

Grants could be utilized to upgrade Fairbury's aging tennis courts.

Joe Costa appeared before members of the Fairbury City Council Wednesday night, bringing attention to cracks in the asphalt and foliage growing between those cracks. Costa said a grant is possible through the United States Tennis Association. Also, the Prairielands Foundation and a private donor have shown interest.

Resurfacing the tennis courts would cost around \$25,000 and another \$13,000 if two small courts are developed in the empty area. The size of the gates would need to be increased as well.

"The kids really embrace the opportunity to do something," Costa said.

Council members seemed to agree that the tennis court proposal was a good idea and a motion was approved to address a letter to USTA stating the city will do the necessary gate work to go along with the resurfacing project.

"That's a pretty good opportunity I think," stated Alderman Doug Hibsich.

Adam Dontz of the Greater Livingston County Economic Development Council appeared before the council to present information on an intergovernmental agreement for property tax abatement. The idea is to spur new taxable value and construction in the area, according to Dontz.

"This would be a binding agreement that the city would sign," said Dontz. "I'm glad we're having the discussion here. I want to take the time to fully explain it."

Several local taxing bodies are set to vote on the agreement this month, while some already have approved it. The Livingston County Board's finance committee has signed-off on the measure, which now goes before the full board for approval.

The council voted to approve the resolution, contingent upon approval by the Prairie Central Board of Education.

Police Chief Mike Frickey introduced the city's new officer, Keith Semmerling, who will eventually head off to police training. He is currently riding along with other officers. Frickey also shared a letter received by an out-of-state resident who thanked Sgt. Mark Travis for his response to an accident.

"It's nice the people out there appreciate the work our officers do," said Mayor Lynn Dameron.

Talk of stop signs and speed limits also resurfaced at the meeting. An ordinance was approved for a four-way stop sign at Walnut and Second streets with a revision to section three showing a maximum fine of \$125. The group also approved adding a speed limit sign on south Clay Street. Although there was some opposition to the 25 mph limit, the motion passed.

In other matters, the Fairbury City Council:

- Approved the levy, which includes numbers the city attorney puts together each year.

- Authorized donating gaming money to the local food pantry.

- Discussed the possibility of installing a streetlight at First and Oak streets. City Superintendent Leroy McPherson was instructed to contact the state to see what he could find out.