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Beaver BUZZ

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ATV Safety Recommendations

With summer approaching now is a good time to review safety practices for ATV and other recreational vehicles with your children and yourselves. It's also a good time to fully inspect your ATV or other type of recreational vehicle to make sure all lights; brakes; etc are in good working condition. Please review and make sure any additional safety gear such as helmets, fit properly, and replace if needed. With summer being a time when these types of vehicles are heavily used, please remember all regular traffic regulations apply when in operation. Also please remember, and remind your children, when dry conditions are present, it can be hard to see them amidst the dust clouds generated by their ATV or other recreational vehicle and this can make them more difficult to see for oncoming traffic. We want all our residents to have a fun, but safe, summer break!

Kirwin Irrigation District would like to remind all residents the canal roads are not public property. Other than landowners, tenants, or district employees, using the canal roads without consent is trespassing.

Water Rates: Too High or Too Low?

It's a constant battle, a never ending fight, for many City Council members and rural water district board members to all agree upon where to set the water charges to make all parties happy. As board members the decision gets tough as they know what the costs are involved to keep the water system running smoothly, setting aside capital to plan for the future improvements, but at the same time understand the concerns of the residents and what is affordable to all. This is a problem faced by many small towns, including Gaylord. The quality of life offered by a small town is like none other, but small towns face big city issues when it comes to water and sewer systems. In November of 2013, Council increased water rates by a one-time increase of \$10.00 for all users for water and \$5.00 for all users of sewer and trash services. At this time this made for a 30% increase for water rates and a 50% increase for sewer and trash. Council also included an annual 3% increase beginning on January 1st, 2016, to continue until another ordinance is passed. The main reason which caused council to review and assess our water and sewer rates was our recent water tower inspection which was done in September of 2013. At this time the estimate to have all necessary items fixed in order to maintain the function of our water tower was \$85,000 and now is \$91,000. These increases would allow, based on monthly average users, an additional \$1100.00 into the water fund and \$400.00 into the sewer/trash fund each month. These additional funds would now allow for monthly payments for projects or to save for future repairs or upgrades. When council began researching options for funding the

*Between 2001 and 2011,
33% of ATV-related
emergency-room visits
were in kids younger
than 16.*

*American Water Works Association showed that tap water costs only **\$0.004 a gallon**, less than 1/300 the cost of bottled water. And we are the biggest bottled water drinkers on the planet in terms of sheer volume: China has been catching up as of late, having consumed 7.7 billion gallons to our 9.7 billion.*

water tower project, they found our options are limited as our water and sewer rates fall below the required levels in order to be eligible for some financial assistance programs. For example in order to qualify for a low interest loan from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development an average charge for a user of 5,000 gallons per month must be \$40.00. So with our current monthly charge of \$31.80 for 3,000 gallons and \$1.50 per 1,000 excess, currently our rate for a user of 5,000 gallons is $\$31.80 + 1.50 + 1.50 = \34.80 . So we an increase of \$5.20 per user would be required. A requirement for the Community Block Development Grant Program an average rate of \$36.50 per month is needed for a user of 5,000 gallons. In this program an increase of \$1.70 is needed. But qualifying projects are limited with Community Block Development Grants as they require matching volunteer costs from community members and projects which include maintenance such as our water tower project are not even eligible.

I contacted the City Clerk in Lebanon, Kansas to see how our water and sewer rates compare. For users who are inside the city limits their monthly charge is \$16.00 which includes 2,000 gallons. For users who are outside of city limits a monthly rate of \$18.00 per 2,000 gallons is charged. Excess water is charged to all users at a rate of \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons. So to compare an user who is located inside city limits when using 5,000 gallons a Lebanon user will be charged $\$16.00 + \$10.00 + \$10.00 + \$10.00 = \$46.00$ while a user in Gaylord who resides inside city limits would pay \$34.80. So a user in Gaylord pays \$11.20 less each month.

Members of Council at this time do not foresee major increases for Gaylord's water and sewer rates and will continue with the annual 3% increase.

Nex-tech – Summer Project in Gaylord



Representatives of Nex-tech have informed the City Council Members they plan on being in Gaylord during the Summer of 2016 and will be placing underground fiber optic lines to individual property owners homes. A surveying company was in Gaylord in March and was doing preliminary work for Nex-tech. Nex-tech stated they plan on having a town meeting before they begin work to explain their intentions and the entire project they will be doing while in Gaylord. At this time Nex-tech has not scheduled a meeting for Gaylord. Before this project can begin numerous underground utility lines will need to be located. If your property is one in which Nex-tech will be doing work on, please anticipate different crews will be there at different times to perform certain duties. City Council Members do not know the exact process of how Nex-tech will be completing the work, or how they plan on contacting individual property owners, but we want to make you aware of this work which will be occurring in Gaylord at some point this summer. Members of Council also want our residents to be informed that crews are expected in town, and will be working on our residents property, and with any type of construction we anticipate areas of town including areas within your yards will be dug up to accommodate this project. Members of City Council will keep you informed as this project progresses.

Minutes from the April City Council Meeting

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

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

Absent Members: none

Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

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

The minutes of the March 9th Regular meeting were read. Corrections of minutes included: Minutes of the February meeting not January were read and approved. Copper Sulfate treatment is every 90 days the first year not 30 days. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read, with above stated corrections. Wil seconded, motion carried.

The minutes of the March 14th Special Meeting were read. Barb made the motion to approve minutes as read. Jim seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. Barb made a motion, seconded by Wil, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out \$22,291.50.

Council Member Lehmann made the motion to call for an executive session for 10 minutes, and asked for City Clerk Neussendorfer to remain. Wil seconded, motion carried.

Executive Session began at 7:23 p.m.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting back to regular session at 7:36 p.m.

Mayor Tucker addressed Ed Burt to state council is concerned of water loss at his residence and not being fixed in a timely manner. No leaks are active at this time, but in the future to have all leaks taken care of immediately. Ed stated he will obtain a current estimate from Kingsbury Plumbing and report to Jim, Gene, and David within the week of the costs to relocate his water line.

Citizen's Report: none

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, JoAnn Kennedy, Darin Godsey with two accounts, Clarence Bollig, Rory Laundry, Dyania Palm, and Greg Jones. Mayor Tucker issued notices of disconnect on said accounts on February 20th.

OLD BUSINESS:

- After discussion council asked Clerk Neussendorfer to contact Stephanie Miner to clean at the Community Center, and if she was not interested to place an ad in the post office and in the newsletter to seek an interested party.
- Council wished to seek bids for the floors at the Community Center from as far as Hays or Kearney to compare prices with mileage.
- Resolution 356-15 Kansas Municipal Utilities was read. Wil made the motion to adopt and pass Resolution 356-15. Barb seconded, motion carried.
- Clerk Neussendorfer reported the shredder is no longer working and parts are no longer available to repair.
- No new updates on the Nex-tech Fiber Optic Project have been received as to when an anticipated start date.
- The May Issue of the Beaver Buzz was reviewed. Council asked Clerk Neussendorfer to contact Kirwin Irrigation District to see if they would like to add anything to the ATV Safety article concerning the canals which run through town.
- Clerk Neussendorfer reported new estimates for the Water Tower repairs are in. Utility Services Inc. came in at \$91,000.00 with Maguire Iron Inc. came in at \$89,090.00. All grants have been submitted and will hope to hear back before our May meeting if any awards were granted. Council agreed to wait until grants were known before a meeting is scheduled with the bank to discuss lease options. Another loan brought to our attention after meeting with Mr. Fishburn from Midwest Assistance Program is available as well for not only the water tower, but future large projects. Mr. Fishburn believed our system was in the best condition and well maintained for its age after talking with Ed, Jim and Aubrey. He will also be able to help us get started on a Capital Improvement Plan and job descriptions/procedures if we wanted these, with no cost to the city.
- Clerk Neussendorfer reported she no longer wished to attend the Quickbooks Seminar in Hays, KS. KMU recently did a survey to see what billing software local communities currently use and would like to do research on these programs before any training is done

Mayor Tucker called for a recess beginning at 8:30 p.m. for ten minutes. Mayor Tucker called the meeting back to regular session at 8:40 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ed, Jim, and Gene discussed the recent audit of the Fire Department completed for their Fire Rating for Insurance and it was determined the current Fire Hydrants which are non-usable either need to be removed if possible or replaced. Out of the 6 hydrants council knows need work, 4 need replaced and 2 can be removed. New hydrants are estimated at \$1600.00. A plan will be finalized with the Fire Chief and will report back to council in May.
- After discussion, concerning the usage of Councilmember Casteel's personal utility vehicle while performing functions for the City, he is to fill up and charge his fuel to the City's account at Gaylord Service to reimburse for his usage.
- A copy of the current Police Contract between Kensington and the Smith County Sheriff's Department was reviewed. Clerk Neussendorfer reported after speaking with Bruce a city pays what they can afford to contract their services. Kensington pays \$800.00 per month while Lebanon pays \$100.00. Bruce also stated the money does not go to the Sheriff's department as it's deposited into the General Fund for the County. They also will not handle dogs as there is no place within the County to take the animals. Council at this time will table this matter and review during the May Meeting.
- Gene made the motion for Clerk Neussendorfer to attend the Budget Training in Hays, KS in June. Barb seconded, motion carried.
- Council at this time agreed to purchase the updated Labor Law Space Saver Poster.
- After discussion it was agreed to purchase grass seed to reseed areas behind the Community Center and for Ed to keep watering as needed.
- Consumer Confidence Report will be going out in the mail towards the end of April. Also a copy of this report will be placed on our website.
- Deb Tucker our new area representative for Red Cross will schedule a meeting with us in the future to introduce herself, and what services are offered.
- The 2016 Policy for EMC was reviewed. Changes for now include: Property verify the two properties added to last year's policy the new Fire Station and Farmers Bank are covered as they are not shown on this year's policy. Remove the 1991 Chevy pickup again, and only have liability coverage on the 1992 Chevy Pickup. Also add the AED for 1800.00 and the Generator for \$15,000.00. Coverage for the lift station was discussed but no action taken at this time. Council would like Clerk Neussendorfer to seek out other agencies who offer similar coverage in order to compare policies and prices.
- The Fire Department will be giving the 1969 Chevy Truck back to the city when their truck from the Forestry Service arrives. This truck will be ideal to move the trash truck box too to become the new trash truck. Gene and Ed are still figuring out the details but Kingsbury Service estimates \$1500.00 to switch the boxes. They still needed to determine the PTO part of the switch yet.
- Mayor Tucker asked is any new reports on dog issues have been received during the month. Council knew of no new reports at this time.
- Mayor Tucker plans on attending a meeting concerning an Entrepreneurship Program in Smith Center on March 14th, which the State of Kansas established in order to help small local business within our community with more funding opportunities.
- Mayor Tucker has found a 1987 Ford Pick-up which needs an exhaust manifold and he believes he can obtain for around \$500.00. Council agreed this sounded like a good deal and would like to sell both the 1991 and 1992 Chevy Pickup then on auction.

REPORTS:

STREETS: Wendell asked Ed to continue to clean out ditches and culverts to allow for proper drainage if large rains do occur.

SEWER/TRASH: Gene reported two more bags of Copper sulfate will be needed. After discussion council agreed to have the smoke test completed after Nex-tech completed the Fiber Optic Project.

WATER: Crews are finishing up installing the components of the arsenic system. Well #7 is temporarily shut off right now to allow for the last part of the arsenic system to be installed. Issues arose with the chlorinator while turning off well #7 and a part was obtained from Smith Center in order to keep everything running smoothly. Gene made the motion to purchase a new chlorinator to have a spare on hand at all times. Wil seconded, motion carried. Training on the new arsenic system will take place April 14th & 15th.

FIRE: Wil reported TREB is done and we can go ahead and make the final payment on the Fire Station.

No runs occurred during the month, and it appears the truck from the Forestry Service will be arriving the week of April 18th now.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: 8 units are rented.

PARKS: David reported Adam Ifland has sprayed the park and will need to find out his charges. Council asked for a Thank You Card to be sent to Adam for spraying. We are now out of Round-up and will get 5 gallons from the County.

CITY MAN: Ed reported the new weed eater works great. Council discussed and agreed for Ed to begin his flushing cycle with hydrants as needed for the summer months. Gene reported the initial estimate from Buzz Tree Service is \$7000.00 but now since the trees have been removed around the old grade school this estimate would be greatly reduced. Ed also stated the hose at the metermaid will need to be replaced. Wil will check on prices for hose at Landmark and get in touch with Ed or David.

TREASURER: no report

CITY CLERK: Clerk Neussendorfer asked council if colored paper should be ordered for a year's supply for the newsletter as its 50% off right now. Council agreed to go ahead and purchase the paper on sale.

Ed reported the tractor is still having issues and needs someone to look at it.

Mayor Tucker stated the next council meeting will be May 11th, 2016 at 7 p.m.

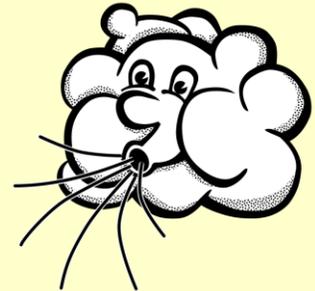
With no further business before the council, a motion was made by Wil and seconded by Barb to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting so adjourned.

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

April Winds Bring May Dust!

By Aubrey Neussendorfer

March and April thus far have been filled with days of high winds and dirt filling the air. It seems this year March came in with a dirt storm and it never left! April appears to be the start of another dry and windy month as well. With many residents beginning to plan out their gardens and landscaping for this year's growing season, we need to be aware of the amount of water it will take to keep your plants alive. Gaylord has been fortunate as we have not had to place water restrictions or advisories to our residents as our current water sources have been able to maintain consistent water levels within our wells. The City of Gaylord does have a Water Conservation Plan in place and its reviewing annually. Gaylord's Plan consists of three stages: Water Watch, Water Warning, and Water Emergency. Each stage has a defined set of parameters for triggers which include at what level the city's storage has fallen below normal capacity and will not recover; at what level the groundwater has fallen below the normal seasonal level; and how much demand for one day is in excess of normal daily usage. Each stage has predefined actions, advisories, and restrictions the City Council would be enforcing.



Gaylord Parkview Manor

There will be a public hearing May 9th, 2016 held at the Gaylord Housing Authority meeting room @ 9:00 a.m. This hearing is to provide available the 2016 CFP submission documents. This hearing of the resident advisory board will discuss the submission documents in accordance with CFP 905.300(b)(3).

Thank You!

The Governing Body would like offer our appreciation for the efforts by a few of our local residents for the cleaning up and removal of trees and debris on the north and east sides of the old Grade School. Nearby residents pooled their equipment and time and worked together to make a huge difference! Once again thank you for taking the time and effort to beautify our town.

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.

The average person in the United States uses anywhere from 80-100 gallons of water per day. Flushing the toilet actually takes up the largest amount of this water.

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.

Half Hog Winners

During the Gaylord Volunteer Fire Department Meeting on April 6th the winners for the two half hogs were drawn, and the winners were Gary Arment and Elizabeth Phy. Congratulations!!

Gaylord Library

With summer break in the near future, if your children are looking to continue their love of reading, please remember our Library is open every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 am. Donna has a great selection of books for children of all ages.

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!

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