By Jan Rahn
Managing Editor

The second reading on an ordinance to start authorization for issuing bonds for the new water main project was held during the regular meeting of Grant City Council Tuesday night, May 24.

Bid opening for the project will be at the meeting June 14.

With the goal of keeping water rates down, council members will most likely authorize issuance of bonds if the bids are within the parameters of what's affordable.

According to City Superintendent Tyson McGreer, the Washington Avenue water main project could be in the neighborhood of $320,000.

The entire project would include replacing the main along Washington in addition to refinancing a current water debt. With interest rates as low as 3 percent, McGreer said refinancing at such a rate would save money in the long run.

Right now, interest rates are less than the inflation rate on construction costs, said McGreer.

The city is wanting to borrow the money and get the project done while rates are so low, in turn enabling the project to get accomplished without raising water rates.

If the bids to replace the Washington Avenue water main come in low enough, there's a chance a leftover block of Hancock might be done along with it, said McGreer. The block on Hancock remains from a previous project.

The new project's completion date is being left open ended, said McGreer, in hopes the bidding price might be better.

Several breaks in the old main dating back to the 1930s is cause for its replacement.

In Other Business

• Discussion was held on semi-trucks parking alongside Grant City Park.

An ordinance will be proposed at the next meeting to look at restricting or outlawing truck parking along the 800 block of Central Avenue.

There is ample parking allowed along First Street in both east and west directions. There is also parking available at the Plainsman Inn for a nominal fee.

• Nine residences were declared nuisances and the property owners have 30 days to clean them up. All but one of the properties were in the northwest quadrant; the other in the northeast quadrant.

There are also some properties pending whose owners have asked for extensions.

• During the previous meeting of council on May 10, mayoral appointments of Darrell Pierce and Denny Hansen were made to the Economic Advisory Committee.

• Water and lotto reports were also presented at the previous meeting.

Water: During the month of April there were 4,318,000 gallons of water used, which was a decrease of 84,400 gallons from the previous month of March. A wet April this spring is also reflected in a one-year comparison. There were 1,698,000 fewer gallons used this April than in April 2010.

Lotto: Sales during the month of April totalled $7,408 at DJs Bar and Grill. Payout was $6,810 leaving a net of $598. An amount of $2 was left unclaimed.