

http://www

Beaver BUZZ

April 1st, 2017
Volume 2 Issue 4

City of Gaylord, Kansas, 509 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Gaylord, KS 67638
www.gaylordkansas.com cityofgaylord@gmail.com 785-697-2697

Water System Project - Update

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Water System Update
- 2 Wildfire Safety Tips
- 3 March Council Minutes
- 4 Lawn Preparation
- 5 Consumer Confidence Report

In the coming month you may notice publications in the Smith County Pioneer concerning our bonds which are going to be issued for our water system improvement project. All of these resolutions and ordinances are standard protocol for issuing general obligation bonds for a municipality. In our case these bonds are not going to be purchased by the general public, ours will all be purchased from the organization Communities Unlimited Inc. This is the same company in which we submitted our loan application to and were recently approved. Municipalities are not able to simply go apply at our local bank for a loan, we must use different methods, such as issuing bonds and making regular payments along with interest back over a period of time. In our case we applied for a maximum of \$150,000.00 to cover expenses to our water system. Now we may not need this full amount, but if repairs exist once they begin work, we now have access to cover all necessary repairs for our water tower. These bonds will have a 4.9% interest rate and our repayment period will last for 15 years. Monthly payments will begin paying off this debt as soon as paperwork is signed. Currently these monthly payments will be sufficiently covered by our current revenues collected each month from the water charges portion of your water bill. At this time our current water rates will generate enough income to cover our regular monthly expenses and bond payments. Council does not anticipate the need to make a major increase to our water rates to cover these bond payments at this time.

Actual work on the water tower is tentatively scheduled to begin in May of this year. During this time our water tower will need to be drained of water, but we do not anticipate any water outages during this time. Our wells will just need to be pumping more to keep up with the water demands in our system. We do anticipate as there will be more water moving within the system, this may stir sediments within our pipes and we may need to be flushing our hydrants more and our water in areas may be slightly brown tinged. But please remember this is only a temporary issue and we will keep a close eye on this potential side effect. But in the end, we will have a freshly painted, inspected, and repaired water tower for our future water storage within Gaylord!

Please do not hesitate to discuss any issues or concerns you may have with this water project with any city council member or stop by the City Office.



Wildfire Safety Tips

Before a Wildfire

- Know your risk. Do research and learn how often wildfires occur in your area.
- Evaluate your surroundings. If you are located in an area with a high fire risk, examine the landscaping around your house or structures. Remove plants or trees located too close to your house or burn easily.
- Clear dead plants away from your home. Dead grass and plants are easily flammable and should be cleared at least 50 feet away from your house.
- Install smoke alarms in your home. Make sure you test them as recommended to ensure they are working properly.
- Put together an emergency kit. Your kit should include first aid supplies, blankets, and any personal items you may need such as medications, toiletries and clothing. If you have pets, make sure they also have adequate supplies in your kit.
- Decide well in advance what items you would try to take with you and keep these items to a minimum and if possible located together.
- Create an emergency plan. Choose a meeting place away from your home for family members to gather in case you are not together when a fire happens. Make arrangements with a neighbor if possible to evacuate your pets when you are not home and the need arises.

If a Wildfire is Approaching

- Prepare to evacuate. Listen to emergency channels and know the status of the fire. Put emergency supplies and must-have items in the car so you can evacuate quickly. Evacuate immediately if told to do so.
- Protect your property. If you have time, use a hose to wet down your house, the roof and the surrounding area. Turn the gas off in the house or structure.

After a Wildfire

- Return only after it is safe. Do not go back to your house until officials declare it safe to do so.
- Watch for ash pits and hot spots. Even after a fire has been extinguished, small fires can flare up without warning. Check your house and surrounding property for hot spots and extinguish them immediately. Also watch for ash-pits or holes full of hot ashes left by burned trees. Mark off ash pits so no one falls into them and injures themselves.
- Document the damage to your house. Take photos and video and make a written list. You will need this for insurance purposes.



Minutes from the March City Council Meeting

The Gaylord City Council met in regular session in the Community Center at 7:00 p.m., March 8th, 2017.

Present Members: Barb Lehmann, Gene Casteel, and Wil Neussendorfer

Absent Members: Gene Casteel and Wendell Felsburg

Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

Present also: City Clerk Aubrey Neussendorfer, Treasurer Crystal Ifland, City Man Ed Burt and JoAnn Kennedy.

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

Citizen's Report: JoAnn asked council concerning the use of the trash truck on a non-trash pick-up day to come to her house to dispose of items as opposed to having it sit in the street for a number of days with the amount of stray dogs in town. Council agreed for a charge of \$30.00 for this request to cover expenses of loading and hauling this load to the landfill. All parties agreed upon this charge and it would be due and payable on March 10th along with the regular monthly water bill. JoAnn Kennedy left the meeting.

The minutes of the February 8th Regular meeting were read. Correction of cleaning at Community Center was February 17th not March 17th. Wil made the motion to approve the minutes as read, with the stated correction. Barb seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. After discussion, Wil made a motion, seconded by Barb, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out \$9,950.90.

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, Darin Godsey with three accounts, Dyania Palm, Mike Fogo, and Greg Jones. Account 80 was disconnected on Monday February 27th, 2017. Aubrey informed council, questions arose during the past month concerning pro-rating the monthly minimum charge for water and sewer if an account is terminated during the billing period. At this time council does wish to change the policy as the monthly minimum charge will apply to an account no matter how many days the account was active.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Aubrey reported no new information concerning the bonds for the water project has been received. An updated contract from Maguire Iron has been sent and needs signed before a definite spot can be secured on their schedule. Tentatively it appears at this point May is when crews could be on site to work on water tower.
- Aubrey reported the Community Clean-up grant has been submitted for Smith County. Brief discussion concerning the project planned and agreed a special meeting might be needed once approved if it occurred before next council meeting.
- Barb reported the cleaning of the storage room went well. Members from community included: Karen Frieling, Donna Muck, and Edith McClain along with Gene, Ed, Jim, Abby and herself. A few items were placed on a table for donations if anyone would want them for the night of the Pancake Feed. Aubrey reported she had also included painting of the storage room to the clean-up grant portion for Gaylord. Council decided to wait in replacing the water heater till a later date. Barb reported the kitchen will be sorted and cleaned at a later date. After discussion council agreed to replace the vacuum at the community center.
- Aubrey reported the estimate for the concrete portion of the Wheel Chair Assessable Door from Cameron Concrete was \$3200.00. So totals include: Concrete 3200.00 + Door \$5435.64 + Our Materials to Prep/Finish \$720.00 = \$9355.64. So far monies applied towards this project include: \$2500.00 Grant from Monsanto from Barb Lehmann, applied for a \$1,000.00 Grant with Midwest Energy, and will apply for a \$5,000.00 Grant in April from Smith County Community Foundation. This would leave \$1855.64 the cost for the city if all grants were awarded. After discussion, council agreed to proceed with this project.
- Aubrey reported no estimates have been received for the back-up emergency generator for the Community Center. Council agreed to wait to proceed with this project at this time.
- Aubrey updated council as Byron with Fouts Insurance has been down to take pictures of all property and met with Stan to inventory all items for the Fire Department to accurately proceed with our new insurance policy. Byron will also be giving us a comparison quote with VFIS for the fire department to determine if it will save us money for the coverage it provides.
- Council was informed Gaylord will remain as a polling location for elections as the County Commissioners voted as such.
- Council member Lehmann made the motion for council to go into executive session for ten minutes at 8:00 p.m. to review sealed bids for the 1969 Chevy Fire Truck. Wil seconded, motion carried. At 8:08 p.m. Mayor Tucker called the meeting back to order. Mayor Tucker reported council accepted the highest bid for the truck from Mike Gooder for \$1568.00. Council asked the clerk to send letters to the rest of the bidders.

Mayor Tucker called for a recess of the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mayor Tucker called the meeting back to regular session at 8:27 p.m.

- Aubrey reported the Greenbush Procurement Company for wholesale supplies ended up not being a good of a bargain as initially thought.

NEW BUSINESS:

- After discussion council agreed to contact Nex-tech concerning the Wi-Fi at the community center and making it password secured, hoping this will solve the problem of loitering.
- Aubrey reported a letter from dpc Industries states the price of chlorine will increase \$0.0125 per pound. Council agreed to seek pricing estimates from other suppliers.
- Aubrey reported a Grant Writing Workshop will be in Smith Center on March 9th from 5 to 8 pm. Barb and she were planning to attend.
- Aubrey reported she would like to attend a Municipal Finance Workshop in Russell on March 30th. Council had no objections.

- Aubrey reported Stephanie would be moving towards the end of March. Council agreed to place an ad in the newsletter to see if there is any interest in cleaning the community center.
- Council discussed the idea of hosting an Easter Egg Hunt and opted not to do this event this year.
- Aubrey reported the 2017 Consumer Confidence Report was received and will be sent with the April Newsletters. Copies were provided to council in their handouts.
- Aubrey asked council concerning the burning ban protocol. Once issued by the commissioners besides the signage and social media sites this information is updated if postcards should be mailed to all residents. Council agreed postcards should be mailed for all future burn bans once issued.
- Aubrey reported upcoming sessions for the CBD Grant would be held in Newton & Topeka and asked if she should attend. After discussion council agreed for her to attend if possible.
- Ed asked council about installing a light on the back side of the Community Center as when grilling out back at events it can get pretty dark. After discussion, council agreed to install a flood light out back.

REPORTS:

STREETS: Wil asked council if they had any objections to Kurt Ifland using his grader to clean out the gutters around the Housing Authority. Council had no objections. Ed reported when he asked Kaid Dannenberg about using the bull dozer he was using, to push up rock at Giese's pit for hire, Kaid instead just donated this service to the City and pushed up a large quantity of rock for the city. Council agreed to have a Thank You card sent to Kaid. Ed reported he will be spreading more rock in town as needed and time allows. Ed reported he and Gene have been discussing and obtaining information on the best sprays to use for preventative measures around culverts and water meters in town.

SEWER/TRASH: Ed reported he has been repainting the sign at the sewer lagoons.

WATER: Jim reported all seems to be running smooth. Few brown water complaints have been received. Ed reported he installed a new 2" valve at the meter maid. He stated he still needs another complete kit to have on hand to rebuild the second chlorinator. Ed reports the treatment we are currently using instead of the Aqua-Mag is plugging the screen in the chlorinator. He feels we need to switch back to the original Aqua-Mag solution to prevent this from occurring since our Arsenic System is now running.

Mayor Tucker asked when hydrants had been flushed last. Ed reported a couple had been flushed in the past month, but he and Gene planned on getting to the rest in the next month.

FIRE: Wil reported the department had been on one mutual aid request to a fire north of Smith Center in the past month. Wil reported an estimated 250 people attended the Pancake Feed on March 4th and a total of \$5437.00 was brought in with donations for meals and raffle tickets. Wil also stated they figured about 60 people toured the new fire station during the evening.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: Barb reported 4 units are rented and they are planning to have an Open House on April 2nd from 2-4 pm. Barb reported the picnic table still needs to be assembled and Kurt will have it done before the deadlines. Barb reported the community center needs to be sprayed this spring for bugs and after discussion Ed will spray the building within the month. Barb asked council for opinions for having a city-wide garage sale either in conjunction with Smith Center or calling other towns along Highway 9 to see if multiple towns could schedule sales on the same day to draw more interest. Barb also asked if the community center could be used that day for tables to be rented out for people to sell items. Council had no objections to this idea.

PARKS: David reported the parks need to be sprayed for spring and will discuss with Gene to see what they are using at the cemeteries and pick-up the necessary spray.

CITY MAN: Ed asked council if they had any objections to purchasing a few pieces of lumber and screws to make a bench at the old fire station/new city shop. Council had no objections. Ed also reported he had made a new bench which hinges to place the cookers underneath.

TREASRUER: no report

CITY CLERK: Aubrey reported she would be gone from March 10th through the 12th.

Mayor Tucker stated the next council meeting will be April 12th, 2017 at 7 p.m. David also stated all members needed to have their pictures taken for current NIMS cards before they left for the evening.

Crystal reported she had ordered a new swing for younger kids for the park and asked council if they had any objections to her installing it. Council had no objections.

With no further business before the council, a motion was made by Barb and seconded by Jim 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.

Preparing Your Lawn for Summer

In order to achieve a well maintained and thriving yard throughout the summer months a few things need to be done in the spring time each year to set things in motion for a healthy lawn. The earlier in the spring you get started you will help to develop a resilient lawn that is resistant to the effects of sun, weeds, pests, and heavy foot traffic. Following are a few tips and guidelines to prepare your yard for its growing season.

Aerating your lawn helps to promote a healthy root system. Aeration allows for the grass to breathe, and allows for water and nutrients to reach the root systems for effectively. If your lawn does not have proper aeration during the hottest months of the summer, it becomes difficult for your lawn to survive. The best time to aerate depends on the type of grass you have planted. Cool-season grasses need to be aerated in the fall, while warm-season grasses need to be aerated in early spring. This process needs to be repeated every 1 to 3 years depends on the traffic in your yard.

Completely raking your yard annually to remove thatch and other debris is recommended. Thatch which is mainly comprised of decaying plant material can block sunlight and prevent water from reaching deep down to the roots of your lawn. If your lawn shows evidence of compaction, raking of your lawn is recommended in the fall as well.

Fertilize your yard each spring according to the type of grass or grasses you have planted. Fertilizers supplement the nutrients found in your lawn's soil and keeps grass growing thick and lush. Apply fertilizer at least twice a year during its peak growing season. Scale back fertilizing at least 30 days before the hottest temperatures of the summer arise.

Bare patches need to be reseeded and should be done prior to your lawn's peak growing season. Ideally reseeding should be completed in the fall, but poor growth may require patches to be done again in spring. Areas should be tilled and seed spread evenly across the bare spots to fill in gaps of your lawn. Use a standard fertilizer and water the area as you normally would.

Regular maintenance of mowing should be completed on a weekly basis. Climate conditions will determine how often your lawn will need mowing. Grass should be kept to a height of about 2.5" to 3", except during the hottest part of the summer. During the hottest time one should allow their lawn to grow an additional half an inch longer. Mowing keeps grass growing at a healthy rate and gives your lawn a manicured appearance.

Watering your lawn is a crucial part of keeping your lawn alive. Ideally sprinkler systems should be installed to allow for watering every 24 hours. Even in areas which receive a lot of rainfall, natural moisture might not be enough to keep your lawn green and healthy. It's best to water slowly and gradually to allow for penetration of the roots and to minimize runoff. Also the best time to water it during the night hours so the moisture can go straight to the roots and not evaporate with the heat. Periodically check vegetation in your yards for signs of pests and insects. Pests such as aphids, grasshoppers, slugs and snails like to make meals out of your lawn and leaves from flowering plants. Checking with your local extension agents or reading labels on sprays can determine which pests are present in your yard and the best types of sprays you will need to use.



What is the Consumer Confidence Report?

Included with this month's newsletter is the 2017 Consumer Confidence Report for the City of Gaylord's Water System. You may remember seeing these reports each year, mailed along with your water bills and do you ever wonder what they really mean? Or why am I getting this? This report is prepared by the State of Kansas for all public water supply systems in the state. It contains all of the most recent testing results for your water supply and informs you of all violations if any within your water. As you may notice some dates for the testing results are years older, but please note, not all tests for certain containments are required on a yearly basis. The whole purpose of these reports to provide information to all consumers to show them what has been tested for, what levels are present, and if any violations were present, and most of all to prove the water they are consuming is safe and to instill confidence in their water supply. As you will note, on our 2017 Report all tested contaminants are well within the state required limitations and no violations were present in our water supply in 2016. And as the report states in the Water Quality Data section, **The bottom line is that the water that is provided to you is safe.**

If you have any questions or would like a further explanation of this report please contact the City Office or any City Council member.

City-Wide Garage Sales - Interest

Council members would like to hear from you if there is any interest in having a city-wide garage sale event in Gaylord. Depending on interest council would like to schedule this event in conjunction with other local town's sales to potentially bring more interest and traffic. The city would prepare maps to show all registered locations for sales for a small fee to help with advertising costs. If you would be interested in having a sale and would like to be a part of this event please let any council member know or the City Office by April 12th, 2017 so this can be discussed at our next Regular Council Meeting.



Burning Ban has been lifted

During a special meeting of the Gaylord City Council on Monday, March 27th, 2017, Resolution 400 was adopted and passed to release the burning ban within the city limits of Gaylord, in Smith County, Kansas. Earlier this same day the Smith County Commissioners released the burning ban within Smith County, Kansas. These bans have been lifted due to the moisture received within the county, but please still practice caution if you plan on burning in the near future. It does not take long for vegetation to dry out when we have been in a drought for extended periods, and unless moisture continues to be received, dangerous conditions will quickly return.

Parkview Manor – Open House

Gaylord Parkview Manor will be hosting an Open House on Sunday April 2nd, 2017 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Gaylord, Kansas. All available apartments will be open for tours and refreshments will be served. If you are considering downsizing please stop by and learn of all the benefits these apartments have to offer. If you have any questions please contact the Director Sue Kirchhoff at 785-697-2690



Pancake Feed was a success!

Members of the Gaylord Volunteer Fire Department want to thank all who came and generously donated and purchased raffle tickets during their annual Pancake Feed on March 4th. An estimated 250 people attended with a total of \$5,437.00 was raised through meal donations and raffle tickets this year. Years of service for all department members were announced during the program for the evening and Fire Chief Stan Horning was honored for his 40 years of service with a hand-crafted wooden axe made by local resident Gerald Caspers. Winners were: Wooden Fire Truck - Jack McClain, Quilt - Carla Schlatter, and Rifle - Bob Emch. Tours were given to interested parties during the evening and an estimated 60 people toured the new Fire Station. Chief Horning updated everyone on the progress of the Fire Station as all but one truck is now housed at the new station and once all interior work is complete the remaining truck will be moved. Approximately \$20,000.00 is still needed to finish the Fire Station and the department plans on applying for grants in 2017 to help raise the additional funds for this project.

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.

Position Opening

The City of Gaylord has a part-time position open for cleaning the Community Center. Duties include cleaning the community center before and after events and also regular bi-weekly cleanings. Please contact the City Office for a complete listing of duties and requirements. This position is paid by the hour. If you are interested please contact the City Office at 697-2697 or stop by for an application.

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

Get ready for spring by stopping in to check out the latest books that have arrived at the Library. We also have a great traveling book selection. Gaylord Library Hours are 9am to 11am on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

City of Gaylord

509 Main Street - P.O. Box 548
Gaylord, KS 67638

Phone:

785-697-2697

Fax:

785-697-2221

E-mail:

cityofgaylord@gmail.com

Website:

www.gaylordkansas.com

Facebook

Like us on Facebook, under the page City of Gaylord, Kansas.

Newsletter

Copies of this newsletter can be found by the following methods:

- By postal mail
- On the web www.gaylordkansas.com under the Newsletter Tab
- City Office

If you would prefer a copy of this newsletter e-mailed to you instead of postal mail, please contact Abby at the City Office 697-2697 or via e-mail at cityofgaylord@gmail.com.

WATER BILL IS ENCLOSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER!