

# FAULK COUNTY RECORD

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## Phase 1 of sewer project approved, garbage service ordinance discussed

The city council of Faulkton met on Monday Oct. 1. The public portion was a short session, only half an hour.

After the city voted to approve previous minutes and claims, city maintenance officer Jerod Raethz gave his report.

Raethz attended the state water board meeting with Mayor Tim Bormann. He also gave the council a summary of the city's inspection from the state DENR. Raethz said the city did well with their inspection and only needed to get a padlock for the water tower fence and the DENR recommended that Faulkton join the SD WARN system, which is a FEMA sponsored program that shares heavy equipment from municipalities in the case of a natural disaster or emergency.

The council then tackled items of old business. Raethz brought the council up to speed on the airport taxi lane project. Raethz said that work was proceeding well and that he expected it would be finished in about two weeks time. A problem they did encounter was a buried power line, but it was an old power line for the previous runway and not connected to any current electrical system out at the airport.

Next Mayor Bormann talked about the sewer project funding from the State Water Board meeting on Sept. 27 in Pierre. Faulkton's project was approved, with a 30 year loan of \$902,000 at an interest rate of 3.25 percent. Phase 1 of the sewer project will now move forward.

The board then went back to the public nuisance complaint regarding the old grocery store location. Mayor Bormann had given copies of an email from the City Attorney Emily Sovell to

each council member. They tabled the item, to discuss it in executive session under the legal counsel prerogative.

Under the new business heading, the council addressed the issue of garbage service requirements. Reuer's Sanitation has the city license to collect all trash from the city's precincts.

Mayor Bormann said that he had received a call from Trish Meeks, who lives in Faulkton but works in Cresbard, operating the Cresbard Tavern. She was expected at this meeting but hadn't yet arrived. He told the council that she reported to him that she produces very little trash and that what little trash does come out of her home, she usually takes with her to Cresbard, where it is also picked up by Reuers.

The mayor told the council that when they did the ordinance switch over in 2005, a city ordinance requiring all occupied homes have the city's contracted trash service was not carried over. The council felt that this should be rectified and clarified with a new ordinance that would have to be drafted.

Just then Meeks did arrive and was given the floor to address the council. She confirmed that indeed her residence did not produce much trash and she had wished to opt out of trash service if she could, merely taking her small amounts with her to the Cresbard Tavern and to be disposed of there. Speaking with Gary Reuer of Reuer's Sanitation, she said that he had told her that service was mandatory and that if his fees for trash removal were not paid he would seek money through collections agencies. Meeks said that she

knows of several residents who have either not paid, or never signed up for trash removal. Many take their waste outside of town to farm residences for burning. She is also aware, as was the council, that trash appears in city dumpsters or dumpsters that serve private businesses weekly.

Meeks felt, and the council agreed, that if she was required to pay, that everyone who has an occupied residence within the city should pay for the service. And if a resident didn't want city authorized service, they could also pay for an opt out.

"I recognize that we want trash service," she said. "And I'm willing to do my part to pay a small portion to keep it coming to the city even if I don't use it myself."

Meeks also wanted to know if snowbirds also paid for the service while they were away or if they had an arranged system for that. She would also like a better system of trash pickup, having no problem putting the trash cans by the curb, but she would like empty cans placed nearer to the homes they come from when empty, so that they'd be out of the wind and not blown about on windy days.

Mayor Bormann pointed out that the city merely grants Reuer's a contract to operate within the city, and other than that Reuer maintains his own records and accounts as a private business, and the city is in no way involved with billing for the service.

Though it was clear that the city would have to put a new ordinance on the books regarding

**City Council Report**  
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Faulkton School Principal Craig Cassens poses with the new "Welcome to Faulkton, Home of the Trojans" sign last Friday morning. As the photo was taken the message board was promoting the Faulkton Area Arts Council's Cultural Kaleidoscope. The sign stands 19' high and is about 16' wide and is located on school property. It is very visible for either east or west travelers. There are no present plans for formal landscaping under the sign but the area will be planted to grass.

## New sign is busy promoting events

There have been a lot of positive comments about the new sign located on the north side of the Faulkton Community Center on Highway 212.

This past week was a great beginning. Messages promoted general community events along with school sports schedules . . . just what the committee behind the sign intended, according to Craig Cassens who helped spearhead the project.

The sign, installed by a Stein Sign of Watertown crew last week, features Daktronics technology and offers a large range of viewing options including:

- Up to three lines of copy.
- Time and temperature display.
- Messages can be scrolled, flashed, faded in and out and even use basic graphics.
- Color backgrounds are pretty much unlimited.
- Messages will typically be displayed for 5-6 seconds.

"It is a learning process," said Cassens. He and school IT tech-

nician Jeremy Demery are involved in learning about and inputting copy for the sign.

The sign design was settled upon by the committee which consisted of representatives from the school, city, organizations and business community. The project cost was approximately \$42,000.

Donations are still being taken for the project and if organizations or individuals would like to help contact Cassens at the school.

Donations or the promise of donations have already been made by the city, school, Faulkton Business and Professional Association, Faulkton Development Corp., Faulkton Area Arts Council, Faulkton Area Lions, pizza raffles at sporting events sponsored by Lowe's C-Store, matching funds from Modern Woodmen, donations from several past Faulkton School senior classes, individuals and other sources.

**New sign story**  
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City maintenance chief Jerod Raethz said at the city council meeting on Monday that the Airport taxi lane project was proceeding well and that he expected work to be completed within the next two weeks. City Finance Officer Lisa Raethz told the Faulk County Record that the Total Cost: of the project is \$315,000, the Federal Share: 90% \$283,500, the State Share: 8% \$25,200 and the Local Share: 2% \$6,300.