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## **Williston election may be delayed due to missed communication between city and newspaper**

**By Terry Witt, Senior Reporter © July 26, 2017 at 2:57 p.m.**

**Updated July 27, 2017 at 3:07 p.m.**

**WILLISTON** -- Williston City Council's special election may not be held on Sept. 19 as it had been planned due to a reported mix-up involving an email between City Clerk Frances Taylor and the local weekly newspaper, according to information released Tuesday night (July 24) at the regular twice-monthly meeting of the City Council.

City Manager Scott Lippmann said Taylor had sent an email containing the election advertisement to Williston Pioneer Sun News Editor Carolyn Ten Broeck, but Ten Broeck reportedly never received it.

Lippmann said the mistake will result in the election being postponed by a week or by the qualifying time for the election being postponed. The Group C post is on the ballot. That seat was formerly held by Tim Hass, who moved out of the city limits and thus had to resign before his term ended.

Taylor was absent from the Tuesday's council meeting. She has taken time off. And that didn't sit well with Council President Charles Goodman. Goodman said he hadn't been informed in advance that she was leaving.

Goodman wants to put in place more explicit procedures for the City Council to oversee its two top employees, City Manager Lippmann and City Clerk Taylor. He said they are both doing a good job, but the council needs better oversight.

Goodman expressed that he has a problem with employees going to training for a week without telling the council advance of their planned trip.

"Just disappearing for a week of training is not acceptable," Goodman said.

The council president asked council members to give him a list of suggestions for improving oversight of Lippmann and Taylor. He wants the list by the next meeting signed by the individual council members. The other City Council members are Vice President Nancy Wininger, and councilmen Kori Lamb and Elihu Ross.

Goodman said the council will discuss the suggestions publicly at the following council meeting.

As for the mix-up over the email containing the election advertisement, Goodman said he makes it a practice in his business to follow up important emails with a phone call.

In separate matters that night:

- Council members approved a tentative property tax millage rate for 2017-18 of 5.8627 mills, identical to the current rate. Goodman was the only council member to vote against the motion. He said he prefers to set the millage higher and then reduce in a later budget hearing if necessary. The council has two more budget hearings, the first at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 6 when the millage will be finalized and the second at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 when the budget will be given final approval.

- The council withdrew an agenda item to discuss a proposed drag racing strip in Williston. Lippmann said a representative of the company gave him a late notice he couldn't make the meeting. The city manager said he has few details about the proposal, but he said the company is probably thinking about putting the drag strip at the airport. He doesn't know if the council will support the drag strip. "You know they don't need a drag strip," Goodman jokingly said. "They can just go to Northwest Seventh Street."

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- The council approved a three year-contract with Waste Pro for garbage and trash pickup. There had been some complaints concerning Waste Pro's practice of picking up some of the yard trash set up along streets and leaving some of it to sit for weeks. The general consensus at the meeting was that since yard waste pickups are now weekly instead of biweekly, this will help resolve the issue.

- Councilwoman Nancy Wininger was assigned the duty of representing the council in establishing either a student liaison to the City Council or possibly a student council that would be involved in learning about how city government operates and serving as a voice of students for the city. She will work with the Williston Middle High School guidance counselor and possibly communicate with students on Facebook. Wininger brought the issue to the council for consideration.