

# City Council Ponders Enforcing Ordinance On Improper Use Of Four-wheelers, ATV's And Golf Carts On City Streets

## Downtown Businesses May Get New Signs, Funded By EDC

At the Monday evening City Council meeting, members discussed employing a part-time

### Two County Offices Contested In November Election

The general election will be Nov. 4. Locally, offices up for election are County Judge, District and County Clerk, County Treasurer, Pcts. 2 and 4 County Commissioners and Justice of the Peace.

Joanna Blanco, County and District clerk, told *The Pulse* that incumbents Judge Carroll Gerber [R] and Treasurer Kristen Yorton [D] have no challengers.

Democratic Pct. 2 Commissioner Tim Elliott is being challenged by Republican Tammy Martin. And, current JP Jo Campbell is being challenged by a write-in candidate, Mary Ewing.

Pct. 4 Commissioner Dan Schmucker is not seeking reelection, and Ralph Brockman is running unopposed for that seat.

code enforcement officer, especially in regard to four-wheelers, ATV's and golf carts being driven in Hart.

Adrian Rosas, Public Utility Supt., had been the animal control officer, but his current duties and his attending college have cut in his time. Law enforcement officers can enforce codes, but Hart no longer has its own law enforcement officer. (Code enforcers cannot enforce traffic or penal codes.)

If the City does hire a code enforcement officer, violations will be handled in municipal court. The City has not held municipal court in several years after entering into an agreement with the County for law enforcement coverage, which has been terminated. Any appropriate violations were handled in JP Court in Dimmitt.

*The Pulse* asked Sheriff Sal Rivera if his deputies can enforce these vehicular codes, and he answered "yes," if the officer witnesses the violation. He added that it is the officer's discretion whether to cite a driver or warn him/her.

He said that ATV and golf cart operation on streets is illegal unless the vehicle is registered through the Dept. of Motor Vehicles.

The matter will likely be discussed again by the City Council.

**Weather**  
Neoma Williams  
U.S. Weather Observer

	Hi	Lo	Pr
Thursday	90	62	
Friday	87	62	
Saturday	81	55	1.69
Sunday	61	54	.09
Monday	73	60	
Tuesday	87	64	
Wednesday	88	61	

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August moisture.....1.02  
2014moisture.....16.57  
2013 moisture.....14.26

cil.

In other business, the City adopted a resolution regarding an update to the Panhandle Regional Mutual Aid Agreement, which was adopted by virtually every city and county in the region in 2004.

In a letter from the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission in Amarillo, it was noted that FEMA has, in recent rulings, determined that if a region is willing to exchange no-cost mutual aid or non-declared events that when declared disasters occur in the Panhandle, the agency won't reimburse responding agencies for mutual aid costs. The letter noted that Panhandle agencies have, for many years, exchanged mutual aid freely, understanding that the help they give another today will likely be returned in-kind the next time the fire is in their jurisdiction.

A party may withdraw from the agreement at any time with written notice. However, the withdrawing party will still be responsible for any outstanding reimbursement claims previously rendered as disaster assistance.

Also discussed was some city-owned property on the west side of Ave. C. Mayor Stanley Dyer said he had been approached by Albert Fernandez who wants to build a shop on this property and is willing to negotiate a price. It was said that a portion of his residence is on this City property.

Rosas said to make sure that the City trash truck can still get through the area. Dyer said that he would get with Ricky Godino, city employee who drives the truck. The matter was tabled.

After four years of attempting to get low cost housing funded through the federal government, the HOME grant was renewed. After six months, it must be re-

The Hart Economic Development Corporation met Monday evening at City Hall. Presiding over the meeting was President Danny Rodriguez. Other members present were Tony Leibel, Paul Ramirez, Vickie Ethridge, Stanley Dyer and Lupe Velasquez. Todd Straley was absent.

newed. City Secretary Marsela Marin recently attended a workshop on such housing and said it looks promising for the City to finally get the program underway. Getting clear titles to homes to be demolished and replaced with new homes has been the most troublesome impediment.

It was reported that about \$10,000 had been spent on a mosquito sprayer and repairs to the City's loader. The budget was amended to accommodate this extra expense.

It was reported that the transfer station has been reopened after cleaning it up.

The City adopted a drought contingency plan presented by Rosas. He said that he had been contacted by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for such a plan. He modeled it after Olton's plan.

So far, there are no mandatory restrictions in the City limits regarding water usage. The plan is available at City Hall.

Attending the meeting were Merton and Donnalee Knightley, who moved to Hart last year. They had received the notice regarding the tax rate of \$0.469, which was adopted at the meeting. Dyer told them that the letter is confusing. The new rate will raise more money, but will not negatively affect most residents. Xcel Energy will see the tax increase, as explained by County Appraiser Jerry Heller. The utility company has improved its assets within the city limits. There was discussion at the meeting that these improvements don't ap-

A financial report showed \$31,290.58 in the EDC checking account, as of August 31, 2014. There is some money in the Amarillo Area Foundation, to be earning interest, but members weren't sure as to the amount.

Dyer said that he'd been at Ludy's Salon a while back and had been told that the sign at the business had blown away. He suggested that the EDC consider paying owner, Ludy Perez, \$450, her cost for the sign. Also discussed was purchasing signs for downtown businesses. It was suggested to buy the signs from Master Graphics in Plainview, owned by local residents Agustin and Aurelia Perez, Jr.

The EDC will be checking into costs and asking business owners if they want signs before deciding on the project. They did approve payment to Ludy's Salon for its new sign.

### Pulse Print Edition May Change

By Neoma Williams, publisher-editor

I received a call last week that North Plains Printing in Hereford will close their plant at the end of September.

I will print there this week for continued to Page 3

pear to be inside the City.

Other members present were Danny Rodriguez, Vickie Ethridge Paul Ramrez Wamon Foster and Eliazar Castillo.

**Thank You**  
*Thank you to those who hosted Tom's retirement reception at Hart Auto & Jim Black Oil. Thanks to those who attended.*  
*Tom is thankful for the years he was employed there and enjoyed his "party."*

**TOM AND LAVERNE McLAIN**

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