

Water rates increase and 2021 budget is approved by city council

At the October meeting of the Clark City Council Monday evening, it was approved by the council to raise the basic monthly water rate from \$13.50 to \$17.00, effective with the November billing. This base rate fee will be implemented on each housing unit and each apartment unit.

Also approved at Monday's meeting was the 2021 city budget ordinance. The total budget, general fund, is \$1,602,571. Finance officer Jackie Luttrell has been detailing this budget to the council on a monthly basis. She had a few minor changes from the first reading in September and stated that the mill levy had dropped to 8.365.

The council meeting began with the council meeting as a Board of Adjustment to consider two potential variances. Chris and Mel Bokinskie were allowed to place a shed closer than the backyard/side yards setback. Maxine Anderson was allowed to place a shed closer to side yard setback.

In other business:

▲ No executive session was needed. The city has maintained a very transparent record, using executive sessions sparingly, when needed.

▲ Chris Bokinskie, during the public input section of the meeting, shared with the council improvements being made at the youth baseball/softball field, south of the high school. The Clark Lions have donated \$5,000 to this project and much updating is being done to the field and the concession stand area.

▲ Luttrell, in her department update segment told of kitchen improvements at the golf club clubhouse. The equipment is up and running.

▲ Covid Cares money to date is \$102,609.84. Clark is approved for \$239,000.

▲ Luttrell also brought up the topic of chickens within city limits as there has been a request. Current zoning does not allow for chickens within the city limits.

▲ City employee Darin Altfillisch is back full time, after surgery.

▲ An extension to the storm water study is needed as there hasn't been heavy rains for documentation.

▲ Approval of surplus items - \$425 for stove to Terry Kaufman and \$900 auto fry to Anderson tax group, were accepted.

▲ Luttrell questioned the council

if it was necessary to change front yard fencing from four feet in height to five feet. No action was taken on this matter.

▲ The council is now using iPads at council meetings.

▲ Several other items were acted upon and will appear in the 10/14 edition city minutes as a public notice. All council members were present including Dennis Larson, Andrew Zemlicka, Terry Schlagel, Derrick Dohmann, Nick Dalton and Shane Hagstrom. Also present were Mayor Kerry Kline, finance officer Luttrell and city attorney Chad Fjelland.

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official
Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Sept. 29	54	43	0
Sept. 30	72	44	0
Oct. 1	63	39	0
Oct. 2	51	35	0
Oct. 3	53	35	0
Oct. 4	55	35	0
Oct. 5	62	36	0
2020 precipitation to date	16.98		
2019 precipitation to date	33.06		

This Grover historian has roots in Clark County

"I've always been interested in history," stated Tom Cypher of the Grover/Hazel area. "I enjoy hearing stories first hand from the older people. It's important to collect those histories as that older generation is almost gone in many families."

Cypher has history going back 10 generations on the Cypher and Martin sides of his family. His mother was Mary (Martin) and his father was Lloyd Cypher. Thomas Charles Cypher was named after his mother's brothers and was the seventh child out of 12 born to Lloyd and Mary Cypher in 1953.

He was born at Mabel Stacey's in Clark, a midwife home where many in Clark had their beginning. Mabel Stacey was a sister-in-law to Jane Stacey, who was also a midwife. Jane and Thomas Stacey were Tom's great-grandparents. Thomas Stacey's hair turned white overnight when he lost his brother John in a threshing machine accident when the engine blew up. The shock of it made his hair white for the rest of his life.



Tom Cypher from the Grover/Hazel area was at the Clark County Courier office last week to go through some very old newspapers. The one he is looking through is from 1919 and in it he found a story on a distant relative, who had died that year - a Louis Bastian - his father's aunt Lily's son. A historian at heart with an uncanny knack for remembering dates, Cypher enjoys researching history of family, towns, churches and cemeteries. He's often called a local historian by those who know him.

Cypher
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White Cane Day is Thursday, October 15

With so much large equipment on the roads and streets lately with area harvests going on, now is a good time for a reminder about the White Cane South Dakota codified law. White Cane Day is Thursday, October 15.

"The main thing is - it's the law to stop for a person with a white cane or guide dog at intersections or street crossings," stated Dawn Brush of Aberdeen who was visiting in Clark this week.

"In my opinion, trucks seem to go so fast sometimes it's scary when you are waiting to cross the street. I find myself voluntarily stepping back because I'm not sure if they will or can stop in time."

The South Dakota codified law states that motorists are required to stop for pedestrians who are crossing the street with the aid of white canes or guide dogs REGARDLESS of whether or not they are in the crosswalk. This is SDCL 32-7-7.

Living in Aberdeen, crossing Sixth Avenue can be a challenge for a blind person. In Clark, U.S. Highway 212, reportedly one of the busiest highways in the state, is also a challenge.

"Right now it's important that people pay attention when they are driving," continued Brush. "You never know when someone will want to cross using a white cane, or a guide dog. We rarely use both at the same time unless we're learning a new route to take, then we'll use both," added Brush of the visually impaired.

Breezy - a black nine-year-old lab is Brush's current guide dog. She also has two pets, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels named Hazel and Snickers. Before Breezy, Brush worked for many years with her guide dog Whimsey. Both guide dogs were from Guiding Eyes for the Blind from New York.

A White Cane Day march event has been held in the past in Sioux Falls with participants walking a

White Cane Day
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Bringing attention to protecting our residents with visual impairments, White Cane Day is Thursday, October 15. Above, Dawn Brush of Aberdeen who is originally from Clark demonstrates the stance used when holding a white cane to navigate. Her guide dog Breezy is to the right in his harness. "One doesn't use both the cane and a guide dog at the same time, unless they are learning a new route," stated Brush.

Lawmakers offer guidance on how to spend federal funds

By Dana Hess
Community News Service

During a special session on Monday, South Dakota's Legislature offered the governor guidance on how to spend the remainder of the federal government's \$1.25 billion in coronavirus relief funds.

Prior to the special session, Gov. Kristi Noem allocated almost \$468 million in federal funds for local governments, re-employment insurance, schools and a variety of other needs. Senate Concurrent

Resolution 601 offers guidance to the governor on spending just more than \$597 million on grants for small businesses, nonprofits and health care as well as other expenditures.

The passage of a resolution reflects the will of the Legislature, but it does not have the weight of law. While the Legislature has offered guidance about how the funds will be spent, ultimately it will be up to the governor.

In both houses, attempts were

made to amend the resolution. All of them failed.

In the House, Rep. Linda Duba, D-Sioux Falls, sought to divert more funding to testing and contact tracing.

"We have an issue with testing in this state," Duba said. "We have test supplies that ebb and flow."

Duba said people who sought tests but were refused were told

Lawmakers
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Clark County is a popular destination for duck hunters in the fall

Ducks in the rushes is a beautiful sight for the avid duck hunter. Waterfowl hunting will be ongoing for the next three months and there are good numbers in the county according to local GF&P conservation officer Zach Thomsen. The east and southeast parts of the county have the most ducks - as well as the most water it seems.

Duck hunters have been seen with their camouflage and duck boats and with so many ponds, sloughs and lakes, the shotgun sound, early in the morning, is quite evident.

As the weather cools, smaller ducks will be the first to leave and then the geese migration will be in full swing until water freezes over.



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