



Pen City Current

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Council to take out sewer loans

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison City Council will vote on a resolution to take out a \$20 million loan to begin the next phase of work on the sanitary sewer system.

The Council meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at the council chambers to approve the resolution that City Manager David Varley indicated at last week's meeting was just a formality for the second phase of the rehabilitation of the city's 40 year old sewer plant.

"This is money from the state revolving fund for the mandatory rehabilitation of the city's 40 year old sewer plant," Varley said last Tuesday. "The approval has already happened. Quite a while ago the state approved the loan of up to \$20M for the city to use. As you know we've already started to complete Phase 1 and now were onto phase 2 and getting into the real money."



VARLEY

He said most of the work done on phase 1 was new motors and wiring inside the building.

"It's a very extensive project. This loan was approved a year or two ago. What we're doing now is the paper work that is required for the state that we have to sign. Basically what it's saying now is the money is in the bank and we can begin to draw down. The money we've paid already on Phase 1, we've been using reserve funds, which are getting pretty low.

"This is the paperwork required by the state to get that loan money going. This is now just saying okay the money is available, but before you can use it you have to get this paperwork done."

The city is also considering a resolution to enter into a service agreement with Ahlers and Cooney, P.C. as bond counsel on the notes.

In other agenda items,

- the city council is looking at several changes to city code with regard to zoning regulations. Several special use permit procedures are on the first reading of the ordinance changes specifically to the protocols of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment and Appeals. The amendments affect Chapters 2, 19, 20-24 and 31 of the city code.

- the city council is considering a resolution to appoint Varley to the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission for a period of one year.

- The city council will have the third reading on two ordinances, one a rezoning request at #5 and #6 East Limits to limited industrial, from residential; and the other a reading on amending the city building code.

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Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

"Wait for me..."

A child with a sled knows no patience as is shown here when Terri Butler, of Fort Madison, tries to get her granddaughter Hailey Kemper, 10, to go down the hill with her. The two were on the second trip of the day to the hills on 48th Street just south of the Bluff Road intersection to sled.

Storm leaves area with a wintry kiss

Food pantry Holiday baskets to be handed out Tuesday at Riverview park, 1 to 3 p.m.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
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FORT MADISON - You hear all over the place, 'It's the polar vortex'...'Global warming?' and the Fort Madison area caught a glimpse of a good ol' fashioned winter blow Friday.

Local officials watched forecasts as weather pat-

terns predicted a wintry mix of ice, rain and snow. And what usually finds it's way around this bluffed community hit pretty hard. Snowfall was limited to just an inch but fell on top of precipitation that was already beginning to freeze.

City workers were ahead of the mix putting down deicer on road-

ways and plows were out quickly to keep motorists safe, but skin-numbing wind chills and the icy conditions put most events on hold and sent people home to hot chocolate, cookies and other pre-holiday routines.

The Fort Madison public and private schools cancelled all activities Friday night after releasing students at 1:45. As of Saturday morning no make up dates had been set for Holy Trinity's games with Danville nor

FMHS' games with Mt. Pleasant or the Rumble on the River which was set for Quincy on Saturday. Portions of Quincy were still without power on Sunday.

However, Saturdays FMHS wrestling meet did take place minus a few schools.

The North Lee County's annual Holiday Food basket giveaway, which was set for Friday was rescheduled for Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Pavilion in Riverview Park.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg

Old school

James Jackson goes old school on his vehicle in the 800 block of Avenue F on Sunday. Jackson grabbed a house broom and swept the snow and ice off. Temperatures dipped down to 0 with wind chills at -20 Saturday night.

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