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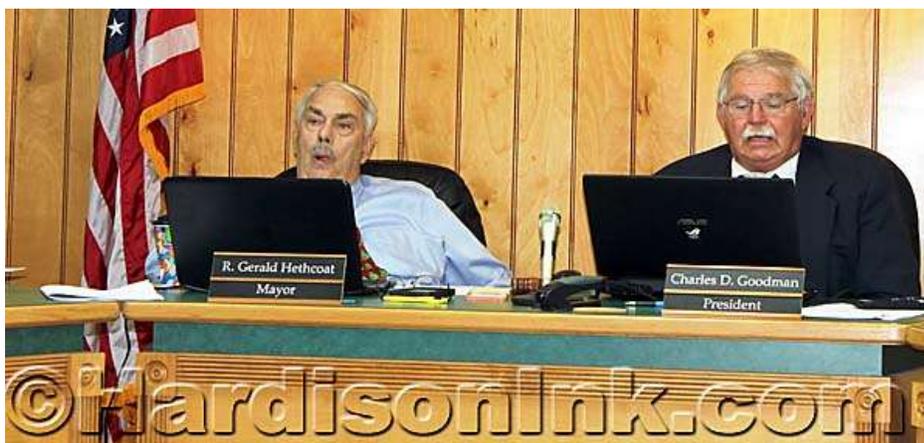
Williston moves forward with \$2.5 million City Hall project



Williston City Council members Marguerite Robinson and Kori Lamb think about matters during the Tuesday night (Dec. 5) meeting
Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Dec. 8, 2017 9:37 a.m.

WILLISTON – After some discussion between Williston City Council President Charles Goodman and Preconstruction Manager Derek Dykes of Oelrich Construction about a four-foot by four-foot “mud room” to be on the outer part of the future Williston City Hall, the four City Council members present Tuesday night (Dec. 5) told City Manager Scott Lippmann to move forward with a \$2.5 million construction project.



Williston Mayor R. Gerald Hethcoat and City Council President Charles Goodman sit at the front of the City Council Meeting Room Tuesday night.

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(from left) City Councilman Elihu Ross, City Manager Scott Lippmann and City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr. perform their duties during the City Council meeting Tuesday night.

City Council Vice President Nancy Winger was absent Tuesday night.

City Council President Goodman is very familiar with construction matters. Charles and Sue Goodman of Goodman Construction have over 30 years of experience in the North Central Florida Area, according to information on the Goodman Construction company website.

The City Council president suggested that rather than a “mud room,” the workers who visit City Hall after first rinsing at the City Barn work area (next to the police and fire stations), just have a shower and bib structure.

On Friday morning (Dec. 8), City Manager Lippmann confirmed that the revised construction plan for the future Williston City Hall shows a rinse-off station for boots. The area to rinse work boots will be located outside of the back door for City Hall. It will have a low wall around it and be in the open air outside, Lippmann said.

Another matter President Goodman spoke about Tuesday night -- before the City Council gave the go-ahead for Oelrich Construction to move forward with its work -- was columns inside the lobby.

Goodman said he is more interested in function rather than aesthetics. These are not load-bearing structures, and while they might help with traffic flow, the discussion about those columns Tuesday night showed that traffic flow was not part of the plan for the architect placing those columns in the lobby.

Nevertheless, as it stands, those columns are part of the construction set to happen.

When it came to the point of a method to pay for project, City Manager Lippmann said, the cost will be an estimated “\$2.509 million” and this calculates to be about \$209 per square-foot. That figure, the city manager said is within a good range for costs on a project like this.

City Finance Director Stephen Bloom, Lippmann said Tuesday night, has told him that the city can pay for the future City Hall.

“He (Bloom) is probably going to propose,” Lippmann said, “a combination of using some reserves to bring down the amount that we borrow. And the rest would be amortized over 30 years.”

Lippmann said the USDA Rural Development group has a grant-loan program for

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municipalities that is at 4 percent now. Bloom will conduct more research, Lippmann said, to potentially save the city even more money through funding with banks and other institutions.

President Goodman said he is hearing that interest rates are going to increase in the near future, as he gave his endorsement to tell the construction company to move forward with site-preparation work.

The for city leaders Tuesday night gave the green light to Oelrich Construction to keep going on the planned future Williston City Hall.



Some of the many lights in Heritage Park of Williston are seen here. The city's Christmas Parade and Light Up Williston event on Saturday (Dec. 2) was a resounding success.