By Jan Schultz
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After acquiring additional information in the past month, the city council employed a local firm for demolition of the old pool structure in Campbell Park.

Koellner Enterprises of Imperial will demolish the structure, haul the debris away, fill in the hole then finish and shape it with topsoil.

Koellner's bid of $23,585 was the low of two received. Also bidding was Regier Land Improvement at $32,000.

In light of the city's decision to totally remove the old pool structure, members of the park board have been discussing possible plans for the area once the old pool is removed.

Some of the suggestions that have come forth include a Veteran's Memorial, a community "Adopt-a-Space" flower garden, an area with fountain/benches or a combination of the above.

These options are included in the community attitude survey that went out this week in city utility bills. Among a number of other questions on city services, residents are being asked to give their opinions on what they'd like to see done at the former pool site.

Members of the Imperial Lions Club are also discussing other improvements in the park, including the construction of bathrooms in that area since there will be none in that part of the park once the pool structure is gone.

The bathrooms will be built somewhere near the Lions picnic shelter, just east of the old pool.

The Lions are also planning to install lighting at the picnic shelter they built several years ago.

Other council business

- A lengthy discussion was held on dogs running loose in the city, after a letter, addressed to the mayor and council, from Bonnie Moritz was included in the meeting packet. Her letter stated they see dogs running loose everyday in their neighborhood, and have had to clean up "dog dumps" in their yard several times each week. While most pet owners are responsible, she wrote, some dogs are out everyday. She noted there is a leash law in Imperial. Police Chief Larry Browning, who was at Monday's meeting, said the most effective way they've found to deal with the problem is calling owners at work and having them leave work to retrieve their dogs, if they know who the owners are. Police officers could make more of an effort to deal with the issue "if that's what you want," he told council members. Council member Doug Gaswick said he agreed with the letter and asked that more time be spent on the problem. Council member Dustin Weiss believes loose cats are as big a problem.
- Formal approval was given to the slate of Imperial Volunteer Fire Department officers presented to the council by the IVFD. Bryan Dannatt was re-elected chief for a second year.
- The Frenchman Valley Ducks Unlimited chapter will hold its banquet again this year in the city gym the last weekend in March, based on the council's vote Monday. Spokesman Kelen Fortkamp said they will make application to the Liquor Control Commission for use of the Imperial Lanes liquor license at the event.
- While the census at the Imperial Manor was at 29 this week, it averaged 27 in December.

The facility also showed a loss of $30,000 that month, said Administrator Kathy Andersen, noting $9,000 of that loss can be attributed to posting errors in the accounting department. Payroll costs were also higher in December due to holiday pay and continued use of some outside “agency” nurses.

- Additional quotes from other insurance carriers will be sought for disability coverage and life insurance for city employees, after a proposal was offered by Principal Financial Group. City employees currently do not have disability coverage, and City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland asked the council to consider providing that as an additional benefit. City employees have some life insurance coverage now, in addition to health insurance, but additional quotes on life coverage will be looked into.
- Jeff Tidyman, a professional engineer of Curtis, formerly of McCook, met with the council to introduce himself. He said he has started his own firm, and is a licensed architectural engineer. He previously worked for W Design of McCook, and spent a year in Iraq working on restructuring projects.
- No council meeting will be held on Feb. 23. Leyland, two council members, Sue Moore and Doug Gaswick, and Mayor Annie Longan will be in Lincoln at the League of Municipalities midwinter conference at that time.