

The Citizen's Advisory Committee presented its semi-annual report on use of LB 840 city sales tax dollars. Community Development Director Jason Tuller said projects and amounts committed to in the past six months included: \$17,839 for new home sewer tap fee waivers; \$10,000 for new business sewer tap fee waivers; and \$591 for the Shop Imperial Campaign. Among the income received and noted in the report was \$34,473 from sale of wheat on the Cornerstone ground, and an additional \$4,286 from sale of wheat straw. Currently, there is an ending balance of \$983,604 in both sales tax funds. There were no new loan applications the previous six months.

Two more appointments to boards and commissions were made by Mayor Dwight Coleman, which were approved. Sherri Wheeler was reappointed to the community center commission (theatre board) and Mary Deyle to the Community Redevelopment Authority.

Some dismal news on upcoming electricity costs were brought before the council by Public Works Supt. Pat Davison. The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) is predicting across-the-board rate increases of 12.8 percent, Davison reported. This is on top of the five-year phase-in local rate increases approved by the council in 2012. Davison attended a meeting on the expected rate increases last Thursday. The council will also soon be considering renewal of a multi-year contract with MEAN for supplying electricity to the city, likely for 30 years.