

## By Jan Schultz The Imperial Republican

With the recent closing of Imperial's Brickstone Grille & Sports Bar, a group of local residents is working toward bringing another restaurant to the community.

Dave Fulton, a city council member and president of First Bank & Trust Company in Imperial, reported at Monday's council meeting a group of half a dozen people are pursuing options.

Members of the group have visited several restaurants in the area, Fulton said, and have come up with two options:

- 1) Establish a restaurant here or one that is a branch of one already established elsewhere; or
- 2) Fundraising by an investment group to build or purchase an existing building, then lease it out to someone willing to operate a restaurant.

Fulton said they were very impressed with the community-owned restaurant they visited recently, The Grainery in Idalia, Colo., a small town of 88 people.

It is grossing \$40,000 a month and is operating out of a new \$300,000 building, Fulton said. That visit gave the group some good insight into options in developing a community-owned restaurant, he said.

Fulton added he was also encouraged by a phone call he received this week from a CCS graduate who recently completed studies at a culinary school and wants to move back to the community.

Fulton emphasized that as they look into options for a sit-down restaurant they really do appreciate the restaurants Imperial does have.

"We just feel that another sit-down restaurant is feasible and needed in the community," Fulton said in a letter given to the council and also sent to the Chamber of Commerce.

Anyone with suggestions is asked to contact Fulton or others working on the effort, including Community Development Director Jason Tuller, Russ and Lori Pankonin, Merrillyn Leibbrandt, Sid Harchelroad, Curtis Johnson and Patty Fulton.

Fulton said he will give a further update in July or August.