

New City Council Chambers opens after lengthy remodeling process

FROM PAGE 1

building on the city-owned lot at the corner of Western Avenue and East Fourth Street, south of the utility payment drive-through area.

Because of plans to build a new Council Chambers, the council voted in November 2013 to sell the old City Hall to Lampasas resident Joe Corcoran for \$75,000. Corcoran renovated the building with improvements including a new roof, new windows and electrical work.

In 2015, after the council rejected two rounds of bids for a new Council Chambers because of concerns about the expense, Lampasas bought the old City Hall building back from Corcoran for \$229,000.

When the city reacquired the building, officials said the purchase price reflected more than \$150,000 of improvements Corcoran made to the building. Officials said that because of insurance and bond requirements for projects contracted by public entities, the work at the building to that point cost less than it would have if the city had been in charge of the project.

The city began its remodeling work by serving for a time as its own general contractor -- with contracts to several individual trades.

Then, in May 2018, the City Council voted to award ASJ a contract for the renovation of the former City Hall building.

The contract with ASJ was for \$931,365, and the city ultimately approved a total of \$92,819 in change orders, deGraffenried said. More than \$54,500 of the total change order amount was for Municipal Court items city officials decided to add to the project after work began,



DAVID LOWE | DISPATCH RECORD

The audience seating area, council dais, city staff table and speaker podium are shown in the new City Council Chambers a few days before the council met in the renovated facility for the first time.

deGraffenried said.

The total cost of the facility renovation project was \$1.02 million, plus \$125,000 for an elevator, deGraffenried said.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Added to those amounts are two expenditures the City Council approved Monday for the facility.

The council unanimously OK'd the purchase of furnishings, with the total amount not to exceed \$8,000.

For use during meetings and training sessions, city staff members plan to purchase about 20 tables -- 18 inches wide by 8 feet long, as

well as chairs to go with the tables, deGraffenried said. Staff members also plan to buy floor mats and file cabinets, the city manager said.

On another item, the council voted 6-0, with Councilman Mike White abstaining, to pay \$5,939.80 for window tinting in the renovated building.

White stepped down from the dais for the agenda item and abstained from the vote because his company, Advanced Window Tint, will perform the work.

City staff sought a quote from another company but did not receive a response, deGraffenried said. Window tinting will cost less

and will require less maintenance than blinds would have, the city manager said.

The quote document from Advanced Window Tint states the company's work will be for the entire building except the north-facing front doors.

COMMENTS ABOUT RENOVATED FACILITY

Near the start of a council workshop session Monday, Mayor Misti Talbert addressed the public as she offered brief comments about the new council meeting place.

"We're very proud," Talbert said. "We hope you are very proud."

The mayor thanked city staff members for their work connected to the renovation project.

"This has been a lot ... but I think it's been worth it," Talbert said. "I think if you sit here for just a minute, you're going to realize this is very worth it."

Chief of Police Sammy Bailey mentioned the new meeting venue as part of her invocation at the start of the council's regular session.

A formal open house and dedication ceremony is planned in December, city officials have announced.

In an interview, deGraffenried said it is good to expand the public use of a building that he said was "a foundational piece of the city" when the facility was constructed.

Renovation crews kept the original floors and stairs in the former City Hall building, and they retained as much of the original molding and door framing as possible, deGraffenried said.

Throughout the project, some residents voiced concerns about the expense and whether a new council meeting venue is necessary.

Asked about those concerns, and about whether renovation was a better option than constructing a new building, deGraffenried said, "I think the choice of the project was correct."

"I think that to say we have not learned anything from remodeling an 85-year-old building would be incorrect," the city manager added. "There's some things we certainly would do differently ..."

Nevertheless, deGraffenried said overall, the city got a good value for what it spent, "and I think it's a building that will serve the needs of the community for the next 50 years."

CATTLE AUCTION

The Oct. 30 Lampasas Cattle Auction report follows.

Cattle and calves: Total cattle 217, compared to 918 last year and 859 at this time last year.

Compared to last sale, feeder steers were steady to \$3 higher; heifers \$3-\$5 higher. Slaughter cows and slaughter bulls were steady.

Feeder cattle accounted for 82 percent. Slaughter cows and bulls accounted for 18 percent.

Average price and top price follow.

Steers: 300-400 lbs., \$1.64-\$1.80 lb.; 400-500 lbs., \$1.33-\$1.52 lb.; 500-600 lbs., \$1.24-\$1.42 lb.; 600-700 lbs., \$1.16-\$1.25 lb.; 700-800 lbs., \$1.03-\$1.10 lb.

Heifers: 300-400 lbs., \$1.38-\$1.74 lb.; 400-500 lbs., \$1.24-\$1.47 lb.; 500-600 lbs., \$1.14-\$1.22 lb.; 600-700 lbs., \$1.03-\$1.25 lb.; 700-800 lbs., \$0.89-\$1.12 lb.

Slaughter cows: Under 800 lbs., no test; 800-1,100 lbs., \$0.30-\$0.40 lb.; 1,100-1,300 lbs., \$0.35-\$0.55 lb.

Slaughter bulls: 1,000-1,300 lbs., \$0.50-\$0.6 lb.; 1,300-2,100 lbs., \$0.58-\$0.75 lb.

Woman unharmed after Fourth Street rollover

BY ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH
DISPATCH RECORD

Lampasas first responders said the driver of a pickup was uninjured after a rollover just before 1 p.m. Monday west of the intersection of U.S. Highway 190 and East Fourth Street.

Julie Garza, a Lampasas County resident, was unharmed, and Lampasas Fire Marshal Ronnie Withers said she declined medical treatment at the scene.

Garza was the only occupant of the pickup, according to Lampasas Police Department Patrol Lt. Chuck Montgomery.

Montgomery said the white 2002 Ford F-150, which was headed west on Fourth

Street, was traveling too fast for the wet road conditions.

The wreck was preceded by a light rain Monday morning.

"Due to the wet road conditions, her vehicle lost traction and slid into the curb," Montgomery said. "The momentum and the curb were enough to tip the vehicle a one-quarter turn."

Montgomery said the vehicle spun and then rolled before coming to rest on its passenger side, facing east.

"Considering the circumstances, I was surprised to see it was not more damaged," Montgomery said of the truck.

Lampasas Fire Department, Acadian Ambulance Service and Texas Department of Public Safety troopers assisted LPD at the scene.



ALEXANDRIA RANDOLPH | DISPATCH RECORD

A 2002 Ford F-150 rolled onto its side during wet weather Monday west of the U.S. Highway 190-East Fourth Street intersection.

Time change coming Sunday

Daylight saving time will end Sunday at 2 a.m.

To stay on schedule and avoid forgetting about the time change, people may want to set timepieces one

hour backward before they go to sleep Saturday night.

Standard time will continue until March 8, 2020, when the time will "spring forward" an hour.

DISTRICT COURT

Lampasas County 27th District Court is scheduled to convene today with Judge John Gauntt presiding over the day's hearings.

When the court meets again on Nov. 8, the docket includes the following:

Pretrial hearing for Ronald Eddy Wesche of Lampasas, charged with possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram in a drug-free zone. A waiver of arraignment was filed.

Wesche also has an adjudication hearing set Nov. 8 on a charge of possession of a controlled substance over 1 gram and less than 4 grams. Bond was reduced to \$3,000 on that charge.

Pretrial hearing for Roberta Rose King of Lampasas, charged with possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram in a drug-free zone. A waiver of arraignment has been filed for her.

Jury announcement for Melissa Ann Oliver of

Lampasas, charged with misappropriation of fiduciary/financial property over \$2,500 and less than \$30,000 involving an elderly person. A jury trial could be held for her on Nov. 18.

Pretrial hearing for Brian Michael Lofton of Copperas Cove, charged with possession of a controlled substance over 4 grams and less than 200 grams.

Pretrial hearing for Athena Crystal Barnett of Sunrise Beach, charged with possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram in a drug-free zone.

Open plea for Lacey Gene Amanda Higgins of Lampasas, charged with possession of a controlled substance over 1 gram and less than 4 grams.

Pretrial hearing for Christopher John Sanchez of Lampasas, charged with evading arrest/detention with a vehicle.

Pretrial hearing for Rene

Alvarado Cervantes of Lampasas, charged with driving while intoxicated-third or more.

Pretrial hearing for Brian Clyde Powell of Lampasas, charged with possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

Scheduled in 27th District Court for Nov. 15 are:

Motion to suppress hearing for Orville Carl Reynolds of Lometa, charged with possession of a controlled substance over 1 gram and less than 4 grams.

Motion to suppress hearing for Tammy Jo Barr of Lampasas, charged with possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram.

Review for Joel Travis Meadows of Cedar Park, charged with driving while intoxicated and felony repetition.

Court action planned for later includes:

Plea hearings with presentence investigation Dec. 6 for Gabriella Michealson Orozco of Lampasas, charged with forgery of a financial instrument and with credit card or debit card abuse.

Jury announcement Dec. 6 for James Earl Miles of Kempner, charged with assault on a family/household member with a previous conviction. A jury trial could be held for him on Dec. 16.

Pretrial hearing Dec. 6 for Ana Maria Mendoza of Hutto, charged with possession of marijuana over 4 ounces and less than 5 pounds. Jury announcement is set for Jan. 17, 2020.

Adjudication hearing Dec. 13 for Scott Alan Mills of Lampasas, charged with theft over \$1,500 and less than \$20,000.

Status hearing Jan. 17, 2020 for Benito Amaya of Kenedy, charged with driving while intoxicated-third or more.

ARRESTS

The following arrests were reported to the Lampasas Dispatch Record by area law enforcement officials. The Dispatch Record prints the name and charge(s) of people arrested on at least one Class B misdemeanor -- or more serious -- charge.

OCT. 30

Kayla Nicole Bench, 27, of Lampasas on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, state jail felony level under one gram.

John Robert Lockhart, 17, of Lampasas on a charge of sexual assault.

Tonya Nicole Soria, 28, of Lampasas on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, state jail felony level under one gram.

OCT. 29

Cody Wayne Roseberry, 24, of Lampasas on a charge of duty on striking a highway landscape greater than \$200.

OCT. 28

Keantae Montrelle Jackson, 34, of Temple on charges of possession of a controlled substance, state jail felony under one gram, and possession of marijuana under

two ounces in a drug-free zone.

OCT. 27

Raymond Darrell Beabout, 63, of Kempner on a charge of possession of a controlled substance, state jail felony level under one gram.

Robin Anne Burgess, 45, of Killeen on a charge of theft of a firearm, and a Conway, Arkansas municipal warrant on a charge of theft of property.

OCT. 26

Biregeya Nzabakiza, 22, of Austin on a charge of driving while intoxicated, blood alcohol concentration over 0.15.

Ulyses Fabian Rodriguez, 19, of Copperas Cove on charges of possession of marijuana under two ounces, possession of drug paraphernalia and no driver's license.

OCT. 25

Ryan Small, 21, of Copperas Cove on a charge of assault of a family/household member by impeding breath/circulation.

OCT. 24

Michelle Ann Callahan, 40, of Marble Falls on Burnet County warrants for four charges of aggravated perjury.

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