

Commission elects new mayor, vice mayor

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Commissioners Dean Aragon, left and Joe Denoyer sit down at their new seats on the commission after placing their name plates in the slots for vice mayor and mayor, respectively. This is Denoyer's third time to be elected mayor by the commission. He served two back-to-back terms from April 2008 to April 2010. L&T photo/Elly Grimm

By ELLY GRIMM

• Leader & Times

The Liberal City Commission experienced a reorganization in its ranks last night as a new mayor and vice mayor were elected among the commissioners.

The annual reorganization selected Joe Denoyer and Dean Aragon to the offices of mayor and vice mayor (respectively), both in unanimous votes by the commission, replacing Dave Harrison and Janet Willimon.

“Congratulations mayor, I look forward to serving with you,” said Willimon during the commissioners’ comments.

Commissioner Dave Harrison also made a short speech during the commissioners’ comments, thanking both the commission and the city staff for working with him during his past year as mayor.

“I can’t say that I always enjoyed it,” he joked. “But I was grateful for the experience that I was fortunate to have and I appreciated the opportunity to do it.”

Aragon also made comments accepting his new position as vice mayor, saying that while the year went by quickly, he learned a lot in his term as commissioner. He thanked Harrison and the commission for the patience extended towards him.

“I think we can get some good things started and I think it’s a good day to be in Liberal today,” he said.

In his acceptance, Denoyer also thanked Harrison along with the rest of the commission for their year of service.

“It’s going to be a year of openness and positive things going on in this city, I can feel it,” Denoyer said. “It’s going to take all of us, as a commission and staff and community to make all that happen because we are just five individuals, people out there who need your help as well. We’re always open and we’re always willing to listen.”

Denoyer, who has served as mayor for two terms from April 2008 to April 2010, then offered encouragement for citizens to come forward if they have any ideas they think would be good for the community.

Another thing discussed was Resolution No. 2194 concerning vehicle abatements of junked and

nuisance vehicles in the city, as the abatement time has elapsed since being adopted.

The city's contract with Retail Attractions was also renewed for another year in a unanimous vote. Jeff Parsons, who presented the measure, says the current contract has been a benefit to the city and encouraged the commission to extend the contract for another year at a renewal cost of \$1,500 a month, or \$18,000 for the year.

The commission unanimously approved the fire department's request to purchase a new Ford F-250 truck from Shawnee Mission Ford to replace one of the emergency response vehicles along with lighting, marking and additional equipment that would be required.

The commission unanimously approved the recreation department's request to purchase lightweight tables, a display table and chairs along with two adjustable basketball goals and a Swan Block ice shaver. William Weber said that all of the equipment will be paid for by two local foundations.

The Mid America Air Museum's request to spend \$23,331 in accordance with a recently awarded grant for the museum's growing robotics programs was also unanimously approved after the monies from the grant were approved.

Before adjourning, the city manager's report commented on the positive progress of projects happening in the city including the shooting range and the pool. After the report, the commissioners gave comments, most of them expressing hope for the success of the bond issue vote. A group of vouchers was then approved before the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.