City commission will allow public vote

By GISEELLE ARREDONDO

• Leader & Times

The Liberal City Commission meeting Tuesday evening included a unanimous approval for every item listed in the consent agenda.

And when the USD No. 480 Board of Education presented and further discussed its financial request for a half-cent sales tax, it was no exception. The atmosphere in the chambers was quite positive, too.

“First of all, mayor and commissioners, I want to say thank you for allowing us to come back to you this evening,” USD 480 Board of Education president Delvin Kinser said.

“At our last visit, we as a school board, made a request of the city… to allow the citizens of Liberal to vote to use some of your sales tax authority for the use of retiring a school bond issue. We are working our plans as we speak.”

He continued, “Thank you for not giving up and being willing to come back to the table and talk to us again.

“With that being said, here we are again. It is the request of the USD 480 Board of Education that the City of Liberal would be willing to put a question before our voters to use some of the city sales tax authority.

“We, as USD 480 Board of Education, would like to request the use of half-cent sales of tax authority for the use of retirement of the school bond issue.

“It would be in effect – our request would be for 25 years or the life of the bond, whichever is less, so as we are moving forward with our plans, putting together the scope of our project, we see that a bond only needs to be 15 years… we are formulating that right now.

“I would just like to say, before I open questions or if you have anything you’d like to say, the first time we came and talked to you I talked about how in Liberal when we want to do something as a community, we find a way to work together and get it done.

“And I call that the Liberal way. I believe it is. From the very beginning, when travelers were coming through and somebody needed a little water to get them through, the Liberal way was to give a helping hand, and I really think that