CRYSTAL FALLS—Crystal Falls Mayor Janet Hendrickson included several letters from residents and visitors complimenting the city and its employees in council members' packets at the city's Aug. 13 meeting.

"It's not often we receive good letters," she said. "Usually, they're the other kind."

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Family members installing markers on relatives' graves commented that Evergreen Cemetery is, "if not the best up here, then equal to it." They also wrote that the campground is very pleasant, and they would recommend it.

The golf course and its staff received kudos from summer residents Tom and Sylvia Madden, who complimented the employees on their friendliness and remarked on the excellent condition of the course.

City employee Archie Smithson was personally commended by resident Jerry Boehmke during the Bass Festival.

"I finally had an opportunity to meet one of the city employees who drives the plow truck by my house," Boehmke wrote. "I wanted to express my appreciation and thanks for the hard work and good job (he does) on the snowy days."

The council also received a letter of appreciation from Forest Park School Superintendent Becky Waters for reinstating a crossing guard at Maple Street.

"Thank you for working with the school district to insure the safety of the children in our community," she wrote.

although the council denied a request from Robert Colbern, co-owner of JR's Farm and Garden on Fourth Street, for a dedicated parking space for customers, it did point out to Council Member Jack Bicigo that there are a lot of areas downtown that haven't had curb markings re-painted since the city's streetscape project several years ago.

Colbern told the council cars and trucks park in the one space in front of his store for extended periods of time. Customers pulling into his lot, particularly the elderly and handicapped, have a hard time backing out onto Fourth.

He offered to pay for and install a "loading zone" sign for the one parking spot.

"I don't want to burden other businesses or the police," he said. "Just having the sign would help my customers load their vehicles."

City Manager Dorothea Olson was concerned about setting a precedent.

"If we do this for one, will others want their own spots?" Coburn said it was mostly the elderly and handicapped who have a problem. It was suggested a handicap parking sign be placed at the space instead.

"We've granted handicap parking areas to others," Bicigo said.

A motion made by Hendrickson to grant the request was defeated, 3-2. Councilman Dave Sherby said he would like to hear from the police department on the issue.

The council approved a final pay request for the city's water project, in the amount of $2,004.25. Scott McNelis of Coleman Engineering told the council, "It was a very good project.

"We're appreciative of the city as a client," he added.

in other business:

--The council approved the appropriation of its $5,569,349 budget for 2012-13, and approved, for the third time, the county's amended solid waste policy.

--The council approved a resolution setting up an agreement with the Iron County Road Commission concerning distribution of the county-wide road millage. City Attorney Geoff Lawrence explained that the cities and the village of Alpha were not receiving 100 percent of the millage collected in their municipalities. The county used one state formula for collecting the millage and another for disbursement.

"We were getting about 73 percent back," he said, the difference totaling $9,245.78 over the last three years of the millage. He said the municipalities probably wouldn't support the millage renewal, which will be placed on the November ballot, if the agreement wasn't approved. The board supported the resolution.

--The council awarded the low bid of $40,475 to Lake State Roofing of Iron Mountain for city garage roof replacement.

--The council received a bid from Northeast Asphalt for paving several sections of streets and alleys in the city. There is money in the street fund for this, Olson said, and Northeast is in the area now. The council recommended Olson solicit at least one other bid, for comparison.

--The council approved a lease agreement with the Crystella Recreation Association, but rejected the organization's request for mowing the ski hill. Also, Hendrickson asked that the group submit minutes from their meetings to the council.