

THE ERIE RECORD

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Council meeting highlights

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

Overall, Monday's meeting of the Erie City Council was rather mundane compared to many of the meetings this year.

The council approved a new resolution and a new ordinance, which the full description of each is published on Page Seven of this edition of The Record.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the council held a quick public hearing in order to pass Ordinance No. 2025-007. The ordinance was required after previous publication to vacating an alley way at the request of Lori Nally. Hearing no public comments on the matter, the council unanimously approved the ordinance and adjourned the public hearing, opening the way to officially start Monday's meeting.

Resolution No. 2025-624 pertained to property located at 629 E. 3rd St. The resolution started the condemnation procedures. The resolution allows for property owners, occupants, and/or lien holders to protest the condemnation. That public hearing will take place Jan. 27.

The council held a pair of five-minute executive sessions, including the chief of police, Brett Ross. The council took no action.

In his report, the police department received the following calls from Nov. 24 to Dec. 8, one each of the following: gas skip, animal control, medical, threatening suicide and a warrant arrest. The department also handled 17 VINs.

Currently, the city has 18 utility accounts in the delinquent list with a total of \$14,778.47. This does not include delinquent accounts turned over collections.

City Treasurer Tricia Page provided financials through October. The three major fund balances the council watches most closely – Electric, Water and Sewer – were all in the black. The Electric Fund has trended upward throughout the year. The Water Fund – the one account with the most drastic changes through the year – was at it's highest point of the year Oct. 31. Except for a one-month dip in March, the Sewer Fund has shown positive increases, including seven months straight.

In year-to-date figures, the Electric Fund started the year with \$284,485.89 and currently sits at \$627,351.78 – an increase of \$342,865.89. Using the same data, the Water Fund started 2025 with \$130.66. It now sits at \$4,566.36 – an improvement of \$4,435.70. The Sewer Fund started the year at \$59,537.75 and was listed at \$78,704.53 – an increase of \$19,166.78 in the first 10 months of 2025.

Overall, the city started the year with \$1,031,608.98 for all beginning balances. The ending balance year-to-date as of Oct. 31 was listed at \$1,449,755.66 – an increase of \$418,146.68.

In other action, the council conducted the following:

- Discussed the ending of the Mahurin lawsuit against the city, with both sides agreeing to dropping the case;
- Discussed the employee evaluations procedures;
- Approved the dispersal of Christmas bonuses this year for city employees. City employees will be allowed to receive a gift certificate of \$50 to any business that pays city sales tax.
- Discussed the possible expansion/addition of the Memorial Museum.

EHS Hot Rodders



Submitted photo

The EHS Hot Rodders team has arrived at the National Convention in Indianapolis. The team is one of 24 teams to qualify for nationals this year and the first team ever from Kansas. From left: Jack Simmons, Owen Coover, Justus Graff, Anthony Pasquarelli, Carson Grady, Isaac Myers, Bryson Gildart, and Justin Graff. To see them in action, visit:

https://www.youtube.com/live/WujQ_NjSReU

STANDOUT PERFORMANCE



CRYSTAL McGOWEN/For The Erie Record

Erie High School senior Kyler Yackle won two events and placed second overall in his weight class during the St. Paul Winter Brawl. See additional pictures on Page Three of this edition.

Elected state officials visit Erie

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

A pair of Republican state officials decided to provide local residents an opportunity to share thoughts with them, and provide updates as well.

Sen. Virgil Peck (District 15) visited Erie as part of his December tour of Southeast Kansas. Peck started the day in Coffeyville and included stops in Independence, Parsons and Chanute. For his visit in Erie, Peck was joined by Rep. Ken Collins (District 2).

One of the first things Peck shared with the small group attending was that the Kansas Bureau of Investigation had notified state Republicans "of targeting" following the assassination of Charlie Kirk. Peck was notified he, and other elected Republicans, should have security guarantees when making public appearances.

Peck did not have "security protection," outside of his wife, he joked, who also attended.

"This is Southeast Kansas," Peck said.

Peck shared that KBI suggested Republican officials should notify local law enforcement when they do make public appearances. The KBI was very clear in their suggestions to the state senator, telling Peck, "If they (local law enforcement) don't take it seriously, contact us and we will contact them."

The conversation then turned to "everyone's favorite topic," taxes. Peck voiced that the state needed to do more on assisting owners with property taxes.

Of course, as he shared, there are a lot of entities taking a bite out of the apple of property taxes, including counties, education, and cemetery districts, and others.

Peck then described the Safe Senior Program, which in general, is a refund of 75% of the property taxes for low income seniors, disabled veterans and the surviving spouses of a disabled veterans or persons 65 years of age or older.

"A lot of seniors are not aware of this program," Peck added.

Peck then turned his attention to the state budget.

"We have to do something



SEN. VIRGIL PECK



REP. KEN COLLINS

with the budget," he said.

He shared some figures with the audience, including roughly 31% of the state budget is used for social services, adding that not long ago it was 18%. K-12 education requires roughly 50% of the budget and higher education absorbs 8 to 10% of the budget. He also addressed varying figures on possible Medicaid fraud, which could be from 20% to 75%, based on the entity supplying the figures.

Peck cited one example of fraud use. If someone claims they are pregnant, they automatically receive benefits – no questions asked. Peck cited a 60-year-old person(s) claiming to be pregnant to receive those benefits.

The senator also discussed declining K-12 enrollment, term limits for congress, balanced budgets, and constitutional amendments. He also mentioned the Water Task Force, defining the difference in the western part of the state primarily using ground water and the eastern part of the state primarily using surface water.

See MEETING, Page Three

An uncommon funeral, the related families

By WILLIAM COOK
MEM-Erie Historical Society

It was the early days of what is now known as Neosho County when Jacob and Mary (Dosch) Adolff settled in Grant Township on the southeast quarter of Section 25, Township 27 South, Range 20 East. That took place in 1868. Jacob was born in France on June 9, 1846. Mary was born in Floyd County, Indiana on February 2, 1843. They married in New Albany, Indiana on December 4, 1866.

In 1888 a local news item in the Erie newspaper announced the coming of a railroad connecting the Paola/Kansas City area with Parsons. Soon afterward another news item noted that there was talk of building a town at "Adolff's Corner," one mile east of Vietsburg. That location was at the southeast corner of the Adolff homestead, which today is known as the intersection of 200th Road with Udall Road at the Union Pacific Railroad crossing.

A news item from the Summer of 1888 noted that "the streets of Kimball have been mowed." The Adolff's and their neighbor to the south in Section 36 had a plat made which was recorded as Dalton, Kan. Over time an additional portion of the Adolff property was platted as West Kimball. The railroad station and town were then known as Kimball in honor of a high official within the railroad company.

Mary's brother or cousin, Adam Dosch had arrived nearby around the same time as he had married into the Simmons family, which included

numerous brothers, sisters and parents. taking up new homes to the south and west of what would become Kimball.

Jacob and Mary Adolff had five children born between 1868 and 1877. The first two, Katie and Mary died young. Anna, who was born about 1873 survived and married Benjamin Franklin Graff in 1890. They made their home in Erie. Next came Henry in 1873. Henry later moved to Jeffersonville, Indiana near other branches of the Adolff family. Last came George Washington Adolff, born November 12, 1877.

The coming of the railroad and the town of Kimball happened when George was 11 years old. On December 22, 1903, he married Nannie Amelia Williams in Erie. Nannie had been born in Rich Valley, Indiana and moved with her parents to Coffeyville, Kansas before 1900. A vacant house was moved from the townsite of Kimball about three-eighths of a mile north on the ancestral Adolff farm to be their home for the next 53 years.

George and Nannie's firstborn child was Raymond E. Adolff, arriving on May 30, 1908. Little Raymond took sick and died quickly on October 18, 1908.

The funeral was held the next morning at the Kimball United Brethren Church. The pallbearers were listed as Juanita (Wauneta) Pickett, Bessie Mourning, Ruth Johnson and Nannie (Nina, possibly) Johnson. A case of all female pallbearers. How uncommon? A bit of research suggests they were all teenagers at the time.

See HISTORY, Page Three

