

# City of Beloit discusses agenda items

BY SHARON SAHLFELD  
Call Editor

The Beloit City Council meeting took place on Wednesday, April 16, in the city chambers with all councilmen attending.

Mayor Tom Naasz called the meeting to order and started with department head reports.

Department head, Allen Mong, reported on a new GIS system that will show utility water lines, sanitary, sewer, and electric lines, to make things easier for the city departments. It will show old cast iron lines, and people can see what is there 20 years down the line.

"It will just get better," said Mong. "We can see property owners' service provided to customers when it all comes together within a few years, on our end."

The public will be able to access the site, and see parcel information only.

The site also extends to areas beyond the city limits to show the waterline to the lake and electric service to the substation.

— Lynn Miller, Parks and Recreation director, gave a report from her department, saying how exciting it was that a new cemetery director, Joey Behrends, has been hired and is in the learning process. "He has a Beloit family background, and is mechanically inclined, for this job," Miller said.

Miller said they have hired four much-needed summer help employees, which will allow full time employees to catch up on maintenance projects. Three high school young men and Carol Thomas will return as well. Improvements to shelter houses at the Chautauqua Park and Roadside Park will be a focus of the full time employees.

The City Pool has hired 29 life guards, eight concession stand employees and three managers. Due to the lifeguards having to test in the local swimming pool, they will be filling it earlier than usual, on April 28, in hopes for warmer water temperatures. New digital passes are being provided this year, but physical passes can still be used as well.

Memorial Day rentals have been taken for the white building at the park to be utilized, and Arbor Day activities with saplings to be planted by school youth, have been planned.

Around 121 girls have signed up for the summer youth program and around 165 boys.

West Beloit 4-H club has volunteered to take over the North Campus Flower Garden project, with around 33 youth signed up. The potato patch will take place once again, and Elizabeth Gardner will be taking on a drought resistance flower project. The baseball/softball fields have been prepared for summer play.

— City of Beloit Attorney, Katie Schroeder, reported that they are working on a social media, safety project on the walking trails by Nutrien, as some issues of riding or walking through the parking lot, or riding on the scales has become a problem. Semi traffic safety around Nutrien Ag Solutions, has also been an

issue with walker/bikers, and needs to be addressed with them entering the trail correctly.

Unfit structures and impounded vehicles are issues being looked into as well.

— City of Beloit Manager, Haley Roberson, reported on the Walnut Street project, and has looked into street lights around the city.

"Do we want to match them up with other lights, or look for something different," said Roberson.

"As long as they light up the area, we should be good," said councilman, Andrew Grabon.

The Water Treatment Plant and Water Distribution departments have been working on installing the new raw water line from the river to the treatment plant. It is a labor-intensive project and crews have run into some surprises, causing delays.

"They needed to make some turns they weren't aware of, but they are doing a great job," Roberson said. "They had to raise some pipes to clear infrastructure as well, and they have worked hard on this project, and have saved the city an incredible amount of money."

There may be opportunities with the USDA for funding for cost overruns, but the funding appears to be for projects different than the scope of Beloit's water treatment plant project. The EPA is working with Beloit for work-arounds with the current plant and has seen improvement in compliance testing.

Bid openings for the water treatment plant happens on April 29.

Kansas Rural Water is conducting an energy study at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) at no cost. Results will be given to an electrical engineer, probably either out of Manhattan or MidStates, depending on availability, to recommend VFD's, blower motors, which will drive the decision for the generator size. A meeting was held with MidStates regarding an electric study for the WWTP.

• Meetings with contractors and engineers are taking place for the Walnut Street project preparations, such as staging areas, dirt and crushed rock needs.

• The transportation department has been finishing drainage and concrete work for the future Willow Springs Courtyard project.

• A Citywide Clean-up is scheduled for the week of July 7.

• In the Electric issues, an EDA grant is in process with work being done for the RFP. A KCC Grant request for \$750,000 has been approved at the state level and is moving to Department of Energy for further review to determine if an award will be made.

This application is being looked into, using three separate projects and put into one, for a \$300,000 grant for an H-frame structure on Main Street, a loop closure in the cemetery area, and a large circuit connection at the power plant. "Even with a partial award, a project could be completed," said Roberson.

Water Distribution was discussed, with working on flushing water mains and working around the filling

of the swimming pool. Meetings with engineers were held to discuss the water main portion of the Walnut

Street project. Water main replacements have been ordered and a project is being worked on, as time allows, for meter replacements.

• Waste Water Distribution was discussed with Schwab to discuss the lift station design on (Walnut/St. John's). Meter replacements and a suck truck replacement have also been discussed.

• Electricity capacity was discussed on what counts as generation/capacity: Contract power, Power plant, Solar generation, Batteries, Wind generation. How much electricity you use/buy/need to how much electricity you can generate.

Capacity impacts include: requirements of 15 percent more than rated capacity. SPP is talking about auditing generators with the intent to lower capacity rating. The potential for WAPA Capacity rating is claiming to end in 2026. Allocation is reduced minimally about every 10 years.

Roberson reported on the city of Belleville incident, when they lost a main engine, making them unable to meet capacity requirements, causing them fees. Beloit's capacity is rated at 13.5 MWH, with an average capacity of 8MWH.

The potential changes to capacity allocations in the future could reduce Beloit's additional capacity of 8 MWh to 4.5 MWh, and if there was a mechanical loss of a power plant engine, like Belleville is experiencing, the city could be susceptible to fines due to the inability meet capacity requirements.

— Sergeant Todd provided a report for Police Chief Chad Lackey, as he could not attend. She reported that they are now fully staffed as they have a new officer that is working and will attend the academy on May 12.

— Roberson reported for Emily Benedick, who was not in attendance, in community development, saying there has been a lot of interest in the MIH housing project on north campus. Benedick has also been busy working on the Patterson grant for the Municipal Building.

"I want to commend the Parks and Recreation Department for their Beloit Municipal building gymnasium balcony project work," said Roberson. "They did a great job."

The city is continually working on the unfit structures in Beloit.

— The last council meeting minutes were then approved.

— Ordinance 2368 – Amending zoning for Metal Buildings was approved.

Schroeder said this came about through concerns from the Beloit Land Bank with individuals wanting to build metal buildings on the north campus before a house is built. The language was developed and approved by the Planning Commission. Zoning changes include that one may not live in

a garage prior to a house being built. Metal buildings as primary residences are not permitted in R-1 areas of the city or in the Ackerman, Zimmer, or North Campus additions. Metal buildings can be built as primary dwellings in other parts of the city if they meet certain requirements such as having a porch and aesthetically look like a residence. The size and design of metal buildings as garages should fit aesthetically in the neighborhood, to be determined by the zoning administrator or Planning Commission. Any metal buildings currently in conflict with the new zoning changes are exempt from these requirements.

— Resolution 2025-21 for Unfit Structure 309 N. Washington, was passed on just setting a hearing.

In Formal actions:  
— The Temporary Ground Space Lease at the Moritz Memorial airport with Wells Flying Service was approved.

— The Pole Bid was approved for Bridgewell Company for \$43,353.00

— The council approved to pledge \$25,000 per year for 5 years to the USD 273 Educational Foundation with the funds earmarked for a turf field at the stadium. Funds for this pledge would come from the City's Capital Improvement Fund which is funded by sales tax dollars, not property tax dollars.

One council member asked if funds would be expected again when the turf needed to be replaced and USD 273 Superintendent Jeff Travis indicated the field would need to be replaced in 12-15 years, but the cost would be half the price. The school district will use its cost savings over that period of time to budget and will pay for the replacement of the turf.

Attorney Schroeder indicated that a new facility usage agreement for the Sports Complex and turf field would be developed. Both entities plan to continue to share recreation and athletic facilities, including all baseball and softball fields and the turf football field.

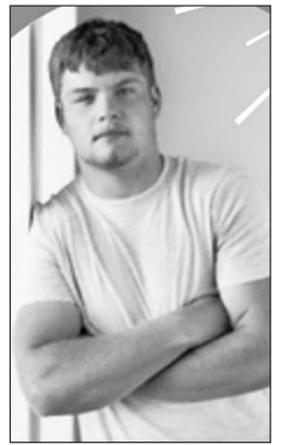
"This is good timing for us to add some sports, such as soccer, etc.," said Roberson. "And this gives us a chance to add baseball fields as well, by allowing flag football and soccer practices and games to be held at the stadium. We are not losing, but gaining opportunities. I tend to put my community hat on pretty quick, and I think this project is a community recreation opportunity for everyone."

Councilman Tony Gengler opposed the approval, out of respect for the voters who he said have already voted it down, and will be asking, 'Did my vote even count.' I do agree on the benefits to the community as well, though." Manager Roberson reminded everyone that the bond vote was a different question and involved the school levying property taxes. The pledge from the city will not be paid with property tax.

— A special event request with a BYOB event during the May 24 weekend was motioned to be tabled.



Jace Cunningham



Gabe Smith

## Cunningham and Smith named for Glen Elder scholarships

GLEN ELDER – The Glen Elder Community Club has awarded two \$300 scholarships in 2025. The scholarship fund was originally established in 1999 through the efforts of our community's special history committee and the subsequent sales of the Glen Elder Family History book. Memorial donations have been received in honor of Charlie Parker, Gail Weidenhaft and Lyle McPeak, all longtime, much-respected residents of the community.

The recipients this year are Jace Cunningham and Gabe Smith.

Jace Cunningham is the son of Terry and Crystal Cunningham. Jace plans to attend Kansas Wesleyan University and major in business administration.

Gabe Smith is the son of Jake Smith and Alisha Miller. Gabe plans to attend Manhattan Technical College and become a journey lineman.

"Glen Elder Community Club is overjoyed to be able to continue this scholarship program," they said. "We are so proud of our winners that represent Glen Elder academically and in community service. If you'd like to contribute towards the scholarship fund, you can mail in a donation with your community club dues."

### Post Rock Extension Answers

By Blaire Todd  
Crop Production Agent  
Post Rock Extension District #1  
K-State Research and Extension



BY BLAIRE TODD, LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AGENT  
K-State Research and Extension-Post Rock District

### "The Basics of Mineral Nutrition"

Most beef cattle producers recognize that mineral nutrition is important. However, a mineral program is only one component of an operation's nutrition and management plan. An exceptional mineral program will not compensate for deficiencies in energy, protein, or management according to Kansas State Extension Beef Systems Specialist, Justin Waggoner. Additionally, the classical signs associated with clinical deficiency of a particular mineral (wasting, hair loss, discoloration of hair coat, diarrhea, bone abnormalities, etc.) are not often or are rarely observed in production settings. The production and economic losses attributed to mineral nutrition in many situations are the result of sub-clinical deficiencies, toxicities and antagonisms between minerals which are often less obvious (reduced immune function, vaccine response, and sub-optimal fertility).

Many producers erroneously assume that the science of mineral nutrition is relatively complete. However, mineral nutrition is complicated, and our knowledge of mineral nutrition is relatively incomplete. There are 17 minerals required in the diets of beef cattle. However, no requirements have been established for several minerals that are considered essential (Chlorine, Chromium, Molybdenum, and Nickel). Minerals may be broken down into two categories. 1. The macrominerals whose requirements are expressed as a percent of the total diet (calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium, chlorine, and sulfur). 2. The microminerals or trace minerals (required in trace amounts) whose requirements are expressed as parts per million (ppm) or milligrams per kilogram of dry matter consumed (chromium, cobalt, copper, iodine, iron, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc).

Mineral status of an animal is a function of the total diet (both water and feed) and stored mineral reserves within the body. Water may be a substantial source of mineral; however, the variation in water consumption makes estimating the contribution of mineral from water sources difficult. Mineral content of forages is influenced by several factors including plant species, soil, maturity, and growing conditions. These factors, and others not mentioned, make estimating the dietary mineral content of grazing cattle challenging. Most commercial mineral supplements are formulated to meet or exceed the requirements for a given stage of production. This ensures that deficiencies are unlikely but providing supra-optimal levels of minerals may be unnecessary unless specific production problems exist. A mineral program does not have to be complex or expensive to be successful. Minerals are an important component of beef cattle nutrition that should not be over-looked as sub-clinical deficiencies of minerals likely contribute to more production and economic losses than we realize.

For further information, contact me at any Post Rock Extension District Offices in Beloit, Lincoln, Mankato, Osborne or Smith Center.

Post Rock Extension District of K-State Research and Extension serves Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, and Smith counties. Blaire may be contacted at blairet@ksu.edu or by calling Beloit 738-3597, Smith Center 282-6823, Lincoln 524-4432, Mankato 378-3174, or Osborne 346-2521. Join us on Facebook at "Post Rock Extension" along with our website www.postrock.k-state.edu

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## Penny

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In addition to collecting coins, the student leadership team also invited students and staff to bring photos honoring loved ones who have battled cancer—both survivors and those who have lost the fight. These photos became part of a collage titled "Heroes." BES would like to thank everyone who contributed to this fundraiser for Mitchell County Relay for Life.

The Relay For Life event – put on by the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life – will be held from 2-10 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the Beloit High School Track and Field. Local entertainment, bounce houses, a scavenger hunt, Fat Foxes Food Truck, Ice Bros snow cones, hot dog meals and walking tacos and more will be available throughout the day. At 8 p.m., a luminary light up ceremony will be held in honor or in memory of loved ones. Luminaries will be sold at the office of SVED Director, Emily Benedick.



In honor of the  
retirement

of Alice Thompson

Heart Choices is hosting  
a Card Shower and Open  
House celebration

from 4-6 p.m on May 7

at Heart Choices, 602 W. 6th St., Beloit

