

Chamber Does Study on Plastic Bag Usage

By Dustin Wright
Sentinel Managing Editor

A small, multi-month study conducted by members of the Seminole Area Chamber of Commerce's Board of Directors pertaining to use of canvas/plastic bags showed a thin margin of division.

Division which saw some local residents in favor of an all-out plastic bag ban within the Seminole community by local merchants. And others who say community leaders should continue to allow local residents to use plastic bags as part of their respective shopping experiences.



"Honestly, I thought there would be more people leaning one way or the other on this issue," said Shelby Concotelli,

realize it would be this close (of a debate)."

In the 2012 calendar year, members of the Seminole City Council asked members of the Chamber to spearhead the plastic bag study on their behalf.

According to a report of the study, which was given to members of the City Council this past Monday evening, Chamber of Commerce officials received 34 verbal responses during the trial period in relation to the plastic bag ban proposal.

Of the 34 responses, 19 local residents said "Yes" in response to a ban of plastic bags by Seminole merchants within the Seminole City Limits, compared to 11 "No" responses.

Four responses were classified as being "Riding the Fence/Undecided," according to information provided by Chamber of Commerce officials.

Concotelli stated the Chamber had received close to 70 total responses for the study, but disqualified those responses to the polling due to a lack of participant's name and address requirements of the polls.

"We had a fairly decent response, but a lot of people feel this is a touchy subject and didn't

want their names associated with it," she said.

No action was considered by members of the Seminole City Council in the Monday meeting, as the presentation was listed as part of the Council's "Administrative Report" portion of the meeting, where no action may be taken on items discussed during the segment.

Many communities in the Lone Star State are in similar positions, considering their fate concerning

the use/non-use of plastic bags within their communities.

One of Texas' largest communities, Austin, issued an ordinance in the 2012 calendar banning the use of plastic bags by retailers within their community.

In the West Texas region, leaders in the Fort Stockton community made a similar move in 2011, where they installed an ordinance banning plastic bag use from it's community's retail businesses.

President/CEO of the Seminole Area of Commerce. "I didn't



Sentinel Photo/Dustin Wright

2013 SHS BASKETBALL COURT

Five young ladies will make up the 2013 Seminole High School Basketball Court, which was recently voted upon by the SHS student body. They include, from left to right: Ysela Ysasi, freshman attendant; Maggie Savage, senior attendant; Aryn Herrera, 2013 SHS Basketball Queen; Morgan Jones, junior attendant; and Brooke McCormick, sophomore attendant. The court will be presented in a Jan. 25 pep rally/coronation, at 3:15 p.m., at the SHS Gymnasium, as well as during halftime of the Lubbock Cooper/Seminole boys basketball game, later that evening.

Water: from page one

and Seagraves communities.

And, according to City of Seminole officials, pipe work associated with the water transfer project was anticipated to begin earlier this week.

"It's my understanding (from the companies involved with the project) that they were to begin work on the pipeline installation sometime this past week," said Tommy Phillips, Seminole City Administrator.

The project was bid for a 180-day -- or roughly six month -- completion.

Gaines County Commissioners and City of Seminole officials finalized an interlocal agreement in late-September for the venture, which is anticipated to deliver a minimum of 400,000 gallons of treated effluent water from the City's wastewater pond to the Gaines County Park/Golf Course facilities, per day. In addition, the City of Seminole will oversee the installation, repairs and maintenance of the pipeline, while Gaines County will reimburse the City of Seminole for pipeline installation, maintenance and repairs to the line, as well as a 40-cent for each 1,000 gallon of discharged water delivered by the City through the pipeline to the County.

In mid-October, In mid-October, members of the Seminole City Council unanimously approved of two work bids for the project, which included a \$253,760 bid for the installation of a pump station at the City of Seminole's treated effluent wastewater pond and a \$1.09 million bid for the installation of roughly 10 miles of PVC piping.

The pipeline will follow a route which includes: CR 104, CR 106, CR 108 and CR 103, northeast of the Seminole community, as well as under CR 208 and CR 212, along U.S. Hwy. 62/385.

Whitney Underground Utilities of Valley Mills was awarded the \$1.09 million bid for the PVC pipeline installation, while Leonard Water

Services of Abilene was awarded the pump station work bid -- to be conducted at the City's Wastewater Treatment Facilities -- which was quoted at a price of \$253,760.

County officials, in a late July 2012 meeting, said they were suffering a water shortage at the 18-hole golf course facility that averaged roughly 400,000 gallons daily. On a peak summer day, according to Gaines County leaders, the GCGC could stand to use 900,000 to 1 million gallons of water to water the course.

To help alleviate some of the water issues, Gaines County recently completed the installation of a roughly 5 million gallon water reservoir at the course as a way to provide additional water storage and give some relief to the course's groundwater pumping systems.

In late-November, the Seminole City Council unanimously approved of a bid to issue Certificates of Obligation for the project. Out of six bids received, Seminole Council Members approved of a bid from the investment firm of Robert W. Baird and Co., Inc., which offered the City of Seminole the lowest in-

terest rate among six competitive bids for the \$1.76 million sought by the municipality to cover costs for the project.

Baird and Company's interest rate bid was quoted at being 1.818283 percent.

The \$1.76 million in Certificates of Obligations are set to be issued to the City by Dec. 20, and will have a 15-year payback, with an annual cost of \$144,000. The certificates could be paid off in full after a 10 year period, according to contract language.

Death Notice

WARD

Juanita Irene Ward 63, recently of Wright City, OK, previously of Lubbock lost her battle with cancer Friday, January 11, 2013. Services were held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, January 18 at the Denver City First United Methodist Church. Arrangements were under the direction of Boyer Memorial Chapel of Denver City, in association with Boyer Funeral Home of Seminole.

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