Pawnee City Council Approves Mosquito Spraying, Speed Bumps

(KTNC) - Pawnee City will spray for mosquitoes this summer. The city council on Monday approved a motion to have HJP Pest Control spray for mosquitoes six times this summer.

The council split its vote on whether to spray last month, and they asked to meet with HJP's Paul Heath about the spraying. Heath explained the two types of chemicals he uses. He said the spray kills about 95-percent of the mosquitoes it contacts, and the fumes are not harmful to people.

The council voted unanimously to have Heath spray six times this summer. City Clerk Tammy Stephens says the city will notify residents when the spraying will take place. Notices have been posted around town, the times are listed on city bills, and Stephens says she will post the information on the city's website and on Facebook.

While Heath said the chemical is safe, Stephens says he also advises people to avoid coming into contact with the mist from the spraying. Public comments, gathered from online surveys, generally favored the spraying.

Heath will spray in Pawnee City every other Wednesday, from June 18 through the end of August. Dates are: June 18, July 2, July 16, and July 30, August 13 and August 27. Stephens says the cost of the spraying was included in the city's budget this year.

On another topic that drew public interest, the council voted unanimously to place four speed bumps around the North Park area. Two will be placed on the north side of the pool on 14th Street between D and E Street and two will be installed on 13th Street, between D and E Street south of the basketball courts.

The council had also sought public input on whether to install the speed bumps as a way to slow traffic around the park. Stephens says most respondents favored putting them around North Park, while fewer favored placing them around South Park.

In other action Monday night, the Pawnee City Council approved the final reading of an ordinance changing the dog licensing fees for those who move to town between July and December.

The council also approved payments totaling approximately \$8,000 to SENDD on a couple housing rehab projects.

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