



HIAWATHA

WORLD

HIAWATHA, KANSAS

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Maj. Brenna Aller and other United States Air Force airmen gather at F.E. Warren Air Force base at Cheyenne, WY.

PHOTOS BY SGT. MICHAEL A RICHMOND

Hiawatha native named as Air Force commander

KRIS MILLER
Hiawatha World

The 90th Munitions Squadron at F.E. Warren Air Force Base located in Cheyenne, Wyo. welcomed its new commander, who is originally from the Hiawatha area.

Maj. Brenna Aller of Hiawatha assumed command from Maj. Ryan Deming. F.E. Warren's Facebook page featured the



United States Air Force
Maj. Brenna Aller



Maj. Aller holds a flag with a fellow airman at the Cheyenne base.

"The Mighty Ninety thanks Maj. Deming for his dedicated leadership and welcomes Maj. Aller as she takes charge of the munitions mission!"

- Maj. Ryan Deming



Scan this code to visit the F.E. Warren Air Force Base.



Scan this code to view the 6-9-2025 City Commission meeting.

City commission approves engineering contract for housing development

KRIS MILLER
Hiawatha World

The city commission approved to enter into an engineering contract for housing development west of the soccer fields at Bruning Park during Monday evening's city meeting.

The motion to approve entering into the contract with Manhattan-based BG Consultants for civil engineering for developing duplex housing at the fields for \$77,000 to be paid out of the Capital Reserve passed at a 3-2 vote; Mayor Becky Shamburg and Commissioners Laura Tollefson and David Middendorf voted to approve the motion, while Commissioners Brian Shefferd and Thomas Martin voted against the motion. Shefferd attended the meeting via Zoom call. BG Consultants engineer Jason Hoskinson was also present via Zoom call.

Hoskinson stated that phase one of the project supported growth of future construction phases; if more duplexes or single family homes could be built, then there was flexibility to include more structures. Shefferd opted to table the discussion and wait two weeks before deciding to vote on the motion for duplex development, as he wanted the project to be done in a correct manner as the land could be used to build housing and help expand the town. He

argued that it was too much of a rush to get duplex development started. Shefferd also expressed concern that the selected area for housing development would deter people from building houses on the north side of the area, with a back deck focusing on the view of the developmental housing. He added the focus of the project needed to be the future and not just getting a grant to build the duplexes. Shefferd thought the best approach was to build residential houses and expand the town.

In response, Shamburg said that this project had been worked on for two years and civil engineering work needed to be done, and moderate income housing was needed, which would be ideal for public schoolteachers. Shefferd argued that the rent would still be too high and a reason for why a previous housing effort was denied.

City Administrator Brad Scott added that it was a challenge for getting developers interested in coming to Hiawatha and that the city needed a developer for housing; he also included that the project would be supported through the Rural Housing Incentive District (RHID) that was created through the last Moderate Income Housing (MIH) project and that there was a lot of information that was looked through to determine that the project needed to move forward. The city administrator also mentioned a letter of support from GN Bank for the project to illustrate community support for the project and that the project needed to move forward,

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County commission votes to approve exception for county resident's RFP application

KRIS MILLER
Hiawatha World

The Brown County commission voted to approve a county resident's Request for Proposal (RFP) application after the Brown County appraiser denied the document. This approval took place at Monday morning's meeting.

All three county commissioners voted to approve an exception for a RFP for Melanie Teeter. Although Commissioner William Pollock stated he did not think granting an exception was fair, he still seconded the motion; Commissioner Lucas Heinen made an

exception to grant the motion. Teeter was informed that she still needed to pay \$35 regarding the application.

Brown County appraiser Steve Markham explained that he denied the application as construction of the building already began but he did state that the commissioners could override the denial. Markham also added that he was following the rules of the office regarding accepting and denying applications. Markham added that once construction started, he did not want to bend the rules, especially as the dirt work was done.

Brown County clerk Nikki Lee stated

that making an exception was a policy decision and that Brown County attorney Kevin Hill would not advise the commissioners regarding the decision; Lee said Hill sent her a text message with information regarding making the motion. Heinen stated he took responsibility for providing the exception for approving the RFP application, for the possibility that more requests for exceptions might be possible in the future. Before the approval, Heinen stated he was not sure if the commission had the power to approve an exception, but Teeter stated that the county would lose on 75 percent on her property

taxes for five years and wanted a five year return.

Below are other items that were discussed during the meeting:

- The commissioners approved a revised contract with BB Brothers.
- The commissioners spoke with Greg Watkins and Jessica Hawkins of Watko regarding self-funded health insurance for Brown County employees, with self-funded alternatives to be explored.
- Heinen opted to table a Pony Express Resolution, which is a corridor that involves the Kansas Department of Transportation; Heinen expressed

concern that the word "corridor" could be a "red flag" word. Lee stated that Horton resident Connie Werner proposed the resolution.

- Truck bids for District 2 were discussed, but after some discussion, Heinen opted to also table this topic during the meeting and stated that new machinery did not need to be purchased and wanted to see if the matter could be looked at in a different way.



Scan this code to view the 6-9-2025 Brown County commission meeting.

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