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Main Street project digs up some interesting items as progress continues

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Though it is a bit more difficult to know how quickly the work is progressing in improving Nephi's Main Street, progress seems to be moving along according to time constraints.

"The contractor and subcontractor found it advantageous to deviate from the approved UDOT and city work schedule," said Randy McKnight, city administrator.

At the work session held earlier on Tuesday, UDOT asked that they and the city be given an updated work schedule.

"More sidewalk and gutter had been removed at once than had been originally planned," said McKnight. "That was done so the sidewalk and gutter would be ready to pour at the same time and is advantageous because it will require less trips in hauling concrete and less mobilization."

He said, as observers could tell, work crews had started milling the edges of the asphalt streets so that the street edges will not be higher than the concrete curbs.

The slope has been built up and the road has been moved down in depth so that there will not be a lip.

"The new asphalt will be the height of the gutter and not higher," he said.

The crews continue to find artifacts from the history of the city.

He suggested that council members go look at the historic photos of Main Street which are hanging in the hallways of the city building. They would give the council some idea of what is being found.

In addition to old pipes, he said, there are some interesting items.

"They have found some tanks buried in the street," said McKnight.

Some might be heating tanks but others are gas storage tanks.

"These are not the turn of the century welded tanks," he said.

Once in the early days of the city, an auto dealership was located along the west side of Main Street. That dealership had gas pumps in front of the building.

Max Bramall, resident, said that he remembered the auto dealership.

"There was a service station in front of Kasey Wright's current law office," said Mark Jones, Mayor. "The property belonged to the Judd family and some of the tanks that have been found were from that time."

McKnight is attending the meetings held with the contractor, subcontractor and UDOT and said that the new schedule will be available and that the council will continue to receive updates on the progress.

There is a telephone hotline for questions or concerns about the project (435-610-2373) and an email address is also provided (nephimain@utah.gov).



MAIN STREET WORK CONTINUES • Crews continue to work on the Main Street Project. Above, worker cuts through the wall on the south side of Salt Creek so that drainage pipes will be able to drain into the creek. Crews have been finding buried tanks and basements that were long forgotten.

County commissioners agree to pay for legal counsel in ethics hearing for county recorder

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A request for Juab County to provide defense for allegations before the Utah Political Subdivisions Ethics Commission for Craig Sperry, county recorder, was approved by the commission on Monday.

Rick Carlton, commissioner, read the letter that had been drafted to send to Sperry.

"The county commissioners reviewed your written request for the county to defend you against a complaint filed before the Utah Political Subdivisions Ethics Commission,"

read Carlton. "In reviewing our request, the commissioners also reviewed Utah Code Annotated 11-49-408 and 63G-7-902."

The procedural process for the operation of the Ethics Commission is set out in Title II Chapter 49 of the Utah Code and in particular II-49-408 addresses the county's obligation to defend an employee against a complaint before the Ethics Commission.

Two pieces of that code state that a respondent against whom a complaint is filed may, but is not required to, retain legal representation during the complaint review process and is entitled to the provision

of legal defense by the political subdivision.

A further section states that, except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, a governmental entity is to defend any action arising from an action or omission occurring during the performance of the employee's duties; within the scope of the employee's employment; or under color of authority.

"After reviewing the above referenced statutes and obtaining the legal opinion of the Juab County Attorney as well as the independent opinion of Shawn Richards from the law firm of Kirton and McKonkie, the commissioners have come

to the conclusion the county is obligated to defend you in the matter before the Ethics Commission," Carlton read from the letter.

However, he said, the county agrees to defend you subject to a "reservation of rights" as permitted by 63G-7-902 (6).

"This means that if any of the conditions set forth in 63G-7-902 are established, the county may withdraw from your defense, decline to defend you and seek recoupment from you for monies spent in your defense," the letter written by

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Commissioners discuss landscaping plans for county building

By Myrna Trauntvein

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Plans for the landscaping of the county building grounds are being considered.

Rick Carlton, commissioner, presented plans for the remodeling of the outside of the county building along with the estimated costs of each step of the project. He presented an overhead projection of the costs and the various kinds of trees which could be considered.

He said he had added two prospective items to the list considered by the commission in past discussions. Those were removal of the parking lot to the north of the building and the removal and replacement of the entrance stairs on the west.

"We will walk out there this morning and look at the area I

am proposing for a new parking area," said Carlton.

As for the plantings, he said, he had consulted a horticulturist with the extension service as to which trees would be best for the grounds.

"Six trees will be needed and oaks, maples and elms were suggested," said Carlton. "We need to look at the kinds but the cost is estimated at \$300 per tree."

Taun Beddes, Utah State University Extension Horticulturist and KSL host, talked with Carlton for over an hour and made recommendations on the trees that would work best for the county building site.

"We will need to select from the various recommendations," said Carlton.

A sprinkling system estimated to be approximately \$1,200 is needed.

The commission can also select between hydroseed grass and sod. The first option is the least expensive at \$1,642 and the sod would be most expensive at \$3,421.

"We will need to discuss the benefits of each before deciding," said Clinton Painter, commission chairman.

Hydroseeding is nearly one-fourth the cost of sod. But installation costs can be offset by the adaptability of timing, lower water needs and year-round installation.

As for types of trees to be selected, local soil causes some problems with some types of trees as certain types become yellow either from over-watering or for lack of iron in the soil.

"There are some problems with ash trees because there is a disease that they can get," he said. "Elms grow faster and

can reach 45- to 50-feet at maturity. They can grow up to an inch a year."

Five flowering crabapple trees are being suggested for the lawn on the north. Those would cost approximately \$200 each.

"He suggested that we do not put plants, not even bushes, in the parking strip," said Carlton. "His suggestion was that we just pave over that strip."

It was also suggested that the trees not be planted until spring.

"The trees will be planted in line with the flag pole on the west," said Carlton.

Decorative rock will be another \$300 onto the budget.

Sidewalk in front of the

See **Landscaping** on page 2



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