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Beaver BUZZ

February 1st, 2018
Volume 3 Issue 2

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2018 Will this be the year of leaks?

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Since January 1st, of this year the city office has had six different water leaks reported from homeowners or businesses. Compared to January in 2017, the city had no records of any water leaks reported. Even the city, itself was not exempt from experiencing water leaks as the Library is currently out of order and our Water Tower is leaking again.

Many of these leaks are caused by aging pipes and infrastructure, and then add extremely colder temps we have been experiencing thus far this winter. Together they have allowed for the perfect situation for these things to fail.

With the colder temperatures, fixing these leaks has been difficult. Some leaks will have to wait weeks or even months before the ground will be thawed enough for crews to fix the problem. Others crews have had to dig in semi-frozen ground to make repairs and restore water services to resident's homes.

As some of you may have noticed the water tower is leaking again and during the colder spells ice builds up on different places on the tower. Caution tape has been placed around the base of the water tower to keep people from wandering underneath and getting injured from falling ice. Council has made the decision not to have crews come and fix this leak, as the company will be in the first part of March to begin work on the water tower. As long as the leak does not get much bigger or other problems arise, no damage will be cause by this leak for a few weeks.

With winter's end still a few weeks away, the cold temperatures can still pose a threat to water pipes. If you are concerned about your water pipes freezing, please take the time to do the following preventative items to stop a major devastating event of a pipe bursting in your home. Following are eight helpful tips one can follow.

1. If it is extremely cold outside, keep one or two faucets running slowly at all times. Water moving through your lines can prevent them from freezing. A slightly higher water bill would be a small price to pay compared to replacing entire lines that burst in your home.
2. Often times, pipes that freeze are located near an outside wall or a window, so be sure to direct warm air to any colder areas of your homes. Start in your basement and look for any pipes near the exterior of the home.

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3. If your kitchen sink is on an outside wall, be sure to leave cabinet doors open to allow warm air into the cabinet. Your kitchen faucet is usually a good faucet to leave on during extremely cold weather.
4. Be sure to disconnect your hose from the outside faucet. If you leave your hose connected, water is not able to drain out of your hose bib and will likely freeze and break the device.
5. There is a product called heat tape that can be installed and will warm pipes as needed during cold weather. While you could do this yourself, you may want to hire a professional to perform this task.
6. Seal leaks that allow cold air into your home where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents, and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out. With severe cold, even a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.
7. Prevent temperatures from dropping below 32 degrees in any area of your home where water lines are located.
8. If you still have concerns about your system, call a licensed plumber and ask them to come to your homes and advise you about how to prevent pipes from freezing.

If you do experience a water leak, please remember when you need to have your water turned off, this can only be done by the City of Gaylord. In accordance with Section 15-211 of the Code of the City of Gaylord tampering with meters, "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 being metered. It shall be unlawful for any person except an authorized employee of the water department to turn any curb cock on or off."

To have your water turned off in the event of a leak, please call the city office at 697-2697 or call our City Water Superintendent after hours at 697-3214. If water service is turned off/on during regular business hours of 8 am through 5 pm, Monday through Friday, as long as it is not a holiday, no charges will be applied. Now if water service needs to be turned off/on during after-hours (after 5 pm, weekends, or on holidays) a \$25.00 reconnection fee may be applied.

Also Section 15-216 of the Code of the City of Gaylord, Kansas states "Wasting Water. Water users shall prevent unnecessary waste of water and shall keep sprinklers, hydrants, faucets and all apparatus, including the service line leading from the property to the meter in good condition at their expense."

If you have any questions concerning water leaks and our current policies please contact the City Office. We hope this trend of water leaks begins to slow down in the coming months, if not we are in for a busy 2018!



Minutes from the January City Council Meeting

City of Gaylord - Minutes of January 10th, 2018 Regular Meeting

The Gaylord City Council met in regular session in the Community Center at 7:00 p.m., January 10th, 2018.

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

Absent Members: none

Presiding: Mayor David Tucker

Present also: City Clerk Aubrey Neussendorfer, Treasurer Crystal Ifland, City Man Ed Burt, Fire Chief Adam Ifland and Donna Muck.

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

Citizen's Report: Donna Muck reported to council her yearly financial report she prepared for the Library for 2017. Donna reported no state aid was received this year even though we qualified. Donna also reported while the number of her patrons decreased, the total books checked out this year increased.

Fire Chief Ifland addressed council concerning the proposed shared fuel barrel between the city and the fire department. Currently there is one up for bids from the Smith County Landfill which would work or he had priced a new barrel and pump from Pro-Ag in Kensington and a new unit would cost around \$1000.00. Fire hydrant testing was discussed as to who would be responsible for making sure this was done quarterly. After discussion council agreed the city would make sure this testing was done and reports would then be given to the Fire Department each quarter. Adam also discussed with council the current condition of the city pumper and different options for replacement of this truck. After discussion council agreed the best option would be to pursue opportunities to replace the city pumper and tanker with a combination Pumper/Tanker Truck.

The minutes of the December 13th Regular Meeting was read. A correction of the date was December 13th was made. Barb made the motion to approve the minutes as read, with stated correction. Gene seconded, motion carried.

Mayor Tucker called for the reading of the bills. A bill for millings from Garen Cornwell was added to the bill sheet. After discussion, Wil made a motion, seconded by Barb, to approve payment of bills, including any routine bills outstanding. Motion carried. Bills paid out \$11,880.30.

Mayor Tucker asked for a report of utility arrears: Richard Bose, Darin Godsey with three accounts, Kaid Dannenberg, Ron Peterson and Greg Jones. No accounts were disconnected.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Aubrey reported to council after meeting with our attorney Mr. McDowell more information will need to be obtained before an easement with Mr. Horning can be completed. A new legal description for the easement will need to be prepared from the surveyor and Shannon will also need to have Collier Abstracts determine who originally owned the streets in Gaylord. Gene reported to council one of the family members of an adjoining property owner of Second Street in this area is very concerned and upset about this project and believes this street has been closed/abandon and the city is now trying to claim property they do not own. Council agreed at this time to consult with our attorney on this matter.
- The new Bulk Fill Water Station was discussed. An issue with getting all meters and system calibrated to work together and seems to be fixed at this point. Ed will continue to monitor when customers are filling and see if the system is staying within the parameters. Aubrey had prepared a comparison sheet for revenue's collected before the system was installed to after.
- Aubrey reported Nex-tech has installed the additional network connections in the office, and explained a new separate phone line would be needed for the telemetry system.
- Council asked for the hydrant flushing schedule to be added to the Utility Superintendent Job Description.
- Aubrey reported the results for council to send cards to any family member of a current city council member or employee who passes while they are employed or in office. Aubrey has cards in the office all members can pre-sign to have on hand.
- A reminder for our city Christmas Party Potluck will be this Sat. the 13th with happy hour starting at 5 p.m.
- Aubrey reported Larry Feldman had dropped of the medal for Mr. Beckman and she has contacted Gerald Caspers to build a display case.
- Painting and numbering of fire hydrants was discussed. Aubrey will print off different font sizes to see what size of stencils are needed before anything is ordered. Council also discussed this would be a good time to re-paint hydrants if they are in need before numbers are painted.
- Aubrey reported a letter was received from KRWA to explain their testing activities and results of the meter placed at account 84. All meters tested within 99.9% accuracy.

Mayor called the meeting to recess at 8:24 p.m. Mayor Tucker called the meeting back to order at 8:32 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council discussed the current small leak in the water tower which has recently developed. Aubrey reported to have the leak fixed would be a minimum of three hours of work at \$525.00 per hour. If ice was present in the bowl they would have to wait until all has melted before work can begin. Council agreed at this time to wait a few more weeks until crews are here March 1st to have the leak repaired at this time. If things would get worse before then we can always have crews arrive earlier, but as long as the weather stays cold, the hole usually freezes over.
- Aubrey has prepared Ordinance 369 with the increase in new connection fees for water and sewer accounts to \$150.00. Council also discussed the emergency water leak policy and asked Aubrey to find out what other towns do before this ordinance is passed.
- Aubrey reported Rob Gillis had asked about obtaining a copy of the City Code Book for the Fire Station. Council agreed not to have a copy at the fire station at this time as any information they would need they could ask the Fire Commissioner for or request at that time.
- Extra keys for the fire trucks or keyless locks at Well #6 was discussed. Council agreed to have extra keys in all fire trucks to allow fire department members access into well #6 in case of fires.
- Aubrey reported herself and Wil attended the Strategic Planning Meeting hosted by the SCCF on Jan 8th at 6 p.m. This meeting was well attended and the purpose was how to propose to spend an additional \$100,000 given to Smith County each year over the next four years from the Hansen Foundation. Results will be compiled from the planning workshop and the group will meet at a later date to begin discussing ideas and projects.
- Aubrey reminded council of the upcoming SCCF Spring Grant deadline is April 15th and to be thinking of projects. Playground equipment was mentioned and other sources will be available for funding for this project.
- Aubrey asked council if they would have any interest in having the handouts at meeting digital or continue with paper ones. Council all agreed they would prefer paper over digitalized.
- Aubrey reported she would be willing to prepare the W-2's again this year using the LaserLink program she used last year. Council had no objections.
- Aubrey reported there are ants in the kitchen of the Community Center. Ed will treat for ants later this week.

REPORTS:

STREETS: no report

SEWER/TRASH: Gene reported he has contacted Hickman Environmental and they would be here the week of January 8th to look over our lift station and see what options we have at replacing with a re-built one or new one would cost. Our lift station is currently functioning but will need to be replaced in the near future.

WATER: Jim had no report as all known issues had been discussed.

FIRE: Council agreed to submit a bid for \$250.00 for the fuel pump and barrel offered by the Smith County Landfill. Wil reported the department had been on no runs during the past month. Gaylord would be hosting a training session presented by the Kansas Forestry Service starting at 6 p.m. at the Fire Station on January 17th, 2018.

HOUSING/COMMUNITY CENTER: Barb reported 8 units are rented at the Housing Authority. The board has been told the Hinshaw house will be removed in the spring of 2018 and they plan on giving their lot to the housing authority. The board was discussing option of storage units for the renters or a possible garden plot. The board is also discussing options for grants for improving outside areas for their residents.

PARKS: no report

UTILITY SUPERINTENDENT: Ed reported a he had found a chlorine scale for \$234.00 which he believes will work for the second well house. Wil made the motion if this scale is rated for enough weight for the chlorine bottle for Ed to go ahead and order this scale from Northern Tool for \$234.00. Barb seconded, motion carried.

TREASRUER: no report

CITY CLERK: no report

Council asked to revisit the Mobile Home ordinance at the next meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated the next council meeting will be February 14th, 2018 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.

Burn Ban has been lifted

As of Monday, January 29th, 2018 the Smith County Commissioners have placed Smith County, Kansas in a burning ban. In accordance with Ordinance 360, this includes within the city limits of Gaylord, Kansas.

News from Gaylord Parkview Manor

Sometimes new residents of the Gaylord Parkview Manor move in with little or no furniture. If you have items no longer used by your family and your storage room is full, please consider donating these items to the Manor. If interested, call Sue Kirchhoff, our Manor Director. At this time, eight of our twelve apartments are rented. Several families have young children. Used toys would be welcome too.

Call Sue at this number: 785-697-2690

Opioid Addiction in Rural Communities

News on addiction, especially opioids seems to be all over of the news recently. In the past, one would be pushed to believe these types of problems were mainly a large urban area issue and here in our smaller rural communities we would not see problems like these. Unfortunately this is not the case, as addictions, especially opioids, are a very large problem in small rural communities. Around one in five Americans lives in a rural area, defined as a community with fewer than 2,500 people. Addiction issues have kept pace with urban communities, but where rural areas far surpass the urban areas is the increase in the percentage of babies born addicted to opioids.

Rural communities have been affected largely in the past few years by rising rates of poverty and unemployment, these are the two key community level risk factors for addiction to take hold and grow to staggering numbers. Obtaining treatment in rural communities is also very hard when compared to the various treatment options available in a larger urban community. Limited accesses to medications that aid in the treatment of addiction in rural areas exist because of stigmas, misunderstanding and a lack of accessibility. This also includes a willing group of medical professionals available to prescribe and administer them. Greater access to medications like buprenorphine and methadone would have a huge impact on reducing opioid addiction and overdoses in rural area where there has been an increase in overdoses and where the rates of overdose deaths are not higher than in urban areas. It is not difficult to imagine the hardships presented in rural communities. Your friend or family member struggles with an addiction to prescription pain pills and they want help, but the nearest treatment facility is over an hour away -- and they have no vehicle. Or your neighbor is addicted to heroin, and they are not able get the medication they need because there is no methadone clinic in your county, or nearby doctor to prescribe buprenorphine.

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Local law enforcement agencies need to be key players in helping address addiction in rural communities. Many police officers carry the opioid reversal drug naloxone (Narcan) and work with medical personnel to provide information and referrals to services instead of pursuing criminal charges. Rural communities are also finding new ways to address the lack of access to treatment. Some healthcare providers in rural areas are trying telemedicine or having patients consult with an addiction specialist via telephone or online during their appointments so they can benefit from the expertise of a professional who isn't immediately in the vicinity.

Some steps have already been taken to improve addiction treatment in these communities. The 21st Century Cures Act, which was recently passed by the federal government, includes funding to help states tackle the opioid epidemic. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare, has allowed more people to get insurance coverage and required insurance companies to cover addiction and mental health services on par with their plans' medical and surgical health benefits. States that have opted into the Medicaid expansion options of the ACA were able to provide health insurance to more of their residents.

Bulk Fill Water Station

The new SmartVend SmartCard Bulk Fill Water Station has been up and running for one month now. Council is pleased, and many compliments have been received and all users so far seemed to be pleased with this updated system. A few minor glitches of calibration issues to get all the meters, gauges, and instruments all working together have arose, but overall everything appears to be running very well!

It has been very interesting comparing the numbers on revenue prior to the installation of this system compared to now with the system in use. The monthly meter readings were completed in January one month after the installation of this system and following are the first months usage data compared to 2017's revenue.

2017 Bulk Fill Water Station Data ----- SmartVend SmartCard System

Gallons Sold Per Month = 55,657
Total Monthly Revenue = \$160.82
(Average)

Gallons Metered = 178,900
Total Revenue Collected = \$536.70
(Actual Meter Reading)

Gallons Avg. Sold Per Week = 12844
Avg. Weekly Rev = \$37.13

Gallons Avg. Per Week = 44,725
Avg. Weekly Rev. = \$134.18

Gallons Avg. Sold Per Day = 1830
Avg. Daily Rev. = \$5.29

Gallons Avg. Per Day = 5964
Avg. Daily Rev. = \$17.89

So based on these numbers this adds up to before each year we averaged a loss of uncaptured revenue collected on 1,478,916 gallons or \$4,436.75. This means based on just one month's worth of data, prior to this system the City was only collecting revenues on 30% of the water which was being used from the bulk fill water station each year. This may seem like a small loss in the bigger picture, but with just 10 years of this extra revenue or \$44,367.50 this would have paid for half of the repairs for the water tower we have scheduled for this year.

Fire Department Hosts Training Workshop

On the evening of January 17, 2017 the Gaylord Volunteer Fire Department hosted a training workshop presented by the Kansas Forestry Service on Kansas Wildfire Tactics and Strategy. Members from area departments from Smith Center, Lebanon, Athol, Kensington, and Alton were invited to this training with over 30 attending. Members of the Gaylord Fire Department have been finishing the last details on the inside of the new fire station to prepare for this training.

A year round fire season is becoming a year round reality especially here in Kansas when drought conditions are present for most of the year. Hundreds of acres are consumed each year in wildfires and around 80% of homes which are lost in these fires could have been saved if homeowners followed a few simple fire safe practices. In addition, wildland fire related deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their homes.

Get ready by disposing of or relocating combustible material from around your home.

Trim trees and bushes, allowing ample space between your home and landscape vegetation. Be prepared by arranging your emergency kit with prescription medication, emergency supplies, important documents, and other seasonal essential items. Create your own action plan and involve your family and practice exit plans from the home and neighborhood frequently. Be sure you are familiar with local emergency notification systems and evacuation systems. Act early by getting your emergency kit and leave well before the threat approaches, by following a planned accessible route. Stay aware of the situation and follow your plan. Cooperate with local authorities during evacuation and re-entry processes.



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

Hurry in and check out a large stack of books to ready during these cold winter days! Stop in and see the latest additions. 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!

Return Service Requested