

City waives land use fees for school district greenhouse project

Banks City Council drew a large crowd for their meeting June 11, in support of a greenhouse project at Banks Elementary School (BES).

The greenhouse project was included in preliminary plans for the new elementary school but was eliminated in order to cut costs. When the school opened, it was qualified as both a Metro Green School and a Schoolyard Habitat School with the National Wildlife Federation, 4-H & Extension Service.

BES teacher Pamela Brown explained that fund raising for the greenhouse project has

been underway for two years. The district needs a building permit and, because the building will be on the school grounds, which is not zoned for agriculture, they must first get approval from the City of Banks for a nonconforming land use. Since this was an unexpected cost, Brown and several other project supporters came to the city council to ask for a waiver of fees.

Councilors Katie Murdock and Teri Brandstir expressed support for the project but were worried about setting a precedent for other non-profits.

Councilor Tim Hardie noted that the land use approval fees are designed to cover the city's costs associated with the application process.

City Attorney Jim Lucas said that the decision about whether or not a precedent has been established is arbitrary but that a decision to waive fees could be viewed as a precedent in the future. In order to limit a future request to honor any precedent set now, Lucas suggested that council attach findings of fact which would narrowly define the situation in which the waiver is granted. Hardie made a

simple motion to "waive the \$850 land use application fee," and with Councilor Judy Clifford voted in favor, with Murdock and Brandstir opposed. To break the tie, Mayor Bob Orłowski voted in favor of the motion and the fee will be waived.

Public Works Superintendent Tim Grossnickle proposed a process and an application for bulk water that the city sells to users on an honor system. The process will allow the city to track who is allowed to use bulk water and monitor how much they are using. The rate for bulk water is approximately twice the residential inside-the-city rate. The proposal includes an application, with a fee of \$4 per month or \$24 per year, that requires users to estimate how much water they will be using. The city will call to find out how much water was actually used. Council approved Grossnickle's proposal.

Grossnickle reported that the paving on Wilkes Street is done, though some areas still have to be protected from traffic. The storm drain was completed by Clean Water at no cost to the city and the county hauled all the grindings away.

He also told council that the slow sand filter and water intake for the spring had been cleaned and the water is much clearer and cleaner. He has completed a consumer confi-

dence report and is in the process of developing a security plan and an emergency response plan. He and Dale Merrell, the city's engineer, have been working on computerized water monitoring controls. Grossnickle also reported that there is another spring close to the city's small spring, with nearly the same water flow, that the city may want to develop in the future. The large spring is currently providing almost exactly the amount needed for daily use in the city, according to Grossnickle.

In other business council:

- Approved a rate agreement with the city attorney.

- Awarded the bid for landscape maintenance of Greenville Park to Landscape Specialty Services for \$414,316.

- After discussion of "conflict of interest," the council tabled further discussion of the Parks Maintenance Agreement until a council workshop in August.

- Received from Ray Deeth a photograph and biographical information on the city's founder John L. Banks.

- Approved the second annual Campus Youth Ministry summer concert. The concert will be held July 13th from noon to 10:00 p.m.

- Lone Pilate presented four quilts she had made, to the Banks Police Department for their use.

District hopes it can replace out-of-date math texts

From page 12

The district has received permission from the state to flip-flop the math and science adoption and adopt math texts this year (for 2002-2003) and science books next year.

Groups of Banks teachers have been meeting throughout the year to ensure that the math curriculum will help students meet state goals. Textbooks have been selected for each grade level, but it is uncertain when money will be available.

Board member Doug Nordholm asked why the high school curriculum was being changed from an integrated math approach to a more traditional format. High school Prin-

icipal Jim Foster said that the biggest problem with the integrated curriculum was a lack of good quality, comprehensive textbooks. In addition the integrated curriculum did not correspond well with the state requirements, Foster said.

Board member Gene Kelly expressed concern that out-of-state trips for students may be sending a mixed message to the public and he questioned whether the continuous fund raising for student activities was having an impact on other community-funded programs in the city. Director Joe Evers said the board has always approved trips as long as there is no cost to the district. Athletic director Jim Smith said that groups are

seeking approval early so students can earn money over the summer months. The board approved out-of-state trips for wrestling and FFA.

Elementary Principal Marty Vogel said the site council has facilitated development of a mission statement for the school. The staff was involved in the process and staff members have commented that a mission statement has been needed for a long time and it will help to focus the staff's energies. The statement adopted is:

"We are dedicated to being a safe educational community that embraces the whole child."

"We are committed to re-

Please see page 14

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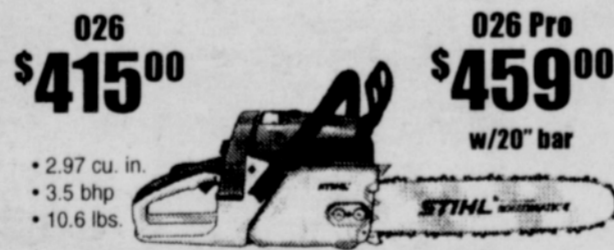
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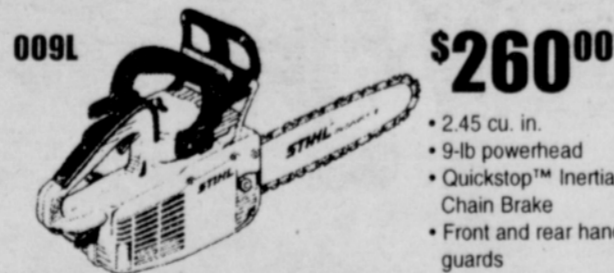
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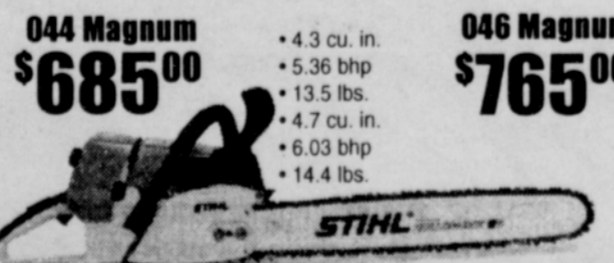
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