

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 2, 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, June 2, 2014. Commissioners Tim Morris, Twila White, Dan Brenner and Erich Campbell were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between May 20, 2014 and June 2, 2014, were presented to the Commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance #2111. Tim Morris moved and Dan Brenner seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all, yes.

ANIMAL CODE: After the public comments at the last meeting, commissioners discussed the pit bull ban currently in place. Tim Morris spoke first and said he is not in favor of making any changes to the current ordinance. He said if someone wants to have a pit bull they should move somewhere else. Twila White suggested retaining the ordinance but grandfather in current owners as long as the dog has all its shots, is spayed or neutered, microchipped, insurance coverage and a proper enclosure. There also should be no tethering for more than 1 hour a day and there would be no tolerance if the dog escapes or bites. She just doesn't want to see anyone getting hurt. Bob Dieckmann also commented that he does not want to see anyone get hurt. Dan Brenner felt that a compromise could be reached where we enforce the ordinance as it is but grandfather in all the current pit bull owners. Erich Campbell felt that the ordinance was not necessarily the problem; enforcement was the problem and we shouldn't enact more rules we cannot enforce. He felt the city should develop a way to enforce the current laws and once that is figured out and working maybe we could look at changing what we have. Morris also informed the commissioners that he had learned that a large number of these dogs are in rental houses and if they do not have insurance, liability will fall back on the property owner, which would be the landlord. Campbell made a motion to grandfather in Danyel Monaghan's pit bull as she had current shots, the dog was spayed or neutered, and she provided insurance to the city that was in effect before she was told to remove the dog. Brenner seconded the motion. Vote thereon: Campbell, Brenner, White – yes; Dieckmann, Morris – Opposed. Motion carried. Dennis White, City Attorney, asked the commissioners to look at the definitions part of the vicious dog ordinance so we can strengthen that part of the ordinance.

FIREWORKS AT PRAIRIE LAKE: Discussion continued on the fireworks at Prairie Lake topic. Dan Brenner asked about our insurance coverage if we should allow fireworks. Bret Bauer, City Manager, told him he had spoken with Cindy Hower at Kellerman Insurance and she double checked with our underwriter and if we make this change we should understand that we will have no liability coverage at all for any type of damages that occur as a result of fireworks at Prairie Lake with the exception of a professional display where the company setting off the fireworks provides us with their insurance ahead of time. Tim Morris spoke of using some type of waiver that personnel entering the lake would sign. Dan Brenner made a motion to approve Ordinance 14-002 setting times for setting off personal fireworks at Prairie Lake. It did not receive a second. Erich made a motion for Tim Morris to head a committee to research further the topic of allowing fireworks at Prairie Lake. Dan Brenner seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

WATER CONSERVATION: Bret Bauer, City Manager, noted that Public Wholesale Water Supply District #18 was going to stage 2 of their water conservation plan. With Banner Reservoir at 51-1/2" below pool and Prairie Lake at 3" below pool, it is time to go into stage 1 of

our water conservation plan. This stage is for voluntary restriction on water use. Erich Campbell made a motion to enact stage 1 of our water conservation plan. Twila White seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

919 NEW JERSEY: Willy Wilson, owner of 919 New Jersey, was recently sent a letter about the condition of his property at 919 New Jersey. Wilson gave a history of the property showing where it has been an agricultural use and business use since it was acquired in 1945. He said there are 10 businesses within a block of his property and he could show where any one of them had issues. He asked the commissioners what it was they wanted to see so he knew exactly what should be cleaned up. He was informed that the trailers loaded with junk, the junk car, and the various piles of junk on the ground should go. He said he has moved the car and two of the trailers out, but he needed more time to get the rest. Erich Campbell made a motion to give Wilson an extra 30 days to finish cleaning up. Twila White seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

BECK-BOOKMAN LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT: Teresa Nelson is at the end of her second term and needs to be replaced. The library board has recommended Sean Kelly to replace her on the board. Erich Campbell moved to approve the appointment of Sean Kelly to the Beck-Bookman Library Board. Dan Brenner seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Twila White recently did a ride-along with the Holton Police Department. She said she has a new appreciation for what the officers do. She said they had asked her about getting new vests that they wear on the outside of their clothes instead of under their clothes so they can be taken off when in the station. They also would like to see more cameras in the park.

Dan Brenner move to go into executive session for 10 minutes for non elected personnel. Tim Morris seconded the motion. After 5 minutes Tim Morris moved to return to regular session. Twila White seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Commissioners discussed current board appointments for commissioners and the need to get Twila White on a board.

Meeting adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk