

Council discusses selling city land

By Karen Krien

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Selling a piece of the city's industrial park land to a councilman took up a big part of the Monday, June 14, St. Francis City Council meeting. After an hour of deliberation, the council decided to table the sale until the next meeting.

Roger Jensen, councilman, had offered a bid of \$2,000 for less than an acre of land south on River Street. J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, had an unofficial estimate from a realtor which valued the land at \$5,000.

The industrial park land on the west side of town sells for \$1,250 per acre however, there is no water or sewer.

Superintendent Landenberger, after listening to the council discuss the matter, said that, if it were anyone walking in off the street and not a councilman, he didn't think there would be this discussion.

Mayor Scott Schultz said that

Mr. Jensen shouldn't be penalized because he is a councilman. He pointed out that the property isn't a full acre and he will be putting up a shop, bringing in revenue and paying taxes.

The property has been listed with realtors and there had not been an offer or even anyone showing interest in the land.

Mr. Jensen, who had excused himself during the discussion, returned to the meeting. The council, who had discussed that \$3,500 might be a fair price for the land, asked if he would consider giving a higher bid?

Mr. Jensen said, "no," that he thought he had given a fair bid and could purchase another piece of land that had sewer, water, electricity and buffalo grass. In response to the council's decision to wait until the next meeting to give him an answer, he asked that he be allowed to withdraw his bid if he decided to do so.

Property cleanup still a concern

By Karen Krien

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Property cleanup has been a matter talked about at each of the city council meetings and the June 14 meeting was no different.

Travis Milne, local contractor, who had taken the project of cleaning up a piece of property and improving the house, reported that he had torn down a garage that was housing wild animals and cats. When he got to remodeling the house, he had been forced to gut it. Then the wind had blown the roof off.

"It has just taken more time that I planned", he said.

With the roof being blown off, he plans to extend the house to the east and, when it is done, he plans to sell it.

Councilmen who had looked at the property were pleased with the work done but had expected it to be done sooner. There is also a problem with back taxes that were to be abated by the city council when the property had been cleaned up.

Mr. Milne said he had paid the first half of the taxes but when he went to pay the second half, he said the personnel at the treasurer's office said there had been a mistake and the back taxes need to be paid before he can pay his taxes on the property.

After discussion, the council decided that the property was not in any ordinance violations and that Mr. Milne was going to continue improving the property so the city taxes will be abated.

Cleaning up certain property in the city is a problem for the council. There are several the council is concerned about.

Recently, the Oster property on 318 E. Whittier Street, has been one of those properties. The owner said she didn't have the time or resources to clean up the property. She is considering giving the basement house to the city in order to get out from under the cleanup responsibilities.

Mr. Landenberger noted that it will take time and equipment to get it in shape before someone would purchase the property. He will continue to discuss the matter with the property owner.

A neighbor of one of the cleanup properties on East Second Street had looked into buying it but the owner wanted a price which he could not pay. There are other properties which have back taxes that need to be paid.

Possibly, the council considered, these houses could be projects such as the one Mr. Milne took on. Bruce Swihart, councilman, worried about setting a precedence. The council agreed that, before any decisions are made on a house and what is to be done, each case will be looked at separately.

Still dealing with cleanup, Mayor Schultz said he had received a call that there were two mattresses, box springs and a sofa in an alley. It had been rained on and needed to be removed.

The council discussed that some people think that if they just leave items out by the trash, someone will pick them up and this is a misconception. They agreed that the owner of these items may not have a way to haul them off but the city is not responsible for getting rid of them.

It was also noted that the property owners are responsible for keeping the weeds out of their alley.
Superintendent's report
Superintendent Landenberger

had requested bids for inspecting the water tower and reservoir. A bid was received but the council wanted Mr. Landenberger to get a second bid.

The reservoir at the airport is 13-feet deep and 113 feet in diameter and holds 1 million gallons. It had been put in between 1963 and 1966.

There are three blocks of streets that will be completely redone. Mr. Landenberger said they are planning to begin the street work the first week of July, but if harvest starts, they will wait until afterwards.

He said the Krien's had finished the work at the city plant. The building was in worse condition than he had thought and they had done a nice job in repairing it.

Mr. Landenberger and Mr. Jensen will be assessing the out-of-city-limits costs for trash pick up.

Building permit

Building permits were approved for: Travis Milne, property addition at 217 N. Adams; Merlyn Sherlock, fence; Gene Dodd, sidewalk and curb; Tim Trumbo, raze house at 104 E. Emerson; Joshua Hasart, move garage out of town; Randy Smestad, new garage, cement floor and driveway; Jeremy Roelfs, move house on basement; Toby Dirks, pour concrete.

In other business

In other business:

- Darrell Thomas, new city police officer, was introduced. Members of the council urged him to visit with people and become familiar with the school and students.

- Firework licenses were approved for Donna Stevens and John Amack. Both have had licenses before. Others wanting firework licenses have until Friday to apply.

- A mobile home park license was approved for Tommie Peter, 502 S. Valley St.

- The recycling letter presented at the last meeting had been revised and was approved. Mr. Jensen said he had favorable comments from a Colby commissioner concerning the letter and effort to encourage recycling. The letter has a fax number for business people to use in returning the letter. It can also be mailed or returned to the city office.

- The five-year plan was reviewed again.

- Chief Shane Guggenmos reported that one burglary had been solved and another is almost solved.
- Bruce Swihart, Swimming Pool Committee, said all the lifeguards are certified including three others who took the class and will be working part time. Mayor Schultz had seen a sun screen in Oakley which he thought was very nice and could give shade to the pool area. He recommended the councilmen look at the shade if they have a chance.

- Clerk Mary Lampe reported that the city had received a check for \$1,000 from Village Market, St. Francis Super's. She said people had been leaving their receipts at the city office and it had taken three years to collect enough to receive the \$1,000 check.
- Mr. Swihart was told that the siding will be put on the Scout Hut sometimes in July. The roof will need to be put on before the siding.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 28, at city hall.



GETTING RID OF WEEDS —Luke Guggenmos and Logan Whitmore clean up a flower bed at the Good Samaritan Village as part of the Join Hands program.

Photo courtesy of Elmer Kellner

Volunteers work on some projects

Join Hands, where youth and adults work together on community projects, met on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 8 and 9. There were 10 young people, Taylor Archibald, Tilyn Bell, Luke Guggenmos, Adam Guthmiller, Lexi Hilt, Connor McBride, Nick Paulsen, Trista Orth, Logan Whitmore and Sarah Whitmore, along with 15 adults.

They painted the parking lanes at the hospital, clinic and courthouse and dug shrubs and plants out of the Good Samaritan Village Memorial Garden and planted them in front of the Village Home Health office.

On Wednesday evening, they cleaned up the River Walk, then enjoyed a picnic provided with funds from the Trivent Northwest Kansas Chapter.

Manager turns in resignation letter

By Karen Krien

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The emergency preparedness manager turned in his letter of resignation to the Cheyenne County Commissioners at their June 15 meeting.

Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said his retirement will be effective on Oct. 10. Even though it seems like a lot of time, he said, the commissioners will have some major decisions to make.

Several years ago, Sherman and Rawlins counties agreed to share the expenses and expertise of Mr. Rogers. His office is located in Cheyenne County which is basically located in the center.

He still needed to turn in his resignation to the other counties. In the county's best interest, he said, it is best to keep the three counties combined. In the 2006 agreement, he noted that each county has the option to pull out.

Commissioner, Dale Patton, said he would like to see someone in place to take over the duties before Mr. Rogers retired so he could help train the person.

He updated the commissioners on plans that have been made and said he had made out the budget for the upcoming year. He said



Rogers

the 800 MHz radios had been received and will be installed in the emergency and sheriff offices. They will not be installed in the ambulance office.

Mr. Rogers said he and his wife, Carol, have committed to making the road signs for 4-H. The 4-H'ers will probably not have the information available until fall. If it was alright with the commissioners, they would finish the job at no cost. The commissioners agreed.

Club takes orders for 2011 calendars

The St. Francis Lions Club will be taking orders for the 2011 Community Calendar in June and July. The colorful calendars include those important family dates, so you won't forget that loved one's birthday or anniversary. Many clubs list their meeting dates and times as well (note classified ad).

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar are given back to the community in various forms such as donations to Boy and Girl Scouts, assistance with eye glass-

es for needy individuals, tuition to the Lions Band Camp, high school scholarships and donations to other community services and needs.

The club has done some redistricting this year, so residents may not have the same salesperson as in the past.

If you are not contacted by July 15, please call one of the following Lions to place an order: Elmer Kellner at 332-2950 or Deb Patton at 332-2153.



2011 Cheyenne County Young Miss



YOUNG MISS 2010 CANDIDATES: Back row: Jalyn McCauley, Sarah Trembly, Aly Marin, front row: Aubree Schlepp, Mikaela Grace.

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- St. Francis Super's
- Schultz's
- Shay Realty, Inc.
- St. Francis Equity

- St. Francis Tire & Service
- The Saint Francis Herald

Theme: Miami Daze
Saturday, June 26
7 p.m. at the
St. Francis
High School Auditorium