

City approves parking lot sale

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By ELLY GRIMM

• Leader & Times

Among many other items, the Liberal City Commission unanimously voted last night to approve Resolution No. 2195 concerning the sale of a parking lot to Conestoga Energy Partners, LLC. It is a city-owned parking lot at 3rd Street and Lincoln Avenue.

The offer for the parking lot was \$30,000, which includes the sale of the lot and fees and the net proceeds will be applied to the existing City Hall lease purchase balance with Bank of America. City attorney Shirla McQueen said the deal to sell the parking lot was legally OK after the question arose from commissioner Ron Warren.

“There is really no indication that anyone else would want it, right?” Warren inquired.

McQueen replied and explained that it was fine as long as the two parties had agreed to the sale, which both had, according to finance director Chris Ford, who gave the resolution presentation.

“I don’t know who all uses it, but there are people who park there,” added Ford.

Another item on the agenda was a discussion on construction of a new walkway for Liberal Memorial Library. The plan is to build an annex between the library and the former Big Brothers Big Sisters location and utilize the other building for childrens’ programming and other programs.

However, Kenneth Thompson, library board president, said the library’s insurance company doesn’t agree with the current design plans for the walkway, and the design plans will need to be revised.

“If we put in a complete walkway, the library building would be graded from the brick and mortar building,” Thompson explained. “So we have to leave a gap between the buildings – we can connect one end of the buildings, but we can’t connect the other.”

Thompson also added the quote given on the agenda minutes would need to be changed due to the necessity to revise the plans. The commission ended up unanimously approving the measure.

Karen LaFreniere, housing and community development director, presented a change to the 2014 housing incentive program. Previously, guidelines said that in the case of a speculative built home, a developer may apply for incentives 90 days after the home has been finalized, listed and not sold.

New guidelines said the developer may now apply for incentives after the newly constructive speculative home has been finalized.

LaFreniere was questioned by commissioners about some points in the changes, and the measure passed 4-0-1 with Warren abstaining from the vote.

The Information Technology department received unanimous approval from the commission to purchase computer replacements and hardware and software upgrades from the company CDWG. The department also received approval to purchase the remote installation and upgrade of Sleuth software for records management. The funding for these purchases will come from the department's budget.

The water department also received permission to purchase a new pickup truck to replace one that was involved in an accident resulting in damage that put the truck out of use. The department also received approval to purchase a new hydraulic cutoff saw to replace one that the department says is not worth repairing.

"We, basically, wore it out," said water department director Calvin Burke of the old saw, which he also said was unsafe. "They told us to keep the old one for parts – and I don't think there's a price on human life."

The police department received the commission's permission to replace eight bulletproof vests of currently employed officers, with the purchase coming via Ray O'Herron. They also received permission to sell old vehicle flashing light bars to other smaller fire departments in the area including in Turpin, Okla. and Beaver, Okla.

The commission also unanimously voted to make repairs to the roof on Airport Building No. 719. The roof was heavily damaged in the past by hail and needs replaced.

The commission approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Joe Denoyer to execute the Landlord Estoppel certificate for the lease between the city and National Beef. The resolution passed 4-0-1 with Vice Mayor Dean Aragon abstaining.

The discussion of a water line project on 11th Street was also up for discussion – there will be a new line put in place of the old line in that area.

The last items on the agenda, including the city manager’s report, the items from commissioners and the voucher approval, took place before adjourning at 7:30 p.m.

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