

***By Jan Schultz***

***The Imperial Republican***

Each month of the 2013 second quarter (April, May, June) brought in more than \$42,000 in sales tax revenues to the city of Imperial.

May had the highest city receipts for the quarter with \$42,892.06 deposited in the city account from the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

April brought in \$42,454.64 while June tallied a total of \$42,555.43.

While those are very good months, they didn't break records. The highest month's total on record since Imperial started its one percent city sales was December 2012 when \$46,500.46 came back to the city.

When each month's funds are received, the city sales tax that had been paid on vehicles is moved to another account for use in the city street department fund as required by law.

What is left is split 50/50 between economic development and community development projects approved by the city council.

Recommendation for spending from the economic development funds comes to the council from a Citizens Advisory Committee, but must have final council approval.

While the council solely directs spending of the community development side of the funds, it often happens after requests from local groups or organizations. Use of all city sales tax funds must have a council majority vote.

Some of the recent projects for which sales tax money was used include the parking improvements at Imperial Manor and new playground equipment in the Max Addition Park. It is also being used to pay off swimming pool bonds and street projects.

The city's one percent sales tax is added to the state's 5.5 percent on qualified purchases in the city limits for a total of a 6.5 percent sales tax here.

Imperial voters approved the city sales tax in November 2006, and it went into effect the following April.