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## Group explains details of city recall petition

By Charles Abbott > J-T City Editor

A petition to recall three of Blackwell's five city commissioners is being circulated.

Details of the recall petition were explained by Leonard Sabin at a specially called public meeting Monday night at the American Legion building.

Sabin told a sparse crowd of about 20 people that an attorney has been consulted and there is "sufficient cause" to recall one to three commissioners.

Petitions are being circulated to recall Commissioners Brad Bechtel, Steve LeValley and Mark Cordell, who is Blackwell's mayor.

Sabin said a petition to recall Commissioner Max Wirtz could be circulated, should Wirtz be re-elected commissioner.

There is no petition to recall Ward 1 Commissioner Ruth Buesing because she is retiring at the end of her present term. Four people have entered the race for Ward 1 commissioner.

The petitions being circulated allege the commissioners have violated Title 25, OS, Sections 301-314 of the Open Meetings Act, have held emergency meetings without stating what kind of emergency was at hand and declared an emergency when no emergency existed, among other charges.

"Saying you're going to discuss matters dealing with Phelps Dodge does not constitute an emergency," Sabin said.

The petition also charges that the executive session meetings were held in secret and no information or action taken was disclosed to the public concerning these emergencies.

The petitions also allege the commissioners with failure to codify Blackwell's ordinances according to state Statute requirements within the prescribed time of every 10 years, and failure to dismiss an employee "that was not and is not qualified or certified as Assistant Code Enforcement Officer, Sarah Beth Gregson, issuing illegal violations upon the citizens of Blackwell, and violation of people's civil rights."

Sabin also alleged that city government officials act with "self interest."

Sabin said he hopes for "at least 150 signatures on each petition" to assure that the number of those signing meet proper qualifications.

Sabin said only one valid charge is needed to recall a commissioner.

When Sabin asked for questions from the audience, Shirley Fuller asked where the crimes were against the city officials. She said what was maintained were allegations.

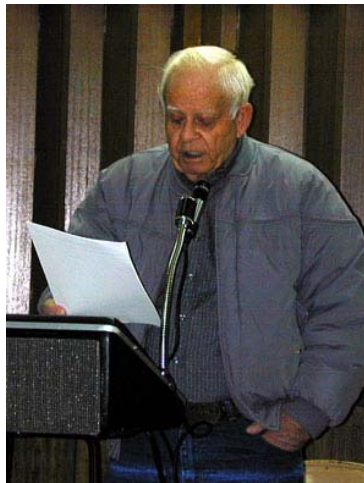
Sabin said, however, that "we have the grounds and the evidence" for a recall.

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### Member Opinions:

By: [pollock](#) on 2/15/07

is having a recall going to help Mr. Sabin sleep better at night? I think there are bigger problems in Blackwell right now that need addressed. maybe start with cleaning up the town trashy neighborhoods and bringing in new businesses to keep the town going. if Mr. Sabin is really concerned why doesn't he run for office and see how easy it is.



Leonard Sabin addresses the crowd during a recall petition meeting Monday night. (J-T photo by Charles Abbott)

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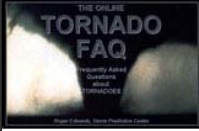
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