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By GISEELLE ARREDONDO

- Leader & Times

The Liberal City Commission's meeting Tuesday evening consisted of two motions for second readings and other unanimous approvals.

This meeting was also the first time the public heard the plans for the 2014 budget as presented by Finance Director Chris Ford.

Ford mentioned that the mill levy has not changed in the past seven years due to the exhaustion of reserves and staff, but that it will now be necessary in order to keep providing services to citizens at the same level as it is expected. The increase of 4.8 mills was based on a July 1 estimated valuation.

Ford also stated that as total property tax dollars requested will exceed the limitation amount as set forth in the computation to determine limit for 2014 Worksheet, the adoption of an ordinance to authorize the levying of the requested property taxes amount in excess of the prior year levy amount, prior to the formal adoption of the 2014 Budget is required.

November 1 is when the final evaluations will be set, he said.

The commission motioned for Ordinance No. 4413, the levying of tax revenues for budget year 2014, to advance onto a second and final reading Aug. 27. Regular protocol is the commission will also make a motion at that time to introduce a resolution to approve that budget.

Other items covered in the meeting included Resolution No. 2174, accepting an Airport FAA Grant, Rehabilitation of Taxiway A & C. This project would start in August and work its way around the air show in October. This item was advanced for a second reading.

Resolution No. 2175, authorizing the submittal of a 2013 Kansas Moderate Income Housing Grant Application to the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, is a \$5 million multi-family project consisting of 36 to 48 units with applicants allowed to reapply. Motion passed 5-0.

Memorandum of understanding between USD 480 and Mid-America Air Museum/City of Liberal for 2013 Robotics Cooperative Program was approved unanimously.

“The sky is the limit with these robotics,” commissioner Joe Denoyer said.

“It would be wonderful to see the district tap into these, as well,” Vice-mayor Janet Willimon added.

Urban Boundary Lines, a small change recommended by K.D.O.T. and FHWA on the

classification of roads and highways for access to federal funding requiring the approval of the city and then county, was motioned to a Second Reading for Oct. 1.

The purchase of an Internet Protocol (IP) camera and server to store digital evidence was requested by the police department, and it was approved unanimously.

The purpose of the IP camera is to allow surveillance of high crime areas that have been identified in the City of Liberal. The total cost for the IP camera is \$11,834 and after subtracting the amount provided by the JAG Disparity Grant, there is a balance of \$1,260, which will be provided by a private organization awarded to the Liberal Police Department. Motion for purchase of IP camera and server passed 5-0.

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