

Council wants county to make repair proposal

City council members seemed a little miffed Thursday that the county was asking for money to help repave the parking area south of the courthouse on Hall Street without going through the regular budget process.

The council agreed to put off a decision until the commissioners either came and talked with them, or at least made a formal proposal. In any event, members noted, there's no money in the budget for the \$4,000 to \$5,000 city share of the job.

City Administrator Gary Shike brought the issue up, saying that courthouse maintenance supervisor Bob Berls had called him about the pavement.

He said he told Mr. Berls that the city is responsible for the curb and gutter, and the property owner has to pay for any work past that.

Later, after county commissioners met, he said, Mr. Berls called again and proposed that the city pay for the gutter and the county would foot the rest of the \$15,000 bill. Mr. Shike said he told him the city's share would be \$4,000, but councilmen noted that published accounts of the county meeting put the figure at \$5,000.

Mr. Shike said they figured the division at three feet for the city and

Council Roundup

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Put off discussion of a request to help the county repave the parking area south of the courthouse until commissioners make a more formal proposal. Story to left.
- Heard a report from Anna Shaw of the Pool Commission on prospects for a new pool and differences in cost between indoor and outdoor pools. Story on Page 1A.
- Learned that Halloween had been peaceful and the police department had been busy last month. Story below.
- Hired a local contractor to replace the roof on the library with a peaked steel roof. Story below.
- Discussed changing the farm-land lease at Sappa Park to a cash rent and also removing some fences at the park. Story to come.

six for the county, with the city picking up about a third of the cost.

Councilman Joe Stanley asked if there was any money in the street

repair fund. Mr. Shike said there was, but Foreman Dan Castle wants to use it for repairs on North Wilson and to rebuild the intersection at Hall and Beaver.

"What's the status of 'our' three feet?" a councilman asked. "Does it need to be repaired?"

Mr. Shike said it wasn't too bad, but there were some bad spots.

Councilman Jay Anderson asked how the commissioners could be coming in at this late date to ask for money.

"I'm sure they would understand in times of tight budgets that we need to know in advance," he said.

Councilman Stan McEvoy said the thought the city should help with the repairs, but wondered about the budget.

Members noted that next year's budget has been set also.

"I guess we need a formal proposal from them so we know what we're getting into," said Councilman Joe Stanley.

"Otherwise, we're guessing." "Can we have somebody in if they want to talk with us?" Mr. Anderson asked.

The council left it there, suggesting that Mr. Shike ask the county what they want to do next.

Police report quiet Halloween

Police Chief Wade Lockhart told the City Council on Thursday that Halloween had been quiet and orderly.

Having it on a school night helps, he said.

The chief reported that his officers handled 17 criminal reports, mostly bad checks, and four traffic accidents.

They had 115 hours of overtime between the two patrolmen. The municipal court collected \$590 in fines.

He said the department had received four portable radios and three mobile radios for its cars from a federal grant applied for by the county Emergency Preparedness agency through the Department of Homeland Security.

They have been approved by the state for a \$2,957 federal grant which will be used to buy new ballistic vests for the officers and three programmable scanners for the cars, so officers can listen to other agencies such as the Highway Patrol.

"It's a cost-effective way of communicating," he said, noting that the officers can't talk on the other channels, but they can hear them, and the troopers can hear the city frequency. They can have a two-way conversation that way, he said.

A patrol car ordered in August is

in production, he added, but there is no word on when it might be delivered.

In other business, the council:

- Approved the appointment of LaVern Burtis, maintenance supervisor at the Good Samaritan Center, to a three-year term on the Housing Standards Board.
- Paid bills totaling \$14,400.
- Gave the administrator approval to pay a new city treasurer \$8.50 per hour. Mr. Shike said he has interviewed several candidates. The motion passed 4-1 with Stan McEvoy voting no; "I haven't voted no in a while," he said.

Mr. Shike said he had hired Karen Larson, and she would start Nov. 15.

• Agreed to pay Christmas bonuses of \$250 to full-time employees and \$100 to part-time workers in Oberlin Business Alliance Santa Bucks, which have to be spent in town.

• Heard that a contractor, Van's Tree Service, will be helping the electrical crew with tree trimming around town.

Mr. Shike said they would spray cut ends with a chemical to retard growth, and hope to get 3-5 years from the job.

• Heard that Mr. Shike had been to the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency's annual meeting and to a

regional meeting in Atwood put on the state Department of Transportation.

He said the highway department was under orders to work more closely with communities, and he thought he got a hearing on some problems they've had with mowing responsibilities in town.

He said the state was saying the city should do it, but they don't have the right equipment for steep banks.

• Noted that the administrator would be doing employee evaluations this month.

• Reviewed a report from the federal Rural Development Administration that said the city's water rates are adequate to pay off debts and maintain the system.

• Heard Councilman Anderson bring up several issues, including the need to plane down high-crowned streets built up over the years by the sealing program.

He said people should know that Elmer and Delores Zodrow are still the animal control officers until the city finds someone else. Mr. Shike said they advertised, but no one wanted the job.

• Agreed to have Mr. Shike look for clean-up-after-your-dog signs or alternatives to post at City Park after Mr. Anderson raised the issue again.

Alliance wants businesses to decorate windows

The Oberlin Business Alliance is urging all businesses to participate in a window-decorating contest for the holidays.

All businesses, on and off Main Street, are eligible. There are no rules. The group is asking businesses to decorate windows and spaces around their businesses.

Customers can vote on the decorations at the Oberlin Lions Club soup supper on Friday, Nov. 26,

which will probably be held at the Golden Age Center.

The winning business will get \$25 off membership to the alliance.

The group is gearing up for the holiday season, and taking entries for the annual light parade on Friday, Nov. 26.

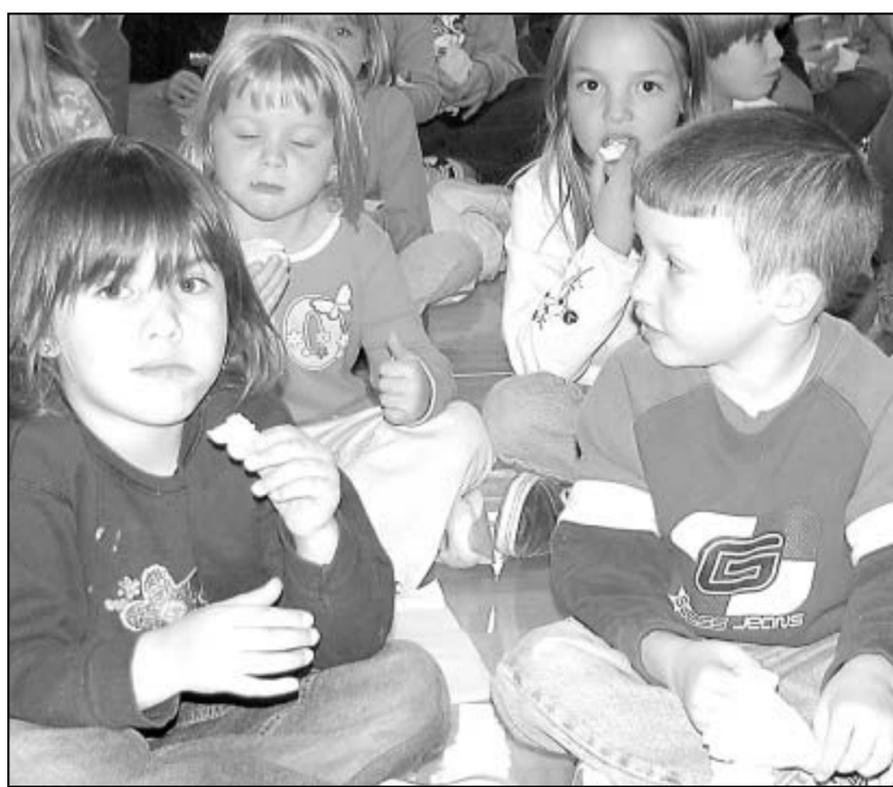
The parade's theme is "Ho-Ho-Here We Go, Christmas is on its Way." The parade will start at the Decatur County Good Samaritan

Center and head south down Main Street.

The parade marshal once again will be Doris Black. So far, she said, there are four entries for the parade. To enter, call the Chamber of Commerce at 475-3441.

In other business, the alliance:

- Agreed to give 10 percent off memberships paid by the end of the year.
- Agreed to offer \$50 for the win-



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL Friday, Hope McBride and Shawn Cressler (above) enjoyed cookies with their classmates. Michelle Russ (below) picked out a cookie from a box held by counselor Sheila Jansonius. The students were being rewarded for the box tops they collected for the school.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes



Students collect tops

With the help of families and friends, students at Oberlin Elementary School have collected 4,380 General Mills box tops since the beginning of school, earning the school \$438.

Some schools have used the money to buy playground equipment, said Abby Hissong, a member of Support Our Schools.

Two classes tied for the most tops brought, Carol Wasson's third grade and Kathy Tacha's second grade. Those students each received a special cookie and a soda. The teachers got \$25 to spend in their classroom.

All the students received a cookie made by Donna Fortin.

The school is still collecting the box tops, although the competition is over.

City to replace flat library roof

By STEVE HAYNES

The Oberlin City Council agreed Thursday to have a local contractor replace the flat roof on the City Library with a new truss roof anchored to the existing walls.

Kevin Brown of Sappa Valley Construction bid \$21,909 to replace the roof with a Wick steel roof over wood trusses to allow for better

drainage. Sides above the existing walls would be skirted with steel, and the gable end would have an access door.

Mr. Brown told City Administrator Gary Shike he would start work in December, with completion in three or four days.

Mr. Shike noted that several things are not covered by the contract, including moving or replacing the roof-mounted air conditioners and extending roof vents and pipes, plus some electrical work.

Councilman Jay Anderson said he was "uncomfortable" with the bid, since they had talked with the contractor in June and thought the work would be done last summer.

Mayor Ken Shobe pointed out that all the contractors are busy, and to find another one now would only mean more delays. Mr. Anderson said the council had asked Sappa Valley for a bid because they wanted to "stay local," but he wanted to be

sure the city "wasn't at the end of his list again."

"It's just a little past August," he said, noting that the library still has tarps and buckets spread out.

Councilman Ray Ward questioned the need for an alternative of \$798 to box in existing skylights and put translucent panels above them to let natural light in.

Mr. Anderson said he helped plan the library, and thought the skylights added a lot to the room. When he goes to the library, he said, he enjoys the natural light. Mayor Ken Shobe agreed.

Later, the council took a break and Mr. Shike talked to the contractor. He said the work should be done the week of Dec. 27 barring weather delays, and it would take four days.

In the end, the council voted to accept the bid on a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Anderson voting no, but rejected the skylight alternative on a 3-2 vote.

ANTIQUA AUCTION
 Saturday, November 13, 2004 • 10:00 a.m.
 LOCATION: 711 E. Frontier Parkway (E. Highway 36), Oberlin, Kansas

**SELLERS: JAMES R. AND REVA MARSHALL
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AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: Jim and Harvey have been in the antique tractor business for several years and have a lot of nice collectibles. You won't want to miss this auction!

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