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Vol. 132 No. 01 ♦ 8 Pages + Calendar ♦ Groton, Brown County, South Dakota ♦ Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2014 ♦ Established in 1889



Going up this week

Word has it that the contractors will be visiting with Groton Postmaster Mel Sombke on Tuesday to go over the plans to reinstall the mail boxes in the west side street project. Most residents with mailboxes have had to go to the post office to get their mail during the past couple of months during the street construction project.



Don't burn the toast

Burnt toast sent the fire alarm off at the Pheasant Ridge Apartments late Friday morning. The sirens even sounded in town to alert the firemen that they were needed for the fire call. There was no damage from the fire call.



Work begins at Locke-Karst Field

A good size crew worked at the baseball complex Saturday morning as the backstop at Locke-Karst Field was removed to make room for the new one. There is a lot of work that needs to be done at the baseball complex and the newly formed baseball committee has step up to the plate to get the work done.

Redfield Cross Country Meet is Cancelled

The Pheasant Cross Country Invite for this year scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 4, has been cancelled. There was an unfortunate ATV accident Sunday that claimed the life of a sixth grade student. The funeral is planned for Thursday at 1:30 p.m., and thus, Redfield is cancelling all events after that on Thursday in respect to the family.

Wheeting chosen as South Dakota Farmers Union Local Hero



John Wheeting, center, was one of the local heroes of the South Dakota Farmers Union. Doug Sombke, left, from Groton, is the president of the Farmers Union.

South Dakota Farmers Union recognized five South Dakotans for giving back to their rural communities with the Rural Dakota Pride Award.

"One survives with the other," said Karla Hofhenke, South Dakota Farmers Union Executive Director, of the integral connection between those who work in South Dakota's number one industry and their rural communities. "Without thriving communities, it's difficult to encourage young people to return to their family's farm or ranch. Rural communities are key to the future of South Dakota's agriculture industry; which is why we like to recognize those individuals who help them thrive."

Selected through a nomination process, the 2014 Rural Dakota Pride Award recipients include: Cindy Wilk, Huron; Jeff Kieser, Wessington Springs; Alan Vedvei, Lake Preston; Nick Nemecek, Holabird; and John Wheeting, Groton.

John Wheeting, Groton

When John Wheeting looks at his family tree, there is a 4-H leader on several branches. "My dad was a 4-H leader, my grandpa was a 4-H leader and my great-grandpa was as well."

Although Wheeting was never a 4-H leader, he does follow the family tradition by giving back to the organization he credits for inspiring his career in South Dakota's agriculture industry. For the last 24 years, the District Sales Manager for Producers Hybrids has volunteered as Superintendent of the Open Lamb and Swine shows at the Brown County Fair.

"4-H and FFA exposed me to the off-farm opportunities available within the agriculture industry," Wheeting, 49, says. "The experiences I had through these organizations also provided me with communication and leadership skills that I use every day."

When his three daughters were young, Wheeting and his wife, Chris, encouraged them to become involved in 4-H as well. "I think the responsibility they learn through taking care of a livestock project is a great learning experience."


He adds that the responsibility 4-H involvement instilled in him and his children is not unique to their family - the reason he continues to volunteer even though his daughters are mostly grown. "I see kids in our community that I've worked with through 4-H livestock shows, and after they graduate from 4-H, they go off to become successful. Whether they pursue an agriculture career or not, 4-H gives them a strong foundation for success."

Wheeting also serves his community through active involvement in the Groton Area Chamber of Commerce and holding several leadership positions in St. John's Lutheran Church. Under his leadership, the church started a Christian preschool. Today, St. John's PreSchool welcomes about 35 youngsters each fall. "Like 4-H, this is a program that lays a foundation for young kids."

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Groton Area gridiron drops game to top rated Parkston

Parkston is the number one rated team in the state. And they showed what they were made of as they handed the Groton Area Tigers a 42-0 loss in Parkston on Friday.

The Trojans had 16 first downs, 216 yards rushing and 52 yards passing. They scored three touchdowns in the first quarter on runs of 42 and 20 yards and one on a pass of 30 yards. Two more touchdowns were scored

in the second quarter on runs of one and four yards. One touchdown was scored in the third quarter on a 19 yard run and the Trojans did not score in the fourth quarter.

Groton had two first downs, had 30 yards rushing and two yards passing. Seric Shabazz had four carries for 19 yards, Jackson Doeden had 11 of 10 yards, Isaiah Cutler had one for five yards, Bennett Shabazz had two for four yards, Adam Herman had two for three yards and Spencer Knecht had one for a minus 11 yards.

Jackson Doeden completed one of four passes for two yards and one interception. Groton lost one fumble and Parkston had none.

Groton had three penalties for 15 yards and Parkston did not have a penalty in the game.

Knecht caught one pass for two yards and the defensive leaders were Doeden with 10 tackles and Knecht with eight.

Groton will host Aberdeen Roncalli on Friday with a 7 p.m. game.



Wyatt Kurtz, Rayce Harder, Stormy Bahr, Jacob Milbrandt, goalie Chance Strom. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Trevor Pray (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



James Thompson (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Lane Weig (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)

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Boys Soccer team loses to Pierre

Groton lost to Pierre on Saturday, August 30, 2014 by a score of 2-1. In the first half, James Thompson scored at the 33 minute mark with an assist by Jacob Milbrandt. Late in the first half, Pierre was awarded a penalty kick in the box and tied the game 1-1. Pierre scored at the 15:00 minute mark on a corner kick in the second half.

The Groton JV boys lost to Pierre by a score of 1-0 .

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Groton Boys Soccer Beats Huron Tigers

The Groton High School Boys Soccer team traveled to Huron on Tuesday, August 26 to take on the Huron Tigers. Early in the first half, Wyatt Kurtz was fouled in the box and earned a penalty kick which was taken and scored by Jacob Milbrandt. At 14:50 Wyatt Kurtz scored with an assist from Luke Sternhagen. Later in the first half, Jacob Milbrandt scored on a free kick as he sent the ball through the goalie's hands and into the net. The final goal, still in the first half, was scored on a header by Luke Sternhagen from Jacob Milbrandt's free kick outside the 18. The Tigers held onto the 4-0 lead and won the game. Goalkeeper was Chance Strom.

The Groton Boys JV Soccer team played after the varsity game and beat Huron by a score of 1-0 with Chance Strom scoring the goal. The keeper was Nick Dalchow.



Zach Crosby gets a good kick in the varsity game. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Cade Guthmiller in the junior varsity game. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Luke Sternhagen and Devin Poppen battle for the ball with Landon Larson in the background. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Jacob Milbrandt gets the ball and heads down the field. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Grady O'Neill in the junior varsity game. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Pictured Below: Anticipating the ball at the goal are Devon Poppen, Cade Guthmiller, Hunter Schaller, Wyatt Kurtz and Goalie Nick Dalchow. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



Rayce Harder and Zach Crosby try to get the ball away from this Huron player. (Photo by Jodi Sternhagen)



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Herman, Sombke place at NEC Golf Tourney

Thirty area high school golfers spent a very soggy day at the Olive Grove Golf Course for the NEC Boy's Golf Tournament on Thursday as intermittent rain showers fell all day.

Roncalli took the top honors with a score of 318 and Sisseton finished in second place with a 339. Groton was fourth with a 374.

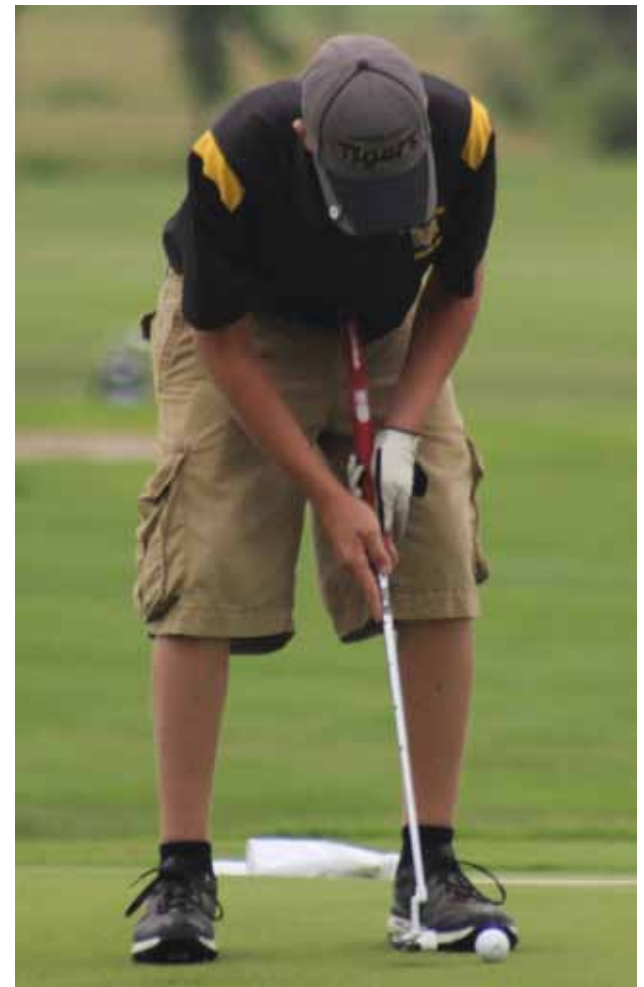
Adam Herman was the top finisher for Groton, tying with Brody Sombke, with a 89 to finish in eighth and ninth place, respectfully.

Groton will be at the Hub City Invite on Tuesday and will return to play at home on Saturday, September 13 for the Groton Invite. Golfing starts at 10 am.

-Char Telkamp



Adam Herman was the highest place winner for Groton in the NEC Boy's Golf Tournament on Thursday, finishing in eighth place with a 87. (Photo by Char Telkamp)



Landon Marzahn putts at the second hole at Olive Grove during the NEC Boy's Golf Tournament on Thursday. (Photo by Char Telkamp)



Sean Schuring prepares to chip up to the green during the NEC Boy's Golf Tournament in Groton on Thursday. (Photo by Char Telkamp)

2014 NEC Boys Golf Tournament

Roncalli 318

Keaton Deiter, 73, 1st
Zach Streier, 77, 2nd
Gabe Heller, 79, 4th
Austin Kokales, 92, 15th

Sisseton 339

Carsten Archer, 79, 3rd
Nate Nielsen, 83, 5th
Ethan Kranhold, 88, 10th
Hunter Ryan, 89, 11th
Mitch Hansen, 94

Milbank Area 351

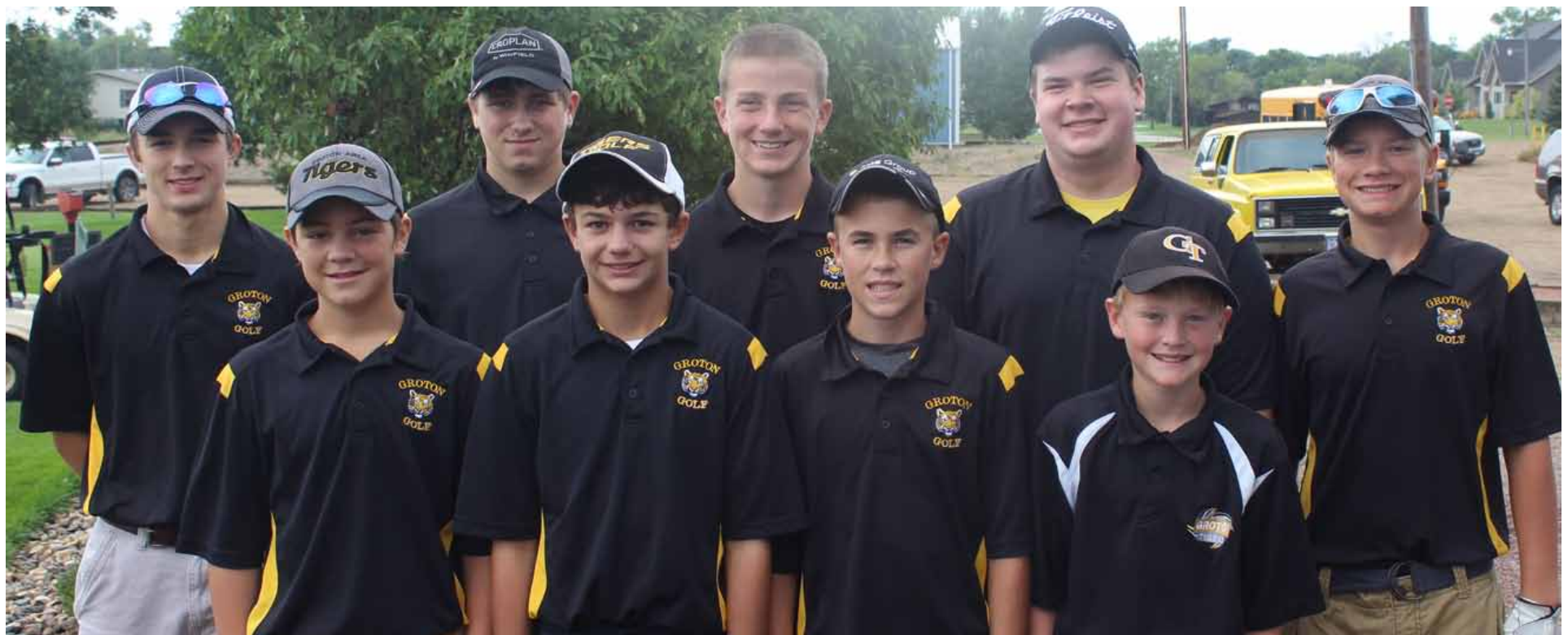
Sean Zimney, 85, 6th
JP Lindquist, 86, 7th
Adam Thomas, 89, 12th
Ryan Schreurs, 91, 14th
Brady Gomers, 93

Groton Area 374

Adam Herman, 87, 8th
Brody Sombke, 87, 9th
Landon Marzahn, 94
Sean Schuring, 106
Cade Guthmiller, 109

Redfield-Doland 447

Gabe Suchor 103
Bryce Stephsen, 103
Ryan Yost, 106
Jakob Thomas, 135
Adam Hyke, 138



2014 Boys golf Team: Adam Herman, Trey Wright, Sean Schuring, Brody Sombke, Landon Marzahn. Front Row: Hunter Schaller, Korbin Blackmun, Treyton Diegel and Cade Guthmiller. (Photo by Char Telkamp)



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Council gives preliminary approval for \$1 million street project for 2015

The Groton City Council grappled with a budget that had a \$1.1 million shortfall. "We can't spend more than what we take in," said Councilman Mary Flihs. The 2015 street project was on the chopping block for next year. Councilman Flihs said that the street project should be axed next year, and that \$500,000 be put away next year and the following year so the project can be done in the third year. The total of the street project is \$1.4 million.

The council went through the budget, line item by line item, leaving the street project until the final end. About \$350,000 was taken out of the budget. They include eliminating \$80,000 for an electric switch and pole replacement that would separate the north substation and the south substation off of the feeder line, reduce the purchase of transformers from \$45,000 to \$25,000, eliminated a water valve exercising tool for \$8,600, reduced the moving tree expenditure in the cemetery from \$5,000 to \$2,500, eliminate storm sewer improvements for part of the west side of town in the amount of \$90,000, eliminated \$8,500 for a new gator, reduced the chip seal project from \$100,000 to \$80,000, eliminated \$8,000 for repainting the stripes on Main Street, eliminated \$635 for a new portable police radio as the one that Jerry Bjerke has will last another year, eliminated \$30,000 for a new police vehicle, eliminated \$600 for a new printer, eliminated \$3,000 for garage door openers for the west warehouse, cut the water distribution supplies from \$20,000 to \$10,000, eliminated repairs to a pit under the water tower in the amount of \$10,000, eliminated \$15,000 for the Chamber sign, cut the stump grinding budget in half to \$2,500, eliminated \$10,000 for a new commercial lawn mower, reduced baseball repairs by \$5,000, reduced the cost of elections by \$675 as there is no plan for a special election, and cut salaries increase to allow for raises, overtime or other benefits from 10 percent to 5 percent, saving \$34,000.

The revenue side was also discussed. There was a proposal to tack on from \$2 to \$5 a month on the utility bills which would be set aside for the construction of a new water tower that will need to be done in the future. At \$2, it would add up to \$14,000 a year. Also discussed was passing a bucket at baseball games for gate charges instead of the box at the gate.

After all was said and done, the council agreed, 4-2, with Councilman Mary Flihs and Councilman Eddy Opp saying no (Opp wanted the street project cut in half), to do a \$1 million street project next year. Councilman Burt Glover said that promises were made and the council should keep them. The streets to be done are Fifth Avenue West from Broadway to Garfield, Fourth Avenue from Broadway to Lincoln, Lincoln Street from Third Avenue to Meadowbrook Lane, Washington Street from Third Avenue to Seventh, and Sixth Avenue from Broadway to Washington Street. Once the street project is done, the council was in agreement that there would be no more major projects for a few years to allow the city to pay down its debt.

Other items that need more clarification were:

\$5,000 for paneling and tables at the community center. They questioned if the paneling can be removed and then the wall painted and also how many tables really needed to be replaced.

\$40,000 to reline waste water lines on Fourth Street and First Avenue. They questioned if it could be postponed for a year.

\$4,000 for boring a water service line to Feist's as the water service line needs to be changed before the South Dakota Highway 37 project is done in 2016. Councilman David McGannon said his service comes in from the west and questioned as to why Feist's service line couldn't come in from the west as well. There is a water main on Washington Street that runs to a fire hydrant near the west warehouse.

Of course, all of these are tentative as the council gave first reading at the meeting and will give second and final reading at the September 2 meeting.

The Life of Drucilla Hinrichs

Services for Drucilla "Dewey" Hinrichs, 86, of Claremont were held Tuesday, September 2 at the United Methodist Church, Claremont. Pastor Gwen Mader officiated. Burial followed in Huffton Cemetery.



Dewey died August 27, 2014 at Wheatcrest Hills in Britton.

Drucilla Hope was born on December 24, 1927 in Houghton to John Franklin "Frank" and Ellen (Wright) James. She attended school in Hecla and earned her teaching certificate from Northern. Dewey taught for several years in Brentford and Claremont. On March 14, 1948, she united in marriage with Dean Hinrichs at the Congregational Church in Houghton. Together they made their home on the farm, raising four children and sharing 62 years of marriage.

Drucilla was a member of the Claremont United Methodist Church and had been active in the UMW. She enjoyed traveling to her children and grandchildren's activities and sporting events. Dewey also liked to embroider, crochet and do canning/pickling. She was an excellent cook and will be fondly remembered for her fried chicken served each 4th of July at the lake.

Celebrating her life are her children, John Douglas (Crys) Hinrichs of Claremont; Doris (Ron) Anderson of Groton; DeeAnn (Wayne) Suther of Claremont, her daughter-in-law, Cathy Hinrichs of Spearfish, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two brothers, William (Mary Lynn) James of Houghton and Jesse James of Washington.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband, her son, Dallas Hinrichs and brother, Forrest James.

Honorary Casketbearers will be Sara Hinrichs, Amy Hinrichs, Jeff Scheel, Kayla Suther, Kelsey Suther, Hilary Suther, Tigh Flihs, Laura Smith, Logan Scheel, Jack Hinrichs, Lauren Scheel, Jacob Scheel, Dylan Hinrichs, Bennett Suther, Max Suther, Hank Flihs, Rae Flihs, Charlotte Hinrichs and Louisa Hinrichs.

Casketbearers will be her grandchildren: Matthew Hinrichs, John Hinrichs, Adam Suther, Blake Anderson, Alex Suther, Taylor Anderson, Austin Suther, Heather Taylor, Shannon Scheel, Katie Anderson and Adrienne Flihs.

www.397news.com ♦ Tues., Sept. 2, 2014 ♦ 7

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING/ OPEN HOUSE

Project P 0037(129)207; PCN 039K; BROWN COUNTY

SD37 from Aspen Avenue to US12 in Groton

Grading, Storm Sewer, Curb & Gutter, Sidewalk, Roadway Lighting, AC Surfacing

Date: September 4, 2014
Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. CDT
Place: Groton Community Center
109 N. 3rd Street
Groton, SD 57445

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) will hold an open house style public meeting to discuss and receive public input on the above project. The open house will be informal, with one on one discussion with SDDOT design staff.

A presentation will take place shortly after 5:30 p.m. Afterwards, SDDOT staff will be available with displays to discuss the proposed project and answer your questions. During this time, you will also have the opportunity to present written comments.

Information will be available on the acquisition of right-of-way and relocation assistance. This project is being developed in compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.

Notice is further given to individuals with disabilities that this public meeting is being held in a physically accessible place. Any individuals with disabilities who will require a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting should submit a request to the department's ADA Coordinator at 605-773-3540 or 1-800-877-1113 (Telecommunication Relay Services for the Deaf). Please request the accommodations no later than **2 business days prior to the meeting** in order to ensure accommodations are available.

All persons interested in this project are invited to attend this meeting to share your views and concerns any time between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.

For further information regarding this project, contact Mark Leiferman, Chief Roadway Design Engineer at (605) 773-3433.

Information presented at the Public Meeting/Open House will be posted on the SDDOT web site after the meeting at <http://sddot.com/dot/publicmeetings/default.aspx>.

Notice published twice at a cost of \$ 260.00 .

Council eliminates 2015 street project

The 2015 street project was axed from the proposed budget at Tuesday night's Groton City Council Meeting.

"So what you're saying is that the street project is a make or break deal for the budget?" asked Councilman David Blackmun to Finance Officer Anita Lowary. She agreed. The project was slated to cost nearly \$1 million and the city has \$2.3 million in borrowing power left of the general fund.

Councilman Burt Glover said, "I agree with Mary (Flehs). I think we need to wait to finish the west side." The council grappled with the idea of borrowing another \$1 million to do phase two of the west side street project or putting it off. "I'd like to see us pay off some of our debt," said Councilman David McGannon. The only debt that will be paid off by 2019 is the lagoon and the substation transformer and that amounts to \$99,000 in payments a year. Currently, the city is making \$564,000 a year in payments - but that includes curb and gutter payments as well, which are collected from the property owners.

City Supervisor Terry Herron, Electric Superintendent Ward Gilchrist and Waste Water Superintendent Dwight Zerr came before the council earlier in the meeting to discuss their budget needs. Herron reported that by doing the street project, but waiting a year to do the asphalt, would add \$30,000 to \$40,000 expense to the budget. "I'm sure we would all like to see it done," Herron said, "but it comes down to money."

The council agreed to not do the street project next year, which will put \$82,000 in contingency, \$40,000 back in for sewer relining and \$300,000 will be saved and earmarked for the street project, and a balanced budget. "I would like one more week to think about this," Councilman Glover said. "Amen to that," echoed Councilman McGannon.

Mayor Scott Hanlon said that he would like to see someone locally try to do one block on our own. "With Terry's (Herron) expertise, why can't we do it ourselves? We should try one block." Councilman Michelle Muilenburg questioned if it would be done correctly since everything has to be engineered.

The council have a special meeting on Monday, Sept. 8, 6 p.m., to go over the final plans for the budget and to give second reading at that meeting.

During the financial report, Lowary reported, "This is the lowest balance I've seen in 33 years." So far, the city has borrowed \$100,000 in a line of credit. Revenues were \$46,000 for sales tax, \$7,000 for property taxes and another \$10,000 in sales tax will be coming in this week. The city has \$149,864.48 in available funds which includes the line of credit. The bills

came to \$364,523.76 and Lowary said she will be going back to the bank to borrow more funds.

There was a request from the school for an AED (Automated external defibrillator) at the soccer field that could also be used in the baseball complex and skating rink. The cost is \$1,900. There is one in the squad car already and the police officers are usually the first ones to show up. "I know they are a huge deal and I know they will save a life," said Councilman Burt Glover. "They are the real deal and they do work." Lowary said that she will look for grant money to help buy three of them. One would be shared with the pool and the skating house, one would be shared with the soccer field and baseball complex and one would be permanently located at the community center.

It has been at least three years running to require homeowners to have their house number on the house. Now it's on its way to becoming an ordinance. "As someone who is relatively new in town, it drives me nuts when there are no house numbers," said Police Officer David Hunter. Police Chief Stacy Mayou added that he has had to knock on doors to find out where someone lives because that person needed medical attention. "It speeds up our response time," Mayou said. "It's a public safety thing. Time is of the essence." The council gave first reading requiring house numbers be installed and visible from the street. Up to \$200 a day fine will be imposed once the ordinance becomes law.

Tim Thurston was given the approval for an on-off sale Malt Beverage License for the Red Dragon Saloon. City Attorney Drew Johnson, with the approval of Thurston, laid out the law and reviewed the criminal record of Thurston. "In order to have a liquor license, the person has to be suitable in obtaining a liquor license and be of good moral character and never been convicted of a felony." After reviewing Thurston's record, the council granted him the license, which is good until July of 2015. Police Chief Stacy Mayou said that Thurston would have no problem allowing the police officers to walk through the establishment from time to time.

A request by Nikki Kotzer to forgive a penalty charge on a utility bill was denied. It was the first time she was late and she said she

was unaware of the length of time it took for billpay to send the payment.

The council will have a letter of support for the repairs of the stained glass windows at the historic Trinity church in Groton. The request for membership into the Brown County Historic Society was turned down at this time.

A request by Duane Kavanaugh to forgive sewer and garbage fees was denied. They no longer live there, but they have to keep the water on for the heating system.

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