

Council cancels contract

City sends notice to elevator company

Although the contract has four years left, the Oberlin City Council decided to give Kone Inc., the company that does maintenance on the elevator at The Gateway, a termination notice at a meeting Thursday night.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the elevator contract started March 15, 1994, and was good for five years, to 1999. It was then renewed again until 2005 and again until 2009.

The contract automatically renews itself unless the council gives the company 90 days' notice, he said.

The city pays \$230 a month to Kone. The payment increased a few months ago.

Is there anything in the contract about the price going up? asked Councilman Ray Ward.

Yes, said Mr. Hirsch, basically it says they will let the city know when there is a price increase.

What happens if the city decides not to pay? asked Councilman Joe Stanley. The company can sue the city, Mr. Hirsch replied.

If the city wants out of the contract, he said, he would suggest giving the 90-day notice now.

The problem with maintenance contracts, he said, is that you pay for the contract and then pay extra for the maintenance. There aren't many companies in elevator maintenance.

Has the company ever had a warm body here to check on the elevator? asked Councilman Jay Anderson.

Probably four times a year, said City Clerk Deanna Castle.

Does the elevator have to be certified since it is in a public building? asked Councilman Ray Ward. Mr. Hirsch said he didn't think so.

"Let's give Kone the notice now," said Councilman Rob McFee.

Even with the council giving the 90-day notice now, Mr. Hirsch said, the contract won't be over until 2009.

It sounds like it would make more sense, said Councilman Patrick Pomeroy, to have someone here trained to work on the elevator.

That takes both money and time, said City Administrator Gary Shike, to keep people certified.

Councilman Ward said he thought the city should give the company its notice and someone on the city crew who can work on hydraulics can work on the elevator.

Mayor's water decision ratified

The Oberlin City Council ratified the mayor's decision to declare a stage 2 water emergency, which means even/odd watering restrictions, at a meeting Thursday night.

Mayor Ken Shobe decided to put the city on stage 1 on Tuesday, June 28, after the city pumped over 700,000 gallons of water that day. That amount is the trigger for outdoor water restrictions.

People with odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday. Those with even addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

There is no outside watering on Mondays. People can water only from midnight to 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight on their days.

Mayor Shobe said if the city hits a million gallons of water in a day, then water users will move to the next phase, which is no outside water use at all.

He said he hopes people to be careful and not waste water.

Fixing the power



OUTSIDE THE GRADE SCHOOL Monday, Ron Beneda, head lineman with the city crew, fixed an electrical line hit by a crew putting in a sidewalk on Cass Avenue near the kindergarten building. — Herald staff photo by Kim Davis

Board hires teacher

Oberlin graduate will return to teach

The Oberlin School Board hired a new vocational agriculture teacher at a special meeting.

Jason Ketterl, who has three years' experience and graduated from Decatur Community High School in 1997, will be returning to teach at Decatur Community High. Superintendent Kelly Glodt said Mr. Ketterl was hired at a special meeting on Thursday, June 30.

The board discussed building a ramp and fixing the steps at the high school and told Mr. Glodt to get bids for the project.

Mr. Glodt said they would like to put a ramp in the front of the building to make access to the auditorium easier. A few patrons asked him about putting in a ramp, he said.

The steps on the front of the high school need to be repaired anyway, he said.

Mr. Glodt also got permission to get bids for roofs for both schools and the district office. He said the roofs will be done with a different material than what they have now.

The district is receiving a \$260,000 insurance payment. The board is trying to replace the roofs without a bond issue or an increase in taxes by using the insurance money and money saved, and doing the project over the next three years.

The plan is to do the grade school next year.

Beach party to return this year with games, sand

The Oberlin Business Alliance is getting ready for the summer Beach Party on Main Street at the end of the month.

At the group's monthly meeting last Wednesday at the LandMark Inn, the group discussed the event, scheduled for Friday, July 29. The group plans to bring in tons of sand to turn Penn Avenue into a big beach, and encourage people to show up in beach attire, swim suits, bikinis, shorts, the like.

Joe Stanley, owner of Stanley Hardware, talked with Bryan Loker with KFNF radio about possibly playing some music. The first year the alliance had the beach party, he said, KFNF had some hula hoop games and other things for kids. Mr. Loker said he would check the schedule. He said they might have another event that day, but he thought they could do both.

The first year of the Beach Party, in 2003, an area band played in the evening.

Chamber Manager Glenva Nichols, who is the alliance secretary, said maybe someone should check with Mick Barth at the Re-Load and see if they want to sell hamburgers for the event.

Some ideas which members came up with included a sand castle contest for the kids and volleyball games for fun.

Judy Scott, of Sappa Valley Ranch, said she would see if she could get a couple of the boys to help clean up the next day.

Chairman Kurt Vollertsen, owner of Ward Drug, said he thought the Fourth of July fireworks was a fantastic show. The weather was nice and there was an excellent crowd.

There was some confusion about the time the fireworks were to start, said Gary Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, since it was advertised as dusk some places and at 10 p.m. on others.

Mr. Vollertsen said Mike Dempewolf, who sets the fireworks off for the group, and his crew do a wonderful job. He also singled out Rusty Addleman, owner of Addleman Drug, who organizes the event.

The group agreed to give Mr. Dempewolf \$100 and a big thank you for his time and the show.

The members noted that they still haven't received a bill from the fireworks company for this year or the last two.

Council discusses grievance

The Oberlin City Council decided not to make any changes to the days when fireworks can be set off around the Fourth of July.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he received a call from Karol Evans about the time of day people are allowed to set fireworks off. He said harvest is a busy time of year and people need their sleep.

Fireworks are allowed between 6 a.m. and midnight between June 27 and July 5, Mr. Shike said.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy said people he has talked to want it to be 11 p.m. on weeknights and then midnight on weekends and the Fourth of July.

People need to understand that it is the Fourth of July, said Councilman Ray Ward. It is one of those things that happens for eight days a year.

The only thing the council can probably do is cut back the days people are allowed to sell the fireworks, said Mayor Ken Shobe.

The council didn't make any decisions.

School starts in 37 days here

School starts in 37 days, which means summer is halfway over.

The Oberlin School Board has approved using the heat schedule for the first two weeks of the school.

With the heat schedule, classes will start at 7:20 a.m. and end at 1:30 p.m. School starts on Thursday, Aug. 18, and the heat schedule will run through Friday, Sept. 2.

Birds run wild



THREE PEACOCKS wandered around outside the Norcatur school Thursday. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Health department offers cheap shots

The Decatur County Health Department is offering a discount price for tetanus booster shots for two days this month.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the shots are normally \$12, but they will be offering them for \$5 on two Fridays, July 22 and July 29 at the health department.

She said people don't have to make an appointment, they can just

come in. Usually, said Ms. Gamblin, this 10-year booster shot is given to teens 14 to 16.

Students need the shots before school starts. Ms. Gamblin said they are able to offer them at a cheaper price because the state had some vaccine that was going to expire. That vaccine is available now for shots for anyone.

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