was considered innocent fun, some pranksters began taking it too far and news stories after Halloween night was filled with articles of students being expelled from schools, gangs of youths roaming through town covering people in flour, buildings being blown up and so on.

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The City Office will be open till 5 p.m. on Halloween so please bring your kids in for a treat!

*Wishing you a safe
and happy
Halloween!*

The general practice of going door-to-door for treats is very similar to a older practice calling “souling”, in which the poor would go from house to house begging for clothing and food. The traditional trick or treating dates back to the 1930’s, and it was promoted as a healthier and safer practice for children to do and the treats were given to act as an incentive to not play tricks. Costumes worn by the children were introduced in the early 20th century. The first costumes included ghosts and witches and were used to scare people. Eventually the holiday practice included costumes of all types that were acceptable to wear.

In the past, Gaylord had its share of mischievous tricks which took place on Halloween night, as numerous items such as trees, irrigation pipe, abandoned vehicles and other items were dragged and left on Main Street for all to see.

Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips

Here is a list of a few safety tips for your kids to have a safe and happy Halloween!

- Choose a costume that is made from flame resistant material.
- Add reflective tape to your costume, bag, or to as many items you can so you are well seen.
- Always make sure an adult is with your children while they are out.
- Only stop at homes that are well lit and have clear pathways.
- Tell children to not accept any candy that is not commercially wrapped.
- Children should wear well fitting, supportive shoes.
- Have children wear face paint instead of masks if possible. If wearing masks, please make sure they are well fitting and they can clearly see.
- Keep candles and open flames away from walkways to prevent costumes from brushing up against them.
- Swords, knives, or other costume accessories should be soft, flexible or made from some type of material to prevent injury.
- Make sure flashlights have new batteries or have extra batteries available.
- Please look over your child’s treats to make sure all are safe for consumption.



Jack-o-Lantern Contest

The City Council Members would like to see your decorated or carved pumpkins! The City of Gaylord will provide the pumpkins and will be available in the City Office starting October 1st. Please submit your photos on our Facebook page (City of Gaylord, Kansas) or email to cityofgaylord@gmail.com or drop a picture by the City Office by 5 p.m. Monday October 31st, 2016. Prizes will be given to the top three pumpkins. Winners will be chosen the night of our Council Meeting on Wednesday, November 9th, 2016. If you have any questions please contact the City Office at 785-697-2697. We look forward to seeing your creations!

Minutes from the September City Council Meeting

City of Gaylord - Minutes of September 14th, 2016 Regular Meeting

The Gaylord City Council met in regular session in the Community Center at 7:00 p.m., September 14th, 2016.

Present Members: Barb Lehmann, Wil Neussendorfer, Jim Muck, Gene Casteel

Absent Members: Wendell Felsburg

Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

Present also: City Clerk Aubrey Neussendorfer, Treasurer Crystal Ifland, City Man Ed Burt, and Jessica Norris with Nextech

Norris

Mayor Tucker called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Citizen's Report: Jessica Norris with Nextech addressed the current Video Service Agreement they have with the City of Gaylord. This contract was signed in 2007 and will renew in 2017. This is the time now, if any changes need to be made as it will automatically renew for a five year term in 2017. After reviewing the contract signed in 2007, Barb made the motion to allow the contract with Nextech to automatically renew for a five year period with no changes to the current contract. Wil seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called for a recess as the Council will now tour apartments at the Gaylord Housing Authority at 7:05 pm. Council Member Lehmann explained the purpose of this tour was to allow members of council see apartments at different stages from a recently unoccupied apartment, to a newly renovated apartment. During their recent board meeting, concerns were expressed of a lack of communication between the two entities and would like to make efforts to improve this issue.

Council member Jim Muck entered the meeting as the group was leaving for the tour.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting back to regular session at 7:38 p.m.

The minutes of the August 10th Regular meeting were read. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read; with the correction of the total bills paid out was \$8,435.54. Jim seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. Barb made a motion, seconded by Gene, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out \$16,229.23.

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, Darin Godsey with three accounts, Bev Eller, Naomi Wood, and Dyania Palm. Mayor Tucker issued notices of disconnect on said accounts on August 20th, 2016. Two accounts were paid by the disconnect date, payment arrangements were made on two accounts and were then paid in full on the pre-arranged date, and one account #82 was disconnected on August 25th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The two quotes for the Telemetry System were discussed. After the engineer was here to review the old damaged system a new quote was sent from Sargent Drilling to show total cost to replace a system which was similar in capabilities to our old system as the prior quote was for an updated system. It appears as though our insurance will only cover the replacement cost for this new quoted system only. Quote #1 (the first quote or the upgraded system) \$33,500.00. Quote #2 (requested by insurance) \$26,075.00. The VFD which will need to be installed on Well #6 for 8,357.00 will be needed with either system the council chooses. The difference between the two systems is \$7,425.00. The benefits of the updated version, or Quote #1, are wireless communication between the water tower, office panel, and wells, and alarm capabilities to alert via phone call or text message. After discussing the two options, Gene made the motion to proceed with replacing the telemetry system with the updated or Quote #1 obtained from Sargent Drilling. Barb seconded, motion carried.
- Aubrey asked council to clarify the status of work needing to be done to fire hydrants. Council agreed at this time to table this project until a further date.
- Ed updated council on the Arsenic System. The leak is still present and had contact Chris Miller. Mr. Miller had ordered and sent the seal kit parts and wished for Ed to replace these parts. Ed had found a video online to show how to proceed, and it was then discovered specialized tools were needed to complete this task. After contacting Mr. Miller, his research found these tools were not needed. Ed informed council in his research these tools were necessary. After discussion, council agreed to have Mr. Miller arrange for a technician to complete this task. They also wanted a technician to perform this task as if these parts do not fix the leak, they could then find the issue all with one trip. Council also asked a letter be sent to all parties involved to update them on this issue.
- Gene updated council on the engineers report concerning the City Burn Site Road. His suggestion of culverts and concrete is not financially feasible for the City, and we are not forced to do any of this work at this time. After discussion, council agreed to make a low water crossing of at least 50-70 feet at this time and build this entire road of with gravel. If any trees or brush in the ditches need to be removed Ed will do so as needed. Ed will begin working on this project as soon as gravel is secured and the road dries up to a point in which work can proceed.
- Mayor Tucker reported he had contact Athol Co-op and they are unable to take back propane once it has been delivered. Max thought he knew of someone who was looking for a propane tank and will let David know if they are still interested.
- The Trash Truck purchased from V&K was discussed. Ed reports he has no issues with the truck and depending on load size and weather conditions; he may not have to make the weekly trip to the landfill and will help save expenses.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Aubrey reported Cereal Malt Beverage licenses one for on-site consumption and one for off-site consumption have been received from Dave Hommon for renewal. Gene made the motion to approve both CMB licenses for Dave Hommon for 2017. Wil seconded, motion carried.
- Wil made the motion to spend up to \$150.00 to fix the GAYLORD limestone rock base at the Roadside Park. Jim seconded, motion carried.
- Aubrey reported the Fall Smith County Community Foundation Grants will be due on October 15th. The two ideas discussed were installing a handicap assessable door as the front door in the Community Center and to install a plaque dedicating the Gaylord Archway in the City Park. After discussion council agreed to pursue the Handicap Assessable Door for the fall round of grants.
- Aubrey provided council with a handout for the Community Clean-up Grants offered through Dane G. Hansen and the Smith County Community Foundation. After discussion council agreed information would need to be collected from residents to see how much interest there is before pursuing this grant. If enough interest is available council would like to have dumpsters brought to town and with the help of volunteers allow residents to get rid of items they no longer need or have the equipment or capabilities to dispose of unwanted items. Aubrey also will contact Joan to verify what we wish to do would be eligible and if the grant is a reimbursement of expenses or pre-paid type of grant.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to recess at 9:00 p.m. and the meeting was called back to regular session at 9:05 p.m.

- Aubrey provided council with a handout of a revised version of the New Account Application Form. The section for landlords was revised to include a signature line from the tenant as well as the landlord. By having the landlord signing the application this will allow for all parties involved to be aware of how billing responsibilities will be and allow the city knowledge that when a tenant applies for utilities the landlord is made aware as well. Council approved the revised application and had no changes at this time.
- Aubrey reported if anyone was attending the KLM Conference she had a voting delegate form.
- Aubrey reported the Rural Telephone Capital Credit Allocation was \$75.55.
- Aubrey reported the Midwest Energy Annual Meeting Voting Ballot was received.
- Mayor Tucker asked council what needs to be done with the old Trash Truck. After discussion of placing the truck on an upcoming consignment auction, we need to get a weight on the truck and figure what the scrap price would be in order to set a minimum price.
- Gene reported the next copper sulfate treatment would be around November 1st and more copper sulfate will be needed.
- Ed reported the county had brought six loads of rock for the streets and he had used most of this rock already.
- Aubrey reported the October version of the Beaver Buzz was ready. She asked council if they would like to have a pumpkin contest for the kids in town for the best carved or decorated pumpkin for Halloween. After discussion council agreed to this contest and will provide the pumpkins for the children. Aubrey also asked council if they would provide the treats she would volunteer to have the office open until 5 on October 31st for any trick-or-treaters.

REPORTS:

STREETS: Gene discussed the option of the city purchasing a grader for street maintenance. Wendell had found one for sale in Grand Island for \$10,000 but thought it was only worth about \$5,000.00. At this time, this matter was tabled as with other projects, financially it did not make sense to purchase a grader but would keep looking.

SEWER/TRASH: Mayor Tucker asked Ed if he was still treating the sewers with Dawn Soap monthly. Ed stated yes he still was.

WATER: Jim asked Ed what the arsenic levels have been with the tests he completes. Ed reported the levels have been consistently been the lowest his reading he machine will produce since the system was fixed after the leak in May.

FIRE: Wil reported no runs occurred in the past month. Mayor Tucker asked when flushing of hydrants would take place. Ed reported he would flush hydrants in the next month.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: 8 units are rented. Barb reported no issues have been brought to her attention with the Community Center and all appears to be clean.

PARKS: David reported if any spraying needs to be done in the park for week control we need to get this done in the next month.

CITY MAN: no report.

TREASURER: no report.

CITY CLERK: no report.

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.

Gaylord Church to Celebrate Anniversary

The Gaylord Community Church will celebrate its 140th Anniversary on Sunday, October 23rd 2016. The celebration will begin with a community potluck dinner at 12:30, at the Gaylord Community Center; memorabilia will be on display at the Community Center. Everyone is invited to attend. Please note the regular 9:00 am service will not be held at the church.

The Community Church can trace its history back to 1876, when the pastor of the Congregational Church at Smith Center traveled to Gaylord to hold services, meeting at the school before erecting their first building in the 1880's. The existing building, known then as the Congregational Church, was built in 1906.

For various reasons, the Methodists and German Baptists merged with the Congregationalists, and the church resumed association with the Congregational denomination, becoming the Congregational Christian Church. In the 1960's, the church affiliated with the newly-formed United Church of Christ denomination, becoming what it is today, Gaylord Community United Church of Christ (UCC).

You are cordially invited to come and share this historical day!

Community Clean-Up Project

Many of you may have seen the current grants offered through the Dane G. Hansen Fund through the Smith County Community Foundation in order to help communities in Smith County with Community Clean-Up Projects. The City of Gaylord would like to utilize funds in order to assist our residents in disposing of items they no longer need or do not have the capabilities to do so. The wishes of the City Council at this time are to seek information from you in order to begin research to apply for this grant and what items are needed for removal of your items. Council would like to have dumpsters brought into town, have items if needed certified for disposal such as appliances that may contain coolant, and ask for volunteers along with necessary equipment available in order to remove heavy items if assistance is requested.

Please fill out the bottom portion of this page and return with your utility bill payment.

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Would you be interested in volunteering with this project? _____ yes _____ no

Would you be interested in volunteering any equipment for this project? ___ yes ___ no

What equipment would you be willing to volunteer? (tractor with loader, trailers, etc)

Would you be interested in volunteering to help prep meals/deliver water during work days if necessary?

_____ yes _____ no

Would you have items to dispose of if this project was available? ___ yes ___ no

Would you prefer to leave items at curbside for city to pick-up or would you prefer to take items yourself to a dumpster to dispose of? _____ curbside _____ dumpster

Would you need assistance for removal of items? _____ yes _____ no

Would you have any items which would need to have coolant removed before disposal? ___ yes ___ no

SPOOKY HALLOWEEN FACTS

- The movie Halloween (1978) was on such a tight budget, they had to use the cheapest mask they could find for the character Michael Myers, which turned out to be a William Shatner Star Trek mask. Shatner initially did not know that mask was in his likeness, but when he found out years later, he stated he was honored.
- Halloween is the second largest grossing commercial holiday after Christmas.
- The word “witch” comes from the Old English *wicce*, meaning “wise woman.” In fact, Wiccans were highly respected people at one time. According to popular belief, witches held one of their two main meetings on Halloween night.
- Samhainophobia is the intense and persistent fear of Halloween.
- The owl is a popular Halloween image. In Medieval Europe, owls were thought to be witches, and to hear an owl’s call meant someone was about to die.
- The largest pumpkin ever measured was grown by Norm Craven, who broke the world record in 1993 with an 836 lb. pumpkin.
- “Souling” is a medieval Christian precursor to modern day trick-or-treating. One Hallowmas (November 1st) the poor would go door-to-door offering prayers for the dead in exchange for soul cakes.
- Black and orange are typically associated with Halloween. Orange is a symbol of strength and endurance and along with brown and gold, stands for the harvest and autumn. Black is typically a symbol of death and darkness and acts as a reminder that Halloween once was a festival that marked the boundaries between life and death.
- Scarecrows, a popular Halloween fixture, symbolized the ancient agricultural roots of the holiday.
- Halloween has also been called, All Hallows Eve, Witches Night, Lamswool, Snap-Apple Night, Samhain, and Summer’s End.
- Halloween was influenced by the ancient Roman festival Pomona, which celebrated the harvest goddess of the same name. Many Halloween customs and games that feature apples (such as bobbing for apples) and nuts date from this time.
- Harry Houdini (1874-1926) was one of the most famous and mysterious magicians who ever lived. Strangely enough, he died in 1926 on Halloween night as a result of appendicitis brought on by three stomach punches.
- Looking in a mirror at midnight on Halloween was thought to reveal a boyfriend’s face.
- Scottish girls believed they could see images of their future husbands if they hung wet sheets in front of the fire on Halloween night.
- According to tradition, if a person wears his or her clothes inside out and then walks backwards on Halloween, he or she will see a witch at midnight.
- During the pre-Halloween celebration of Samhain, bonfires were lit to ensure the sun would return after the long hard winter. Often Druid priests would throw the bones of cattle in the flame and hence, “bone fire” become “bonfire”
- In 1970, a five-year-old boy Kevin Toston allegedly ate Halloween candy laced with heroin. Investigators discovered the heroin was his uncle’s and was not intended for Halloween candy.
- In 1974, eight-year-old Timothy O’Brian died of cyanide poisoning after eating Halloween candy. Investigators learned his father had taken out a \$20,000 life insurance policy on each of his children and that he had poisoned his own son and attempted to poison his daughter.
- “Teng Chieh” or the Lantern Festival is one Halloween festival in China. Lanterns shaped like dragons and other animals are hung around houses and streets to help guide the spirits back to their earthy homes.

Are door-to door sales legal in Kansas?

With recent salesman within the county I have found this information regarding door-to-door sales from the Kansas Attorney General's website:

Door-to-door sales are the subject of many complaints to our office. A high-pressure sales pitch from a solicitor at your home can be an intimidating situation. While there is no state law against door-to-door sales, the Kansas Consumer Protection Act does lay down some rules that solicitors must follow. Know your rights to be sure you are protected.

Kansas law guarantees you three days to cancel any purchase of \$25 or more made in your home or at a location that is not the permanent place of business or local address of the seller, often referred to as the "Cooling-Off Rule." The salesperson must verbally inform you of your cancellation rights at the time of sale. You also must be given two copies of a cancellation form and a copy of your contract or receipt.

The contract or receipt must be dated, show the name and address of the seller, be in a large legible font and explain your right to cancel. The contract or receipt must be in the same language used in the sales presentation. If you wish to cancel and you did not receive two copies of the cancellation policy, for your records, be sure to copy the signed and dated policy that you are mailing to the company. It is also suggested you send this cancellation by certified mail so you can track it. Companies are then required to refund the customer's money within 10 days of receiving the cancellation. Under this Cooling-Off Rule, it is also against Kansas law for the salespersons or the company to cash your check within this three-day period.

Here are some helpful tips to protect yourself from fraudulent door-to-door sales:

- Never let a salesperson into your home unless you are sure of who they are and why they are there.
- Ask to see their peddler's license, if it is required by your local city or county government.
- Ask for written information on the company and salesperson and take plenty of time to read it and shop around, rather than making a purchasing decision on-the-spot. A legitimate salesperson will be happy to leave their business card and come back if you decide to make a purchase.
- If the salesperson says it is a special deal for "today only," it's probably too good to be true.
- Never pay for door-to-door purchases with cash. When possible, use a credit card, which will allow you to cancel or dispute the charge.



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.

Flu Shots

Flu shots will be available from the Smith County Health Department on Tuesday October 18th, 2016 from 9 am to 11 am in the Community Center.

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 memorandum 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

Fall is in the air! Come check out the latest books added to our selection at the Library, as there is nothing better than curling up with a good book on these cooler fall days. We also have a great traveling book selection. 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!