

**By Steve Haynes**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Since two new members were not up to speed on the issues, the Goodland City Commission put off a decision Monday on changes to the utility code, including a plan to charge higher rates for heavy water users during an emergency.

The tiered-rate proposal came up last summer and was put into the proposed ordinance after a work session on utility rates earlier this year. The commission put off a decision at it's last meeting, tabling the ordinance.

When it came up Monday, Mayor Rick Billinger suggested removing the water rate section and passing the rest of the changes. Those included higher monthly fees for water meters larger than one inch. However, Commissioner Dean Blume said it made more sense to keep the ordinance together and have another work session to let the new members get into the issues. His motion passed on a 4-0 vote,

and the issue was put back on the table.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved checks for the month in three ordinances totaling \$50,076 for payroll, \$23,589 retirement and withholding and \$7,059,125 for bills, of which \$6,714,000 represents reserves which went to an investment account.
- Did not hear a report from the Parks Committee, which is supposed to be drawing up a five-year plan to improve city parks. Pickman said one of the co-chairs had called and said he could not make the meeting, but would bring a written report to the next meeting.
- Put off a decision on paying dues to the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool. Pickman said the staff had decided to drop the membership, which costs \$1,508 this year, because the city has been unable in recent years to get access to Nebraska power. He said a Kansas agency thought it might be able to

provide a pathway for the power, so the membership might be worth keeping.

- Approved an annual assurance under the Land and Water Conservation Fund that Steever Park is being maintained as an outdoor recreation area. Pickman said the assurance is required under an old grant for light for the ballpark, which was moved and replaced by the new water park. If it's not filed, he said, the city would be ineligible for state or federal outdoor grants and might have to pay penalties. The assurance has to be filed every year forever.
- Noted that there still is a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Members said they would look for a volunteer.
- Heard that the League of Kansas Municipalities is offering a training seminar for new members May 16 and 17 in Topeka.
- Heard plans for the city's Arbor Day celebration at 10 a.m. Friday, May 2, in Chambers Park. The Tree

Board plans to plant a tree and receive the city's 2002 Tree City award. Classes from Central School plan to bury a time capsule.

- Had a 10-minute closed session for preliminary discussion of a real estate purchase.
  - Approved the first payment of \$1,422 to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for engineering on airport improvements.
  - Accepted the only bid for remodeling at the City Administration Building to move the manager's office to the east hall, near other offices, and increase security by closing some areas off. The bid of \$17,931 came from Woofert Construction of Colby. There were no local bids.
  - Set a workshop for 5 p.m. Monday on water emergency rules and the waste water treatment plant, which has been the subject of an engineering study.
- The commissioners reported on various complaints they had received:

- John Garcia said a couple of people had complained about trash in ditches along K-27 in the commercial area, and Public Works Director Ed Wolak said either volunteers or people doing public service could clean them up.
- Garcia also asked about the intersection of Eighth and Caldwell, which is rough. Pickman said trucks warp the asphalt, and it's on the city's list to reconstruct with concrete when there is money. Engineer Darin Nuefeld said it would cost an estimated \$87,000 to repave the intersection and about that much again to beef up the storm drainage. Billinger said the city is trying to get to 2-3 a year.
- Dave Daniels asked if the city could fix broken curbs on Main. Pickman replied that it could, but landowners have to pay, and that usually stops talk of a project.
- Daniels also asked if the fuel adjustment fee will continue to appear on city power bills, and Pickman said it would as long as

power costs are high.

"Yes, and this month it's going to be atrocious," he said.

- Daniels asked if the city can do something about junk on private land. Pickman said it sends notices, but has little money to go in and clean lots up if the owner won't.
- Mayor Billinger asked about the traffic lights at Business U.S. 24 and K-27. Wolak said the state had told him "two weeks" six days ago. Everyone got a laugh out of that.

The television cameras which detect traffic for the control computer went out more than a month ago, and the lights have been flashing a four-way stop since then. Apparently, all the signals installed by the state last year failed, and replacement parts are scarce.

The next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Monday, May 5, in the meeting room upstairs at the City Administration Building, 11th and Broadway. If the front door is locked, push the buzzer and the dispatcher will let you in.

## New child care business opens

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

A Goodland mother of two has opened a daycare in her home and has six spots available for child care.

Maggie Schaffer, formerly of Otis, Colo., has opened the Play Zone in her home at 613 Broadway and has a state license.

The center is open from 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and she provides child care in the evenings and on the weekend by appointment.

Schaffer said the daycare is what she's always wanted to do.

"I love kids," she said.

In Otis, she said, all the kids in the neighborhood came over to her house to play. She said she thought it would be fun to have kids all the time.

Of course, being a licensed daycare provider is also a serious business. Schaffer said she geared her education to that.

She has taken courses in child day

care, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and medication administration. She has an activities schedule for the kids that includes such things as craft time, group play, nap time and story time.

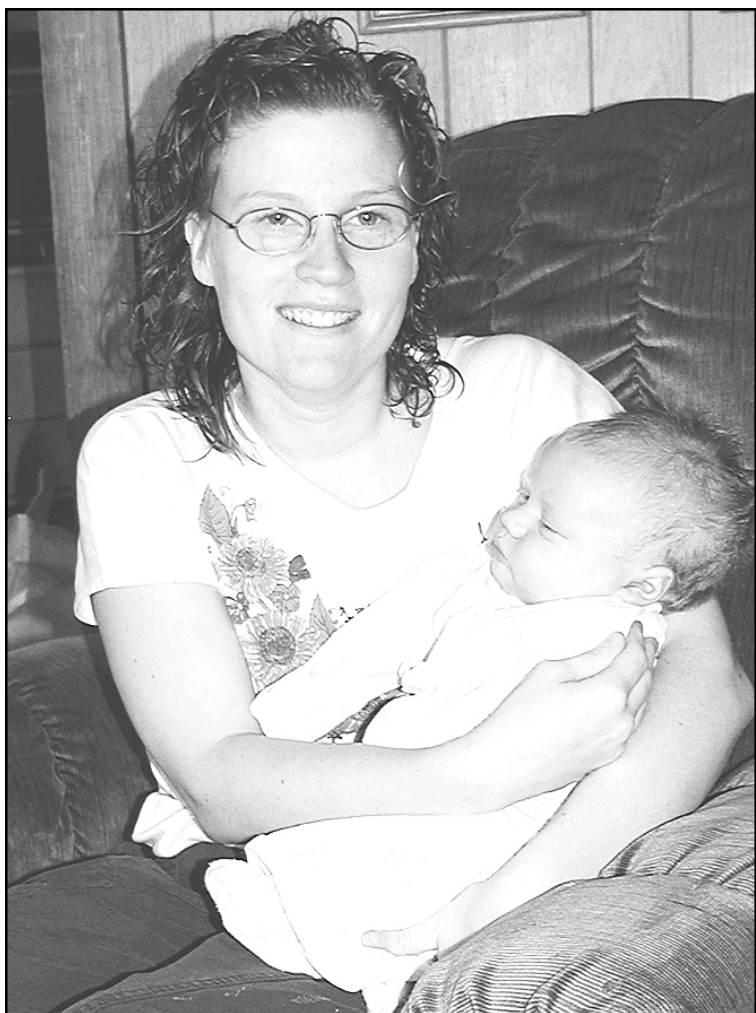
Schaffer said she is versatile.

"I'm used to doing several things at a time," she said, "and can do two or three things at a time and give them equal attention."

She said she is allowed to take children ages from babies to age 16, but prefers 11 and under. Older children can be left home alone, she said.

At 25, Schaffer has two children, Teresa, 2 1/2 years, and William, 2 1/2 months. Her husband Joe is an associate in health and beauty aids at Wal-Mart and will start in the auto technology program at the Northwest Kansas Technical College in May.

The Schaffers moved to Goodland a year ago, and Maggie worked at the Golden West Skills Center when they first moved here.



Maggie Schaffer held her son William while talking about her new daycare center. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## Work continues on incentive plan

The Sherman County Economic Development Council is gathering information on incentive packages to develop a proposal for the city and county, and the agriculture committee is looking at ways to help agribusiness in the county.

At the meeting Monday, council members heard an update from Penny Nemecheck, the joint grant writer, on progress she is making on proposals, including an economic development grant.

Chairman Dave Daniels said all the members of the council were present, including the newest, Randy Schoenthaler representing People's State Bank.

Executive Director Carolyn Applegate gave an update on her activities. She reported that while two downtown businesses have closed in the past few months, there have been 17 businesses open or expand in that time.

Larry McCants of First National Bank, head of the incentive committee, said he and Applegate have been gathering information about

incentive packages from other counties, and that the committee will be meeting soon to review these. Daniels said the plan is for the incentive committee to develop a proposal that can be presented to the city and county as the first step in establishing a package for prospective businesses.

Harlan House, head of the agriculture committee, said the initial meeting of the five members had been fruitful. He said they met for about two hours and talked about things that could be done to help businesses.

Daniels said one of the ideas was to look at a means for packaging sunflower seeds in the area.

The meeting date for the council has been changed to the second Monday of the month, Daniels said, to allow Daniels and John Garcia to attend. They have been elected to the city commission, which meets on the first and third Mondays. Daniels said the next meeting will be 5:15 p.m. on Monday, May 12, at Western State Bank.

## Director wants input on travel and future league changes

**By Steve Haynes**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Steve Raymer, Goodland High's new activities director, came to the school board last week with questions about a few issues, including when to release students to another ride on a school trip, and how far teams or groups can travel.

He said he was beginning to set up schedules for next year and needed some guidance on how the board wants to handle things.

One issue that comes up a lot, he said, is transportation policy. At present, students are supposed to

have a form, signed by their parents 24 hours in advance, to travel to or from an activity other than with the team.

The rule creates problems, he said, when parents want to take their student home from an away game. Plans change, he said, and people can't always plan in advance. He gave the board three alternatives:

- Keep the same rule.
- Let students go with someone else if they have a note from their parents.
- Have a signout sheet on each trip, and allow students to be signed

out by their parents by the coach. They'd still need advance permission to go with anyone else.

"I would like to take a look at something different," Raymer said, adding that he leaned toward the sign-out sheet idea.

Accepting a note from home, he said, creates problems, and you can't always tell where the note actually came from.

Board member Mike Campbell said if the rule is causing problems, he was open to considering some changes.

Next, Raymer asked the board to

think about how many assistant coaches it wants to hire for next year.

This year, he noted, the board cut several assistant positions to save money, then had to add some of them back when interest was higher than expected. Sometimes, he said, it's tough for one coach to handle a program like tennis or golf, where the numbers are not that big, but there can be two events on the same day.

A problem that may be coming up, he said, is the possible dissolution of the Northwest Kansas

League. Goodland and Colby are the only Class 4A schools in the league, and many of the smaller schools have been shrinking, and are now in Class 2A.

"Many schools just don't want to play Goodland," he said.

He noted that the present league agreement still has a year to run, so there is time to work things out. Of the smaller schools, St. Francis, Atwood, Oberlin, Oakley, Quinter and Hoxie, only one or two really want to face Colby and Goodland.

Campbell asked about other leagues, and Raymer said it would

be possible to join one, such as the Mid-Continent League, but the teams will have to travel more.

The activities director said he has a slide show on leadership he wants to show to the teams and coaches.

"I want all of us to be talking the same language," he said.

Then, he said, he wondered how far teams should be able to go for events. Currently, he said, there is no policy, but longer trips usually come to the board for approval.

When a team or group has had a chance to go somewhere special, he said, the board has approved it.



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12GT118	12	2 3/4	3	1 1/8	1200	7 1/2-8	250	25	3.59	35.16	33.09	31.26
12MS3	12	2 3/4	3	1	1250	7 1/2-8	250	25	3.49	34.56	32.53	30.72
12MS118	12	2 3/4	2 3/4	1 1/8	1150	7 1/2-8	250	25	3.69	36.38	34.24	32.33
12TL	12	2 3/4	2 3/4	1	1150	7 1/2-8	250	25	3.99	38.91		

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