

TULSA WORLD

A LOCAL

TULSA WORLD • A11 • Wednesday, January 3, 2007 • www.tulsaworld.com

INSIDE

Obituaries.....A-12 Classifieds.....A-15 Action Line.....A-22 Weather.....A-22

A fine hello

Greeting cards have all been sent — and received. Now what do you do with them? Action Line has ideas.

Please go to A-22

Planned BA skate park gets rolling

► City councilors approve a bid for the project, which will be built in Nienhuis Park.

By **ROD WALTON**
World Staff Writer

BROKEN ARROW — Skateboarders will have a 12,600-square-foot street-scene skate park right in the middle of a city park soon, officials promised Tuesday.

City councilors awarded the \$370,329 project to low bidder Jonesplan Inc., a Tulsa contractor, during the council's regular meeting Tuesday. Work could begin as early as next month.

The winning bid followed two previous attempts to find a company to build the skate park at a cost the city could afford, reports show.

"We're ready to go," Parks Director Scott Esmond said. "I think the skateboarders will be thrilled. I think it will be one of the nicest skate parks in northeastern Oklahoma."

The skaters' destination will be in the middle of Nienhuis Park, a 109-acre multipurpose facility on Lynn Lane Road (also known as both Ninth Street and 177th East Avenue) between Omaha and Albany (51st and 61st) streets. Planners hope the work will be completed by this summer.

The skate park will be almost completely concrete, Esmond said. The street-scene layout will include steps, handrails, benches and areas for

jumps, he added.

"I'm excited about it," he said.

Ambulance rates: The City Council also voted Tuesday to raise ambulance rates by \$50 per each nonemergency and advanced life-support run for residents. The rates will now be \$350 and \$400 for each of those calls.

The last city ambulance rate increase was in July 2003, reports show.

"We hadn't looked at this issue in a while," city spokesman Keith Sterling said after the meeting. "We're still well below the cost of other cities."

Nonresident ambulance rates will remain at \$500 and \$550 for nonemergency and advanced emergency runs, respectively.

Elsewhere in Tulsa County, ambu-

SEE BA A-13

BA:

A nearly \$1.5 million deficit and personnel costs fueled the need for an ambulance rate increase, officials say.

FROM A-11

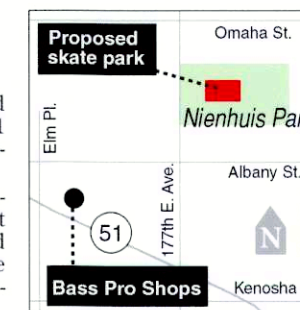
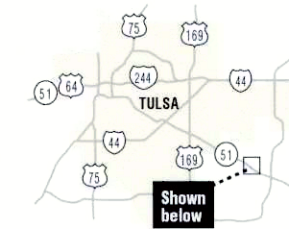
lance rates vary from \$345 and \$485 per run in Tulsa to \$361 and \$649 in Sand Springs, according to the report.

City Manager James Twombly's office has estimated that the average nonemergency and advanced life-support ambulance runs cost \$431 and \$622, respectively.

Broken Arrow spent \$2.12 million on its ambulance service last year. The city, however, collected only \$648,020 in billings, reports show. The nearly \$1.5 million deficit and higher personnel costs fueled the need for a rate increase, officials said.

City councilors also voted to schedule the next municipal election for April 3. The Wards 3 and 4 and at-large council seats are up for the vote.

Ward 3 Councilor Tom Chaterton and at-large Councilor J.



Tulsa World

Wade McCaleb said they plan to file for re-election.

Ward 4 Councilor Judi Myers, who is filling an unexpired term that was vacated when Melissa Mahan resigned last year, also plans to run.

The election winners will hold those seats until 2011.

Rod Walton 581-8457
rod.walton@tulsaworld.com