

Mayberry festival returns



FILE PHOTO

Former Westminster mayor Derek Hodgin was in good company at the 2011 Mayberry Comes to Westminster festival as he accompanied Beulah Farmer, winner of the Aunt Bee look-a-like contest, and Grayson Jones, 4, of Liberty, the Opie look-a-like winner. Mayberry comes to Westminster again April 20 and 21.

BY MIKAYLA SHARPE
FOR THE JOURNAL

WESTMINSTER — Mayberry will be coming back to Westminster this spring.

With the new mayor, Rick McCormick, at the helm, plans for a second Mayberry Comes to Westminster festival were announced this week. Westminster City Council agreed to contribute \$10,000 in hospitality tax funds to the event.

Joyful Noise Entertainment Group will produce the April 20 and 21 festival.

Last year's event attracted some 8,000 visitors, according to the JNEG website.

Tom Rusk, a spokesman for JNEG, said in addition to its parades, cruise-in car and tractor show, Mayberry pageants, contests, arts and crafts vendors and food vendors, the 2012 festival will feature "A Salute to Elvis Show" April 20 at downtown's Inspiration Hall with Elvis look-a-like Wayne Euliss.

For more information about Mayberry Comes to Westminster, visit www.jneg.org and click on the sheriff's badge.

Council also agreed this week to re-

open the city pool this summer.

The pool, located at 211A Lucky St., will open in late May or early June, according to City Administrator David Smith.

Council approved using a portion of some \$60,000 in undesignated bond proceeds to renovate the upper level of City Hall.

Council is currently putting together a priority list of necessary improvements for renovation, including a handicapped accessible lift to the second floor.

Confusion over utility bill payment deadlines led council to consider approving a new policy for late fees. Although not formally approved, the close of business (5 p.m.) is the deadline to pay utility bills if the 15th falls on a weekday. If the 15th falls on a weekend, customers have until noon Monday to pay.

All customers who pay after the deadline will be assessed a late fee. The policy is expected to be approved in February and take effect in March.