

Lansing

Continued from A1

meeting. He said those in the audience who wished to speak could either talk at the April 17 public hearing or wait until May 1. Many who live across from the three parcels of land voluntarily annexed into the city have protested developments there.

The district involves providing developers with property tax reimbursements for certain infrastructure, including water, sewer and street projects. The idea, as explained by City Administrator Tim Vandall, is to reduce developers’ costs so housing will be more affordable. A study conducted by the city had indicated affordable housing should be a priority in Lansing. Vandall has noted that the city has had virtually no housing starts in the past two years – in fact, two for each of those years. This stagnated growth is a concern for council members.

Tom Dials, a resident of Delaware Township, expressed his opinion at the April 17 meeting, pointing out the property tax levies the township would not receive during the proposed 20-year time frame. He said he did like the 80-20 split suggested better. Council members addressed that later in the meeting.

Another resident suggested the new residents in Delaware Heights could burden the school district. The question was also asked if the city would be liable if the developer didn’t meet the requirements for the RHID or declared bankruptcy.

During the conclusion of the

meeting, Vandall responded to several comments made during the public hearing and this was one of them. He said the city would not bear the costs; that would be borne entirely by the developers. Unless they were assured of residents, he doesn’t believe the developer would be building.

Another property owner across the street mentioned the McIntyre sewer projects, which he said helps developers but doesn’t sound like good stewardship. Vandall and council members at previous meetings have noted that the sewer projects were specifically done to aid development, which they see as favorable.

Another concern was mentioned by Scott Tener who said he was next door to this development. He considers this a subsidy to home buyers, which he dislikes. Another concern was possible increase in crime with more people living in that area.

Another complaint was the loss of property tax revenue, suggesting the city was keeping tax revenue away from other entities in the county. In his answers to complaints at the end of the meeting, Vandall noted that without the district encouraging subdivisions, there would be no subdivisions to generate revenue.

Concerns voiced both at this hearing and previously center on smaller lot sizes that residents across the street say are not in keeping with what they consider the agricultural residential district where they live. Most of these homes are larger and have been built on lots that are five to six acres.

Janette Labee, who said she lives on 4-H Road, said she

recently attended an economic development meeting in Tonganoxie, where four such subdivisions are underway.

“Tonganoxie is growing exponentially,” she said, and there have been no complaints from neighbors. “A city can’t grow without a variety of housing.”

She said small families don’t need a five-bedroom home.

“These are really nice houses,” she said, encouraging the nearby residents to visit them to see for themselves. Tonganoxie now has 50 housing starts, she said.

“I have a feeling we’re missing an opportunity,” she said.

After the public hearing, council members moved to a new but related charter ordinance. It allows the city to use home rule powers to modify the RHID regulations allowing more flexibility. As proposed, it would allow local taxing entities, including the city, county and school district, to collect 20% of the tax revenue generated. The vote was 7-0. The mayor is allowed to vote on charter ordinances. Absent from the April 17 meeting were council members Don Studnicka and Kerry Brungardt.

Council members also approved a bid from J.M. Fahey for a total of \$822,404.10 for the mill and overlay work, called the pavement preservation program. This includes a base bid of \$551,976.10, two alternates and a 10% contingency.

Also approved was a bid from Personal Touch Lawn Service for \$425 per mow for seasonal right of way moving. The area is defined as 12.5 acres primarily along Main Street. The bid is for three years with 5% increases in the next two years.



The Leavenworth Police Department has released images of a man who robbed a convenience store. *Courtesy of the Leavenworth Police Department*

Robber

Continued from A1

Police responded to a similar robbery April 16 at the Sonic restaurant at 1000 N. Fourth St. In that case, a man dressed all in black brandished a handgun and instructed an employee to open a safe and turn over money.

Nicodemus said police are trying to determine whether the two incidents are related.

“It is something we are looking into,” he said.

Shop LOCAL

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 “Needless to — ...”

4 Straight-laced

8 Yak

11 Sense of self

12 Medieval instrument

13 — mater

14 Hairpiece

15 Ride share provider

16 Change purse item

17 Pretend

19 Ways

21 “That’s gross!”

23 — and haw

24 Associate at work

29 “Catch Me If — Can”

32 Dye source

33 Climbing plant

34 “Annie Get Your —”

35 Stone in a setting

36 Wheal

37 Essential thing

38 “Able was I — I saw Elba”

39 Italian hors d’oeuvres

41 Joke

43 Immeasurably long time

44 Mixture

48 Precise

52 Town in Utah

53 What remains

55 Luau fare

56 Dregs

57 “Believe — not!”

58 Med. specialty

59 Beige

60 Regrettable thing

61 Opus —

DOWN

1 Feudal worker

2 Chills and fever

3 — Bear of Jellystone Park

4 Fall

5 Massage

6 Bit of news

Answer to Previous Puzzle

BAGCPA GAOL

ALLCHEW EDGE

NEOHUGA OMEN

DEBTOR LADIES

AINTREX

VALORRIMTAM

OBTJULY UNO

TOMCOALRON

EYEHENSPENT

STATTILL

ASTERNBEBYOND

COOLISEEPOE

TUNEPEAKASP

APEXSAMLLET

7 Insignificant

8 Morose fellow (2 wds.)

9 In the company of

10 Prohibitions

13 Patient’s complaint

18 Shore bird

20 Quaker pronoun

22 Refuge

24 Put in a prison

25 Humdinger

26 Color named for a fruit (2 wds.)

27 Gold-coated

28 Loosen

30 Eject

31 “Do — others ...”

36 Conduct

37 Tailless cat

40 Works in verse

42 Intentions

44 Electric unit

45 Square footage

46 Trek

47 Andes legend

49 Copied

50 Traffic barrier

51 Monkey

54 Drunken one

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