

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Just like the residents and businesses within its borders, the city of Imperial also took several hits in recent hail and wind storms.

Both police vehicles, the city's car and several roofs on city buildings were damaged in the June 25-26 storms.

A number of trees were also uprooted and damaged in the city parks.

Discussion of the damage took place at the council's July 13 meeting.

Both police vehicles and the city car were damaged in the June 25 hail.

Police Chief Browning told council members the 2003 black-and-white Crown Vic was totaled with \$5,700 in damage, and the blue Expedition sustained more than \$10,000 in damage.

Browning said the black-and-white was scheduled for replacement next year and suggested taking the insurance money and keeping it as a third department vehicle. The new third vehicle could use the police equipment from the black-and-white, and the department will use the damaged car for a backup.

Some prices were presented for new vehicles, but council members asked him to acquire some prices for leasing a vehicle. They'll consider the costs at the July 27 meeting.

The city's car was also totaled to the tune of \$6,728, according to City Clerk/Administrator Jo Leyland. That car is used by city employees in all departments for out-of-town conferences and meetings.

Roof damage was significant to several city buildings from both the June hail and last Friday's storm.

All roofs at the Manor, Heights and Parkview were totaled, Leyland reported.

Public Works Supt. Pat Davison said other roof damage was sustained at the west end of the utility dept. shop, the park building at Campbell Park and the library's old roof.

The community center's roof was also totaled. The city owns that building and insures it with its other property coverage.

All of the skylights were broken out above the city gym, along with one or two more over the council chambers.

In last Friday's storms, windows at the utility dept. shop and city offices were broken out, awnings at the community center damaged and some damage was sustained to the roof over the bath house at the new pool.

Leyland was unable to give a dollar damage figure at this time.

### **More city council business**

- At the start of the meeting, Mayor Annie Longan appointed Lynn Luhrs to the council, replacing Dustin Weiss, who resigned after moving out of the city limits. Luhrs also took the oath of office. On advice of the city attorney, Luhrs' appointment and oath of office were repeated at the July 13 meeting. The mayor had failed to make note of the open meetings act at the July 2 meeting when Luhrs' appointment was first made and approved.

- Amy Leibbrandt was appointed to replace Cyndi Weiss on the community center commission (theatre board). Weiss resigned after she and her family moved out of the city limits recently.
- A change in zoning from R-1 (residential) to C-2 (commercial) was approved by the council for two properties at 820 and 824 Douglas. One property houses KADL and the Extension office was formerly located in the other. While those buildings have always been used for commercial purposes, there was an oversight in the last city zoning update to change them to commercial in that predominantly residential neighborhood.
- Two city ordinances were approved for clarification purposes. One deals with the “burning prohibited” ordinance that, with the changes, now allows for fire pits on patios and for outdoor grills. A second ordinance addressed the “registered mail” definition, referenced in various city codes, to also include “certified mail”, which is less expensive. Both were passed after second and third readings were waived.
- After preliminary discussion last month, the council voted to pay for a survey of the property west of the Schroeder Park fields that had been deeded to the city by the Adams family. Some errors were discovered in the Adams’ estate probate, including the plat that divided the property that is now the drainage pond. The Adams family will pay for the cost of opening the probate and have the errors corrected. Cost to the city for the survey is expected to be \$500.
- Paving of East 5th, 9th and 12th Streets was included in the city’s one-and-six year street plan for this year. Public Works Supt. Pat Davison expects bid specs to be ready for the July 27 meeting, which if approved, will then be let out for bids.
- The council directed Mayor Annie Longan to sign a letter of support for an Owner Occupied Rehab (OOR) housing grant application. The city received a similar grant a couple years ago for a targeted section of Imperial to make energy efficient home improvements, but this grant, if received, would be for the entire county, so would include all homes in the city of Imperial this time. It could assist up to 25 homes in Imperial. Ann Burge of the Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corp. also planned to seek approval from the county commissioners at their July 14 meeting.
- After an okay from the Planning Commission, the council also approved three replats of properties owned by Doug Mitchell, Jeff Olsen and Dale Longan. All three property owners want to build garages on separate lots they own adjacent to their homes. Imperial’s zoning ordinance does not allow construction of accessory buildings on lots without homes. In order for that to happen, the two lots will be joined into one via the replat process.
- A total of \$24,932 was approved for expenditures at the senior services facilities including new windows in the Manor, the addition of emergency lights and wiring in all wings and the multi-purpose room at the Heights and the addition of two circuits and wiring for the Heights boiler unit. City Clerk/Administrator Leyland told Administrator Kathy Andersen, who attended the meeting, that since there were no capital improvement funds in their 2009-10 budget, they would have to go through the budget amendment process. That’s unless the bottom line expenditures with these additions can equal the dollar figure advertised with some shifting of expenditures in other parts of the budget. Andersen noted they expect a savings of \$20,000 this coming year in workman’s comp. premiums due to improved safety measures there.
- Budget planning has started, and the council will hear preliminary requests from some of the city department heads at the July 27 meeting. City Clerk/Administrator Leyland said she will have the city’s valuation figures by Aug. 20.

- A closed session was held to discuss a claim from Diane Gellerman for reimbursement of damage from sewer backup in her home. No action was taken after the closed session.