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RGH keeps on track with Williston



City Councilman Charles Goodman (left) tells Project Manager Chris Crehore of Oelrich Construction that when he hears caulk as a method for keeping water out in regard to a roof, he always questions that method. Goodman, a licensed contractor was speaking in regard to a reported repair of a roof leak at the brand-new Williston City Hall. Sitting next to City Councilman Goodman is City Councilman Elihu Ross.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 23, 2019 at 3:38 p.m.

WILLISTON – Regional General Hospital is meeting its payment plan with the City of Williston for some past-due electric bills.

Williston City Manager Scott Lippmann (left) and City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr. listen to City Councilman



Charles Goodman explain about his misgivings when Goodman hears that caulk is being used to stop a roof leak.

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City Council President Nancy Wininger said a TV reporter from Gainesville keeps calling her about the hospital paying utility bill as she began a discussion about the update for the hospital meeting its schedule to catch up to past-due bills.

City Manager Scott Lippmann said the proposed payment plan from RGH is on track with the hospital meeting its schedule on time and completely, and he anticipates the hospital to continue keeping its promise to pay its utility bills, as discussed last week.

The city manager mentioned the next payment is set to be on Friday (Jan. 25) and he has every expectation for that to happen as anticipated.

Lippmann told Wininger that he had spoken with City Attorney Frederick L. Koberlein Jr. to document the agreement from last week, which already exists in a written form.

Making a new document, the city manager told the city council president is a project with no return. The city attorney advised the city manager that memorializing the agreement between RGH and the city in another form would create no advantage for the city.

Therefore, Lippmann said, he simply looks forward to the hospital continuing to meet its financial obligations with the city. As far as rumors of other hospitals owned by George Perez, Lippmann said that is not relevant to the City of Williston.



Other Matters In Williston

Oelrich Construction Project Manager Chris Crehore led the work on the new Williston City Hall project, and here he tells City Council that all issues are resolved or are in the process of being resolved as far as a roof leak or

heating/air-conditioning units. Williston has a new city planner, who is attempting to secure a building official as the company previously contracted with the city continues to help it in regard to building applications. The new city planner was asked on Tuesday night to approach the Levy County Building Department to seek help in the interim -- if the county will do so, and the new Williston city planner was asked to discover the cost for the county to help the city while the city tries to secure a building inspector. There appears to be a shortage of building officials in Florida, in part due to the catastrophe from hurricanes hitting the Panhandle, which continues to recover from that natural disaster.

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In regard to other matters that the City Council addressed Tuesday night, was some discussion about construction issues at the new City Hall.

The project manager for the Williston City Hall project from Oelrich Construction, addressed the issues. He said the noise from the air handler that was head in the meeting room is fixed.

That was true, as evidenced by the people being able to hear better in the meeting room. There is no public address system in that room, though, so if a council member speaks softly, he or she may not be heard.

Another issue that the project manager addressed was a leak in the roof.

The leak, the Oelrich Construction representative said, was caused by a pinhole next to a flange on an exhaust fan on the roof, and that was repaired by adding some caulk.

City Councilman Charles Goodman, a licensed contractor, said that when he hears caulk as a remedy to prevent water from leaking through a roof, he is not comfortable.

“If you got caulk there to hold water out,” Goodman said, “I fail to see how you can say the caulk is going to last for the period of the roof.”

The city has at least a one-year workmanship warranty on the City Hall roof, and there is an extended warranty on the material used for the roof.

“But caulk is not roof material,” Goodman said.

The project manager from Oelrich Construction said Goodman is correct, but there is a one-year warranty on everything in the building.

As for whether caulk to prevent water from leaking through a point on the roof will present an ongoing maintenance issue, the construction project manager assured Goodman that it would not.

Oelrich Construction was selected to lead the Williston City Hall design-build project with Walker Architects and Wright-Pierce Engineering.

The project scope included demolition of the existing city administrative building to construct the new, more expansive City Hall building.

In other news from the building of the new City Hall, City Manager Scott Lippmann said the original plaque from the previous City Hall will be cleaned and then placed in a grassy mound at the front of the new City Hall.

The city leaders also spoke about revising application forms and fees for special events and parades.