

City of Willcox Newsletter October 2012

City Reviewing Natural Gas System Needs

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

While some people are predicting the end of the world (because of the end of the Mayan calendar), the city is taking a different point of view and preparing for the long term ability to deliver safe and dependable supplies of natural gas to the residents and businesses within the community at the lowest possible cost.

The City has had a review done on the current gas system to look for areas which may need upgrades and improvements; the city does this for both the short term (annual improvements that we make such as replacement of old steel lines within the City) and long term (improvements that need to be made to keep the system operating, like replacing the main supply line from the El Paso supply line to the City).

The City Council is currently reviewing the capital needs of the system to decide which are the best options to consider. The City recognizes that every option has costs associated with the option. These costs have to come from the rates which our people and businesses pay for gas service (the City keeps the cost of operating the gas system separate from the other operations of the city – in a separate “fund” and only pays for operation of the gas fund from those rates).

The City also recognizes that the customer wants to have a save dependable supply of gas available when they need it. So the question becomes; what are the “best options” which will assure the customers the gas they need at the lowest cost.

We have to have programs to replace lines in the ground before they fail, detect and repair leaks, accurately and fairly charge customers for their use, and plan for the future of the gas system.

You are invited to attend the discussions, listen to the information, and give your input. The first meeting was held on October 22 at 6:30 PM at the City Council Chambers. Additional meetings will follow as the issues unfold.

The Motel on the Southwest End of Town...

Pat McCourt, Willcox City Manager

Perhaps “the never ending story” might be a better name.

The short version of the story is that this is in the legal system which moves slowly.

This issue has not been forgotten. The City continues to work with the property owner and the mortgage company to try to get them to take the responsibility to clean up their property.

The City Council has set aside \$100,000 dollars in order for the City to perform the cleanup, if the owners will not do the job. If the City has to do the cleanup, then the City wants to be able to place a claim against the property to try to recover some (hopefully all) of the cost that the taxpayers spend to clean up this private property.

We are sorry this is taking so long. We are working diligently to protect private property rights, protect the public safety, and protect the public tax dollars.

The project has not been forgotten. It will be resolved.

Burglary at the Library

Tom Miner, Library Director

No – this is not the title of my next crime fiction novel. I wish it was. Yes - it really happened. Sept 12/13, 2012 to be exact. I won't repeat what has already been reported in the Sep 19th Arizona Range News article on page A3, except to add that my initial cost estimates for the losses was low – by about \$1050.00. The real cost to all of you library patrons is \$8044.65.

Makes you mad, doesn't it? It sure makes me mad! I feel violated, like someone broke into my house and stole all of my stuff. And you should be mad too. This is YOUR Library. Your Living Room if you will. A cornerstone of this community, a pillar of democracy, and it has been attacked. Who would rob their own living room? Everything in it belongs to you, the people. This is unbelievable. And it deeply saddens me...

The GOOD news is: they caught the guy! He was arraigned in Superior Court, Div V, down in Bisbee, on October 15th, on at least four felony counts. I for one, hope the Judge throws the BOOK at him, pardon the pun.

From the Office of the City Clerk...

Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk

City Council Meetings

Monday

Nov 5, 2012

&

Monday

Nov 19, 2012

7:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

300 W. Rex Allen Drive

Reminder: Except for Emergency Services, all City Offices will be CLOSED Monday, Nov 12, for Veteran's Day and Thursday thru Sunday, Nov 22 – 25, 2012 for the Thanksgiving Holidays.

ELECTION TIME IS NOVEMBER 6, 2012; the City of Willcox will be having the Granting and Renewal of a Franchise Agreement to Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. on the ballot. This Franchise Agreement is disclosed in it's entirety in the Arizona Range News. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 520-384-4271. Thank you, Virginia A. Mefford, City Clerk.

El TIEMPO de la ELECCION es el 6 de noviembre de 2012; la Ciudad de Willcox tendrá al Grant y la Renovación de un Acuerdo de Licencia al Valle Sulfuroso de Primavera Eléctrico Cooperativo, S.a. en el ballet. Este Acuerdo de la Licencia es revelado es en ello totalidad en las Noticias de Gama de Arizona. Si tiene cualquier pregunta, contacta por favor la Oficina del Empleado de la Ciudad en 520-384-4271. Gracias, Virginia A. Mefford, Empleado de Ciudad.