



Expected ‘short’ council meeting lasts longer than planned Monday

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

Looking at the agenda prior to Monday’s meeting of the Erie City Council, it looked like it could have been a rather quick meeting.

With the two previous council meetings taking about three hours to conduct the city’s business, those attending Monday’s session were probably hoping for an early night.

One topic, though, caused the council to spend probably more time than necessary, and it was a relatively simple task. The city accepted bids from both local banks to purchase instead of lease some equipment (a skid steer). The problem: each bid had a different term for the note – an apple and oranges situation.

Council member Jason “JT” Thompson offered the city another option, just using funds in the Equipment Fund to purchase the skid steer, but the motion failed. The city then had to choose between two notes with different terms – the shorter note with a higher interest or the longer note with a lower interest. The council went with the lower interest, longer-term note from Commercial Bank with the intention of making the current “lease payment amount” to pay off the loan much sooner.

Under Code Enforcement, Andrew Buffington reported to the council Chad and Monica Brown had properly addressed the concerns regarding inoperable vehicles on their property.

“He cleaned everything up and all remaining campers are tagged,” said Erie Code Enforcer Andrew Buffington.

The Browns attend the April 14 meeting, requesting a 30-day extension to the 10-day notice they received. The request was denied.

Buffington also shared he had issued six “mow orders” – locations within the city limits needing immediate attention from the property owners.

Starting July 1, the council

approved an ordinance to raise the city water rates from \$4 to \$6 for each 1,000 gallons for any one month.

During his report, Chief of Police Brett Ross reported the previously discussed bullet proof vest with the LaHarpe Police Department (previously worn by current Officer Stotler when he was employed at LaHarpe) was available to the city for \$600 – a fee Ross and the council felt was more than fair. Such vests expire every five years.

In his typed report, Ross shared his department responded to the following calls and activity: 3 animal control, 1 criminal damage, 1 criminal threat, 2 fires, 2 ATV/golf tags, 7 dog tags, and 28 VINs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Also, Monday:

- The council approved raises for each council member and the mayor. It is the first raise in more than a decade. Council members will receive \$50 per meeting with the mayor receiving a \$60 stipend.

- Approved a six-month raise for a city employee, which is standard procedure for all new fulltime employees.

- Council member Cindy Friedrich requested some work at the Dinosaur Park to fix a broken gate entrance.

- Approved the notice of public hearing for a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for May 12, starting at 5:55 p.m. (prior to the start of the next council meeting).

- Approved an \$888 sewer abatement for Candice Arie.

- Approved a change in the payment for City Attorney fees, converting to a standard “monthly” charge. The change also modified the hourly rate for work above and beyond the normal duties. Any hourly rate work by the city attorney must be pre-approved by the council.

- Approved moving the second council meeting from Monday, May 26, to a day later due to the Memorial Day holiday.

FLY LIKE AN EAGLE



Submitted photo

Erie High School senior Cody Elliott, right, takes lessons with his flight instructor.

Elliott inspires EES students, stresses importance of school

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

For one Erie High School senior, Cody Elliott, “The sky is not the limit, it’s just the beginning.”

After crossing the stage to receive his diploma next week, Elliott will attempt to complete his training and obtain a pilot’s license.

In Elliott’s final days as a high school student, he was a special guest at Erie Elementary School, visiting with the third grade STEAM students under the instruction of Mrs. Lisa Maher. Maher has been teaching the students about the science of flight. What better way to impact the students then bringing a soon-to-be pilot, and a familiar face, to the classroom.

“Before his visit, Cody and I spoke about the PLTW Stability and Motion: The Science of Flight and what our lessons were focused on,” Maher explained. “Cody did a great job of incorporating those elements into his presentation by asking questions and allowing the students to ask questions. He was very prepared.”

For example, students were asked to identify the four forces of flight. The answer: drag, lift, thrust, and weight.

Students were also asked to name the main parts of an aircraft (fuselage, wings, and horizontal stabilizer).

Elliott came prepared



Submitted photo

Erie High School senior Cody Elliott displays the panels of one of the planes he flies as part of his training to obtain a pilot’s license.

with air maps, a headset with a microphone, textbooks for his flight classes and several different models of planes for the students to explore.

“The students loved this,” Maher said. “They were interested and engaged in everything Cody had to share. He stressed the importance of getting an education and how good reading and math skills are vital for the real world.”

And, Elliott enjoyed sharing his experience on a subject he has a deep passion. Elliott’s interest in becoming a pilot began when he was 10 years old, when he and his father were picking up wheat and stopped to eat at a diner named the “Hanger Café.”

An advertisement offered

flights for \$100. Elliott convinced his dad to fork over a couple of Benjamin Franklins and Elliott’s life was forever changed.

“It was a very windy day, but the crop dust pilot said it was ‘no big deal,’ and they fly in the wind all the time,” Elliott said. “That experience lit a spark inside me.”

Ironically, while attending a flight show after the above-mentioned experience, his mother knew a flight instructor at the event, and the steps fell into place.

While most pre-teens are thinking of riding bikes or small dirt bikes, Elliott’s thoughts were of returning to the skies, but not as a passenger, but as a pilot.

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Erie senior extends basketball career, remaining in Neosho Co.

By EDDIE HIBBS III
Record Publisher & Owner

Erie High School senior Reid Duff accomplished a lot during his prep basketball career. He helped lead the team to the Class 2A State Tournament his junior year, and during his high school career, he became the second-leading scorer in program history.

Duff will now be taking his abilities to shoot the rock to Chanute as he committed to the Neosho County Community College basketball program during ceremonies last week at the high school gymnasium.

“I want to score a lot of points as a Panther,” Duff told The Record Monday, referencing his new program.

Duff has thought about playing at the next level since his freshman year, though he took his time, evaluating his different opportunities. He felt “very familiar” with the NCCC program.

“Why NCCC? That’s a great question,” Duff replied. “I felt like I have watched a lot of their games, and when I was little, I went to a lot of their camps. It just felt like the right choice.”

Ironically, it was when Duff

struggled early in his senior campaign that NCCC made perhaps the most impression.

“My favorite part about NCCC was when I wasn’t playing very well to start the season, they kept texting me, communicating with me,” Duff explained. “That meant a lot.”

Duff even joked that the coaching staff teased him a bit, too. After Duff went for 40 against Caney – a very good team, the NCCC coaches watched Duff’s next game.

“We come to watch you and you only score six,” Duff said the coaches teased him.

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CRYSTAL McGOWEN/For The Erie Record

Erie High School senior Reid Duff, center, commits to Neosho County Community College during ceremonies conducted last week at the school gymnasium. He was joined by his parents, Melissa and Denton Duff. Duff finished his prep career as the Red Devils’ second-leading all-time scorer with 1,186 points.

Thank You

A special thank you to the Erie High School Art Club for the wonderful addition of art to the outside of the Erie Thrift Store.

~ The Erie Community ~