By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

The newly hired city superintendent was present at the regular Grant City Council meeting last week to observe council in action.

Dana Harris of Mitchell will assume her new duties immediately after the holidays on Jan. 2.

Harris was offered the position in mid-November and has accepted a four-year contract with starting salary of $55,000 plus full benefits and $2,000 in moving expenses.

Council unanimously accepted and approved the appointment contract in her presence, giving their approval for the mayor to sign necessary documents.

Harris had previously served as clerk for the town of Melbeta in the Panhandle. She and her young son have rented a house in Grant and are in the process of moving.

Swear In

Mayor Mike Wyatt extended appreciation on behalf of the council and community for eight years of service by councilman Wayne Pick before Ben Long was sworn in to take his seat behind the bench.

Long was elected in November along with second-term elect Tim Pofahl.

Pofahl was then chosen to serve as president of council.

Mayoral Appointments

Council unanimously approved a list of mayoral appointments.

New appointees include Ryan Potts taking the place of Adam Uehling on the Board of Public Works and Wayne Pick filling an open seat on the Tree Advisory Board.

Others who were reappointed for the upcoming year are:

Gary Beckler-code enforcement officer, Phil Pierce-city attorney, Tom Werblow-city engineer and street superintendent, Don Softley-civil defense director, Jessie Faber-city clerk/treasurer, Dr. Colglazier-city physician, Jim Brueggeman-board of health, Shannon Malmkar and Ole Sihm-airport advisory board, Darrell Pierce-economic development advisory board, Jeff Wallin-housing authority, Brenda Styskal-library board, Lori Johnson and Wendy Skeels-parks and recreation advisory committee, Jim Hendrickson-planning commission, Glenn Taubenheim-board of public works, and Tom Epling-tree advisory board.

Nuisance Properties

Three properties previously declared nuisances were approved by council to be rescinded.

Council unanimously passed three resolutions to rescind the properties located at 204 Hancock Avenue, 219 E. 5th Street and 520 Hancock Avenue.

In Other Action

• Council unanimously voted to waive three readings and passed an ordinance to vacate and close the alley between Lots 1 and 3 in Block 1 in Mastre Subdivision 2. Council then approved Koehn’s Replat.

• A second reading was done on the ordinance to continue the economic development program.
• Figures were presented and accepted on water usage, lotto sales/payout and the sheriff’s report.
• Council unanimously voted to waive three readings and approved an ordinance for compensation of all officers and employees.
• Public Works Foreman Gary Beckler gave council an update on the condition of the city’s wells.
Well No. 6 is new and pumps 1,000-1,100 gallons per minute.
Well No. 5 pumps 750 gallons per minute.
Well No. 3 near the railroad tracks delivers 900 gallons per minute.

Water/Lotto

Figures for the month of November were released on water usage and lotto.
• Water: Usage was nearly cut in half from the previous month of October. During November there were 7,784,100 gallons consumed. This is a decrease of 6,534,200 gallons from the month of October when 14,318,300 gallons were used.
However, the month of November showed a year-to-year increase. During November 2011 there were 4,300,700 gallons used which increased to 7,784,100 in November 2012.
• Lotto: Sales at DJ totaled $10,647.75 with a payout of $7,631 leaving a net of $3,016.75. An amount of $5 went unclaimed.