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City to allow new historical marker

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ASHLAND – The Ashland City Council gave its approval to the installation of a new historical marker in the community.

The council approved allowing the Tue family to erect a memorial marker on Silver Street at Seventh Street near the underpass. Council member Sue Brauckmuller has been in contact with the family and said the request was made because seven members of the family had perished in the Ashland area during pioneer times while traveling on the OxBow Trail, which crossed the Saline Ford on Salt Creek.

Mayor Paul Lienke suggested the Belnap Memorial also be moved to the location. It currently sits on the banks of Salt Creek, but erosion has worn away the bank and the marker is in danger of falling, Lienke said. The city will contact the Belnap family to advise them of the project.

Brauckmuller did the research on the site, reporting that there was a road there at one time, and some of the rock remains. The former road could be used for parking, she said.

The marker would be paid for by the family, as was the Belnap marker. The city would assume maintenance of the area.

The council also discussed the resumption of work on the Fire Hall addition. The addition was started last summer and scheduled to be completed in the fall, but problems with the materials and installation forced the city to demand the structure be rebuilt.

The new steel was delivered last week and a new crew has been working from “sun up to sundown” on the project, reported City Administrator Jessica Preister.

The work has prompted at least one complaint from a neighbor, Preister said, who does not like that the work begins early in the morning and lasts until dark.

However, the work will continue as is, in order to complete the problem-plagued project as soon as possible.

“I think we will tolerate those complaints as long as we possibly can even if we have to take them to lunch,” said Lienke.

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