

CJ COUNCIL - continued from page 1

Salazar had initially presented his request at the council's Feb. 25 meeting but the council had tabled a decision to allow an inspection of the roads.

Salazar had specifically focused on the road serving the Oakview Street Lift Station and the sewage lagoon access road. At the Feb. 25 meeting he had reported borrowing a friend's land plane to reshape the roads and pull gravel back from the shoulders.

He continued to point to those needs during the March 11 meeting, adding if the land plane was not acquired, he would need to keep adding rock and conducting other maintenance more frequently to ensure service trucks and equipment could use it.

Council members Dennis Tompkins and Tracy Harris indicated they had looked at the sites and felt the \$4,000 cost for the attachment would be better spent on city street repairs.

"I don't think we need (the plane)," Tompkins said, explaining city streets were in worse shape than the other roads.

"I agree, but if we can't get a service truck down there what are we supposed to do?" Salazar replied.

"How often do you take a service truck down there?" Tompkins asked.

"If we have an emergency and have to pull a pump, we have to have a service truck down there; and if we have an emergency and those pumps are not running, we are discharging into that creek," Salazar said, adding the Oakview Street Lift Station handled everything from Columbus City and a substantial amount of the New Heritage-Orchard Lane-Crestwood area.

"And when was the last time it broke?" Tompkins asked.

"Probably five years ago, (but) they also get down there every year to do our annual

maintenance and to pull the pumps; and this year, it was very difficult," Salazar answered,

Tompkins and Salazar continued to discuss the need for the equipment, with Salazar explaining if the land plane was not acquired, he would continue to a tractor-mounted loader, but the work would take longer.

After hearing the give and take between Tompkins and Salazar, Harris finally cut in and said he did not believe the current condition of the city roads was too bad; and he favored backing off on purchasing equipment.

After taking no action on the land plane, the discussion eventually blended into a council decision accepting a list of road repair projects developed by the public works staff. Salazar said the council's acceptance would allow him to proceed with seeking bids on the work from contractors.

Three contractors had already contacted him to express interest in bidding.

Meanwhile, Salazar reported the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) had signaled agreement for the city to seek bids on repair work to streets that were damaged while they were being used for the Highway 92 detour that ran through the city last year.

The council agreed to direct city engineer Matt Walker, French-Reneker, Fairfield, to draw up specifications for the work.

Todd also reported the DOT was planning to begin a viaduct overlay project March 18, which will result in some road closures and other disruptions. He indicated the state agency anticipated the work will take around 10 days.

Todd also reported the Iowa Legislature was considering a bill that included a section that would require local libraries to adopt age-appropriate policies to

QUILTS OF VALOR

presentations



A Quilt of Valor was awarded to Dale T. in his home surrounded with family. Dale served with the National Guard for two (2) tours of duty, 1982-1986 and 2006-2012. Pictured with Dale is his brother, Don; stepdad Cletus; his mom; and Verlinda P awarded his quilt. Thank you, Sir, for your Service.



Don T. was awarded a Quilt of Valor in his home surrounded by family members. He served with the Army National Guard 1982-1986. Pictured with Don is Dorothy M, his brother Tony, his mom, and Verlinda P. Thank you, Don, for your Service.

prevent minors from accessing material involving sexual acts.

He suggested if the bill does not pass, the city council should look into adopting its own rules on the issue.

Todd also directed various council committees to meet and discuss street rights of way widths; clarification on utility replacement responsibilities that may be damaged during an excavation; identification of problem sidewalks and possible options for funding; and review of the public safety ordinance and its fees.

He also advised the council that a board of adjustment needed to be reformed and the city's planning and zoning commission needed to be re-activated. Todd said he had started discussions with the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission on updating the city's urban revitalization ordinance after Harris raised the issue of tax breaks for new housing.

Letters to the Editor



"Thank You" from young Columbus artists & teacher

Dear Columbus Gazette Team,

On behalf of the Art Department, I wanted to send a sincere thank you for the wonderful article featuring our students' artistic renditions of the Columbus Wildcat. It was fantastic to see the students' hard work and creativity highlighted in the paper. Coverage like this truly strengthens the bond between our schools and the local community. We appreciate your support in showcasing these talented young artists and their school spirit. Thank you again for sharing our story!

Best regards,
Sylvia Headington



We got a surprise at the Gazette this week. Ms. Headington delivered a special art piece created by her students. This will look great in our office... Thank you so very much!

Mystery Person??

This mystery person was born August 12th He Graduated from Maquoketa High School in 1991 then graduated from Cornell College in 1995. He played basketball for the RAMS while attending college. He came to Columbus Community and began his career as guidance counselor and boys' basketball coach from 1998-2001.

While at Columbus he married his wife in 1999. He is currently at Central Dewitt Middle School & High School.

He is also a current basketball coach for the Maquoketa High School Girls Basketball State Champions!



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