

City well removed from service

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Wednesday, 23 June 2010 21:24 -

Higher level of arsenic detected.

A city well, at the intersection of Avenue G and 16th Street, was taken out of service.

At their June 1 Gothenburg City Council meeting, members were told that the well will not be used unless needed during a catastrophic emergency.

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Service officials notified the city several weeks ago that the well violated the maximum level of arsenic for drinking water.

If needed, city administrator Bruce Clymer said officials must first notify the NDHHS and all its Gothenburg customers.

Clymer said the fix is temporary, adding that three wells now service the city.

NDHHS officials lowered the maximum allowable level of arsenic in 2000 from 50 parts to 10 parts per billion. The city well tested at 11 and 12 parts over the last year.

At the council's previous meeting, an engineer discussed options.

Closing down the well temporarily was the least expensive.

Officials have said the well hasn't been used for drinking water since 2006.

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In other business, the council:

granted a Gothenburg Redevelopment Authority request for \$27,574 of sales tax funds to pay off a \$24,886 loan and interest plus \$2,688 in insurance costs.

approved two contractors for an owner-occupied housing grant. They include Lamonte Schlake of Schlake Construction, \$19,753; and Terry Kruse of Kruse Construction, \$16,483.

okayed a request from the Gothenburg Rotary Club for \$2,000 to pay for fireworks for the city's Fourth of July celebration.

learned that city officials have hired Schmader Electric of West Point to switch city warning sirens from AC to DC with battery back up at a cost of \$11,750.

Clymer said it will take six to eight weeks to get the parts needed to make the conversion.

Repair of the three sirens is needed because two of three failed to sound when activated.

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