

Sewer treatment plant will do 300,000 gallons

The Oberlin City Council came to a consensus Thursday night to go with a 300,000-gallons-a-day waste water treatment plant using a loan from the state revolving loan fund with a 20-year payback plan.

Thaniel Monaco, engineer with Miller and Associates, who is designing the plant, said survey results on income levels are back and it looks like the city has enough families in the low-to-moderate range to be eligible for help from a Community Block Grant. He said he plans to present the plan at a Kansas Inter-agency Advisory Committee meeting next week. The group has to pass on the application.

Mr. Monaco said before he takes that next step, he needed to know the size of facility the city wants. The applications sent in so far, he said, were for larger facilities.

Mayor Ken Shobe said he thought if the city was eligible for the grant help then they would do the state revolving loan for 20 years with a smaller plant. The plant could be expanded up to 50 percent if there

Council Roundup

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Came to a consensus on a 300,000-gallons-a-day sewage treatment plant using money from the state loan fund. Story to left.

- Killed a request to waive sewer fees for a recreational vehicle dump at Ampride. Story below.

- Asked the city attorney to write an ordinance changing rules for selling off-premise beer licenses. Story below.

was an increase in population.

How long would adding on take? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. Months, said Mr. Monaco.

Mr. Monaco said the city could get money from the state revolving

loan fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He said he thinks they will get a high score on the grant application.

The city will be ranked for the grant money based on need, attending the state meeting and readiness to proceed.

As an Oberlin resident, said Mr. Monaco, he likes the 20-year plan. Mr. Shike said Councilman Stan McEvoy called and said he likes the shorter term, too.

Councilman Joe Stanley said he favored the 20-year plan because they can't make any money off of the system if they are always making payments.

Councilman Ray Ward said he liked the smaller plant because it is expandable. He said if they need to expand it, then they would have the people to help pay for it.

There was no vote taken but the consensus was the smaller plant with the 20-year payback. Councilmen McEvoy and Patrick Pomeroy were not at the meeting.

City won't waive sewer fee for recreational dump site

A request to waive sewer fees for a recreational vehicle dump site at Ampride died for lack of a second at the Oberlin City Council meeting Thursday evening.

Councilman Jay Anderson said the idea came from a committee studying economic development ideas including him, representing the city, a county commissioner and representative from the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.

Is that favoring one filling station over another? asked Mayor Ken Shobe.

What about the man trying to start a recreational vehicle park by the hospital? asked Councilman Joe Stanley.

What is the cost to put a dump site in? asked City Clerk Deanna Castle. Thaniel Monaco, engineer with Miller and Associates, who was in the audience to talk about another topic, said he thought it would cost around \$1,000. It would be an investment, he said.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the manager at Ampride is requesting the waiver of fees.

If the council waived the fees for one station, then they would have to for others, said Councilman Ray Ward. He asked what that would cost. There was no answer.

The only way to figure the fees to be waived, said Mr. Shike, is for them to put in a new meter, which would cost \$450.

Dr. Anderson said when he traveled, most of the dump sites were on civic property. Mr. Shike said that is another option.

Mr. Ward said he could see putting one at the old police station on city property.

This would be handy if the area wants to build a tourist community, said Dr. Anderson.

The company is only asking to waive the sewer fees; they don't need permission to put one in.

Dr. Anderson made a motion that the city waive the monthly sewer fees for a dump site at Ampride. No one else spoke up, and the motion died on lack of a second.

Council wants to change beer fee

The Oberlin City Council asked the city attorney to write an ordinance to change the provisions for selling temporary off-premise beer licenses at a meeting Thursday night at The Gateway.

Under the proposal, anyone who already has a license to sell beer could purchase a temporary off-premise license good for a year for \$50. The permit would be good only at The Gateway or the golf course, and the licensee would need to get a permit for each event.

Mick Barth, owner of The Re-Load, said on Saturday, July 30, he sold beer for the hospital golf tournament. He paid \$50 for the permit, he said, which means he paid \$25 an

hour. In the past the permit had been good for a year, said Mr. Barth.

The law hasn't been changed, said City Administrator Gary Shike, but the city wasn't doing things the way it was written.

The ordinance says the permit is good for an event and any others in a three-day consecutive period. That means that if there is an event in June and then one in August, the business would have to buy two permits at \$50 each.

City Clerk Deanna Castle said a regular beer license for a year is \$125.

Mr. Barth said he pays for a license and is able to sell all year long in his business downtown. It is ex-

tra work for an event and he has to pay for extra help, he said, but he does it for the community.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said only those with a permanent beer license can purchase the temporary one.

Mayor Ken Shobe said Mr. Barth has some valid points. He said the city could do it the same for the \$50 charge but have it good for the entire year.

If it is going to be changed, said Mr. Hirsch, then it only should be done once since it costs \$125 to \$150 to publish an ordinance.

Councilman Ray Ward said he doesn't have a problem with changing the ordinance to a yearly fee and then having to get a permit for each event. Hopefully, he said, that will help bring more events to The Gateway. The permit would run from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

Mr. Hirsch said he will write up the ordinance and have it for the next meeting on Thursday, Aug. 19.

The council noted that if it is adopted, Mr. Barth could probably be grandfathered in so that he doesn't need to pay the \$50 again this year.

The permit would only be good in areas zoned commercial, ruling out any catered home parties.



HOLDING HER DACHSHUND SPARKY, Lacey Ream (above) watched as Axie Sass, a resident at Cedar Living Center, gave him a warm pet. Holding a fluffy stuffed cat, Alice Fiala (below) enjoyed the festivities at Cedar Living's 30th anniversary party. — Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Cedar Living marks 30

By MARY LOU OLSON

It's been 30 years since the doors of Cedar Living Center opened as a branch of the Decatur County Hospital, and to mark the occasion, residents, staff and guests gathered for a party on Friday afternoon.



D. Eskew

The facility, first known as the long term care unit, was part of a \$743,836 construction program at the hospital which began in March 1973. It opened as a 33-bed unit in August 1974.

Donna Eskew said she began work two days after the facility opened and is still on staff as a licensed practical nurse.

"Marie Zimmerman was director of nursing when we opened," she said. "Just one nurse and an aide were needed for each shift. Others on the nursing staff were Shirley Ward and Caroline Jacobs."

Mrs. Eskew said that this was her first job after completing her training as a licensed practical



nurse at Colby Community College. Cindy Harlan was hired as activities director, she said, and that department has added much to the quality of life for residents over the years.

"Our first residents were Mary Preston and Mabel Counter," Mrs. Eskew said. "Things have changed a lot since 1974. We now have eight nurses, 22 aides and 31 residents."

"I have always enjoyed the elderly, and it has been a rewarding job."

Volunteers have played a big part in the success of Cedar Living Center over the years and clubs, organizations and area churches have added much to give the facility a home-like atmosphere.

Margee Wilson is chief nursing officer, Teresa Shaughnessy is activities director, and Joanne Wendelin is social services director.

Oberlin youth charged in Atwood

An Oberlin youth who has been living in Atwood is in state custody after a stupid bet went bad and a younger boy was burned last month.

Jonathan Smith, 17, was in the custody of Juvenile Justice Authority after being arrested and charged with aggravated battery and child abuse for burns suffered by a 14-year-old Atwood boy.

The incident took place in the early morning of Saturday, July 31, said Atwood Police Chief Greg Jones.

Rawlins County Attorney Charles Peckham said that the victim made a \$100 bet with Smith that he (the victim) would set himself on

fire. He then doused himself with gasoline, which Smith ignited.

The boy, who suffered second degree burns on both legs, was treated at the Rawlins County Hospital.

Smith has been charged as a juvenile, Mr. Peckham said, and placed in the temporary custody of the Juvenile Justice Authority. Later, he said, the youth could be charged as an adult.

The victim's stepbrother, Benjamin Strohm, 28, Atwood, has been charged with child endangerment in the incident because he witnessed it but did not interfere and did not report the burning to the boy's parents.

Smith was sent to the juvenile lockup in WaKeeney and later brought back to Sappa Valley Youth Ranch, awaiting an adjudication hearing on Aug. 25 in Rawlins County District Court in Atwood.

Water usage soars when temp hits 101

Last Monday, when the temperature topped the century mark, posted the highest water usage in a month.

The highest previously was on Tuesday, July 20, when 798,000 gallons were pumped and on Wednesday, July 21, 795,000 went through the pipes.

With a high of 95 last Sunday and 101 last Monday, Oberlin used lots of water early in the week. Overcast skies and slightly cooler weather at the end of the week may have caused many to turn off the faucets, though it didn't rain.

City watering restrictions are still in effect. People with odd-num-

bered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Those with even addressed can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

No watering is allowed on Mondays.

Water pumped included:

- 820,000 gallons on Monday, Aug. 2.
- 671,000 gallons on Tuesday, Aug. 3.
- 717,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 571,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 656,000 gallons on Friday.
- 657,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 530,000 gallons on Sunday.

STOCK REDUCTION AND CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Tuesday, August 31, 2004

McCook Farm Equipment Co., McCook, Nebraska, will be having an absolute auction! Consignments are being accepted for this auction. This is not like most consignment sales that are just doing inventory. Everything will absolutely sell!

If interested in selling equipment contact McCook Farm Equipment at 308--345-4480 or Lynn A. Johnson, Johnson Realty, Inc., 785-475-2785 or cell phone, 785-475-8514.

Auction to be held at 708 E. B St., McCook, NE

Johnson Realty, Inc.

109 N. Wolf, Oberlin, KS 67749

Roberta Johnson, Broker • Lynn A. Johnson, Broker/Auctioneer

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- ◆ Ralph D. Unger — Commissioner, 3rd District
- ◆ Marilyn Horn — Treasurer
- ◆ Jean Ann Hale — Treasurer
- ◆ Steven W. Hirsch — County Attorney
- ◆ Ken Badsy — Sheriff
- ◆ John E. Bremer — Magistrate Judge

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