

Council specifies line ownership

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The Green River City Council approved the first reading of an ordinance to specify the ownership and maintenance obligations for sewer lines.

The amendment specifies home owners are responsible for the line up to the sewer main.

According to information included with the ordinance, the city contacted 10 communities about their procedures involving ownership and maintenance of sewer lines. Eight of those 10 surveyed claimed the property owner has responsibility.

With little discussion among the Council, members approved the first reading of the ordinance amendment.

During the Dec. 20 meeting, Council agreed to participate in a National League of Cities-sponsored service line warranty program.

Councilman Jim Boan said the city should educate residents about the warranty program and encourage them to purchase the warranty, saying it is very affordable in comparison to the thousands of dollars it costs to replace a sewer line.

The Council also voted in favor of applying for a State Lands and Investments Board grant to pay for the proposed police department building. The city will apply for a \$3.75 million 50-50 grant from SLIB. The city intends to pay its half of the grant by listing the \$250,000 purchase price of the site and \$1.625 million it hopes to receive through approval of the sixth-penny improvement projects tax.

City Administrator Barry Cook told the Council the city would seek conditional approval for the grant, specifying voters approving the sixth-penny tax in November. If voters don't approve the tax, Cook said the city could approve for SLIB funding at a later date.

The total amount requested would cover the architect's estimated cost of the building.

Cook said bids for the building's construction could list a higher or lower cost of construction.