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24-lot 'affordable housing' subdivision gains city approval

By Josh Mitchell

Staff reporter

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The City Council approved the zoning and design of a 24-lot "affordable housing" subdivision Monday night.

The subdivision, Blue Sky Estates Planned Unit Development, would be located on close to three acres in the 1600 block of South Sheridan Avenue.

Developer Steve Grimshaw said the development would consist of 24 twin homes — dwellings that share a wall — and would be priced around \$150,000 for each separate home.

Grimshaw said the development will address a need for "affordable housing," which is in short sup-

ply in Sheridan, officials say.

Separately, on the second of three readings, the City Council approved zoning for the East Side Planned Unit Development that is expected to bring additional office, retail and residential space to the city.

The East Side PUD is a Whitney Benefits Inc. project that would be located near the intersection of Grinnell Avenue and Connor Street. Proposed are 95,000 square feet of office space, 45,000 square feet of retail space and 36 residences, including single-family homes and town homes.

The development will be built as sites

are purchased to construct businesses, offices and homes. Whitney Benefits does not plan to build there.

In other business, the council tabled a request from Sheridan Even Start, a federally funded literacy program for disadvantaged families, to provide \$7,500 for a preschool teacher's salary until May.

Even Start Director Shauna Bowers said the program lost a sponsor (the Scott Foundation of Sheridan) and needs to shore up funding losses to keep an afternoon preschool program alive.

City Councilman Duane Farley directed Bowers to check with the state

education department and the Sheridan school district to see if money is available there.

The council expressed concern that giving money to Even Start would set a precedent under which other day cares would ask for funding.

The council approved new ambulance rates, which have not been increased since 1999, according to Sheridan Fire-Rescue. The new rates boost the fee schedule to Wyoming's 75th percentile, meaning that 25 percent of the state's emergency services are charging more and 74 percent less.

The council said ambulance fees must be raised because the city is subsidizing Sheridan Fire-Rescue's losses.

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Duane Farley
City Councilman