

NITRO OKS VISITORS BOARD MEMBERS

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Page: 5A

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Nitro City Council approved the appointments of various **Nitro** business people and **city council** members to the new **Nitro** Convention and Visitors Bureau board of directors.

Those named were local business people Leonard Wamble, Leigh Ann Bright, Norma Helms and Tom Brewer, along with **council** members Craig Matthews, Bob Fields, Bill Javins, **City** Treasurer John Young and Mayor Rusty Casto.

Council also considered a proposal from the state Treasurer's Office to acquire **city** purchasing cards.

Jessica Perdue with the Treasurer's Office said the cards could be used to pay all of the city's bills and **city** could have as many as they wanted.

She explained the balance is paid off at the end of every month, but those municipalities that don't pay off their bills are not charged a late fee.

The cards are set up so the **city** is eligible for a rebate at the end of each month, depending on how much they spent.

"For example, if the **city** spent \$1 million in a month, that **city** would be eligible for a \$10,000 rebate," Perdue said.

United Bank is the current card issuer on a two-year contract, which will expire next year, she said.

The state Treasurer's Office would provide support staff to the **city**, she said.

Young approved of the idea, "It would be better than the **city** cutting a check for expenses or the officer paying out of his pocket and then we pay him or her back."

Casto named himself, **City** Recorder Rita Cox and Young to a committee to study the specifics of the cards and will report back to **council** at its next meeting, April 20.

In other business, **council** member Craig Matthews presented a list of equipment that might be needed for the city's new 24-foot Monarch fire boat.

Matthews noted fire department personnel would check to see if some of the equipment was already on hand before anything was purchased.

"We know the boat will need some items such as a VHF marine radio, DGPS/compass and personal indicating radio beacons for the firefighters that are manning the boat," he said.

Also Tuesday, **council** approved giving \$1,000 for the city's antique fair weekend, its citywide yard sale and antique car cruise-in, all to be held June 12.