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THE WONDER I CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wold boxed the remaining items to store in the basement.

"I ended up buying it with everything in it," he says. "So, I still have all her stuff, so if people are interested, I still have it. They can go in the basement and look."

Everhart had moved into the current building in 2011 with her secondhand store, naming the business The Wonder after a hotel in Mott that dated from the early 1900s.

Wold opened his store this past summer after doing some minor remodeling.

A native of South Heart, Wold splits his time between Mott and Williston, where he is semi-retired.

The Wonder hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, with Wold's brother helping to keep the shop open as well.

"We get up, open up the door, throw the open sign up and hang out," Wold says.

He continues to add new items every week, browsing stores in Williston and obtaining private collections, such as a Campbell's Soup collectibles, Boyd's Bears and other collectibles.

"I try to buy what I feel people want," he says. "John Deere tractor stuff down here sells really good. ... I'm slowly learning what people like."

"Everybody comes in here and just has fun," he says. "You can come in here and everybody can find something. There's something for everybody."



CITY COUNCIL I CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proposed pipe bursting the existing cast-iron water main.

CTPS is a new method of removing asbestos. Unlike abandonment methods, CTPS fully removes the asbestos cement pipe from the ground, eliminating long-term environmental risks and liabilities associated with leaving pipe in place, according to Moore Engineering.

The change order does not affect the cost of the project.

Due to several water main breaks on the current asbestos-cement or cast-iron pipe in mid-August 2024, the city was approved for a grant for 100% of the construction costs for the project.

Budget hearing

No public voiced concerns during the city's budget hearing, with the council approving its 2026 budget with a 3% increase in property tax levies.

The budget includes a levy of \$105,370 for the general fund, \$15,600 for the library and \$6,600 for the airport, for a total of \$127,570. The city is estimating about \$3,300 less in revenues and \$23,250 more in expenses in its general fund.

Golf course property

The council again discussed selling 17 acres of city property adjacent to the north side of the

golf course. An individual has shown an interest in purchasing the property to develop housing. The council indicated the developer would need to add septic systems, Southwest Water Authority connections and an access road, with 1-acre lots planned on the property, which is in the city limits.

Mayor Troy Mosbrucker suggested a sale price of \$5,000 for the south half of the property, then \$500 per lot sold, with two years to develop the property.

"Either we want our community to grow and we help develop it or we don't," he said.

The city zoning ordinances were shared with the developer, and the council decided it wanted a plan from the developer before setting a price.

The council then detoured into a discussion about an ordinance change to allow garages to be built on adjoining residential lots, which is currently not allowed.

"It's in our best interest to get them back on the tax roll," Mosbrucker said.

The council decided to address the issue with more details next month.

Account balances

Daniel Julson, an auditor reviewing the city's 2023 finances, connected with the council by phone to discuss the city's fund balances.

The city is currently using a manual process and a fund accounting software.

The city is showing a negative balance of more than \$300,000 in its general fund, the highway fund balance is negative and the city sales fund has more than \$600,000, he said.

There is no mechanism to use sales tax funds in the general fund and the city should not have negative balances, Julson said.

Julson has not found issues with cash balances, but different accounting systems are showing different balances, he said.

In other business:

• A group represented by Connie Haberstroh caring for Pioneer Park is applying for a grant to install an underground sprinkler system, estimated to cost \$5,000.

"We would like to apply for a grant this fall yet and get it cleaned up so it's nice next summer when everyone's here," she said.

The council approved a \$1,500 grant from the sales tax fund for the project.

• The city approved the release of \$50,000 in sales tax funds it had pledged in 2022 for the renovation of the Mott Health Care Center to create a space for the Mott Clinic.



Mott-Regent High School royalty include, left to right, Prom Queen Allison Grist Carter Smith, Ruby Nasset, Jaycia Thomas, Alexia Schaible, Homecoming King Carter Brown Homecoming Queen Stella Tharaldson, Jada Ottmar, Emily Manolovits, Hunter Smith and Prom King Pierson Frieze. Emcees for the coronation were Hailey Steiner and Savannah Boyll. The school has been hosting morning block parties each day and themed days as part of the homecoming activities, which continue through Friday. I PHOTO BY **RACHAEL MAYER**