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Mona council members air grievances at Nephi City meeting

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Nephi City added a public comment section to the city agenda at their last meeting in order allow an individual or group four minutes to address a topic before the council.

Bill Mills, Mona mayor, and Mike Stringer, Mona council member, took advantage of that time to enter a complaint about the proposed redundant gas line.

Later, after questioning by the press, Seth Atkinson, Nephi City administrator, said that the sister cities in East Juab were not being forgotten.

"The redundant line will tie into the main gas line running through all of those towns so it will benefit all of those cities (Rocky Ridge, Mona, Nephi and Levan)," said. "All of the businesses currently tied into the main line now will benefit from having that extra connection. It will be a big help to all of East Juab County."

In the case of future events, like the Pole Creek fire, the city will be able to continue to supply gas to its industrial users as well as to residents and will not need to be put on conservation notice.

Glade Nielson, mayor, laid down the rules for the new comment period before opening it up for comment.

"I would like to emphasize the 'comment' part," said Nielson. "This is not a time for the council to discuss what has been said by those making comments."

Mills said that he understood, by word of mouth, that the redundant line was going to help Houwelings Tomatoes and would not be of help to Mona City.

"You are in the design stage and you could include us," said Mills. "You are bypassing Mona."

He said that Mona was not being considered on any of the new proposals being added to the county and were missing the chance to grow industry to improve growth prospects by the city of Mona.

"The area around Houwelings is our growth area," said Mills. "If it would affect us, as a sister city, then let us know."

The gas construction project would dig up the roads of Mona and yet Mona would not have any benefit.

"We need to have some income," said Mills.

The growth area around the tomato growing facility was in the plans for Mona City to run their own gas line to the plant so they could benefit from some revenue.

"As a sister city," he said, "we should not just hear what is happening by word of mouth. If it affects us, keep us informed."

Donald Ball said that, to his way of thinking, if there were problems at the plant then Mona would be called upon to



FIRST SNOWFALL • The mountains got their first dusting of snow this past week as deer hunters from all over the area set up their camps in Salt Creek Canyon. Early hunting starts today in seven hunting units in Utah and a late hunt starts October 20 on 29 units. The weatherman is calling for more rain showers this week with the sunshine trying to make a comeback on Friday. Stay warm and dry out there.

Public hearing will be held by county planning commission to discuss solar farm in Mona

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

A 3,000 acre solar farm is being proposed on a location near the power plant just west of Mona and a public hearing will be held by the planning commission at their meeting in November.

The Juab County Planning Commission meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the Juab County Commission Chambers located at 160 North Main in Nephi Utah. The meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

"The conditional use permit is completed, the fee has been paid and it has been submitted so the staff is asking for a public hearing," said Glenn Greenhalgh, county planning

commission director.

Ben Turner, project manager for renewable development with Invenergy, met with the Juab County Planning Commission on Wednesday evening to discuss the proposed Thirsty Valley Solar Energy Center proposed to be located next to Rocky Mountain Power's Current Creek Plant.

Members of the planning commission are Quinton Kay, chairman, Dale Kenison, vice chairman, and members Shauntelle Watt and Shirl Nichols.

Kay excused himself as chair and asked that Kenison, vice chairman, serve in that capacity because Kay had a potential conflict of interest.

"We plan to generate 300 megawatts (MW)," said Turner.

The Currant Creek Plant generates 525-MW and is located on a 160-acre site in an area of the same name near Mona and was commissioned in 2005. The Thirsty Valley (named for the Native American meaning of Juab) Solar Energy Center will be located nearby.

The formula is that 1 MW can serve approximately 650 average residential homes for one hour.

"We have been working on this project for the last couple of years," said Turner. "We have been working to get the permit."

During that time the company had managed to lease or buy the land they need to build the solar farm.

"Ninety percent of the property is leased and we had to

buy only a few smaller parcels," said Turner. "Part of the land is SITLA (School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration)."

"All those who are leasing their land to us will receive annual payments," he said.

Turner said that Invenergy was North American's largest privately held renewable energy company and that they had several projects in several different states. They develop wind power as well as solar energy.

He said he would be prepared to present at the public hearing. One request of the review committee, said Greenhalgh, was to make cer-

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JRDA addresses two problems at landfill with city council

By Myrna Trauntvein

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There are two problems facing the JRDA: the first is the need of expensive new equipment and the second is that garden waste is still a problem at the landfill.

Green waste is an on-going issue at the JRDA (Juab Rural Development Agency) because it is being put into garbage cans and ends up in the household waste section.

In addition to the problem of green waste, there is a need for new equipment at the landfill.

Seth Atkinson, Nephi City Administrator, said he had met with the agency at an agency

meeting and it was determined that there were several pieces of equipment were needed.

"It was agreed that we should call for bids for some of the equipment," he said.

"The equipment is pretty worn out," Atkinson said. "The compactor is 30 years old. We also need a new dump truck and a track loader."

Big boulders are present in the earth used to cover the household garbage section of the landfill and that wears out the equipment.

"The equipment has used its life expectancy," said Justin Seely, council member.

"The dump truck was worn out when it was donated by the county to the landfill," Atkin-

son said.

He had also found that there was still a problem with Nephi residents putting their green garden waste, such as grass clippings, in their garbage cans.

"We have a green waste site but it is underused," said Atkinson.

At the city site, all green garden waste is accepted but tree limbs and branches are not.

"If limbs are mixed in, then it means a trip to the landfill," said Nathan Memmott, council member. "We are, as a city, underutilizing the green waste site."

Some people do not have access to pickup trucks to take

grass clippings, leaves, flowers and garden debris to the green waste site which is located in northwest Nephi.

Perhaps it would be wise to have a chipper at the site and then branches could be accepted, chipped and used as mulch.

"Mona does have a chipper and they chip branches," said Atkinson. "They said their residents are good to put the yard waste and branches in different piles and they are also using the compost."

JRDA has indicated that they would get a chipper for Nephi but there are other

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Office Hours

M-F- 9:30 to Noon

1:00 to 5 p.m.

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