Providence Council Hears Project Update

On Monday night, the Providence City Council heard a project update on the city's long anticipated water and sewer project that will see about one-third of the community receive new water and sewer lines. Nick Pilcher of HMB Professional Engineers, the group that is overseeing the project, was at Monday night's meeting to review the time line and provide information related to the project.

Pilcher told the council that the project—two projects put together funding wise—is almost 100 percent funded. The city is now waiting for authorization from the state to proceed with the \$14 million plus project. Pilcher, who spent most of Monday with Mayor Tom Glover visiting the water pump station and wastewater treatment plant and talking with city employees, anticipates bidding for the project will start in the next five to six months,

The project is 59 percent funded

with grants and 41 percent funded with loans; the city will spend about \$200,000 annually for debt retirement on the project.

Citizens can expect that once bidding on the project begins, a process that takes about 30 days, it will be another 90 days before the projects is underway.

Pilcher noted that the project includes replacing all the old equipment in the wastewater plant, upgrading disinfection components, installing 3000 feet of new sewer lines and slip lining an additional 8000 feet of current lines. The city will also see 10,000 to 11,000 feet of water lines replaced during the course of the project. In some cases, both water and sewer lines will be replaced in the same area. The council also heard an update on a proposed interconnect project with the Webster County Water District. That project will be funded through an emergency fund grant of \$830,000.

In other business, the council heard first reading of an amendment to ordinance 2024-04 related to the city's utility services. The amended ordinance calls for an increase in security deposit charges, increasing that charge from \$250 to \$500 for residential customers. A non-refundable \$20 charge will be in place for changing the user of a service.

The ordinance amendment also calls for a rate change to rental property owners with the cost determined by the number of units involved. Other changes to the ordinance relate to water rates for usage over the minimum and an increase to the reconnection fee if service is disconnected due to non- or late payment as it relates to overdues that occur on weekends and/or holidays. Councilmember Jimmy Crowell is the sponsor of the ordinance change. Second reading is expected to be held in early December.

Other business to come before the council included department reports. Cameron Edwards provided the police department report that reflects 15 citations issued and 40 warnings written. The public works department report was presented by Travis Turner who noted that in October new timers were installed at the tennis courts and country club. The department is also working to replace poles and put up new street lights in some areas and they are completing gas installs, Turner said. Turner also noted that fall clean-up was a success. City employees have also been cleaning sidewalks along Broadway and Westerfield Drive. The city's back-up trash truck is also expected to start being used this week.

In his report fire chief Cameron Brown told the council that the fire department made seven fire runs in October and 68 EMS runs. He also noted that fire personnel continue to work on the confined space project at Big Rivers, a project that is generating about \$7000 a week in net revenue for the city. He said the work will likely continue through January.

Before the meeting adjourned, Glover announced that a community picnic will be held in conjunction with the ice-skating rink event being held on December 5. City employees, council members and community members are invited to enjoy and soup and chili meal at the area around the community center beginning at 4:00 p.m.

The mayor also asked for and received council permission to approve an unpaid holiday for employees on Friday, December 26.

The next Providence City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, at 6:00 p.m.

SIBBRIE DANNER

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Sebree Council Met Monday

The Sebree City Council met in regular session on Monday night with Mayor Billy Smith presiding and all council members present. Interim City Clerk Kim Campbell and City Attorney Will Cox were also in attendance.

Following approval of the minutes from a called meeting in October, the council dealt with one other item of business.

Mayor Smith asked that a 1990 Mack dump truck, which was formerly used as a trash pick up vehicle, be declared as surplus property and sold. He told council members the truck is in need of major engine repairs, and the city does not have a public works employee who is qualified to drive the vehicle. He noted that because the truck has air brakes, a driver must have a CDL driver's license.

According to Mayor Smith, the city will take sealed bids for the truck. The mayor and city clerk will set the date and time for those bids to be received.

Council member Jana Forker

asked if members had any objection to council meeting times be changed to 5:00 P.M. For years, the council met at 5:00 P.M.; however, about two years ago, that time was changed to 5:30 P.M. Ms. Forker cited darkness as a reason for wanting the change.

The city's ordinance concerning

meeting dates and times must be changed, and the city attorney will present an amendment changing the meeting time at the December meeting. That ordinance will require two readings in order to be passed.

Council member Perry Culberson

Council member Perry Culberson asked that a property he owns located at 738 U.S. 41-North in Sebree be rezoned from commercial to residential or residential/commercial.

That request will have to be presented to the city's planning commission, and the council will then review the recommendation of that commission before a decision is made. The planning commission meets on the first Monday of every other month.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

Clay City Council Sets 2025 Tax Rate

The Clay City Council met in a called session on Thursday, November 13 with Mayor Jackie Edens presiding and all council members present.

Council members approved the 2025 tax rate and discussed a lengthy list of properties in the city which are in violation of the city's nuisance ordinance.

The council also heard the monthly fire report.

Following approval of the minutes from the October meeting, the clerk's report, and

the accounts payable, members began their business session, which lasted about 30 min-

On a 6-0 vote, members approved a tax rate of 0.317 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for both real estate and personal property. The council also approved a rate of 0.39 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for motor vehicles and watercraft. The bank deposit tax of 0.025%, which is set by state statute, was also accepted.

City Clerk Freeman presented a list of properties which are in disrepair and are in violation of the nuisance ordinance. Those properties are located on Taylor Street, Groves Street, Fishtrap Road, West Railroad Street, KY 132, and Elm Street. She told council members each of the properties is encumbered with either tax liens or code enforcement liens. One of the properties is scheduled for sale by the Master Commissioner on December 4.

Council member Mike Grigg expressed displeasure that property owners ignore repeated notifications to bring the properties into compliance. He noted that many of the owners have been contacted for months, and oftentime, years and continue to leave the properties in a dilapidated state.

Mayor Edens told the council he will contact City Attorney Rebecca Johnson, and the city will begin action to foreclose and sell as many of the properties as possible.

The monthly fire report from Fire Chief Jeremy Moore was presented by council member Rocky Williams. The Clay rescue squad responded to five runs in October. Members of Clay CFD assisted with the Clay Days parade and bingo fund-raiser. Fire department members also made a fire prevention presentation to Little Ones Pre-

The department also welcomed several new members in October. Those individuals are Shawn Gilliam, Shelton Dock, Robert Wright, Mayci Moore, Eric Bautista, Rob Hensley, Jordan Payton, Steven Springrield, Kevin Fuqua, and Brandon Carlisle.

Dixon City Commission Approves Ordinance

The Dixon City Commission met in regular session on Monday, November 10 with Mayor Terry Webb presiding and all commissioners present. City Attorney Lindsey Durbin and City Clerk Barb Goff were also present.

Following approval of the minutes from the October meeting and the bills and claims, the commissioners dealt with short agenda that included the first reading of an ordinance, reports concerning each department, and setting date for the city's annual Christmas dinner. Commissioners also heard a request from a city resident.

Mayor Webb told members

Mayor Webb told members an individual had approached him concerning a comm unity Thanksgiving dinner in Dixon. According to the mayor, that dinner will be held at the community center, and donations are being sought. Those donations are being accepted at Dixon City Hall and Independence Bank in Sebree and Providence.

Commissioners scheduled the annual Christmas dinner with members of the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department for Thursday, December 11, 6:00 P.M.

The commission held a short discussion concerning the erection of bollards along the south corner of the city building. Several days ago, a semi-truck making a right turn from KY 132 onto U.S. 41-A struck a utility pole, snapping it, and causing the pole to fall onto the city building. Cost of the bollards was estimated at \$1,000 to \$1,500, according to Mayor Webb. Commissioners tabled a decision on the matter until December so

additional information can be

obtained concerning where the bollards should be placed in relations of rights-of-way along both state and federal highways.

Commissioners passed first reading of a supplement to the city's Code of Ordinances. The second reading of that ordinance will be held at the December meeting.

The Dixon Volunteer Fire Department responded to 25 calls in October

The City of Dixon purchased 2,599,500 gallons of water in October. The city sold 1,716,760 gallons of water and used 390,000 gallons of water for flushing. According to Commissioner Randy Norman, the water loss for October was 18.87%.

Commissioner Mandee O'Leary reported the parks, playground, and recreation fund-raiser on Saturday, November 8 was a success with \$794.00 being raised from the burgoo sale. Mayor Webb told members that Matthew Cutteridge had resigned from the board, and commissioners approved that resignation.

Code Enforcement Officer Chris O'Leary reported one new citation had been issued for nuisance violations. Two citations have been re-issued with late fees. Additionally, another citation is scheduled to be sent this week, and two letters for notification of violations will be sent.

week, and two letters for notincation of violations will be sent. City resident Lori Hayes addressed the court concerning low-hanging tree branches on Bourland Avenue. She told members here son, who purchased Bourland Park several months ago, has intentions to put a manufactured home at the

park. However, the tree branch-

es need to be cut in order to get the home down Bourland Avenue

to the site.

Mayor Webb responded, "The city has no authority to trim the trees because they are on private property." He continued, "There is nothing we can do as a city."

It was suggested Ms. Hayes contact Property Valuation Administrator Jeff Kelly to obtain the addresses of the six property owners along Bourland Avenue so they can be contacted about getting the trees trimmed. It was also suggested that Kentucky Utilities Company be contacted because a portion of the limbs overhang power lines.

No further business came before the commission, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Filing Season Has Begun For Local Candidates

Webster County residents began on November 5, filing their intent to run for office in 2026 when the county will elect new county officials or re-elect incumbents.

The most highly contested race in the first two weeks of filing is the District 3 (Providence) magisterial district. Four Republican candidates have filed for the seat presently held by Tony Felker. Felker has filed to seek re-election; he will be challenged by Kenneth (Ken) Stuart, Taryn Bailey Zaretzke and Charles M. Syers, all Republicans.

In District 1 (Clay/Dixon), Chad

Taryn Bailey Zaretzke and Charles M. Syers, all Republicans.

In District 1 (Clay/Dixon), Chad Townsend will seek re-election to the fiscal court as will Bob Hardison who is seeking to be re-elected to the District 2

fiscal court as will Bob Hardison who is seeking to be re-elected to the District 2 seat (Sebree/Slaughters). Ryan Morgan Hammack has filed his petition for the county/judge executive's seat. Hammack is a newcomer to the

Webster County political area. Present

judge/executive Steve Henry has public-

ly announced he will not seek re-election.

The jailer's race in the county will also be a contested race. Cameron Shelton and Nathan Stinchcomb, both presently serving in law enforcement, have filed petitions to be on the ballot seeking the jailer's position. Greg Sauls, the county's present jailer, has not indicated whether he will seek re-election.

Valerie Gail Newell has filed for the county clerk's seat, a position she has held for several years, and Wm. Clint Prow will run for re-election in the county attorney's race.

PVA Jeffrey D. Kelley is also seeking re-election to that position, and William C. Braden II will seek re-election as the county sheriff

county sheriff.

Potential candidates have until the close of business on January 9, to file their intent to run for office in Webster

The Sebree Banner will keep our readers updated as additional candidates file