

Last night was the first meeting of the new term for newly-elected council members Dick Doty, Joe Trigg, Sheila Oliver, and Karalee Oldenkamp. Doty will serve on the Finance Committee and Infrastructure Committee, Trigg will serve on the Planning and Development Committee and the Airport Board, Oliver will serve on the Infrastructure Committee and Planning and Development Committee, and Oldenkamp will serve on the Public Safety Committee and the Personnel Policy Committee.

Glasgow EPB Superintendent, Billy Ray, gave his annual report to the council on new developments and statistics. Of those new developments, Ray highlighted one new feature the EPB is working on which is referred to as a "Prepaid Meter". Essentially, this feature will allow EPB electricity customers to choose how much electricity they want to utilize in a dollar amount. Ray says this will help alleviate the some \$15,000 per month in bad debt the company has to deal with when bills are unpaid.

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/011513ray.mp3{/audio}

In other items, Ray also compared a Comcast Cable bill from a customer in Cave City to an EPB bill offering the same services. The EPB bill was \$16/month less than that of the Comcast bill.

Ray also says the EPB is working to increase internet speeds. Just in the last 4 years, EPB customers have seen a 700% increase in speed, while they continue to target neighborhoods of heavier usage to also increase their internet capabilities.

In other items on the agenda, Paul Bragg, the Cemetery Sexton, gave his annual report on the Glasgow Municipal Cemetery. He told the council work is underway to add two new sections to the cemetery, which will add 1,170 new grave spaces. He also told the council that within the next 5 or 6 years, they will have to address expansion and development of the cemetery property. As of now, the cemetery will reach maximum capacity in 3 to 4 decades. The current cost of a grave space is \$500, while the cost of burial or “open and close” is \$400.

Kurt Frey, Superintendent of Public Works, also presented his annual report covering areas of sanitation, transit, roads, and landfill among many services the department provides. Some interesting facts he gave were 246 tons of leaves were picked up, 483 tons of recyclables were collected, 463 tons of litter separate from garbage pick up was cleared from roads as well as 158 tons in street sweeper clean up.

Frey also told the council that 9,467 customers utilized the transit service. This was an increase of 2,102 customers in 2011. The city’s Transit Service was the only one of its kind in the state to receive a \$55,000 federal grant which will go toward the construction of 8 bus stop areas in the city.

