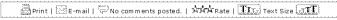


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City amends impact fee plan

By ANDREW BRANCA Daily Light staff writer

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The Waxahachie City Council adopted an ordinance Monday night to amend the impact fees for water, wastewater and roadway. The total for all of the fees, which includes a park dedication fee, is \$4,379.22.

"Under the law, the new fees don't go into effect for a year," assistant city manager Michael Scott said. "The total fees are a cost that is added onto a new single family home that is built within the city."

In other business, Sanford Smith appeared before the council to make a request on behalf of Gary Nelson for a zoning change from future development to light industrial one with a specific use permit for storage and distribution of propane to retail customers at 225 Brown Industrial Drive



"What they are wishing to do is to place a 30,000 gallon propane tank on this property for service vehicles to use. The property is about two acres and is concealed with 10 to 20 foot tall cedar trees," Smith said. "What we are looking to do is to place a tank on an existing concrete slab. The only people that would be using this facility are employees and nobody else.

Councilman Joe Jenkins asked if there were plans to add additional tanks later and Mayor Ron Wilkinson inquired if most of the trees were going to be preserved to act as a screen.

"In the future, with the way the business is expanding, there is a good possibility of adding one," Smith said. "As far as the trees go, that is what we are planning to do. We even designed the road so that none would have to be cut down."

The request was approved by the council.

Also approved was a final plat in Lakeridge One Addition as requested by Scott Steenson, who was represented at the meeting by Kim Wiens.

"Staff's position is to recommend approval for this project," director of planning Clyde Melick said. "They have complied with all of the staff's comments that were suggested."

Director of development Doug Barnes appeared before the council to request that city staff be allowed to negotiate and approve an electric energy contract.

"Energy costs under our existing contract averages \$0.119 per kilowatt and electricity consumption is 17,387,000 kilowatt hours per year for a total \$2,069,053 annual cost. Contributing to the high cost of electricity has been the increase in natural gas prices that are used in generating electricity," Barnes said. "With our existing contract expiring, we have had discussions with four other retail electric providers to determine the current

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market on electric energy and have found these prices to be in the range of \$0.075 per kilowatt hour."

Barnes said a contract could be finalized within the next three to four days, giving the city a savings of \$765,028. The council approved the measure, allowing city manager Paul Stevens to act on the city's behalf.

Director of utilities David Bailey received approval of an agreement with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for sanitary sewer overflow initiative action plan.

"The goal of this agreement is to identify major problems in the sewer system that have caused notable problems, such as overflowing manhole covers," Bailey said. "One part of this agreement might cause us to fix or replace damaged areas. Another part is educating people on how dispose of things properly."

Director of human resources Gayle Sims received approval of a proposed ordinance that re-established classified positions under civil service. The position of lieutenant at the fire department will be replaced by the new rank of fire captain, with no change in personnel or pay rate taking place.

Council members adopted guidelines and criteria for governing economic development incentives and also awarded a bid for mowing and cleaning of code violation properties to TM Mowing.

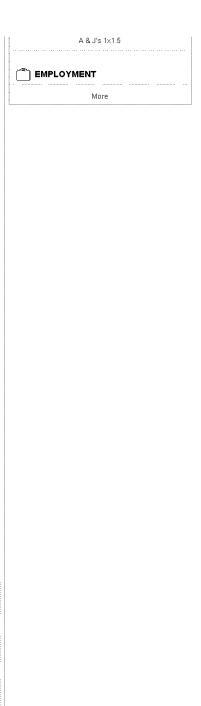
Prior to the regular meeting at 7 p.m., council members held a closed, executive session to discuss pending litigation relating to billboard advertising and Midway Regional Airport. There was no action taken upon their return to open session.

Wilkinson kicked off the Waxahachie's Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign by making its first donation. The bucket was then passed to other members of the council, city staff and even members of the audience to collect donations from each.

A proclamation recognizing National Hospice Month was given to representatives from Family First Hospice of Ennis. Long-time resident Marcus Hickerson was recognized by Councilman Joe Jenkins for his service as honorary councilman in November.

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