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City residents are being asked to voluntarily conserve water beyond current restrictions

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

Nephi residents need to begin to voluntarily conserve water because the culinary water system is being challenged by current use.

"Our wells are being taxed," said Seth Atkinson, city administrator. "We need some cutbacks on water use by our citizenry."

He suggested that citizens be asked to voluntarily curb use in addition to following the city ordinance which prohibits outdoor watering between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 P.M.

Larry Ostler, city council member, said that in addition to citizens being asked to cut back on use, the city should also do so. He travels out to his farm each day at 5 a.m. and has seen the park being overly watered and puddles being made by the sprinkling system there.

"We have done that," said Atkinson. "We have also cut back at the city golf course."

That was becoming obvious as the rough at the golf course was getting quite rough.

Mayor Glade Nielson suggested that the city might need to consider making a more strict watering schedule mandatory.

"Has the voluntary request worked in the past?" he asked.

The city staff can tell if the voluntary cutbacks are working because the city can monitor the culinary use of residents.

"Studies have shown that people end up using more water outdoors when strict mandates are imposed," said Lisa Brough, city recorder/finance director.

They tend to water more deeply and longer in the hours they are allowed to water those studies show.

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THUMBS UP • Keslie and Carly Cunningham and Addi Mattinson, all of Mona, wave and cheer on the leaders of Stage 2 of the Tour of Utah on Wednesday, Aug. 8. The second stage had riders from all over the world riding from Payson, over the Nebo Loop Road, and then back to Payson, a total of 86.3 miles. Several spectators lined the route through Mona and waved signs, cowbells, and whistled for their favorite team. The Tour finished up on August 12 in Park City.

Nephi City awards bid for culinary water systems improvement project

By Myrna Trauntvein

Times-News Correspondent

On July 17, the city opened sealed bids for the upcoming culinary water system improvement project with the happy result that the bid was lower than expected.

Sunrise Engineering projected the project cost to be \$16,483,970, said Seth Atkinson, City Administrator. Some of the costs had been reduced after the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) removed grant funding from the project.

After discussion, the council agreed to authorize the Nephi City Mayor Glade Nielson to sign the funding proposals.

"The overall project was originally projected to be more costly," said Atkinson. "The federal government yanked away \$3 million."

Because of work done by Sunrise Engineering, some of that funding had been restored.

"We are recommending the council approve the additional funding proposal by USDA and authorize the mayor to sign the associated documents."

Following the approval of the funding, the council then agreed to approve the Notice of Award which is a written notification from the city to the successful bidder and that, effective with the receipt of the notice, the contractor is authorized as the winner of the bid

to do the job.

The top three bidders were as follows: Johansen Construction Inc. at \$14,794,295; Terry Brotherson Excavating at \$15,200,439; and Condie Construction at \$17,764,376 with Johansen Construction Inc. being recognized as the low bidder.

"The city council reviewed the full bid tabulation at the council work session on July 25," said Atkinson.

Sunrise Engineering has examined the low bid carefully to determine whether or not it is considered responsive. A "responsive bid" means a bid or proposal that substantially complies with the invitation to bid or request for proposals and all prescribed procurement procedures and requirements.

Atkinson said that Sunrise Engineering and the city staff recommended awarding the contract to Johansen Construction Inc (JCI) for \$14,794,295.

"Sunrise Engineering has also approached USDA for additional funding for potential cost overruns on the project," said Atkinson. "When funding for the project was originally pursued through USDA, there was an additional \$3 million in grant funding that had been allocated."

Through decisions made back in Washington D.C., this grant funding was removed from the Nephi City project and awarded to another entity.

Sunrise petitioned USDA for this funding to be replaced.

"Last Friday, USDA allocated \$2 million in grant funding toward the water project and authorized an additional \$781,000 in loan funding at a 3.125 percent interest rate."

Although it is not entirely grant funded, it is a significant increase from the current funding status, Atkinson said.

"We had been having to scale back," said Atkinson.

With the increased funding, much of the project can be restored.

He said that the percent of interest being paid would not have much impact on the pay-back.

"The interest rate is about double the previous rate that the city locked in, but rates have been on the rise and it was to be expected when requesting additional funding," he said.

He said that the city staff recommended accepting the additional funding from USDA.

An amended Letter of Conditions, a Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions, a Request for Obligation of Funds, a new Grant Agreement and three Loan Resolutions were also presented for council consideration.

The council reviewed the Full Bid Tabulation, the Notice of Award, the Amended Letter of Conditions, the Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions, the Request for Obligation of Funds and the Grant Agreement which included the Loan Resolution of \$9,000,000, the Loan Resolution of \$5,290,000 and the Loan Resolution of \$781,000.

The Water and Waste System Grant Agreement with the United States Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture agrees that USDA

See **Systems** on page 5



GOING AFTER THE OUT-OF-STATERS • It was a night of hard hits at the Juab County Demolition Derby Saturday night. Wes McIntosh, Richfield, in the number 5 car, goes after Gary Dean, Stevensville, Montana. There were 23 out-of-staters competing, but it was 16-year old Jackson Johnson of Delta who walked away with the \$15,000 prize. McIntosh placed 3rd. Photo by Austin Dopp



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