

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2006

Durant Daily Democrat

Vol. 107, No. 237

Entire contents copyrighted © 2006

www.durantdemocrat.com

50 cents

New city budget to include rate increases

BY EVERETTE ALDOERFFER
STAFF WRITER

The Durant City Council approved the city's fiscal year 2006-2007 budget with no discussion from any members of the community at Tuesday's regular meeting.

The new budget includes increases in water, sewer and solid waste fees.

The council, acting under its

authority as the Durant City Utility Authority, voted to increase water, sewer and solid waste rates for the city. City water rates will increase 7.5 percent, sewer rates will increase 15 percent water and sewer tap fees will increase 25 percent. Solid waste disposal rates will increase 5 percent. The increases take effect with the new fiscal year July 1.

The resolution authorizing the increases was amended to exclude

an increase in roll-off rates. The roll-off issue was tabled until next month.

Prior to the council vote to approve the budget, City Manager Paul Buntz gave a short speech praising the budget and spoke of the process that was required to create a budget and the compromises that went along with it. The council approved the budget unanimously.

The council also her several cases

related to personal property. The first case was the request of Ronnie Burns to rezone his property on 49th from convenience commercial to single family residential. The request was supported by assistant city manager Tim Young and was unanimously approved with no discussion. The second case involved the rezoning of a property on West Alabama owned by Wilma and Dortha Belcher. The Belchers

requested the rezoning of the property from two-family residential to highway commercial and commercial residential. Young expressed concern about the legality of the action citing an illegal zoning action called "spot zoning." No action was taken by the council and Belcher was referred back to Young's office.

The council also considered the

See CITY, page 2

CITY

Continued from Page 1

abatement by demolition of a dilapidated structure. The council sent this issue back to the public hearing process.

The council approved the following proposals and resolutions:

- Continued participation in the Durant Main Street program.

- Approval of an agreement with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for industrial road access and parking lot in the foreign trade zone.

- Release of 50 percent of a city lien on property at 1309 West Texas.

- Lowered fees for copying and mechanical reproduction of city reports to state limits.

- A cost-sharing agreement with the Choctaw Nation for street improvements around

the Choctaw Resort and Casino.

- A resolution to accept a \$719,872 grant for construction at the airport.

- Approval of an agreement for the construction of a bridge and the dedication of land for park development in the Madison Ridge II subdivision.

- An amendment lowering the requirement for the amount of information that pawn shops must share with the police department

- A loan to provide economic development incentives to Eagle Suspension.

- The appointment of residents to various boards.

- A contract for uniform service for Durant city employees

- Approvals to purchase land for the expansion of the city landfill and an industrial park and a 3 percent pay raise for all non-union city employees.