

By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader

Although the city wants to make everyone aware that WaterPark Experts is no longer contracting the aquatics center, they are pleased to announce that former project contractor for WaterPark Experts, Cap Kelly, is now heading up the project with Alamo Grid Construction of Mississippi LLC.

Vice Mayor Doug LaFreniere began a question and answer forum between Kelly and the city.

“When do you expect the project to be completed?” LaFreniere asked.

“We have a completion date of May 25, 2009,” Kelly assured the city commission.

“You have met with the city, and you are fully aware what our expectations are?” LaFreniere asked.

“Yes sir,” Kelly answered with confidence.

Kelly went on to inform the commission that the percentage of what is already completed sits at 50 percent. He also stated the construction process is in pretty good shape right now.

“Over the last few weeks, we have dotted every ‘i’ and crossed every ‘t’ to make sure we are on top of everything,” he said. “You guys have been great. You took a bad situation and made it good.

“I never met a community that works so hard to actually please everybody,” Kelly continued. “It

is a pleasure, most communities don't really give a flip and you guys do. You should really be commended for that. It has taken some time to bounce back a bit, but we are going in the right direction. We will have a beautiful park – it will be very nice.”

The labor contract agreement on the agenda between Alamo Grid Construction and the City of Liberal was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Immediately following the city commission meeting, Mayor Joe Denoyer released the following information:

“Twenty days ago, the City of Liberal announced it would be taking over the pool project and there was some criticism at that time, but please understand at the time time, we provided all the information the city was provided by WaterPark Experts. However, since then, it has become much clearer and the city is moving forward as follows.

“Alamo Grid Construction of Mississippi, LLC (‘Alamo’), originally under contract with WaterPark Experts, was the project management performing the pool construction. The city has reached a labor agreement with Alamo to complete the pool project after WaterPark Experts notified the city that they would not be able to fulfill their obligation to complete the pool project.

“It is the desire of both parties to this agreement to continue to work harmoniously and to complete the pool project, which will serve the best interests of the citizens of Liberal. The agreement includes work rules and insurance requirements for all construction activities and those current operations at the pool are not disrupted. The city will become prime contractor and will pay directly for all materials and subcontractor invoices.

“The city is considering all legal options at this time.”

Denoyer was unable to comment at this time as to why WaterPark Experts backed out of the aquatic center project.