

City approves 2006 budget

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council held a budget hearing Aug. 10 to hear public comments but no one showed up to speak or protest.

Mayor David Corns said copies of the budget are available at the city office.

He said the total proposed budget for 2006 is \$10,582,883.

He said the tax mill levy, 51.216, is the same this year as last year, but the valuation is higher.

The valuation this year, Mayor Corns said, is \$11,018,814, making a mill worth \$11,018. Last year's valuation was \$10,923,165.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said Norton's valuation is figured by the county appraiser from property values within the city limits. A mill, he said, is one thousandth of the valuation and is, basically, just a specified figure, like saying a dollar.

The mill levy, he said, is the total amount collected from property taxes.

If the mill levy goes up, then property taxes will go up, but only if the valuation stays the same or increases from the previous year. If the valuation goes down, more than likely property taxes will go down as well, but the mill levy might go up if the city needs more money for its budget, which will increase the amount of property taxes collected.

Mr. Lawson said the general fund, which is one of the larger expenditures the city has, covers those things that don't generate revenue, such as streets, finances, parks, police, dispatch, cemetery and a great many more things. He said general fund expenditures are services the city provides to its citi-

zens.

In order for the city to spend money on a project, such as cemetery improvement or street repair, he said there has to be both cash on hand and the budget authority to spend it. Budget authority gives the council the ability to spend a certain amount, such as \$10,000 for a project, but there also has to be \$10,000 available to spend. If there is only \$8,000 available, then that's all that can be spent on the project, even though the council has the authority to spend \$10,000.

Budget expenditures for the city are:

- General — \$1,148,204
- Employee Benefits — \$107,600
- Industrial Development — \$61,571
- Library — \$75,825
- Library Benefits — \$27,354
- Bond and Interest — \$36,520
- Special Highway — \$227,130
- Cemetery Trust — \$10,568
- Special Parks — \$15,896
- Tourism — \$21,000
- Fire Insurance Proceeds — \$5,000
- Special Health Insurance — \$490,953
- Trees for Tomorrow — \$0
- Airport Bond and Interest — \$35,043
- Northridge Bond and Interest — \$5,164
- Revolving Loan Fund — \$35,000
- Electric — \$2,851,790
- Water — \$998,261
- Sewer — \$4,200,959
- Refuse — \$229,045

During Wednesday's city council meeting, the council passed the budget unanimously.



Picnic welcomes teachers and staff back to school

Elmwood Park was filled Tuesday night as school staff and teachers and their families turned out for the annual Teachers' Picnic, which officially welcomes everyone to the new school year. Doug Ray (above) chatted with Joy Johnson and Kelly Hill before the picnic officially got underway. Board member Chris Harting enjoyed some of the many tasty morsels that were available.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



Field day to be held in Colby

The Northwest Research-Extension Center in Colby will be hosting a summer crop field day Wednesday.

The information available is based on ongoing research at Kansas State University. The presenters are faculty and staff of K-State Research and Extension and Farm Credit of Western Kansas.

Troy Dumer of K-State Agricul-

tural Economics in Garden City will give a keynote address on "No-till profitability in dryland cropping systems".

The program will begin at 8:30 a.m. with registration and will include presentations on direct drilling soybeans and grain sorghum; weed shifts in Roundup Ready dryland rotations; dryland strip till; soybean rust and wheat stripe-

rust; perennial forages (dryland and irrigated) for western Kansas; crop insurance coverage; financial bench-marking; herbicides for sunflowers; and corn and sunflower crop variety performance evaluation.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

For more information, call Vicki Brown at 785-462-6281.

Agency reaches out to women, minorities

The Farm Service Agency is reaching out to women and minority farmers in an effort to get more of them involved in its farm programs.

John Vogt, farm loan manager for Norton, Decatur, Phillips and Rawlins counties, said the agency is offering operating and ownership loans for women and members of minority groups, who want to buy or operate a family-size farm.

"We're in the business of helping our farmers and ranchers — all of them," said Bill Fuller, executive director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency.

"Our programs are generally well-known throughout the ag community. We do not have to promote their availability to the producers who have traditionally used them. But there may be producers, especially among women and minority farmers, who still are not aware of our programs and the benefits that may be available to them. We want to reach those producers and tell them the Farm

Service Agency is here for them too."

Mr. Fuller said that while the agency's programs remain available to all farmers and ranchers, it wants to increase participation in traditionally underrepresented groups.

But, said Mr. Vogt, loan approval is neither automatic nor guaranteed.

"Socially disadvantaged applicants must meet the same eligibility criteria as other applicants," he said.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens; have a good credit history; have sufficient education, training or experience operating a farm; possess legal capacity to incur debt; and, be unable to obtain credit elsewhere.

Socially disadvantaged applicants may be women, African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives, he said.

Guaranteed loans may be made by any lending institution subject

to federal or state supervision. The agency typically guarantees 90 or 95 percent of the loan.

Applicants can use loans to buy livestock, equipment, feed, seed or pay other business related expenses. Operating loans are usually repaid in one to seven years.

Ownership loans provide capital to purchase or enlarge a farm, construct or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation and pay closing costs. Direct ownership loan are for up to 40 years, while guaranteed loan terms are established by the lender.

Applicants receive information and assistance to develop sound management practices, analyze problems and use resources for successful farming.

In 2004, the Kansas Farm Service Agency made \$2,673,000 in direct and guaranteed loans to 34 socially disadvantaged applicants.

For more information, contact your local agency office. The Norton County office can be reached at 877-5156.

Program is looking for nominees

Nominations are being taken for the Kansas Bankers Soil Conservation Awards Program.

Keith P. VanSlike, Norton County extension director, said public nominations need to be submitted by Friday, Aug. 26.

The program is being sponsored by the agriculture committee of the Kansas Bankers Association, local banks and the government agencies that cooperate with the District Conservation office.

The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation of the agricultural resources in Kansas by giving recognition to those farmers and landowners who

have made outstanding progress in the establishment of soil and water conservation on their farms. Included in the awards program are a soil conservation award, windbreak award and wildlife award.

Points to be considered in selecting soil conservation award winners include:

- use of land according to its capabilities;
- completeness of farm plan applied;
- balance of farm enterprise;
- quality of conservation work done and maintenance of practices; and
- special practices unique to the farming operation.

The windbreak award considers

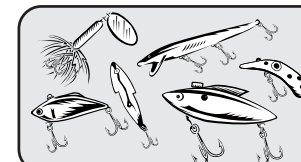
windbreaks which provide protection from damaging winds for residential, or other structures, areas, livestock, or fields. Windbreaks should be a minimum of three years old. Wildlife habitat awards recognize individuals for establishment and maintenance of habitat to encourage and protect wildlife.

Nominations can be made by any person in the county. Nomination forms can be picked up at the Norton County Extension Office or Norton County Conservation District. The nominations should be returned by Aug. 26.

Darrell and Donna Mintzmyer, Larry Cole and Others Saturday, August 27, 2005

9:00 a.m. — 4-H Building, Park Street, Norton, Kansas

- Antique Kitchen Items • Antique Dishes • Collections
- Musical Instrument • Advertisement Items
- Antique Household Accessories • Linens • Furniture
- Outdoor Items • Office Equipment • Miscellaneous



FISHING LURES WILL SELL AT 11:00 A.M.
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AUCTIONEER'S NOTES:

This sale happens right after the kids start back to school and we hope things have settled down for you. We are looking forward to the fall season and this is a good sale to begin the season. The "Small" items are ones that are ready to go on your antique shelves or to be used. I don't think you will find a better set of fishing lures for your tackle box or collection. The sellers found many more bags of jewelry than I expected. We bag and sell jewelry by number so be prepared to look it over before we sell it. The 9x17 Splash Above Ground Pool is a must for those who enjoy the water. I do think this will be a sale where there will be numerous items you will want.

Not responsible for accidents or items after sold. Terms: Cash day of sale on personal property. All announcements day of sale take precedence over printed material

Visit our web site @ www.krvn.com select Auctions, and choose 8/27 or View Nex-Tech Channel 6



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