

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Imperial city sales tax dollars were earmarked for physical improvements at the Imperial Manor and for recreational upgrades at Monday's city council meeting.

A total of \$41,118 from the community development sales tax fund will pay for new concrete in front of the Manor and a section in front of Imperial Heights, east of the buildings along Grant Street.

Koellner Enterprises was the only bidder for the work, which includes six inches of new concrete and new curb/gutter in front of the Manor and a section south of the unloading area, in front of the Heights.

Koellner's bid for that work was \$40,468.

He also submitted an alternate bid for removal and replacement of three broken sections of the driveway, where delivery trucks and the Manor van unload. Material used there will be a quick-set product so that high use area won't be out of service for very long, Koellner said.

That alternate bid of \$650 was approved, for a total of \$41,118.

This project was considered by the council last September when two bids were received. Due to the variance of those two bids and lateness in the season, the council rejected them and decided to reconsider the project this spring.

Sales tax dollars from the community development fund of \$3,254 were also approved for purchase of two new soccer goals for leagues playing at the Wellington football field.

The Imperial Baseball/Softball Association, which also oversees the city soccer program, made the funding request.

The old goals, reportedly the original ones used since the Imperial program started, are worn and in bad shape, according to City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland, who fielded the request.

Imperial soccer matches will get underway Saturday, March 30.

Other council business

- Freight containers were back on the agenda this month. Bob Colson, representing the Imperial Bible Church, attended the meeting to discuss the structure west of the church. An ordinance passed last year required owners of such storage units to apply for permits and meet certain requirements. The church missed the deadline, and Colson asked for an extension, saying they intended to bring it into compliance. The council gave their okay, asking that it go through the permit process and a fence be put up to enclose the one exposed side within 60 days. Colson said that was agreeable, but if it becomes too costly, the church may remove it instead.

- Ray Wolgamott attended the meeting to complain about a neighbor of his that he said had six dogs. City ordinance allows two dogs at one residence. He also expressed concern about the city/county agreement on law enforcement, passed by the council recently. He felt the city should be reimbursed for time and equipment costs when assisting the sheriff's department outside the city's jurisdiction.

- Imperial will continue to purchase five percent of its energy supply from wind, the same amount as in previous years supplied by Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). Energy from renewable sources is generally more expensive, said Public Works Supt. Pat Davison. The Imperial Public Power District board recommended the city stay with the five percent figure.
- The city will host its annual appreciation dinner for boards, commissions and employees on Friday, April 12. Invitations were going out this week.