

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2014 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, August 18, 2014. Commissioners Erich Campbell, Twila White, Tim Morris and Dan Brenner were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the August 4, 2014 meeting were approved with corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tim Parks from Heartland Veterinary Clinic spoke to the commission about the state of roads in the City of Holton Industrial Park. He spoke on behalf of all the businesses in the Industrial Park. They feel that they don't get much of anything done in the park unless they call and complain. They feel forgotten out in the park. Tim Morris told Parks he understands that the city needs to do something on the roads as we are supposed to provide. He supports doing part of the road but not all of it. Parks commented that they put in part of the curb and gutter in 2000, and some more was done about 4 years ago. Since then he has seen virtually no maintenance done. He said the Industrial Park gets a lot of heavy truck traffic as you would expect in an industrial park. Morris said when he started on the commission there was no money, but now we have paid down debt and have some money for projects but he is not in favor of doing the entire road at once. Bob Dieckmann added we need some kind of estimate to what it will cost. Parks also said the highway needs a turning lane for traffic going into the Industrial Park. Morris said that he would like to see a not a road but some kind of trail from the new road the county is building to the Industrial Park road for trucks with stock trailers going to the vet clinic to use. Parks said that stock trailers are not causing the problem at the turn, it is usually cars. Erich Campbell thanked Parks for coming in and bringing the topic to their attention. He agreed with the tenants of the park feeling that they were "forgotten about". He said that if Pennsylvania Avenue were in the kind of shape Frontage Road in the Industrial Park was in, we would fix it right away. We must honor the contracts the commission before them entered into with these people. We have allocated the money, but we need to get the most we can for that money. We cannot substitute action for progress. Troy Barrow, owner of Marshall Tool, also spoke of the condition of the Industrial Park. He said there are also tall weeds on the road edges. He also said fixing the road halfway won't work with American Wholesale and the semi trucks coming in all the time. The tenants are not looking for a band-aid or partial fix. He feels that those businesses in the Industrial Park provide good jobs and pay property taxes just like everyone else. Everyone agreed that the roads need to be taken care of. Bob Dieckmann asked the tenants to give the city some time and it would get better.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between August 5, 2014 and August 18, 2014, were presented to the Commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance #2116. Tim Morris moved and Twila White seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all, yes.

TEMPORARY ALCOHOLIC LIQUOR LICENSE – HOLTON MAINSTREET: Holton Mainstreet has applied for a temporary alcoholic liquor license for their Jazz on the Square event. The following locations will be serving alcohol: 121 W. 4th, 110 W. 5th, 407 New York, 406 Pennsylvania, and 108 W. 5th. Dan Brenner moved to approve the license. Erich Campbell seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes. Mainstreet has also asked that since we are not paying dues this year, would we be willing to be a sponsor for the event. Commissioners agreed to sponsor at the middle level. Twila White moved to be a Silver Sponsor for Jazz on the Square. Dan Brenner seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

OAKBROOK SUBDIVISION: Tom Bishop, Homestead Affordable Housing, came before the commissioners to let them know they are moving forward on the senior housing project at 1st and Pennsylvania. He will be asking for a 10 year tax abatement on the project. He would also like to see if the commission would be interested in his contractors doing some park improvements at Countryside Park in place of doing Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT). He said the tax court doesn't give a guarantee of tax abatement, so it is better to get it up front from the taxing entity. Under state statute, to have a PILOT tax, there would have to be a study done and if there is a negotiated PILOT tax, it must be shared by all taxing entities. By doing park improvements, he could have his architect design a bathroom-concession stand facility and put \$20,000-25,000 into it and just have his builders build it when they are building his houses. Erich Campbell asked if we really need the facilities down at the park. Bret Bauer, City Manager, pointed out that it would save the Park Department from having to pay to have portable restrooms available in the park, which are charged on a monthly basis. The commissioners agreed they are interested in looking at this proposal. Bishop also let the commissioners know that they are having trouble finding qualified candidates for the 6 single family houses they want to build on First Street. Applicants need to have a credit score of 640 or higher and they are having trouble finding families, so if they knew of anyone, send them to see him.

Bret Bauer, City Manager, relayed to the commissioners that he had contacted USD 336 about a cost sharing plan to put the school mascot on the water tower. They were not interested in this venture. Commissioners agree to just leave Holton on it. Bauer also relayed a conversation he had with the mayor about the possibility of purchasing IPADs for the commissioners and support staff. Mayor Dieckmann indicated he thought it was a good idea and they talked about purchasing two to start with for Dieckmann and Bauer to try and see how it goes. Bauer asked the other commissioners for input on the idea and they can contact him anytime on that subject.

Meeting adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk