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# The Wilson World

Czech Capital of Kansas and Home of Beautiful Lake Wilson

**THURSDAY,**  
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▼City Council

## Czech Cottages ask for support

by Alan Rusch

A presentation on wheat straw bale building technology highlighted the Wilson City Council meeting Monday evening at the City Building.

During his presentation, Salina businessman David Criswell showed a video to the council detailing this unique building technology. The video featured testing of straw bale walls to determine if they could withstand wind shear, fire and moisture. The results of the tests, portrayed wheat straw bale building technology in a very positive light.

After the video, Criswell formally asked the council for a resolution of support for his planned "Czech Cottages," the affordable apartments he hopes to build in an area between the Lang Memorial Library and the Wilson Post Office using wheat straw bales as insulation.

"This will be an exceptional value for the folks living in them," explained Criswell.

Criswell told the council that receiving final approval from the

Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing will be a challenge, but it is one he truly believes in.

"I do recognize this is going to be a challenge," noted Criswell. "It is something I think will become more popular."

After some discussion, the council approved a resolution of support for Criswell's project, pending City Attorney John Kasper's final approval of a draft resolution presented to the council by Criswell.

In other business: Wilson Foundation Members Fred Abercrombie and Gary Everett gave the council an update on the grant for renovations to the Midland Hotel.

"Once again, we appreciate the support of the city on this," noted Everett.

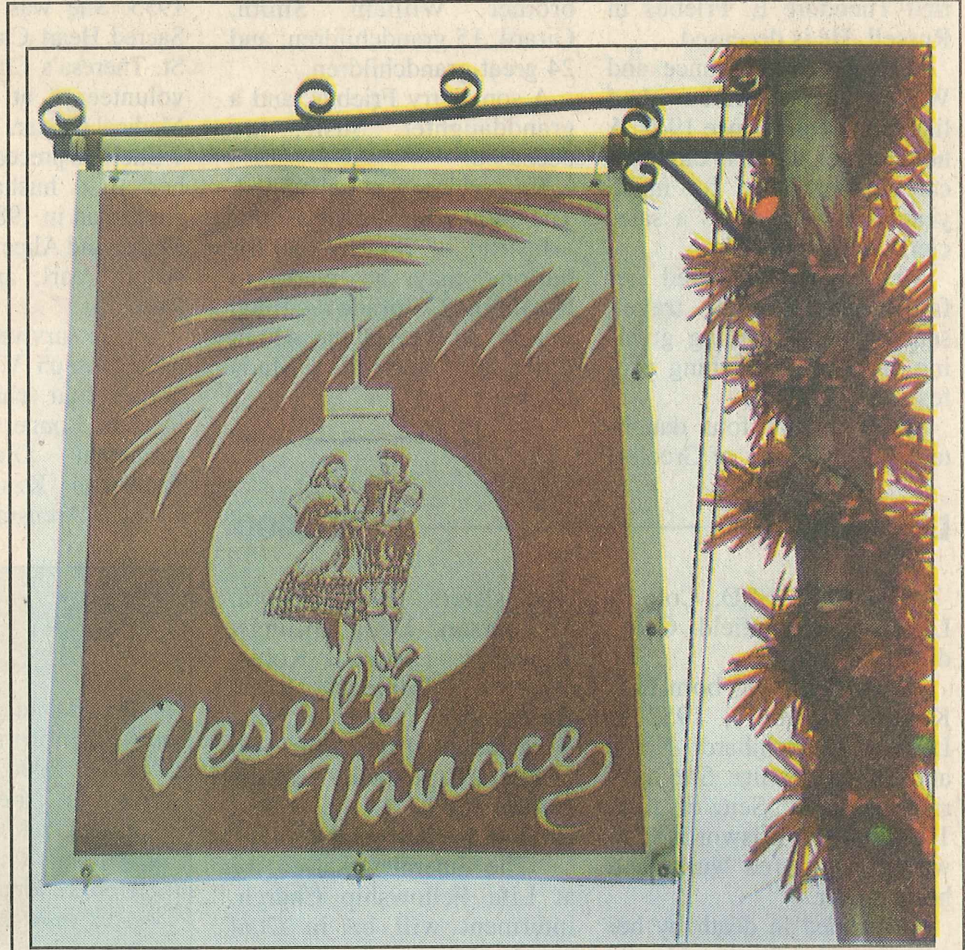
After some discussion, the council approved Abercrombie continuing his work to follow up on the Midland Hotel grant.

After a 30 minute executive session to discuss personnel matters, the council heard a report by City Superintendent Wes Buehler.

Buehler told the council that with the recent inclement weather, city crews had salted the intersections in Wilson, as well as Main Street, the business areas and the areas around the school and churches. He also said that crews have been working at the city shop and have rodded out a couple of slow-running sewers. After Buehler's report, the council approved three recreation and two cereal malt beverage licenses for 2001. Mayor Larry Ptacek then reminded the council that a filing deadline of noon on Jan. 23 has been set for the April 2001 election. Besides Ptacek's seat, the seats of Councilmen Steve Heinze and Todd Steinle are also up for election.

Finally, the council approved a motion to exempt Wilson-owned businesses from paying franchise tax. In this regard, the council will look at each new business coming into Wilson on a case by case basis.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Wilson City Council will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2001, at the City Building.



**Vesely Vanoce - Czech for Merry Christmas. One of the colorful street signs decorating downtown Wilson for Christmas.**

---photo by Alan Rusch