

Pleasanton Council deals with personnel, fire radios, etc.

BY JACKIE TAYLOR
LINN COUNTY NEWS
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The highlight of last Tuesday's meeting was contracting with the engineer to begin roof replacement on the water plant, see separate story, but the council also heard from Fire Chief Jeff Wisdom who reported city volunteer firefighters trained in getting tangled in fire scenarios.

He was questioned about not sending fire apparatus to helicopter landing zones and Council people Alex Wills and Sandy Haynes asked that fire apparatus be sent to air lifts.

The council also approved the purchase of three hand-held radios for \$2,242.59. Councilman Kenny Stark asked that Wisdom compile a list of all necessary equipment for them to look at, at one time, rather than a little at a time as they have been doing.

Later in the meeting, the council scheduled a work session for the Fire Department Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) book. Mayor Mathew Young asked that Wisdom get the updates that had been discussed entered into the book so the council could go through the

updated SOG.

Discussion on a new skidster halted after Councilwoman Rochelle Schreckhise asked for maintenance records of the old skidster; the issue was table for two weeks.

The council discussed replacement of the Student Council Representative, now held by Erin Bowley, and approved applications go out to PHS seniors interested in the position.

The council discussed the request from the Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce for the city to take over the General Pleasanton Days celebration. Former Chair Brianna Laver resigned after many years and said the city should head the project up now. No motion was made to do so.

The budget work session was scheduled for March 30 at 6 p.m.

The compactor will be closed Sunday, April 5 for Easter but be open the next Wednesday, if an employee is available to work that day.

Erin Bowley gave an update on Simple Sanctuary After-School Program for the council.

Jake Mattingley spoke to the council concerning the mill levy and business closures over the last several years.

BY GEORGE NUNNEMACHER
LINN COUNTY NEWS

The Linn Valley City Council held its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, with Mayor Lister Potter presiding and all council members present.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an opening prayer by Council Member John Weers. The minutes for the Feb. 9 regular council meeting were approved as motioned by Council President Michael Hemphill.

Mayor Potter announced the resignation of council member Connie Capps effective Feb. 28, 2026.

On a motion by Weers, the Council then voted to accept the resignation of

Capps who cited family health reasons as her reason for resigning. As motioned by Hemphill, the Council approved Resolution No. 148 establishing a policy for filling vacancies on the Council. According to the policy, a vacancy on the Council will be announced publicly and interested parties will have 30 days to submit applications for the position. The city will interview applicants as necessary, after which time the mayor will appoint a qualified applicant, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Council.

At this point, the Council went into a 10-minute executive session to discuss a legal issue, returning with no action taken.

Mayor Potter briefly

discussed the city's infrastructure projects and stated his desire to hire a part-time resource to oversee the water and sewer projects. This person would act as liaison with the city's engineer and the contractors. Potter indicated that the current staff cannot provide adequate oversight and that a dedicated resource who will report to the Council each month is needed. Weers noted that there are funds already in the budget for project management.

Potter stated that the city needs to formalize a fleet vehicle policy and GPS tracking on all city vehicles except for police vehicles which are already equipped with cameras and GPS. Potter is investigating available technology and pricing for vehicles and believes such systems will protect city employees and possibly even reduce the city's insurance costs.

Officer Brett Jenkins noted that the Police Department is working on a proposal to the Council for construction of a new dog kennel to be located behind the Fire Station. The structure would require a 24' x 10' concrete pad bordered by a 6' chain link fence with a covered roof. Jenkins said he should have cost information in time for the next Council meeting.

The Council went into 20-minute executive session regarding non-elected personnel and returned with no action taken.

PURCHASE:

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Work would include picking up sticks, clearing brush and saplings and restaining the crosses. The council wants Whiteman to meet with the caretaker and discuss plans and set a date. The city will provide guidelines and parameters as well as waivers for each volunteer to complete stating they understand they are not covered under the city's workman's compensation insurance, even though they are on city property, as they are volunteers.

Clerk Wade also wanted to remind everyone about the new software transition. When the new software went online, it disabled the online payment option. However, through the city's website, the public can still pay their bill with a card or electronic check, just not with autopay. The public can call the city for their account number and bill amount. With the new due date being the close of business on the last day of each month, the public can call City Hall at the first

of each month to find out their bill amount.

A card will be sent mid-month as a reminder only that their utility bill is still due. The old cards will say delinquent; however, she reminded the public to disregard that as these were reminders only and no penalty charges are associated with these reminder cards. The public can call City Hall at any time with questions. She thanked the public for their patience during this transition period.

Mayor Wilson also added, "We have new software we are working through, please work through it with us."

The sewer lift bid advertisement was released on Feb. 9. A pre-bid meeting is set for Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. Sealed bids will be received and publicly opened March 11 at 2 p.m.

In regard to the storm water/street improvement plan, clerk Wade sent an email to Kevin Cowen at Gilmore and Bell about the submission date for the 2026 ballot. She has yet to

hear back. The town hall meeting is set for Wed. April 1, 5-7p.m to address the public regarding the 1% tax question that will be on the November ballot.

Dan Nasalroad, public works, reported the Linn Valley 250,000-gallon water tower was filled Feb. 17, and samples have been sent for testing. He also addressed the council about when the part-time employee's pay was raised to \$15 an hour were approved as one seasonal employee's pay did not get added to that change. The council approved a motion to bring that pay to \$15 an hour to match the other part-time employees.

It was brought up by a council member that Osawatomie was looking into a data center that would require a large amount of water. The water consumption and its potential effect on La Cygne was discussed. Wade stated that the La Cygne water rights are secure. It was reminded by Attorney Dean that this was only a pre-development agreement, and the upgraded water plant that has already been approved by Osawatomie would cover the water amounts being discussed at this time. Wade said this was brought up at the WAD (Water Assurance District)

meeting. Not only the data center, but any large facility proposed in the future.

Wade stated for no charge, WAD can work up a model with indications of cost and water that could potentially have an effect as far as volume and storage. The council directed Wade to have WAD run those numbers for them.

The mobile food truck ordinance will be ready for the next regular meeting. Attorney Dean will send an email for an update on the US Minerals letter.

Nasalroad reported that an offer for the property the city has listed at 402 S. Broadway was received late afternoon on Tuesday; however, it expired at noon on Wednesday. The offering party has been contacted and may re-submit an offer; however, since it expired, there is no current offer to consider.

An executive session was called for a preliminary discussion on the acquisition of real property. After the executive session the action taken is as follows: the offer for 116 North 1st Street was accepted, and the council approved unanimously to allow the purchase of the property for a total price of \$41,700. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is set for March 4.

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