

Changes for rules in fence heights delayed

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Proposed changes in rules governing the height and location of yard fences were tabled last week because the head of the city planning commission couldn't be there to explain why they were needed.

The ordinance was proposed by the city Planning and Zoning Commission, but commission chair Steve Riebel was unable to attend the City Commission meeting to explain it.

"I am not satisfied this is what we want to do," said Commissioner Dean Blume at a meeting Dec. 15. "I don't know the circumstances and would like to hear from the commission people."

"I think they are changing the ordinance to accommodate the people," said Mayor

Rick Billinger, "but I am not sure, because the (planning commissioners) are not here."

City Manager Ron Pickman said the planning commission had proposed the change, which would change the allowed maximum height of a yard fence from six feet to seven feet, but says that front yard fences could be not higher than 30 inches if they are solid or four feet if they are at least 50 percent transparent.

Another change would be to prohibit front yard fences within 15 feet of the curb line. Pickman said the ordinance would allow anyone who wants to build a fence higher than seven feet to apply for a conditional use permit.

Commissioner Chuck Lutters said he felt the commission's recommendation was

OK and he made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. There was no second, so the motion died.

Commissioner Dave Daniels then made a motion to table the change until the commission member could be there to answer questions. Blume seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The commission on a 4-0 vote authorized the mayor, on behalf of the city, to sign a release of funds certification as part of the Community Development Block Grant and loan for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.

Commissioner Lutters asked to be excused from the room until after the matter had been voted on because he would have a conflict of interest. He is plant manager for the firm, which is moving here from California.

Pickman said the release is part of the paperwork to allow the city to receive the money to make the loan to Aircraft Seal and Gasket if awarded by the state in January.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved payments to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for engineering on two airport projects. They approved \$5,182 for work on the runway surface crack repair and sealing project and \$4,087 on the property acquisition project for safety clearance.
- Approved payment to Ballou Construction of \$14,803 for the runway crack repair and sealing project. The city retains \$8,340 for any possible trouble with the project over the next 12 months. The contractor has agreed to repair any problems with the slurry seal around the T-hangers, and for the

permanent markings that were installed 18 days after the sealing rather than the manufacturer's recommendation of 30 days.

- Approved the appointment of Steve Riebel and Terry Imel to three-year terms on the planning and zoning commission. They have another vacancy caused by the resignation of John Baker, and Pickman said they have not found someone to fill the seat. The other members of the commission are Crystal Linsner and Tom Stewart.
- Appointed Elmer Jacobs and Robert Cowan to three-year terms on the electric board.
- Appointed Richard Simons and Keith Bowman to three-year terms on the plumbing board.

Chamber ballots go to members

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
Ballots for the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board have been distributed to Chamber members, and need to be returned by Wednesday, Dec. 31.

The ballots were part of a 2004 membership packet that were either hand-delivered or mailed to all current Chamber members. The original deadline for having votes in was Dec. 17, but due to distribution problems some members did not receive their ballots until after that date.

The four candidates on the ballot for the three seats are Cesar Miller, Donna Swager, Curtis Hurd and Darrick Leiker. Chamber members who did not receive a ballot or membership packet can call Swager at 899-0100.

Ballots should be sent to the Chamber at Box 628, Goodland, or faxed to (785) 890-3061.

The election will drop the board's membership from 18 to nine under

new by-laws effective in January. This change is part of the overall effort by the board to improve efficiency and provide better service to the general membership and to all Goodland businesses, said Swager.

The old board met for the last time Friday morning with five members, President Miller, Swager, Tremon Kizer, Steve Riebel and Dane Scherling.

Kizer, who is coordinating the search for a new Chamber director, said he has received five applications and will prepare copies for the selection committee. Applications must be in by Saturday, Jan. 10.

In other business, the board:

- Discussed the possibility of issuing membership certificates next year.
- Went through the list of current bills and voted on which ones to pay now or to hold until questions asked by members at the meeting can be answered.
- The board met in closed session for about 10 minutes.

Santa's helpers



Genesis volunteers of all ages moved up and down aisles Thursday, dropping items into food baskets being prepared for Sherman County families. More than 100 baskets, each consisting of two or three boxes, were prepared. All donations came

from and all work was done by people of Sherman County for the benefit of their neighbors, a volunteer said, and all the money was spent at local businesses.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

County economy shows strength in the indicators

ECONOMY, from Page 1

She said the Howard Johnson's motel is close to being sold, and that chain officials were in town last week to look at the property and determine what needs to be done to bring it up to specifications to keep the name.

Applegate said she created three presentations and took them to Homeland Realty this month for contacts on the old truck stop south of town..

She said that grant writer Penny Nemechek and Dave Branda had received enough response to go forward with the grant application for the downtown revitalization project.

Chairman Dave Daniels reported that the Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. expects to have a second load of equipment delivered after Christmas, and that they are referring everyone who wants to apply for a job to the state Job Service Center in Colby. He said they have had over 400 applications so far.

Council member Harlan House made a motion to extend Applegate a contract for the coming year and it was seconded by council member Larry McCants. The motion carried unanimously with members Kim Bohme, Daniels, John Garcia, House, McCants and Steve West voting in favor.

McCants said he had reviewed a report on incentives for new busi-

nesses, and that the basic outline is acceptable. He suggested a formal presentation to the council in the future.

He said this is a foundation for the future, but that each project needs to be reviewed to see what might be needed.

Applegate said she would try to have the incentive package ready in the next two months for the council's review and approval.

McCants' term expires at the end of the year, and he nominated Dwane Timm of the First National Bank take his place on the council. Daniels said the nomination would be forwarded to the county commissioners for formal approval for a three-year term.

Don Newell of S&T Telephone, who will become a council member in January, was present. It was the last meeting for outgoing member Royal Reid, but he was unable to attend. Others absent were Cara Daise, Patty Eckhardt, Larry Harper and Randy Schoenthaler.

Applegate said she had been asked if the council would have a member in the Goodland Ambassadors, and McCants nominated Timm to handle this duty.

Applegate said Garcia will be one of the presenters at the Tri-State Initiative conference in April.

House suggested that the council support the efforts of the hospital

and the home-owned carnival to sell their tax credits. He said the council should promote these because they keep tax money in the county and help with projects that contribute to the development of the county.

Spending \$200 to advertise these tax credits was approved with Applegate to get together with Newell to develop the ad copy for both S&T and Eagle Cable's systems and *The Goodland Star-News*.

Applegate said she felt the council should support the New Homestead Act being introduced by Kansas Sen. r Sam Brownback and senators from North Dakota, South Da-

kota and Nebraska. She said this is a national program designed to stem the flow of jobs and people from the nation's heartland.

"We want to lobby to get what we want in this," Applegate said.

"This is a priority, and something is going to happen this next year on this," McCants said.

The informal public meeting held at Gambino's was termed a success and Daniels said the next meeting will be at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The next council meeting will be 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at Western State Bank.

Tribune girl crashes on K-27

A 16-year-old Tribune girl was hurt when her car went off the road Friday afternoon about nine miles south of Goodland on K-27.

Trooper Brian Horney of the Kansas Highway Patrol reported that Heather L. Blake was driving a 1993 Mercury Topaz northbound when the car went off the road on a left hand curve. The car went out of control and skidded sideways into

the east ditch, sliding about 150 feet, flipping around and stopping against a barbed-wire fence. The car did not roll, but the skid flattened all four tires.

A witness said the girl has passed her just before the accident.

Blake was wearing her seatbelt, but complained of neck and head pains.

She was taken to the Goodland

Regional Medical Center by the Sherman County emergency medical service. Hospital officials would not confirm that she was taken there or talk about her condition.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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MEMBER

FDIC

The NWK Area Medical Foundation asks for your support of its 2003 "Caring Kind" Campaign to raise funds for a new physical therapy treatment program for incontinence at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Contributions are tax deductible and benefit local medical care for all residents.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!



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