

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

The Grant City Council met in regular session Tuesday night, Jan. 11, during what was probably the coldest spell the area has endured for quite some time.

Making the trip west to present the city's annual audit report was CPA Terry Galloway of Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway and Luth in Grand Island.

Agreeing with Galloway's positive assessment of the city's status, City Superintendent Tyson McGreer said, "Overall, we're financially stable."

McGreer said there is a multitude of projects to look toward in the future but the priority would be on the city's infrastructure—water/sewer/streets.

McGreer believes the City of Grant is close enough to being in a financial position to at least start looking at doing some of the major projects which have been on the back burner for a number of years.

In Other Business

Council addressed several further agenda items during the evening, including:

- Council authorized the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics to work with the FAA on behalf of the City of Grant to receive federal funds for a taxiway project at the Grant Municipal Airport.
- Council members Tim Pofahl and Wayne Pick were selected as representative and alternate, respectively, for West Central Development.
- An ordinance was approved to amend the Tree Board Advisory Committee. In the past there have been seven members serving on the board. The ordinance will allow as few as five to complete the board because of difficulty in finding enough citizens to serve.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Tree Board is asked to contact city hall.

- With reappointment by Mayor Mike Wyatt, Joy Howerter will continue to serve as a member of Grant Housing Authority.
- Upon opening bids for spraying and mowing, council tabled the item and will most likely make a decision during their next regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 25.

Five companies submitted bids for taking care of city entities during the summer.

- Council approved a resolution to foreclose on property located at 228 Logan Avenue due to ongoing nuisance issues.

The city cleaned up the property which was designated as a nuisance and then filed a lien on the property. If not paid within proper time frame, the home will be auctioned.

This is an example of the city being serious about the overall presentation of the town and forcing clean-up of nuisance properties, said McGreer.

During a February meeting, a refresher and recap will be presented on the properties cleaned up last year.

Plans for cleaning up another quadrant of the City of Grant will be formulated in the spring.

With nice weather coming, residents would be wise to begin cleaning and clearing their nuisance property ahead of being mandated to do so.

As a reminder, a roll-off dumpster is available west of the ball fields in the southwest area of town.

However, all appliances should be taken to the hill on the southeast side of town for recycling.

No tires or hazardous materials should be placed at either site.

Lotto/Water

Council released figures for lotto and water use during the month of December 2010.

- Lotto: Total sales of lotto at DJ's Bar and Grill during December totaled \$11,397. Payout was \$7,890 with a net of nearly \$3,507. An amount of \$8.75 was left unclaimed.

- Water: Residents used more water during December 2010 than during November 2010.

There was a total of 5,634,200 gallons used last month compared to 4,848,000 in November—an increase of 786,200 gallons as a monthly comparison.

However, in a yearly comparison, less water was used this December than in December 2009 when 7,653,196 gallons were used.