

City advertises for cemetery wall

The Oberlin City Council has approved advertising for bids for a wall around the new section of the cemetery on the west side of Martin Avenue.

David Wilson, architect with W Design Associates of McCook, said at a meeting May 20 that his firm looked at the ornamental wall around the present cemetery. He said his instructions were to match the new wall to that.

The project description shows the wall costing \$123,235, he said, giving the council drawings of the project. The next step, he said, is to send the maps and information out for bids. The project, said Mr. Wilson, will be advertised for three consecutive weeks, allowing time for contractors to bid on the project.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said he had looked at options for how to pay for the wall. He said he didn't think debt financing, such as a bond issue, would work. There is money in the general fund, he said, moved forward from a cash balance from the previous year. Otherwise,

money could be taken from the Community Development Fund or the city could ask for donations.

Another idea is to put the wall off and budget it for 2011, he added, noting that the city has just under \$29,000 in memorial money which could be used.

That's an obvious way to start, said Councilwoman Rhonda May. Sending the information out to bid, said Mr. Wilson, is part of the original fee for the work his firm was hired to do.

Ms. May said she thought the project should go to bid. It could be interesting in this economic climate to see what happens.

Mr. Wilson agreed, saying the company has been getting some good bids for projects in the area.

The project, said Councilman Ray Ward, is something that needs to be done. It seems like a lot of money, but it seems the price goes up the longer the city waits.

Mr. Gilley recommended getting a bid, since the services have pretty much been paid for. The council agreed.

Muzzleloaders plan gun show

A member of the Beaver Creek Muzzleloaders asked the City Council if there would be any legal issues with having a gun show at The Gateway arena next year.

At the meeting Thursday, May 20, Dave Bose said the club would like to have the show in late winter or early spring. He said they didn't want to get anything started if they wouldn't be allowed to have guns inside the building.

Councilwoman Rhonda May asked if any law or rule would prohibit having a gun show. City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he didn't think so.

The council approved hiring Ranson Financial, out of Wichita for \$5,000 plus expenses to help with financial planning.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said he wants to make sure that the city doesn't bankrupt itself while doing the around \$4 million water-treatment project. Although it's primarily because of the water project, he added, the city can use the service with other financial matters.

Mr. Gilley said the final stages of the loan paperwork for the treatment plant are about done. Hopefully, he said, the engineer's final specifications will also be done in the next few weeks.

In June, the council will look at issuing revenue or general obligation bonds, allowing the city to borrow money to build the plant. For a utility project, said Mr. Gilley, a vote isn't required to allow the city to borrow the money.

Revenue bonds wouldn't count against the city's debt limit, he added. They would be paid back through water income. However, there is a 15-day waiting period so voters can protest. That could send the issue to an election.

Most owners who received "nuisance" letters about their property, said Mr. Gilley, are taking care of the problems, but one or two plan to appeal to the city's minimum housing board. That group will need to meet soon, he said.

The city might want to seek bids for clean-up or demolition services.

The code enforcement officer, he said, is only pursuing citizen complaints about properties that are in writing.

In other business, the council:

- Authorized Nex-Tech to bury some fiber-optic cable along property the city owns off of U.S. 36 at Sappa Park.
- Heard that the city is working on per-block cost estimate for electrical line replacement.
- Approved a roofing bid for the city's warehouse. The city received two bids, one for \$19,380 from Aqua Shield and another for \$15,230 from Martin Roofing. The council approved the low bid.
- Held a closed session for attorney-client privilege and one for nonelected personnel. There was no action after either.
- Heard from Marilyn Black, who said she was sorry to see Mr. Gilley leave. She added that she hopes he is appreciated where he is going.

Memorial Services conducted at Lyle Cemetery



MIKE HELM, Nebraska District 9 commander and national chairman of veterans affairs and rehabilitation for the American Legion, conducted Memorial Day services at the Lyle Cemetery with about 50 people attending. Commander Helm distributed flowers to children to lay on veterans' graves. — Herald staff photo by Carolyn Kelley-Plotts

Senior citizens ask county about landscaping

A representative of the Golden Age Center asked the Decatur County commissioners for ideas about landscaping outside the new building on Main Street.

Dorothy Moore, who works at the center, said at the May 25 meeting that people are concerned about landscaping, especially on the two corners. Some soil needs to be removed first and then some plants should be put in. There's also some cement that needs to be removed from one corner, said Ms. Moore.

She said they need some advice about what to put in on those corners

that will be low maintenance and not grow too tall. She said a member of the Garden Club looked at the areas and killed the weeds.

Ms. Moore said she's not sure if landscaping is something the county would handle or the center board.

There was some discussion about putting in decorative rock, but Ms. Moore said kids might pick up rocks and throw them.

The area on the south side of the building is going to need a retaining wall, she said, and they need to start

raising money for it.

Another area that needs some landscaping is around the air conditioning units out back, she added.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he wouldn't suggest putting in bushes or trees on the corner. It's hard enough to see traffic, he said.

Commissioner Gene Gallentine asked about the possible cost, but Ms. Moore said she didn't know. Mr. Unger suggested the Garden Club might adopt the area, but Ms. Moore said they aren't interested.

The commissioners asked about landscaping for the rest of the building. She said she didn't know of any plan, but said she would talk with Greg Lohofener with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp.

Mr. Unger said he wasn't sure if the county could help remove some of the dirt and then put some topsoil back in those areas. He said the road department is pretty busy and the weed department is spraying.

NOW HIRING! **SUBWAY**
 OBERLIN, KANSAS
Sandwich Artists
STARTING UP TO \$7.50
PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF APPLICATION
AT SUBWAY
THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING SUBWAY!

Treat Your Imagination

The 2010 Smoky Hill River Festival

For high-energy, low-cost fun, make the short drive to Salina for the Smoky Hill River Festival. Featuring 300 artists and musicians; with performances by Delbert McClinton, Kathy Mattea, The Steel Wheels, and more!

Present this coupon at the Festival and save \$5 off the gate price

June 10, 11, 12, 13 • Salina, KS

www.riverfestival.com

DUNKER'S RADIO & TV
 Electronic Sales, Service, Installation, & Repair Since 1957

SPRING CLOSEOUT SALE!

ALL IN STOCK TELEVISIONS MUST GO!
 LCD, Plasma, & LED LCD HDTV's on Sale!

SAMSUNG LG TOSHIBA ViewSonic

Only while supply lasts!

SPRING INTO SAVINGS!

COME IN TODAY & SAVE!

DRTV 423 STATE STREET - ATWOOD, KS
 (785) 626-3261 EMAIL: drtv@atwoodtv.net

RELAY FOR LIFE
 American Cancer Society

Luminaria Donation Form

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ (\$10 ea Luminaria) that will light a luminaria during the Luminaria Ceremony at the Decatur County Relay for Life. (To be included in program book, donations must be received by June 11. May also be purchased prior to the ceremony.)

In Honor of: _____
 Message on Luminaria (10 word limit)

In Memory of: _____
 Message on Luminaria (10 word limit)

In Support of: _____
 Message on Luminaria (10 word limit)

In Support of: _____

Learn more about Relay for Life activities

Volunteer to help with the event

Volunteer to help with transportation for those fighting cancer

Please make checks payable to: American Cancer Society

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

SPECIAL RECOGNITION IS GIVEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS SELLING \$1000+ IN LUMINARIAS AND THE TEAM SELLING THE MOST LUMINARIAS

Please Mail to:
 Ralph & Norma Unger
 379 T LN, Oberlin, Ks 67749
 Phone: 785-475-2560

The Stamps
 you can't wait to get your hands on

- Pre-Inked (No stamp pad needed)
- Cleaner, Easier to use
- 50,000 Impressions before re-inking
- Dozens of Models

THE OBERLIN HERALD

170 S. PENN • Oberlin, Kansas
 67749 • 785-475-2206