

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2013 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Holton met at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall on Monday evening, April 1, 2013. Commissioners Tim Morris, Hal Cochren, Erich Campbell and Bob Dieckmann were present. Mayor Rich Mulroy called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting were approved with corrections.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between March 18, 2013 and April 1, 2013, were presented to the Commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance #2082. Tim Morris moved and Hal Cochren seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all, yes.

RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE – JEROME LIQUOR STORE: Jerome Liquor Store retail liquor is up for renewal. Bob Dieckmann moved to approve the retail liquor license renewal for Jerome Retail Liquor Store. Hal Cochren seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

FAIR HOUSING MONTH PROCLAMATION: Kansas Rural Housing Corporation requested the City of Holton approve a proclamation declaring April Fair Housing Month. Hal Cochren moved to approve the proclamation. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

SALES TAX DISCUSSION: Bret Bauer, City Manager, was directed by the commission to research the topic of a city sales tax for their information. Bauer gave the commissioners a history of sales tax and what the city currently has for a sales tax. Erich Campbell commented that he would like to see the city approach adding a sales tax for a specific purpose for use and have a sunset clause. For example, he would like to see ½% tax with ¼% going to maintaining the sewer lines and 1/4% toward debt payments. Tim Morris would also like to see a sales tax put in place to help the commissioners keep property taxes level and the utility rates as well. Bob Dieckmann also cited the superintendent's belief that the sewer lines are going to fail at some point in time and we need to have something in place to address the issue. Hal Cochren felt he was right with the mayor in that our concern right now is infrastructure. Rich Mulroy commented that he felt we should not have a sunset on the tax as we will always have maintenance issues that need to be addressed. Morris felt we need to keep discussing this until we get it figured out what exactly we need to do. Since the commissioners appear to agree that a sales tax is needed, Mulroy directed the commission that the next step is to figure out what the purpose will be and how much of a tax to go for. He also said we need to get a feel for what the citizens of the community are willing to do. The topic will be discussed again at the next commission meeting.

In other business:

Bauer informed the commission that the burn site has reopened for the season. It will be open on Saturdays only, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Erich Campbell asked about using community service people to help with clean up around town. The city does currently use community service individuals when there are people available that do not require supervision. Campbell would also like to see the dog tag system revamped so that more dogs would get tagged. The system is more for the safety of the citizens and the dogs than anything else. The current system discourages people from getting tags because of the cost.

Meeting was adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk