

By Carolyn Lee

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No bids were received by the city of Imperial for the purchase of the 1916 Steinway piano housed in the Imperial Theatre. Sealed bids were to have been opened on Oct. 12, but City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland said none were received.

The city and theater board set a \$10,000 minimum limit on the bids.

The city approved, at the recommendation of the theater board, the sale of the piano because it is no longer used. It sits in a vault below the theater stage, and is raised hydraulically.

The piano was purchased in 1989 for \$13,500 through funds raised by local residents, plus a Peter Kiewit Foundation matching grant. It was used for concerts and recitals in the theater.

Use of the piano became redundant when the Chase County Schools auditorium was built and used for similar events.

Leyland said the theater board will be discussing what to do next regarding the future of the piano.