BROWNFIELD NEWS

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Councils approves properties sale

The Brownfield City Council gave approval to a plan put forth by Tax Appraiser Ronnie Burran to try to sell properties inside the city, joining Terry County and other taxing entities in attempting to add the locations back to local tax rolls.

City Manager Eldon Jobe told the council that the taxing entities jointly own a "significant amount" of property in trust that has accumulated over the years, mostly because of delinquent ad valorem taxes.

"Rather than foreclose on them and sit on the property forever, we are going to try to take an active role in selling them," Jobe said. "The prices may be below -- sometimes well below -- appraised value, but we feel like it's better to get them back onto the rolls and start collecting taxes on them again. We would rather get what we can than just sit on them.

More than 130 properties are being considered under the proposal and would be made available to the public at Sheriff's sales at the courthouse.

County Commissioner John Franks was on hand and confirmed that the court already had voted to participate.

Interim City Attorney Lena Trevino said that certain rules would apply, including forbidding the sale of properties to anyone who already is delinquent on their taxes to any of the entities.

The council voted unanimously to join the initiative.

In other business, the council heard a proposal from the Terry County Historical Society requesting use of the former post office building, which currently houses the Brownfield Police Department, after the new public safety building is completed.

The historical society envisions housing its offices there, as well as displaying local historical artifacts and maintaining the famous mural in the building's foyer.

The mural, which depicts cowboys on horseback pulling a steer to fight a prairie fire, was commissioned and completed as one of the projects in the New Deal during the Great Depression.

The Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) was developed to bring artist workers back into the job market and assure the American public that better financial times were on the way.

The police department will move to its new home next year, but will continue to use portions of the building for storage.

However, the council was open to the idea of gifting the front offices to the historical society and requested further information on the project.

A request for a financial feasibility study was approved unanimously.

The council tabled a measure to purchase 300 new dumpsters, because the low bid received was not included in the meeting's packet.

The current budget includes $150,000 for the refuse containers.

Precision Flame of Plainview was low bidder for the containers, but the matter will be addressed again at the council's next meeting.

The council also voted to amend an ordinance concerning a franchise fee with Atmos Energy that will stabilize the city's agreement with the natural gas provider.

Participation for another year with the Parkhill Smith and Cooper sealcoat project also was approved. The Lubbock-based engineering firm partners with numerous West Texas cities to keep street maintenance costs low through bulk buying. Brownfield has been a participant for many years.

Mayor pro-tem Rod Bearden presided over the meeting in Mayor Bob Simpson's absence.

Council members present included Cynthia Morin, Tom Hesse, Roxanne Barr, Geronimo Gonzales and Jackie Pinson.

Counilman Brent Besler was absent.

Brownfield ISD fundraiser to benefit Relay

Students at Colonial Heights Elementary School, Oak Grove Elementary School, Brownfield Middle School and Brownfield High School are selling Christmas ornaments to benefit the Terry County Relay for Life.

Ornaments can be purchased "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of" individuals who have had or now have cancer. Kindergarten through third-grade grade students are selling paper links for 25 cents each. The links are being joined into chains to decorate the classrooms and school.

Students in grades 4-8 are selling paper ornaments for 50 cents each. The ornaments are being hung in each school.

High school students are selling glass ornaments to be displayed on the tree in the Commons. The ornaments for the high school tree are $1 each.

Contact any campus to make a donation to the American Cancer Society.

Police Dispatch

Dec. 9
Theft - A male suspect was caught shoplifting about 1 a.m. from a store in the 800 block of Lubbock Road.
Burglary - Suspects reportedly broke into two rental homes in the 500 block of North First Street and stole some copper wire.

Dec. 8
Theft - Officers investigated a theft-of-services report in the 400 block of Magnolia Lane.

Dec. 7
Burglary - Some property was reported stolen from a vehicle in the 1200 block of East Main Street.
Officers investigated a report of a male suspect entering a property in the 800 block of North Avenue A without permission and threatening a resident with a knife.

Dec. 6
Theft - A victim reported theft of a large amount of cash and identifying information.
Burglary - Suspects reportedly broke into storage units in the 1400 block of East Main Street.
Assault - A 26-year-old man was treated for emergency medical attention following a fight with a family member in the 1200 block of South Fourth Street.

Dec. 5
Criminal mischief - The exterior of a residence in the 100 block of West Cardwell Street was found vandalized.
Suspects reportedly damaged a vehicle in the 700 block of North Cub Drive by scratching it with a key.

Dec. 3
Burglary - Suspects reportedly broke into a residence in the 1300 block of North Atkins Street through the window and stole some property.
Evade arrest - A 13-year-old boy was arrested for evading arrest or detention at 9:45 p.m. in the 700 block of East Hill Street.
Theft - A wallet was reported stolen from a vehicle while it was parked near the intersection of Lubbock and Tahoka Roads.

COMMISSIONERS___*from One*

County agent Scott Russell announced in his report to the commissioners that the local agricultural industry had brought "not quite as significant an economic impact as we've had in the past," likely due to drought.

Wagner presided and all four commissioners were present.

Brownfield Girl's Basketball League
SIGN UPS!
Fee: $40.00 per child

Friday, Dec 14 • 6:00-8:00 • BHS Commons
Tuesday, Dec 18 • 6:00-8:00 • BHS Commons

TRYOUTS: Saturday, Dec 22
Mini - 9:00 AM • Minor - 10:00 AM • Major 11:00 AM

Fees must be paid before teams are drafted for your child to play.
GIRLS AGES 6 TO 14
Please bring your child's Birth Certificate or a copy for age verification!

I'm seeking a home

My name is **EMMA**. I am an adorable dachsund mix in need of adoption.

I am about 2 years old, so I am done with my growing and am up-to-date on all my vaccinations and am fixed.

Female • Mixed • Fixed • 2 Years Old

If you want to adopt me please call:
TERRY COUNTY VETERINARY HOSPITAL
806.585.6363
Adoption Fee $100

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