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(Neb.)-Chadron Council Authorizes Pool Grant App, Gives City Manager Raise  [Listen](#)



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/26/2013 11:07 AM

(CHADRON)-At their meeting Monday night, the Chadron city council authorized a grant application to be sent to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) from the civic and community center financing fund. The council had delayed a decision at their regular meeting last week because they wanted to see if the Chadron Public Library could be added to the application in case the pool project does not become a reality. Also, Mayor Karin Fischer wanted to see the finished application as it would be sent.

At the meeting this week, city manager Wayne Anderson told council members that the application could not be added to at this point, because this is already the final stage of the approval process; the initial application was due and submitted by February 15th. In addition, Anderson said the grant is not set up as dual purpose, so two projects could not have been listed on the application anyway.

Mayor Karin Fischer said that the council decided it was at least worth finding out if the city could obtain grant funding to help with the project.

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If the pool project does become a reality for the city, and the grant is awarded to the project, a community room of some sort will have to be a part of the final plans in order to utilize those funds. Anderson shared with the council that the money, which will provide up to \$250,000 of funding, would basically cover the costs of having such a room at the pool.

Anderson said the idea for applying for the grant came from swimming pool committee brainstorming sessions.

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If the city receives the grant, the community center space could be set up and utilized as a meeting room, such as for birthday parties, or even as a rec room or weight room, at no extra cost to the pool project budget.

Although Mayor Fischer says she isn't for the project if taxpayers have to foot the bill, she does like the notion of grants and other funding sources paving the way.

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Anderson said the funds are not yet guaranteed, but they are available for someone's use, hence the importance of applying for them.

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Anderson said the criterion for using the money is simple and there aren't a lot of restrictions with this grant. If the pool project does not move forward, as Fischer mentioned, the grant money can and will have to be returned to the DED.

Also at the meeting, the council announced that after a six-month work performance review of Anderson, they have decided to increase his salary from \$65,000 to \$70,000 and make it retroactive to his actual six-month hiring anniversary, which was February 13th. Fischer says Anderson jumped right in, has worked hard, and deserves this raise.

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(Questions? Comments? E-mail roxie@chadrad.com.)

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