

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Starting Dec. 1, the Imperial city office will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Currently open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the change was brought up at Monday's city council meeting and approved on a 4-0 council vote.

"We are having more people sitting there waiting for our door to open" in the mornings, said Janiel Kimble, deputy city clerk.

Some of those customers want to purchase trash bags before the sanitation trucks come by, and others want to pay their utility bills but may not want to use the drop box, she said.

Opening at 7:30 a.m. would allow those tasks to be done before customers go to work.

The city's public works employees have worked a 7:30 to 4:30 schedule for "a long time," said Supt. Pat Davison. An office hour change would then be in line with their schedules.

Newly elected council member John Arterburn, who will be seated in December, suggested an overlapping of employee work schedules so the office could be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kimble explained that she and City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland are full-time, but the other office employee, Tammy Ekart, is part-time and doesn't work every day. There are also times when one of the office employees is gone, which could result in some overtime hours with a 7:30 to 5 schedule, Kimble added.

The city office is open over the noon hour, as well.

Customers who are wanting to purchase trash stickers also have the option of buying them at two other locations in Imperial, according to Kimble. They can also be purchased at Hill's Family Foods and Capitol Liquor.

The city drop-off box, located at the city office drive-up window, is accessible 24 hours a day for bill payment.