

* Proposed law would allow hens in the city

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There are people who live in the city limits who have had chickens for years without the acre of land, she said.

Mrs. Enfield, who filed for a seat on the City Council, said she is running because of the chicken issue, but the dispute had provoked her bid.

"I am not one to sit at home and complain," she said. "I am prone to take action."

Looking over the proposed ordinance, Dr. Anderson asked if under the new language he would have to get a permit for his cat.

"Do you not have to get a permit for a dog?" said Mrs. Enfield. "It isn't my intent to mess with cats or dogs. My intent is to regain custody of my chickens."

After their last meeting with the council, she said, the family moved the chickens to the country.

Is this proposed ordinance to replace the whole thing or just section one? asked Mayor Ken Shobe. Mrs. Enfield said the issue was the one-acre rule.

It looks like this is just a change to one section, said Mayor Shobe.

Basically, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, the proposed language takes out the one-acre rule and a requirement for testimony from people who live within 300 feet of the people who are petitioning for an animal permit.

Mrs. Enfield said she is sure that her property is less than 300 feet from her neighbor's house to the north, and when the chickens are in her garden, they are closer than 300 feet to the neighbor's house.

She said she isn't trying to allow people to keep dangerous animals. They would still have to apply for a permit.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the ordinance would still include a list of animals that people can't have. Yeah, like hippopotamuses, said Councilwoman Rhonda May.

What needs to be done? asked Mayor Shobe.

The council can make any changes to an ordinance by a majority vote, said Mr. Hirsch. If the council doesn't agree on it, Mrs. Enfield can get the wording approved by the county attorney (he also holds that office) and carry a petition to get the question on the ballot for people to vote. She will need to get 192 signatures, he said.

Councilman Rob McFee said he talks to a lot of people and some think no animals should be allowed in town and others think any kind of animal should be allowed. People who live closer to those petitioning for the permits should have more of a say, he said.

Mr. Hirsch said the ordinance only talks about miniature barnyard animals. The language in the proposal written by Mrs. Enfield doesn't address those animals.

What does the council want to do? asked Mayor Shobe.

Mr. Hirsch noted that if an ordinance is adopted by election, the council can't change it for 10 years unless it is back on the ballot.

The next council meeting is Thursday, Feb. 15, said Mrs. Enfield, the same day the signatures on a petition need to be in.

She suggested that she could go home and put the 300 feet back in the ordinance and bring it back this evening.

What you are proposing, said Mr. Hirsch, doesn't include miniature barnyard animals. Obviously that needs to be changed too, said Mrs. Enfield, since Mrs. Eskew has been instrumental in helping write this proposal.

Mayor Shobe said he would go paragraph by paragraph through the ordinance. He said Mrs. Enfield would have two weeks to change it and then she could bring it back to the council at the next meeting.

With no vote from the council on the proposed language, Mrs. Enfield and Mrs. Eskew left.

Woman returns changes to council

Back for a second attempt Thursday to get a revised animal ordinance approved by the Oberlin City Council, Melinda Enfield handed out a revised proposal including miniature barnyard animals and giving people within 300 feet the right to be heard at hearings on the request.

The council looked through the new ordinance but still didn't vote on the issue. Mrs. Enfield said she and Rose Eskew, who petitioned to keep a miniature horse in her backyard, had attempted to include everything in the ordinance the council suggested.

Those suggestions include an application fee, the right to testify for people within 300 feet of the proposed permit and made it so the language didn't specifically allow or disallow barnyard animals.

The proposed ordinance left out the current requirement that anyone asking to keep farm-type animals have at least an acre of land.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he saw a problem with the new draft because it includes the permit for the animals, but didn't exclude animals at the fairgrounds during the county fair. Mrs. Enfield said that was a mistake and she meant to leave the part about animals at the fairgrounds the same as it is in the current ordinance.

This says the Board of Zoning Appeals issues the permits, said Councilman Joe Stanley. Can the council override it?

It is the same wording in the current ordinance, said Mayor Ken Shobe. The council can't override a decision but can appeal to the board.

Why was the animal ordinance adopted? asked Councilman Jay Anderson.

Does anyone remember the story of the potbelly pig? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May. City Administrator Gary Shike said he remembers people having goats.

Someone, said Ms. May, told her that there were potbelly pigs in town. The pigs got out and tore up someone's yard and there were complaints.

Mrs. Enfield said the pigs were fad animals for a while.

Mayor Shobe said he didn't think the council would act on the ordinance right away. He told her she could run the wording by the county attorney along with a petition for it to be on the ballot.

Councilman Ray Ward said he was raised on a farm and is an animal lover, but he doesn't think the city is a place to have animals.

Why not ban all the animals? asked Councilman Rob McFee. Three chickens in a yard, if they get out, aren't going to cause nearly as much damage as some of the dogs in town.

The thing is, if the council allows three chickens, then someone will want four and so on, said Councilman Jay Anderson

* Scouts ask to use old youth ranch

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The former ranch would be perfect for a camp, she said, because it has a place to go in case of a storm, safe water, a place to sleep inside and a spot to pitch tents. It also has an area to use for cooking.

Mrs. Ayers said they would bus the girls into the Oberlin Pool to swim.

The girls wouldn't be canoeing in the pool? asked Mayor Ken Shobe. Actually, said Mrs. Ayers, she has been looking for a farm pond to canoe on.

She said they are thinking about doing a fine arts camp with the help of the area artists.

Would the girls be in the buildings? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. Yes, said Mrs. Ayers, but the girls could also use the walking trails at the park and maybe even do some work on the park. Mrs. Ayers said the camp might draw 30 to 40 girls from around the council area.

Would the girls sleep in the dorms? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May. Yes, said Mrs. Ayers, but they would like to stay outside one night.

The Girl Scouts would provide the supplies and clean up, the women said.

How long would the Girl Scouts like to use the ranch? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. Right now,



ON SATURDAY, Carol Duncan volunteered as one of the many members of the camera crew who put the Seeds of Hope Telethon on cable local access channel 7 live in Oberlin.
— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

* Telethon boasts local talent

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The committee won't have the final numbers until next week and then there are a few expenses that have to come out of that amount, said Mrs. Davis.

After all the bills are in, the group will divide the money among 17 groups chosen to receive benefit from this year's drive, including Decatur County Fair Foundation for the new livestock building, Kansans for Life, Norcat Public Library, Norcat Museum, Teens for Christ, Oberlin Area Concert Band, Decatur County Relay for Life, Oberlin Lions Club, Creative Movements Gymnastics, Jennings Czech Museum, Decatur County Last Indian Raid Museum, Decatur County Ministerial Association, Jennings City Library, the Tripple Creek Riders, FROGS Camp, Salvation Army, Girl Scouts and the United Explorers.

During the all-day event at The Gateway, said Mrs. Davis, members from those organizations took turns answering the phones and being interviewed by the volunteer emcees about their groups.

Meat donated by the Decatur County Feed Yard was divided up among the committee members so they could cook chili, vegetable-beef soup, barbecue beef and sloppy joes. Marilyn Horn and a group of volunteers manned the concession stand all day, selling just about everything.

Auctioneers for the day included Susan May, Gary Walter, Bronson Scott, Joe Stanley and Linda Schroer, who took turns talking about items donated by area businesses. Each described the large and small items to the audience on cable channel 7 and in the arena.

Prizes included a microwave oven, a handmade floral wreath, a framed picture, teapots, shampoo and conditioner, gift certificates and more.

Challenges were announced by the emcees Sid Metcalf, Janice Cundiff, Carolyn Plotts and Steve Haynes. One of those was in memory of Jack

Metcalf, a retired real estate agent and businessman who died last year. At last year's telethon, said Mrs. Davis, Karen Metcalf started the challenge with a donation of \$100. Others followed, remembering their friend and raising over \$600. This year, the challenge raised \$275.

There was a wide variety of talent this year, said Mrs. Davis. The telethon boasted kids of all ages playing the piano, including Britta Noren, who just about brought down the house with her effort. The audience, said Mrs. Davis, clapped and cheered just like she was having her own concert.

"It was great!" she said.

Gymnasts danced, tumbled and flipped. The Decatur Community High girls choral Chanté performed for the first time at the telethon, said Mrs. Davis, and hopefully more school organizations will take part next year.

Adults played instruments and sang and people got to see some of their favorites from past years, said Kristi Smith, including John Juenemann, Terry Rose and sisters Amy Carman and Angie Fortin. There were also new faces, including singer Terry Heinkey, she said.

This year, said Mrs. Davis, the telethon had one of its youngest singers, with Patience Carman, 5, Amy's daughter, singing "Shout to the Lord" as her mom accompanied her on the piano.

Anyone who wants to make a donation still can do so by mailing it to Seeds of Hope Telethon, Box 135, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

In the last 12 years, said Mr. Benton, the telethon has given around \$113,000 for 199 community organizations.

"The telethon went very well," said Miss Smith. "I thought everything was well planned and went smooth because of the community and volunteers."

"Without them, the telethon wouldn't be what it is today."

* Moran stops here

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education than it ought to be.

The big complaint from educators, said Oberlin Superintendent Kelly Glodt, is that while most school leaders will agree with the basic premise of No Child Left Behind, the federal dollars to pay for its goals keep going down.

Rep. Moran said he voted against the bill because it says that all students should be tested at the same level, and those scores mean you have a good school. The problem is, he said, not all children have the same abilities.

"History shows us that when the government says it will cost money and it will help pay, that it doesn't happen that way," he said.

Educators aren't paid enough, he said, although most of them are in the profession for more than the money. The pressure from the No Child bill, he said, will make it so people aren't going to want to go into teaching.

Although he voted against the law, he added, he is fighting for more money for the bill. He said the goal should be to see that every student is improving, not to have all the students test at the same level.

It seems that schools are getting away from a well-rounded education, Mr. Glodt said, because they are forced to get students ready for tests, which means more reading and math and less science and art.

What about consolidation of city, county and state government? asked Councilman Joe Stanley. The future of this county, area and region is entirely up to the people in this room, said Rep. Moran.

Why is it that agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture always picks the largest town to locate an office? he asked. Can't they see that the three or four jobs mean a lot more in Oberlin than in a place like McCook?

Before leaving, Rep. Moran asked how the audience felt about sending more troops to Iraq. Comments were mixed, but Judy Jordan said she certainly is against less money for the troops.

It seems like soldiers who come back home say it isn't like anything like the television news reports, said Judge John Bremer. How can we get more accurate news coverage?

Cable news is on all the time, said Rep. Moran, and producers need action to fill the slots. They focus on the latest violence.

He said he is troubled about what has happened in Congress in the last few weeks. He said candidates for the Republican leadership talked to him about getting the control back and damaging the Democrats. He said he would like to see the Republicans back in charge, but he thinks the party should be doing what is best for Americans, not just undermining the opposition.

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