

Council corrects housing addresses

By Linda Schneider
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The Bird City City Council began the April monthly meeting with a correction to last month's meeting minutes.

Councilman Hal Sager said that the street addresses for the new Middle-Income Housing needed to be 209, 211, 215, and 217 East 5th Street. Motion carried for the corrections.

Mayor Troy Burr instructed DeAnza Ambrosier, city clerk, to send the corrected addresses to Cheyenne County clerk, Terry Miller.

Century II Development Foundation

Cathy Domsch, executive director Century II Development Foundation, presented a letter from Carla Heble (Wilkins), daughter of James "Chopper" Wilkins.

The letter stated that Mrs. Heble wanted to make a \$500 contribution memorial for her father toward improvements to the Van Doren Park Shelter House to make it more functional. She added that her family has enjoyed using the Shelter House for annual reunions, but the sink was not functional and water had to be carried in by buckets.

Mrs. Domsch said that she had been talking to Mrs. Ambrosier and Phyllis Carson about funds that were in the city park account, and there is \$4,500.

Mayor Burr read from the letter, Mrs. Heble would like to have the donation go toward a kitchen that is usable and a memorial plaque with her father's name on it, nothing fancy.

Mrs. Domsch said the current 5-year Strategic Plan is coming to an end and she would like to proceed with another 5-year plan. She presented an opportunity for community residents to participate in the Community Development Academy offered through Fort Hays State University, Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, in Hays.

"The Academy would help develop community leaders, and they could help with the next 5-year Strategic Plan," said Mrs. Domsch. "Scholarships are available."

Shelter House

There was table discussion concerning what needs to be done to get the Shelter House kitchen functional.

Councilman Wade Carmichael, Parks and Recreation Committee, said basic cabinets, stainless steel sink, hot water heater, and counter tops; comes to approximately \$2,340. He added that it does not include



ERIC BARTELS, CITY MAINTENANCE, installing meter barrels at the Middle-Income Housing project on 5th Street.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

the labor and the cost could be reduced by constructing a simple frame under the sink instead of cabinets.

In addition, he mentioned that adding extra electrical outlets would be nice because many who use the facility bring their own crock pots, coffee pots, etc. Furthermore, there is sewer and water just outside the west side of the shelter house; however, neither is currently hooked up but should be.

Councilman Carmichael said that he believed there was money to make the improvements and adding that if there was money left over, the shelter floor should be cleaned and sealed to keep the dust down.

He asked for direction from the council on getting bids for the job, stating that Brad Schneider, city superintendent, and Eric Bartels, city maintenance, were already busy with other projects.

Discussion followed on getting the project done in time for the Bird City 125-year celebration in June. Motion carried to proceed with the improvements to include the bidding process, and hopefully to be completed in time for the June celebration.

Structure investigations

Kevin Berens, city attorney,

said that Mr. Schneider had been appointed as the enforcing officer for the nuisance and unsafe structure investigations.

He said that Mr. Bartels has been helping with the investigations and the council needs to approve a resolution to allow Mr. Schneider to designate a helper. Motion carried.

Mr. Berens presented one nuisance and one unsafe structure report to review with the council.

The nuisance report concerned the abandoned trailer on the southeast corner of 5th Street and Penn.

After reviewing the written report citing extreme water damage on ceiling and floor, and a lot of vegetation overgrown in the interior walls as well as excessive mold, faulty electricity, etc., has been abandoned and was determined to be an eyesore.

Mr. Berens explained the next step was to notify owners and anyone who may have a lien on the property and allowing time for a response of action, then having a hearing. At the hearing, owners have the opportunity to defend the property, and city council decides if the owners can repair or demolish the structure and clean up property. Motion carried to proceed with the hearing.



CREWMEN FROM KAUFFMANS'S SEALING COMPANY, have begun the work of sealing street cracks in Bird City.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

He presented an unsafe structure report on the barn west of the Bird City water tower on South Bird Ave. He said he had contacted the owners and they want to resolve the issue themselves, and he will follow up with them.

Another property reported was 614 S. Penn Ave., both unsafe structure and nuisance applications had been filed. Mr. Berens explained that the council could address one of the applications or both.

It was determined to contact the owner first by letter and give the owner the opportunity to make an attempt to resolve the issue without further action from the city.

Fire pits

It was clarified during the meeting that open fire pits are not allowed within city limits. This includes trash cans with a grill; barbecue grills are not considered open fire pits.

Mr. Berens said that if the city council could amend the current ordinance if they want fire pits,

or leave it up to the sheriff to enforce the no open fire pit ordinance. No action taken.

Building permits

The Bird City Housing Authority's application for new construction on a parking lot addition was approved.

David Hensarling's application for building a carport was approved and demolition of a shed/barn falling on Ada Connett's property by William Martinez was approved.

Drug-free workplace

After several months of discussion, the council made the decision not to choose a testing company for random drug testing.

From previous meetings, Mr. Berens talked about the policy of zero drug tolerance required by the state because of the state funded projects currently in the city.

Mrs. Ambrosier commented that the city already has a zero drug tolerance policy in effect.

Because there would be a cost to hire a company, it was de-

ecided to not hire a company but keep the option open by holding on to the file for future use.

Miscellaneous items

Other topics discussed during the meeting were,

- Linda Schneider, part-time file clerk, presented an update on the filing progress in the City Shop. She said it is slow, but moving along.

- Rental agreement with discretion for the Eggers building training room was approved.

- Main water lines, meters, and barrels have been installed at the new housing project on 5th Street.

- Bids for two rehabilitation projects were accepted. The bids were awarded to Joe Felton for Wanda Dowdy and Richard DeHaven.

Executive session

Executive session was called of non-elective personnel. Upon reconvening, no action was taken.

Next meeting

Next City Council meeting is scheduled for May 3 at 7 p.m.



CANDY AND LYNN GLASCO (left), take a moment to visit with their daughter, Cely, during her party on Sunday.

Local woman will teach overseas

On April 11, friends and family of Lynn and Candy Glasco stopped by the Living Water Fellowship Church in Bird City to wish their daughter, Cely, a safe and prosperous trip to the Middle East.

This is not Cely's first trip overseas. At the age of 33, she has already visited over 15 countries and has lived in China and the Middle East. Both

times she was teaching English and leadership. This time she will be with a group teaching Middle Eastern women leadership skills.

"I will teach the women truth principles, challenge them to dream and make plans for change for themselves, their families and their communities," said Cely.

Cely will be moving to the

Middle East in a couple of weeks and will be living there for the next year.

Mrs. Glasco said that she feels confident in what her youngest of three children and her only daughter is doing. Adding that her faith gives her the peace that what Cely is embarking on will have a powerful and lasting effect on many women, as well as her daughter.

Enjoy an afternoon of fun and good food in Bird City

On Sunday, May 2, Bird City will be celebrating the Cinco de Mayo with an afternoon of family fun and authentic Mexican food.

For all of its 234 years of independence from Great Britain, the United States of America has welcomed citizens from nations around the world to its coastal shores and national borders. Some come for a visit and some come to stay.

What is unique about America is the wide diversities of cultural and traditional ethnic populous of the 50 states and yet is united on its stance for freedom of expression and especially freedom to celebrate.

In New Orleans, La., the citizens celebrate the French Mardi Gras, Irish have their St. Patrick's Day in March, Jewish Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, and so on. Americans of all colors, shape, and heritage enjoy celebrating.

During the growth of the population from the influx of people many brought with them talents from their homelands to share with future generations. It is because of this America can boast of having the finest craftsmen and women of the world. In addition to their talents and skills, they brought some of their na-

tive country's history in celebrations and holidays to remind their children of where they come from and to commemorate the idea that United States is the land of the free.

On May 5, Americans with Mexican ancestry will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo, Spanish for "Fifth of May." It is a holiday that is not widely celebrated in Mexico, but in the United States and other countries it is a day for a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride.

Many confuse Cinco de Mayo with Mexico's Independence Day on Sept. 16, which is a national holiday. While both are battles of significance in the fact they were victorious, the smaller battle which took place on May 5, 1862, in the state of Puebla, Mexico, had the most unlikely outcome since the Mexican Army, under the leadership of Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín, was outnumbered by the French Army two to one. Furthermore, the well-equipped French Army had not lost a battle in 50 years.

The battle prevented the French from occupying Mexico; however, the victory was short-lived and a year later, the French returned to occupy Mexico.



Eventually, the French were persuaded under United States pressure to withdrawn from Mexico and they did, 5 years after the battle at Puebla.

For the United States, Cinco de Mayo is of special note for being the last time an army of foreign power has invaded the Americas. California was the first state to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in 1863 with a parade; now many large cities have followed with their own unique ways of celebrating with emphasis on authentic Mexican food, beverages and entertainment.

