

New aerial photos of city to be shot in February

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

An updated aerial view of Goodland will be taken this spring with the reluctant approval of the City Commission at Monday's meeting.

Aerial photographs were last taken in 1998, and the project has been in the city budget for the past two years with an estimated cost of \$40,876.

Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, the engineering firm that works with the city, said the aerial photography will cost \$18,400 plus \$6,800 for doing the survey points.

The flyover for the orthophotography would be done by Markhurd of Maple Grove, Minn., the same firm that did the project in 1998.

Neufeld said the project was expected to cost more, but it will be about the same price as it was seven years ago.

"The idea was to do an update

about every five years," Neufeld said, "but with all the construction, it was delayed for the past two years.

There is an increased area for this project, he said, adding an extra quarter section around the edges to increase it by 14 quarters.

"This new set of photographs will help with the engineering projects we do for the city," he said, "and for others who need to do engineering work in the city."

Commissioner Dean Blume asked what the photographs are used for other than having a big color one on the wall of the commission room.

"The photos have many uses," Neufeld said, "and the most important part of the project are the black-and-white photos, which are used in the computer system by both engineers and the city. They save a lot of cost on smaller projects and save survey costs. I believe the ones the city had shot in 1998 have saved

about \$15,000 over the past several years.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if bids had been sought on the project. Neufeld said three firms had been contacted, but he felt that Markhurd was the best in the Midwest.

"What is different that we are going to spend \$25,000 to get a new map?" Mayor Rick Billinger asked. Neufeld said the important changes would be in the U.S. Geological Survey corrections made over the past few years, and that the new set would provide an increase in resolution.

"I asked the same questions in 1998," said Commissioner Jim Mull. "They had to convince me then.

"There have been some good questions, and some I didn't think about in 1998. I can see it being a savings to a new business coming to the city."

Chuck Lutters, city public works

director, said the black-and-white photos are used daily to answer questions and to locate points in the city.

Dave Walker, who works at the Kit Carson Correctional Center and may be running for a seat on the commission, asked who the savings would go to.

"To the city," Neufeld said, "because they do not have to bring in a full survey crew for every project."

"Physical limitations do not change," Walker said, asking why there would be corrections that would make a difference in the city.

"The corrections changed across the city by 8-10 inches," Neufeld said, "but they don't mean anything to anyone except surveyors and engineers."

Commissioner John Garcia said he could see that it could be an expense to do the photos, and could add to expense not to have the up-to-date information available.

Neufeld agreed, and said he felt if the city did the amount of projects over the next seven years as have been done in the past seven, the city could probably save over \$22,500.

"I think you need an updated map," Mull said, "and it appears to be a useful tool. I think you could do it every 10 years or even wait for another 10 years.

"They had to convince me in 1998, and I think it says something about the city to have the update information available for someone

looking to come to the city.

"I will make the motion to approve the project cost of \$18,400 and the maximum of \$6,800 to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for the engineering portion."

Blume seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a bid from Dan Brenner Ford for a police car for \$22,375. Other bids were received from Shawnee Mission Ford, \$22,012; Yost Ford-Mercury, St. Francis, \$22,399; and Olathe Ford Sales, \$22,822. Chief Ray Smee said the new car will replace a 1999 car that has 102,000 miles. When asked what would happen to the old car, Smee said the city would probably sell it using sealed bids.

Walker asked why only Ford dealers had bid, and Billinger said it was because Ford is the only manufacturer that currently has a police package for their cars. A request for bids were sent to eight automobile dealers, he said, but only four chose to submit bids.

- Goodland High DECA members presented a request for the city support of Entrepreneurship Promotion Week Jan. 31 through Feb. 4. Members Jessica Lu, Lauren Abernathy and Andrew Philbrick spoke to the commission about the importance of business people in the city. The proclamation was signed by Mayor Billinger.

- Approved payment to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison for engineering work on the airport lighting project. There were two bills, \$2,579 for work on the Kansas Department of Transportation part of the project and \$2,259 on the Federal Aviation Administration part. The commission approved payment of \$10,163 to Strukel Electric of Girard for work on the project. Neufeld reported that all the crosswind lights and nearly all the taxi light are now working, but that work has been halted until spring, when the main runway lights will be replaced.

- Approved a request for reimbursement of \$1,884 from the Federal Aviation Administration and \$10,803 from the state for work on the airport.

- Approved reappointment of Clyde Lambertz and Cara Daise to the Goodland Housing Authority board for 4-year terms. Approved reappointment of Randy Topliff, Shirley Hayden and Shirley Gray for 4-year terms.

The next city commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7, in the commission room upstairs in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th. The city offices close at 4 p.m., and the door will be locked. Push a button by the door to be allowed to enter.

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Park project short by \$85,0000

PARK, from Page 1a

issues the project was designed to eliminate.

Commissioner John Garcia said with the changes Neufeld proposed in the third option, the project could be built, and maybe the city could add things to the park when more money was available.

Dave Walker, who works at the Kit Carson Correctional Center and may be running for a commission seat, said he thought the project should be abandoned.

"The city parks are already

underutilized," he said. "Maybe we don't need a new park. I can't see doing this unless this city is showing growth, but I don't see that. I think we are dying."

"We have a flood issue," Billinger said, "and that is why we are doing this. I agree we have plenty of parks, but this did not start out to be a park."

"We have made great strides in this area of the city," Commissioner Dean Blume said. "This was to be the final step to clean up the whole area. There are benefits to this beyond the dollars and cents. I would

hate to see it die. We need to pursue this."

Commissioner Jim Mull said he felt the option to downsize was the way to go.

Billinger said he didn't see a reason to rebid if they were just taking things out of the project.

"It would not be fair to the low bidder," Mull said. "It would not be fair to both not to give them a chance to rebid."

Tromble asked when the city would have to actually have the \$84,000. He was told the payment would probably have to be made in August. He suggested giving his finance committee that time to raise the additional money.

"How long have you been trying to raise money?" Billinger asked.

"Since I started preaching," Tromble said, breaking the whole room into laughter.

Neufeld said they cannot negotiate with the low bidder without accepting the bid under federal bidding restrictions.

Daniels suggested tabling the issue for two weeks to give the commissioners time to review the figures and allow City Manager Ron Pickman, who was at an arbitration hearing in Kansas City, to make his recommendations.

Mull agreed. The motion to table passed unanimously.

School board approves sale of Edson gym, again

GYM, from Page 1a

The current well is in the basement of the school building and if Soper can not buy it, board members worry the gym will not have water.

"He needs to know about the well," said board President Jane Philbrick.

The board agreed if customers visit the flea market, Soper will want running water for restrooms.

Board member Marty Melia suggested they might seal the deal by telling the buyer they will install a well.

The board received a bid for \$8,000 to drill a well when an Arizona businessman offered to buy the gym to use as a sheep milk soap factory.

If Soper can buy the adjoining

property, the board said, he may not need another well.

The board approved the sale of the gym, allowing Selby to set terms.

"I'm selling this guy a thing he's never seen," Selby said. "I'm not going to be dishonest to sell any property."

The board agreed if the deal goes through with Musil to put a portion of the \$10,000 in escrow for the additional land.

Atens close store, careers

ATEN, from Page 1a

to do "as little as possible." After being in business 54 years, he said, it's about time for a break.

Operating the store was a six-day-a-week venture, he said, seven during the holidays. Wayne recalled he started as a junior clerk in a retail store in the couple's hometown of Grant, Neb., in 1941. He bought the store in 1968 and grew the business, opening a store in Oberlin in 1972 and one in Benkelman, Neb., in 1973.

The Atens opened the Goodland store in 1982 and moved here. They also bought stores in Yuma, Colo., and Hays. Only the Goodland and Yuma stores remained at the end.

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Weekend sports television schedule

SATURDAY MORNING

10:00 22/56 ESPN College Basketball Kansas at Villanova. (Live) (CC)

11:00 4/6 ABC College Basketball Air Force at BYU. (Live)

11:30 7/11 CBS College Basketball LSU at Kentucky. (Live) (CC)

AFTERNOON

12:00 22/56 ESPN College Basketball Temple at Xavier. (Live) (CC)

30/55 FXSP Women's College Basketball Baylor at Texas. (Live)

54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball Memphis at Alabama-Birmingham. (Live) (CC)

1:00 4/6 ABC PGA Golf Buick Invitational — Third Round. From Torrey Pines Golf Club in La Jolla, Calif. (Live) (CC)

1:45 7/11 CBS College Basketball Texas at Oklahoma. (Live) (CC)

2:00 22/56 ESPN College Basketball Tennessee at Louisville. (Live) (CC)

30/55 FXSP Women's College Basketball Kansas State at Texas Tech. (Live)

54/57 ESPN2 College Basketball Northwestern at Penn State. (Live) (CC)

4:00 22/56 ESPN College Basketball Duke at Florida State. (Live) (CC)

30/55 FXSP Women's College Basketball UCLA at California. (Live)

4:30 54/57 ESPN2 NFL Live (Live) (CC)

5:00 54/57 ESPN2 College Football Hula Bowl. From Maui, Hawaii. (Live) (CC)

5:30 99/36 WGN NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Detroit Pistons. From the Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich. (Live) (CC)

SUNDAY MORNING

11:00 22/56 ESPN PBA Bowling Dallas Open. From Dallas. (Live) (CC)

60/89 UNIV Fútbol de la Liga Mexicana América vs. Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara. (En Vivo)

AFTERNOON

12:00 13/7 FOX Fox NFL Sunday (Live) (CC)

54/57 ESPN2 Women's College Basketball Temple at Richmond. (Live) (CC)

1:00 13/7 FOX NFL Football NFC Championship — Atlanta Falcons at Philadelphia Eagles. A trip to the Super Bowl is on the line as the Falcons and their explosive offense take on the tough defense of the Eagles. From Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. (Live) (CC)

1:30 4/6 ABC PGA Golf Buick Invitational — Final Round. From Torrey Pines Golf Club in La Jolla, Calif. (Live) (CC)

30/55 FXSP College Basketball Tipoff Show (Live)

2:00 30/55 FXSP College Basketball Washington State at Washington. (Live)

54/57 ESPN2 Women's College Basketball Houston at Louisville. (Live) (CC)

4:00 7/11 CBS NFL Today Time tentative. (Live) (CC)

30/55 FXSP College Basketball North Carolina State at Maryland. (Live)

4:30 7/11 CBS NFL Football AFC Championship — New England Patriots at Pittsburgh Steelers. The Patriots look to advance to their second consecutive Super Bowl as they take on the top-seeded Steelers. From Heinz Field in Pittsburgh. (Live)

5:00 54/57 ESPN2 Tennis Australian Open — Round of 16. From Melbourne, Australia. (Live) (CC)

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