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Williston holds first city council meeting in new City Hall



The front of the new Williston City is so long it needed to be captured in two photos.



and yes, the car closest to the photographer in this shot is the 2008 PT Newser (Cruiser) that replaced the former late model Jeep Compass (Newsmobile) that was destroyed in a crash in Chiefland this year.

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Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison ©

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WILLISTON -- It has been several months since the old Williston City Hall was bulldozed away and construction of a new \$3 million City Hall began.

The relatively unfurnished main entrance of City Hall is big. This view is looking from the front door toward the welcoming desk. There is some very attractive woodwork to be added to the front desk.



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This view is from the front desk looking toward the front door.



This is the view of the audience as seen by the person in the City Council President's seat. Each City Council member is not able to see every member of the audience. The podium used to be to one side of the audience, so that the people could see the speaker, as well as the full City Council.

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This view from the back center of the audience section shows that Williston, like Bronson, has very awkwardly placed a podium so that the person speaking to the City Council will have their back toward the audience and there are only going to be a few, if any seats in the audience where a person can see the whole five-member City Council. This photograph was taken while the photographer was standing up at the back of the room.



City Council President Nancy Winger

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City Council Vice President Marguerite Robinson



City Councilman Justin Head

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City Councilman Charles Goodman (seated) speaks to surveyor Steve McMillan about a replat of some previously platted property.



Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant Alyssa Monaghan is seen in action as a substitute for City Clerk Fran Taylor.

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Before the start of the meeting, seen here (from left) are Vice President Marguerite Robinson, City Councilman Justin Head, Mayor Jerry Robinson, City Council President Nancy Winger, City Councilman Charles Goodman, City Councilman Elihu Ross, City Manager Scott Lippmann and Williston City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr.



One of the cute decorations from the Williston Peanut Festival is seen here in the lobby of the new Williston City Hall.

On Tuesday night (Nov. 6), the Williston City Council held its first meeting in the almost-finished structure. Yes, the certificate of occupancy is approved; but there is a bit of moving-in duties to be completed.

For instance, City Manager Scott Lippmann said his phone has an outlet in the wall, but there is no wire from that outlet to take the messages to and from the lines on the poles.

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The city manager half-jokingly mentioned that he does not look forward to checking his voice mailbox, and that he is sorry for anyone inconvenienced as a result of this technical issue that may be hampering communication.

An almost-funny, relatively loud air-conditioner in the meeting room will reportedly be quieter before the next City Council meeting on Nov. 20.

City Clerk Fran Taylor was absent due to her duties on Election Day. In Taylor's place was Planning and Zoning Administrative Assistant Alyssa Monaghan.

The very first person to make a motion in the brand-new City Hall was City Councilman Justin Head, who on Item 1 moved for approval of additions, deletions and changes, and approval of that very night's agenda. Councilman's Head's motion was seconded by City Council Vice President Marguerite Robinson, and met with a unanimous vote of approval.

City Council President Nancy Wininger opened the meeting with the grace and style she regularly exhibits. She welcomed everyone to the new City Hall.

City Councilman Charles Goodman is showing progress in his project to grow hair for the Locks of Love group.

Locks of Love is a non-profit charity based in the United States. The organization accepts donations of human hair and money with the stated intention of making wigs for Canadian and American children in need due to medical conditions that have caused them to permanently lose their hair.

The city councilman's daughter had cancer and he told her that he would grow it to donate to Locks of Love.

City Councilman Elihu Ross was the second Williston leader to make a motion in the new building. His motion to approve the minutes of the Oct. 16 meeting was seconded by Councilman Goodman and met with a unanimous vote of approval.

There was action related to some rezoning matters, which met with no resistance.

The City Council unanimously approved four standard resolutions required for the \$700,000 Community Redevelopment Block Grant application for a sewer plant upgrade. Grant Administrator David Fox of Fred Fox Enterprises Inc. helped the municipal leaders understand why certain actions were required.

As for an official grand opening ceremony for the new Williston City Hall, Vice President Robinson, who is a member of the Williston Woman's Club, said the club has spoken about co-hosting the event, which would include providing some refreshments.

The club prefers not to have this event on the same day of the Light Up Williston event – Dec. 1.

The day after, Dec. 2, a Sunday is a possible time for the celebration.

City Manager Lippmann and city staff will be working with the Woman's Club to determine the best date and time for the event.