

Directors approve grant for bluff study

BY DAN MARSH
Siftings Herald

The Arkadelphia City Board held a brief regular meeting Thursday to approve a low bid for trash bags, fill vacancies on two committees and consider applying for a grant to develop a study that might lead to the creation of a new cultural center on the Ouachita River.

Directors Ann Sanders, Anthony Owen and Don Hager were absent. Brenda Hagerich, Deldra Baldwin and James Calhoun, along with Mayor Chuck Hollingshead, attended.

The board approved city staff's recommendation to apply for a 50/50 matching grant through the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, called the Tourism Attraction Feasibility Study Matching Grant Program. The \$30,000 grant project requires \$15,000 in matching cash from the city, Sarah Pettit, grants and research assistant, said. The feasibility study would focus on creation of a Caddo Nation Cultural Center on the Ouachita River bluff property.

Calhoun said he would be "excited to see this happen" and moved to approve the application. The board did so unanimously.

Directors also filled a vacancy on the Water and Sewer Committee. Jimmy Bolt, city manager, said Dr. Alan Wright has given up his appointment to the committee and that Brett Powell had expressed an interest in it. Bolt said Powell would finish Wright's term, set to expire on Feb. 17, 2012. Bolt nominated Powell, and the board approved the appointment.

See Grant, Page 3

Grant Continued from Page 2

Also, Bolt said, Peter Du-mais "can no longer serve on the Airport Committee due to his employment as city engineer. Joe Cooley can no longer serve due to his move outside the city limits."

Bolt nominated Alan Morvin to serve a term expiring in 2014 and Dr. James Blackmon to fill a term expiring in 2011. The board made both appointments.

In other business, the board awarded Jadcore the bid for the city's trash bags for 2010. "The company has

had our trash bag business in the past and the citizens were very satisfied with them," Bolt wrote to the board.

Directors also approved a resolution complying with the Federal Identity Theft Prevention program. In a memo to the board, Bolt wrote that municipalities "must pass agreements with guidelines for safeguarding customers' identities," under mandate from the Federal Trade Commission. Glen Beedle, city treasurer, told the board that the water department

already takes steps to protect vital customer information such as social security numbers and birth dates. "This is just a formality," he said of the resolution.

Directors also awarded the bid for 2010 real property insurance to Pennington Insurance, which submitted the low bid of \$31,561.

In his report to the board, Bolt reminded the public that the Round About Artist Studio Tour will be held this weekend. "It is a free, self-guided tour that takes you to the

private studios of working artists."

He also said he had met with Caddo Valley's mayor "concerning the dispatch contract and I am waiting for a response by the end of the month on if they want to continue the service."

He said a bike rack "furnished by the 2025 Commission has been installed at 6th and Main ... until the Royal Theater is finished and at that time will be moved in front of that location."