



Council discusses street conditions with snow, ice

The Oberlin City Council talked a little about the condition of city streets since the recent snow storms at a meeting last Thursday.

Councilman Jay Anderson suggested using a little more sand on the north end of Main Street. It is a little slick, he said.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoe-fener said she has had several people complain about the streets. She said she hates to see the streets downtown so ice packed, especially during the Christmas shopping season. It is a detriment to the city, she said.

She said she would really like to see the streets cleaned off earlier in the day when the cars aren't downtown yet.

Part of the problem, said Mayor Joe Stanley, is that the ice came first, then the snow. The snow made it easier to drive, he said, but then it snowed again.

The crew can clean the streets off, said City Foreman Dan Castle, that's not a problem, but whatever they do always makes someone mad.

If people can't drive on these streets or walk around, said Councilman Rob McFee, then they should stay home.

In other business, the council:

- Approved applications for beer

licenses from Decatur Co-op-Am- pride and Crossroads Express.

- Named Karen Larson, new city clerk, as the city's freedom of information officer, designated agent for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System and group administrator for Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Outgoing clerk Deanna Castle holds the positions, until she retires at the end of the year.

- Heard that City Administrator Gary Shike, who serves as utility mutual aid coordinator for the western half of the state through the Kansas Municipal Energy Association, helped get aid for cities in the eastern half of the state after an ice storm last week. Mr. Shike said the coordinator for the eastern half of the state was affected by the storm, so he helped arrange help for the cities in that half of the state. Mr. Shike said he spent a lot of time on the phone, but the work was interesting. Last year, Oberlin received help from Stockton through mutual aid agreement.

- Held a 15-minute closed session for personnel with the city attorney, foreman, administrator, mayor and council present. There was no action taken.

Town looks for cash to rebuild wetlands

The Oberlin City Council talked briefly about where to get money to build a wetlands at Sappa Park at a meeting last Thursday night, noting that the city will need to know for an upcoming meeting on park and lake projects.

Councilwoman Marcia Lohoe-fener said she had called City Clerk Deanna Castle and asked her to go back through the minutes to see where the city has set aside any money for the wetlands. The minutes show nothing.

It is in the fund, said Councilman Rob McFee. He didn't say what fund.

There is no line item for that, said Mrs. Castle.

When the council talked about that project, said Councilman Ray Ward, they said the money could come out of the Community Growth Fund, which includes about \$160,000, before a loan to the Housing Authority, set aside for development projects.

Mayor Joe Stanley said Terry Woodbury with Kansas Communities LLC is coming out here to meet with all of the groups involved in projects at the lake and park. The

City to hold final meeting

The Oberlin City Council will hold its last meeting of the year on New Year's Eve.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. Monday upstairs at The Gateway. City Administrator Gary Shike said the agenda will be to pay end-of-the-year bills. As always, it is open to the public.

council needs to be represented at that meeting, he said, and the city needs to have a plan about what it is going to do, including money.

The meeting will most likely be in early January, he added. Mr. Wood-bury, a consultant and community development expert, helped start the Decatur Tomorrow planning group, and one of its units is involved in planning for the park and lake.

There was no further discussion on the money or the project.

Twinkle, twinkle lil' lights

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT showed up in lights in yards all over Oberlin as the holiday approached. On East Oak, a yard featured Santa (above) on a green tractor with a blow up of the Disney cartoon character Tigger in the background. The home boasts lots of blow-up yard decorations. On Maple Street (right), a flat snowman with lights sits in the front yard along with a small Christmas tree.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Conservation District gets money needed to finish out year

The Decatur County commissioners decided to allow a payment of \$3,832 out of the county's general fund for the county Conservation District last Tuesday since the agency has the cash, but not the budget authority to spend it.

The district needs the money to finish out the year, said Commissioner Ralph Unger.

The district has the money in its account, said County Attorney Steve Hirsch, but only has budget authority to spend up to \$10,000, and the district has hit that limit.

After the new year, the money will be put back into the county general fund said County Clerk Marilyn Horn.

Although the commissioners earlier passed a resolution to allow the district to use that money, she added, the budget wasn't ever republished, so the spending might not be legal.

The conservation district, said

County roundup

At their meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked about the possibility of using the old metal building west of the county shop for a recycling center. Story to come.
- Looked at the so-called Emergency 911 addressing system again, trying to work out some of the problems. Story to come.
- Decided to allow a payment of \$3,832 out of the county's general fund to the Soil Conservation District. Story at left.

office manager Diana Solko, receives \$10,000 from the county and

\$10,000 from a state match. The rest of the money to run its programs, she said, is generated from tree sales and things like that, and those have been down. With everything just hitting at once, said Mrs. Solko, the district needed more money for the end of the year to continue offering all of its programs. And while it has

the money in the bank, it's already hit its budget limit.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said the county has some over-budget issues and some "under-dollar" issues, meaning some funds don't have enough cash in them to distribute the amount budgeted. In that case, Mr. Hirsch asked, the county

only distributes the actual cash, not the budgeted amount, right?

There are some funds that have more cash than budget authority, he said. If those areas spend over the budget authority, the auditors would call it a budget violation.

If an area has less cash than what is budgeted, said Mr. Unger, then they only get the actual cash. If the budgeted amount is lower than what cash the area has, then they only can spend the amount budgeted.

It's lights out for nativity set until business group fixes it

Many people have noticed the life-size lighted nativity scene is missing from Centennial Park in downtown Oberlin.

The decorations, owned by the Oberlin Business Alliance, need new lights.

Although the city crew normally puts the outline figures up each year, this year lots of the lights in the rope strands were burned out.

The crew was short on time, said City Foreman Dan Castle, because bad weather moved in at the same time.

Joe Stanley, with the merchants' group, said if the lights get repaired, the scene will be put up next year. The association raises money for Christmas decorations each year, and had a soup supper last week which brought in about \$200.

PARTS SPECIALS

December 21st - January 12th

Interstate Batteries
10% Off Cash & Carry
Kelly Ryan & Hay Buster

KELLY RYAN

CrustBuster
SPEED KING INC.

15% Off
Cash & Carry

Bulk Oil 30, 55 gal.
20% Off Cash & Carry

Klein's 605 West B - McCook, NE
MOTOR ELECTRIC CO. 308-345-4580

Front End Liquidation Sale

Beginning Wednesday, Dec. 19

50% OFF

- * All Gifts
- * All Counter & Christmas Greeting Cards
- * All Party Goods and Gift Wrap
- * All Health & Beauty Aids

NEW PROMOTIONS:
All Boxed Christmas Cards 60% Off Full Retail Price
All Boxed Russell Stover Candies 10% Off

Prescriptions & Diabetic testing supplies will not be included in this sale

WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH TOP QUALITY PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

DRUG STORE

Addleman

137 S Penn Ave - Oberlin, KS - 785-475-2661