

NITRO TREASURER SAYS INSURANCE SWITCH WILL SAVE THE CITY THOUSANDS

Publication: CHARLESTON DAILY MAIL

Published: Wednesday, July 07, 2010

Page: 6A

Byline: MARY CHILDRESS FOR THE DAILY MAIL

Changing Nitro's insurance from BrickStreet to Travelers Insurance will save the city \$33,000 off last year's cost, reported city Treasurer John Young at Tuesday night's council meeting.

The change went into effect July 1.

City council also discussed two ordinances on first reading that could generate funds for **Nitro** and reduce costs to contractors and handymen that are licensed by the city.

The ordinance that would amend the license tax relating to general contractors would reduce the tax paid by contractors from \$150 to \$100 for the initial license and \$50 for renewal. Each handyman licensed by the city would pay \$25 initially and \$25 for renewal.

Council also passed a personal income tax refund offset program on first reading.

The ordinance would allow the city to send to the state the names of **Nitro** citizens that have not paid municipal fees, fines, costs, forfeitures, penalties and restitution owed to the city.

"We can have the state withhold the state income tax refund money," said John Montgomery, chairman of the ordinance committee. "The funds would then come back to the city to help pay for these fines, costs and so on."

These ordinances will be voted on at the next **Nitro** council meeting, set for July 20.

Councilman Bill Javins, chairman of the street committee, asked council to approve paving seven **Nitro** streets - Rockledge, Cedar, Ivy, Walker and Locust streets and Michigan Avenue and one section of Hickory Road.

In other business, Councilman Dave Casebolt reported that the environmental study for the Streetscape project had been completed. The next move by the Streetscape committee would be to select one engineering firm to help complete the project. Casebolt said several firms would be interviewed and it would be four to six weeks before the committee could make that final selection. He said he hoped to have a firm in place by Oct. 1.

Councilman Craig Matthews told council that \$14,772 was spent from the tire-fire fund to fix up the fire department's boat. **Nitro** council had authorized \$18,981 for the expense.

Council also approved naming the boat for the late D.R. "Tinker" Rawlings, a former **Nitro** firefighter.

Boomtown Days will open at the Kathy Mattea Auditorium with a gospel sing July 23 and will continue July 24 with a full day of activities at the city's pool, to include fireworks.

There will be a fundraiser for eight-year-old John Davis, a fourth-grade student at **Nitro** Elementary School, from 1 to 3 p.m. July 18 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on 20th Street.

Davis was swinging on a rope swing when it broke, sending him falling to the pavement where he cracked his skull. After having brain surgery last week, he is now out of a coma and responding to his family, it was reported.

The fundraiser will include inflatables for kids, hay rides, face painting, concessions, a bake sale and a Crazy Bandz sale. The event is being hosted by Cub Scout Pack 188, of which Davis is a member. The funds will be used to help his family with medical expenses.