

Council votes to hold water plant

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council put a \$4.2 million loan application for a water treatment plant on hold again Thursday after a majority of the members voted no on a resolution to finish the application, saying they wanted to hear from voters.

At the meeting Thursday, Oct. 18, the council tabled a decision when Councilwoman Rhonda May voted against the resolution, leaving it short of a majority of the full council. With only three members at the meeting, the votes in favor from

Councilmen Ray Ward and Jay Anderson didn't add up to a majority of the elected members.

The plan — which includes a water treatment plant to remove both arsenic and uranium, new distribution lines and vales and drilling a new well at the irrigation well site south of town — has been talked about for more than a year. The city would borrow most of the money from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's revolving loan fund.

The council talked at length about the plan and the plan to borrow a little more

than \$4 million at the meeting Thursday night, but in the end Councilman Rob McFee, Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer and Ms. May voted against the resolution. The three said they want to have some public input before making the decision, which could mean yet another rate hike for water users.

Mrs. Lohoefer added that even if the federal government says the city needs to do something about the arsenic and uranium levels, she wants to protest new standards which measure contamination which once was ignored. She said she wants to say that

she doesn't like being forced to do something like this.

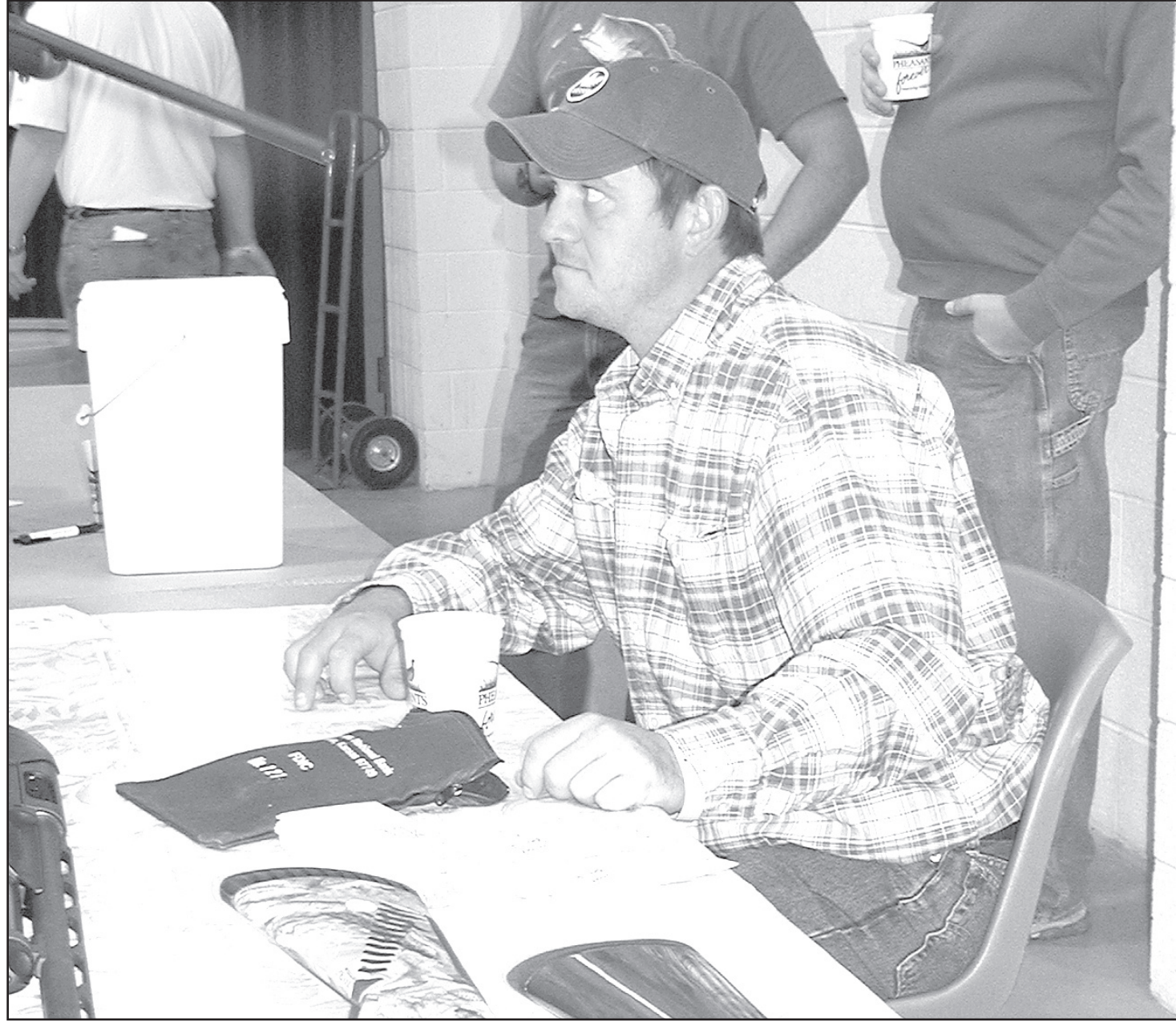
That doesn't matter, said Mr. McFee; the city will still have to put in a water-treatment plant.

Although the council talked some about nitrates in the water, the plant isn't being built to take the nitrates out. David Blau, with the city's engineering firm, Miller and Associates of McCook, said they would have to add something onto the plant to deal with the nitrates, but that can be done. He said the city is under the nitrate limit right now.

The city is only over the allowed limits for arsenic and uranium, said Mr. Blau. The city has taken some wells out of service because of nitrates, however, and could use them if a treatment plant would remove the contamination.

Are there any other towns in the area that are looking at this same kind of plant? asked Ms. May. The city is talking about borrowing \$4 to \$5 million and there are only 2,000 people to pay back the debt.

Mr. Blau said Miller is working on similar problems in Atwood, but they decided (See WATER on Page 10A)



AT THE PHEASANTS FOREVER BANQUET Friday night, Casey Alstrom (above) sold raffle tickets for several guns which people could win. Kelly Brown (below) spun a wheel to win five to 20 raffle tickets before dinner.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Banquet draws a crowd

Men and women walked around the arena at The Gateway on Friday night, some with numbered raffle tickets in their hands and others ready to make a bid on a silent-auction item.

Just under 330 people turned out for the annual banquet put on by Sunflower Chapter of Pheasants Forever, which traditionally kicks off pheasant season in northwest Kansas.

Rick Doeden, who helped head up the event, said The Gateway staff fed 289 people at the meal, which started at 5 p.m.

Things got under way with a happy hour, giving people a chance to decide which of the pictures and other items they were going to bid on. Others bought raffle tickets for a chance to win a gun, dog food and bowl, T-shirt or other camouflage items.

One of the live auction items, said Mr. Doeden, was a boy from the audience. People bid on the youth and then the one who put up the highest amount of money won and also got to take home a gun. The highest bidder for the kid receives half of the money and Pheasants Forever keeps the other half.

Fonda Farr, with Pheasants Forever, said the youth auction brought in \$2,550 total. The boy was from Colorado, she said, but she didn't get his name.

Mrs. Farr said she thought the



auction had gone well, with both the mystery gun — which turned out to be a Tika 330 wing mag rifle — and the 25th anniversary Pheasants Forever Browning shotgun

both selling well.

Mr. Doeden said the proceeds hadn't been totaled yet. He said he thought the banquet had gone well overall, with about one-third

to a half of the people from out of town.

Mrs. Farr said she thought there was a good turnout and all the people seemed to have a good time.

City may shut limb burn pile after misuse

The burn pile for tree limbs and branches the Oberlin city crew maintains southeast of town may be closed since, officials say, the site has been misused several times.

City Administrator Gary Shike told the Oberlin City Council about the problem at a meeting Thursday night. He said the burn pile has been almost more of a hassle than it's worth. People have put banned items, like furniture and tires, in the pile and the crew has to dig them out.

The burn pile is inspected by the state, said Mr. Shike, and the city will lose its burn permit if those kinds of things are found in the pile.

Is there a way to fence the pile off or monitor it? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May. Mr. Shike said he didn't know.

The crew doesn't have the manpower to monitor it, said Councilman Jay Anderson. They wouldn't be able to have someone sit at the gate.

If the city doesn't have a public burn pile, what happens to the limbs? asked Councilwoman Marcia Lohoefer.

People will have to haul them to the landfill and pay to dump them, said Mr. Shike.

It is convenient for people to have the burn pile in town, said Dave Blau, who was at the meeting to discuss the water treatment plant. Some people can't get off work

Council Roundup

At a meeting Thursday, the Oberlin City Council:

- Put an application to borrow \$4.2 million from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment revolving loan fund for a water treatment plant on hold to allow time for public comment. Story above.

- Heard that the city might have to close the free burn pile east of town because people are misusing it. Story at left.

to take items to the landfill during operating hours, he said.

The only things allowed in the burn pile are trees and limbs, said Mr. Shike. People aren't allowed to dump weeds or dead plants.

The county runs a compost pile east of town where people can dump grass clippings for free. There is also a pile that people can

put garden waste and weeds in. Tree limbs and brush aren't allowed.

To take a pick-up load to the landfill east of town on U.S. 36 costs \$12, said Linda Schroer. The landfill is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of each month.

Retired colonel recalls his time in parachute training

By **COL. DELBERT TOWNSEND**
U.S. Army, retired

I read with interest the article in the July 18 issue of *The Oberlin Herald* concerning Lora E. Marietta, a Townsend Scholarship recipient, completing the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga., on July 13. As a graduate of the Airborne School some 63 years ago, I would like to relate my story.

I graduated from Kansas State College in December 1942. I completed the Reserve Officers' Training Corps program but did not receive a commission in the Army because summer camp had been discontinued because of the war.

I entered the Army as a private



Townsend '63 Townsend '05

in early January 1943, completed my basic training at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and was transferred to the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. I was commissioned as a second lieutenant of Infantry on 15 May 1943 and assigned to the 17th Airborne Division at Camp (See OFFICER on Page 10A)

Area veterans invited to celebrate their day

Veterans Day is Sunday, and several groups plan events to honor the men and women who have served or are serving the United States in the military.

Sunday, the Oberlin American Legion Post has set up a ceremony for disposal of unserviceable flags at 3 p.m. in the Legion parking lot. Anyone interested in the service can come watch.

That evening, the Legion will hold a pancake feed starting at 5:30 p.m. The meal will be served for a donation, with the money going for scholarships the post gives out.

Monday, students at Oberlin Elementary School have invited all veterans from the area to a program 2:30 p.m. in the gym. All parents, grandparents, veterans and their families are invited.

Tuesday, the Oberlin senior meal site has invited veterans in for lunch. The meal, at 11:30 a.m., includes turkey, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberry relish, dressing and pumpkin bars for \$2.50.

Anyone who is planning to attend should call the center at 475-3222 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Helen Gee at home at 475-2389 by Friday.

Pheasant opener sends hunters to the fields

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Pheasant season kicked off bright and early Saturday morning with hunters out in groups, many with dogs, looking for the colorful

birds.

This was the first year that the season started the first weekend in November.

Although fall weather has set in, leaving many days on the chilly

side, Saturday the thermometer hit 66 degrees as the high. Joe Dejmaj, co-owner of Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, said it was a little warm for good hunting.

He said they had some hunters in

the store on Monday who said they didn't shoot many birds in the warm weather.

Mr. Dejmaj said they had another group in the same day who said they (See SEASON on Page 10A)