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By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader

In a short and to the point Tuesday evening city commission meeting, commissioners voted to add an element to the Western Avenue improvement project and City Manager Mark Hall had a few words for the public regarding the city's financial status and mowing fast-growing weeds.

Public Works Director Joe Sealey added an improvement to the Second Street Road and Western Avenue intersection. Currently, the southwest corner of the intersection is approximately an 85 degree angle with a 50 foot radius. The improvements would allow for a 90 degree angle with an increased radius of 60 feet. The change reflects the standard truck turning radius.

The commission unanimously approved the addition of the project with an anticipated cost of approximately \$8,000. It will be added to the overall Western Avenue project, which will be finalized at a later date.

During the city manager's report, Hall ensured the commission and the community that the city is still in excellent financial condition despite the current economic status of the nation.

"We are in a good position," he said. "Staff is doing a lot of things to keep down costs. It is, more or less, needs instead of wants. With that, it puts us in a good position.

"Our sales tax collection is slightly down, but it is close in comparison to 2007 which every year it has increased," he explained.

“It is wavering a little, but continuing at a level pace rather than declining. Liberal is in good shape.”

Due to recent rain, Hall would like to remind the public that weeds will in fact be growing rather rapidly. If the weeds or grasses exceed 12 inches, the city will notify the resident that they must mow the property. If the city ends up mowing the property, there will be a fee charged to the resident of the property.

“Weeds are starting to grow,” he said. “We need to keep on top of that. We do hang the door knockers, and we make the attempt to give them a five day warning. It is our effort to come in contact before we come mow. But we are making every effort to notify them before we come out.”

The commission also passed a motion to schedule its budget work sessions for the next fiscal year.

Not-for-profit funding requests will be heard and decided upon from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, at the Depot. A budget review work session will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 11, also at the Depot. The budget hearing will occur at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 28, with another hearing, if needed, at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 11. Both hearings will take place in commission chambers.

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