

Pool financing will go to a vote

By RAMELL TAYLOR
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The Oberlin City Council agreed to have a special election when they met Thursday at The Gateway to determine whether or not the Public Building Commission can issue revenue bonds to build a new swimming pool.

The council meeting was full of pool committee members and supporters wanting to hear the final decision of the council about the possibility of money for a new pool.

Those in the audience didn't have to wait long as the meeting only lasted about 30 minutes.

Mayor Rob McFee said the council had the options to either request a resolution to issue general obligation bonds to build a pool and be done with the process, to honor the petition and to hold a special election either by mail ballot or a physical election or to request time to study the matter before making a decision.

Councilman Rusty Addleman said since the petition had been validated, the city

should have a mail ballot election.

"The mail ballot costs Oberlin less money," he said.

Councilman Josh Williby said if the council were to have an election, it should be at The Gateway.

"It would be better," he said, "to verify the voter and make sure we get each vote right."

Mr. Addleman said as long as the city could have a special election rather than waiting for the 2014 general election, he would be satisfied.

"We're already seven weeks behind in the process," he said. "The sooner the better."

City Administrator Karen Larson said that the election would take at least two months to set up and maybe some additional time to get people trained properly.

The Public Building Commission will have to meet to approve the election. They are required to give a 24 hour notice before they can meet.

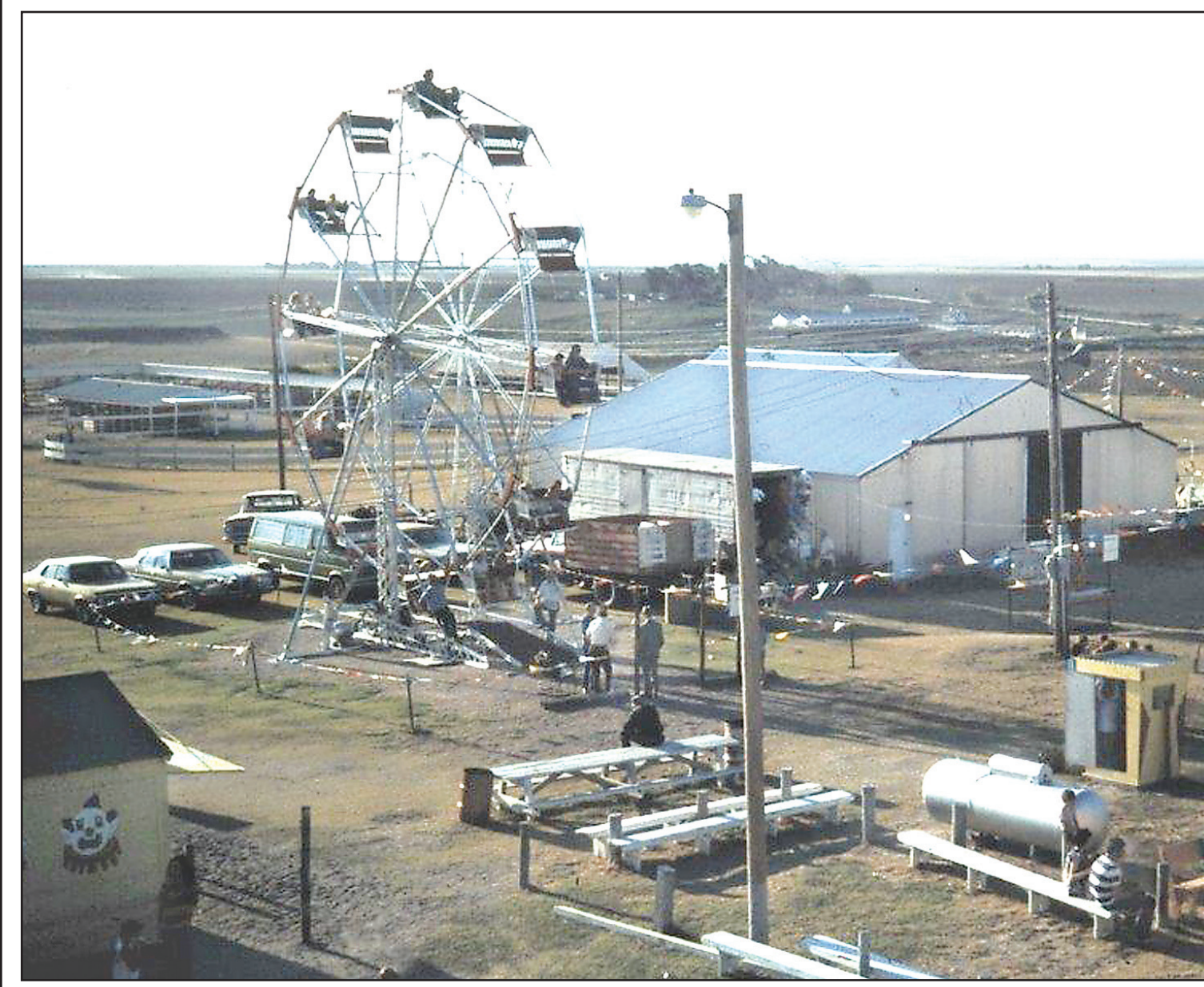
In other business, the council:

- Approved Ordinance 861, that would discontinue the half-cent per kilowatt go-

ing into the Special Highway fund from the electric fund for the purpose of keeping that money in the electric fund for future improvements.

- Approved C. J. Peters to replace Bob Ross on the Public Building Commission. Mr. Ross resigned in early July.

- Heard Mrs. Larson give an update on the water improvement project. She said the Decatur County Commissioners had approved a work order to lay the pipeline along county roads.



AN EARLY PHOTO of the midway (above) at the Decatur County Fair shows the ferris wheel and adult swings, along with an outhouse and homemade benches. Bill Matchett of Matchett Welding built the adult swings (below) which

are still in use. The train (below right) was donated to the Decatur County Amusement Authority by Harry and Betty Schrammel and it was built in Strasburg, Colo.

—Floyd Lotker photos

Man recalls 40 years

By MARY LOU OLSON
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Although many remember when the Decatur County Fair opened

with its own home-grown carnival 40 years ago, Floyd Lotker, who was the first president of the Decatur County Amusement Authority, recalls vividly the huge



Floyd Lotker

undertaking it was to accomplish what was the first in the area.

To help their father celebrate the occasion, Mr. Lotker's family plans to join him for a ride on the train at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10.

The original board also included: Wes Gaumer, Elmer Lindemann, Stuart Euhus, Merlin Anderson, Jim Gaumer, Herb Shirley, Don Stapp, J.R. Betts, John Juenemann, Ann Ooton and Kent Reinhardt.

In his recollections about the Decatur County Fair which he compiled several years ago, Mr. Lotker said that it all started four or five years earlier with events which led up to forming the carnival.

After the fair board made several annual trips to Topeka to sign contracts with carnivals and grandstand shows, then found later that the carnival was split up to only two or three rides and just a few side shows, they could see this was not the answer. As a result, it lost money and after the fair, Wes Gaumer, Fair Board president, would have to go to the bank and borrow money to pay off the shows.



After learning about a home-owned carnival in Hydro, Okla., Mr. Lotker and County Agent Kent Reinhardt, Sharon Kessinger, Wesley Gaumer, Don Stapp and several others went there to check it out. That carnival had been in operation for 15 years and was operated entirely by volunteers.

They took pictures and visited with people and returned home very much enthused about the idea.

"We presented what we found to the chamber and they suggested that we talk the idea up during the fall and winter to different clubs and organizations, and they also advised us in the spring to send out letters asking people if they would support such a project," Mr. Lotker said.

Jake Betts gave the organization

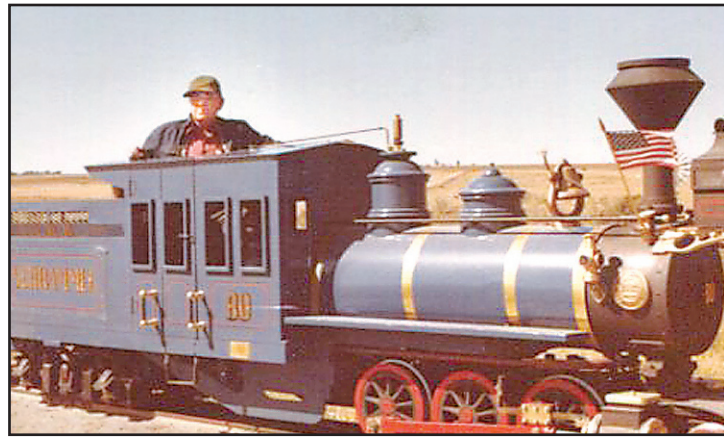
\$200 as a stepping-stone and more donations were received to help finance trips, etc. They found a person who had a ferris wheel for sale that would include the trailer, covered trailer that it was placed in and the tractor to haul it home.

After learning the cost would

be \$6,000, the group took it to the Chamber and they OK'd them doing it.

They took cars to Minneapolis, Minn., to look at the ride. Those going were Mr. Reinhardt, Wes Gaumer, Don Stapp, Mike Gawith

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Economic group is searching for new director

The Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. needs a new director.

Natasha Carman, treasurer of the corporation said the current director, Connie Grafel, will be retiring in August. As important as her role is, she said, they need to find a replacement as soon as possible.

"The current salary for the position is \$30,000," she said. "We are working with the Oberlin City Council and the Decatur County commissioners to increase the salary of this position to entice the right candidate."

The board, said Mrs. Carman, hopes to bring in someone energetic with fresh ideas for progress within the county.

"We need someone with the ability to help with economic growth of Decatur County," she said. (The board) is currently working on starting a neighborhood revitalization program for the county to make improvements to businesses and homes."

One of the problems, said Mrs. Carman, is the board wants the new director to focus on is the decline in the county's population. She said one of the primary responsibilities will be bringing new jobs to the county.

Another qualification will be the ability to develop budgets, she said, as well as grant proposals to support future projects.

"The director," said Mrs. Carman, "will be required to research available state programs, federal funding, loans and grants for the purpose of funding new business projects as well as helping existing businesses."

The director position requires a minimum of 40 hours per week as well as some traveling and evening work.

"We have meetings where the board will discuss economic development goals," said Mrs. Carman. "The director will be responsible for identifying solutions in support of established goals."

After six months after being hired, it is required that the candidate lives in Decatur County.

She said she has been pleased with the applicants who have applied for the position so far.

"Although there are no special academic requirements for the position," she said, "most of the applicants who have already applied for the position have been people with master degrees or have had the great qualities we're looking for."

Mrs. Carman said the board is still accepting applications for the position. She said candidates can submit a letter of interest, salary requirements and resume with three professional references to The Decatur Area Economic Development Center in Oberlin or by email at tasha@warrenbantiercpa.com.

Special section about fair is inside

Inside today's *Oberlin Herald* is the annual special section featuring the upcoming Decatur County Fair and home-owned carnival.

The special includes a little history about the carnival, ideas for things to do during the county fair and a complete schedule of activities.

THE OBERLIN HERALD'S
Fair Days 2013



City water use drops as temperature cools

With the recent rains city water users have used an average of 200,000 gallons less daily since last week.

This is the fourth week of water restrictions in Oberlin.

Water Department Supervisor Willard Perrin said not only did the rains and cool temperatures decrease the amount of water pumped, but the levels of the wells did not decrease as a result.

The city pumped:

- 625,000 gallons on Monday, July 22.
- 569,000 gallons on Tuesday, July 23.
- 620,000 gallons last Wednesday.
- 541,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 536,000 gallons on Friday.

- 432,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 224,400 gallons on Sunday.

Under the Stage 2 water warning restrictions, residents are on an odd/even watering system.

Those who live at an odd-numbered address are allowed to water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Those at even-numbered addresses can water on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Outdoor use, including lawn watering and car washing, can be done from 12:01 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 8 p.m. to midnight on the correct days.

Those with swimming pools can refill them one day a week after sunset.

