

Council discuss business variance

By Nathan Fiala
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The St. Francis City Council met on Monday, Oct. 22, at 8 p.m., as council members were at a community builders meeting at Bankwest.

The council first addressed visitor Zona Potter. She asked if she needed a variance to operate an online business from her home. City attorney Michael Day said that as long as there is no storefront location, a variance is not needed. Both Mr. Day and the council thanked Ms. Potter for coming in and asking.

In old business, city superintendent J.R. Landenberger said the crew working on the water tower would be here this weekend. They will spray off, shut down and isolate the water tower and it will be off Monday to Thursday. Mr. Landenberger also picked a dark green for the color of the roof.

In new business, Mr. Landenberger said there is currently a special on new LED street lights and he felt that now would be a good time to replace the lights along the highway. He said that as part of the Western Area Power Administration agreement, this would be the next step in energy efficiency requirements.

Two business incentives were approved: Ted McCoy / Empire Motel and Kale Dankenbring / High Plains Moto.

Mr. Day gave the attorney report, stating that the deed for the Clapper property had been received and that it should be filed along with the deed for the Smith property. Council member Carla Lampe asked if the city would be responsible for back taxes on the property and Mr. Day said the city would not.

Mr. Day also said he would keep the council advised concerning the bankruptcy proceedings with the grocery store, as the city is listed as a creditor in the documents.

Police chief Shane Guggenmos reported that police officers had completed 40 hours of required

training. He also shared a financial report that showed the hours of officers were running in the 40-50 hours per week range. He also reported that the department had spent 67 percent of their annual budget and were projecting ending the year under budget.

There were five building permits submitted: Marvin Miller for a concrete slab, Good Samaritan Village for a concrete slab, Fred Mahlberg for a concrete drive, Travis Milne for a drive way approach, and Richard McKenny for a cement sidewalk. All were accepted.

For the superintendent report, Mr. Landenberger said the city was able to maintain their profit margin on electricity usage during the summer and is hoping to see prices level out during the fall.

The fence for the Riverwalk project has started being put up, with corner posts installed.

Glorianne Milne asked about replacing a printer for the city office with a specialized check printer, which was approved. Everything is set for the employee picnic for Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. at the scout hut.

For council comments, Mrs. Lampe asked about planting trees at the band shell, as it had been approved by the state but no trees had been chosen to plant. The council discussed pros and cons of fast growing trees and decided on planting six pod-less locust trees.

Mrs. Lampe also said the sand volleyball pit is now in operation and the next steps will be installing lights and a fence. Landscaping and benches will also eventually be needed.

Council member Bruce Swihart passed on a comment about the restrooms at the roadside park and also a comment about the ability to camp in the park.

Mayor Scott Schultz said the city had been given some folding chairs and tables that were used but could be extra seating at the scout hut in case it was needed.

The council will meet again on Monday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m.



COACH TALLEY MORROW talks to Lady Indians' during a time out at a home volleyball game this season.

Herald staff photo by Nathan Fiala

Lady Indians' volleyball season ends

The Lady Indians volleyball team competed in the Northwest Kansas league volleyball tournament in Dighton on Tuesday, Oct. 26. They competed against Decatur County, Dighton, Oakley and Wallace County.

"Today was a great day even though we didn't leave with any wins," Coach Talley Morrow said. "It took us a set to 'wake up,' but after that first set, we were up and running. Our best match of the day was against Oakley. We played so well and gave them a good scare. Honestly, the only thing we are truly lacking is a powerful kill offense, and trust me, we work every day to get better at this. We don't have a power-hitter, a hitter who can be counted on to

put the ball on the floor and score for us... yet. But we'll get there, and it won't be long before those 2, 3, or 4 points we are losing sets by won't be our losses any more. I'm so excited to see what the future holds for these young Lady Indians."

Sub-state

The Lady Indians traveled to WaKeeney on Saturday, Oct. 20, to compete in the Sub-state volleyball tournament. That was lost to Rawlins County in two sets 25-15 and 25-17. The Lady Indians ended the season with a 4-28 record.

"On this day, we simply didn't play very well," Coach Morrow said. "We missed several serves and got aced too many times. The pressure of the sub-state

tournament often overwhelms us and we just can't compete. It's a sad way to end a season that was actually so much better than any score or win-loss record could ever show. These ladies have so much to offer and are slowly, but surely, learning how to offer themselves to a team effort. I'm so very proud of the progress they have made and look forward to next year with great anticipation! I wouldn't want to coach any other team!"

"A special thanks goes out to my assistant coach, Jeff Olofson; also to my statistician Krissy Harris, my bookkeeper Aby Fernandez, and my filmer Sarah Whitmore- you ladies were terrific and so flexible, willing to do whatever was necessary for us. Also to all the fans who followed us all over northwest Kansas to offer encouragement and support to our growing team. All of you are much appreciated!"

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Constitutional amendment that - if passed - will allow for fairer taxation of watercraft (boats) and make Kansas watercraft taxation competitive with surrounding states.

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The legislature showed bipartisan, overwhelming support - 121 to 2 in the House and 40 to 0 in the Senate - for placing this amendment on the ballot. The amendment may be difficult to understand because the ballot includes the entire article of the constitution that is affected, not just the change. The only change is the addition of the words "and watercraft." Adding just those two words will give the legislature the opportunity to create a fairer tax treatment of watercraft.

This change is good for Kansas and Kansas families, and I encourage you to vote YES on the amendment.



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