

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2015 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, November 16, 2015. Commissioners Twila White, Tim Morris, Erich Campbell and Dan Brenner were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann was also present.

Mayor Dieckmann called the regular meeting to order.

Minutes of the November 2, 2015 meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Elise McLeod introduced herself to the commission. She is the new Director for the Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. Dan Brenner asked her about the Jazz on the Square event. McLeod told him that it lost money this year, but she will be working to make it profitable again next year. Tim Morris commented that we upped the appropriation to \$7500 this year and now they want \$10000 for next year. He asked what the county gives. McLeod, along with previous Director, Carolyn McKee, explained that the county gave them \$15000 this year and they are asking for \$20000 next year. She added that does include the bed tax. Last year the Chamber had a grant for \$60,000. It was a matching grant where the county gave \$15,000 from tourism, and the state matched \$30,000. The bed tax is received every year and it is \$2,500 per quarter for a total of \$10,000 per year. That is part of the total the county gives. Next year the Chamber does not have a grant and cannot apply for that one again. Erich Campbell asked about the city's budget. In the 2016 budget, the city allowed for \$10,000, of which \$7500 is for Chamber and \$2500 for Historical Society. Campbell said that in order to give more to the Chamber we would have to take away from the Historical Society. Morris said that he would be in favor of continuing with the \$7500 and see about any extra later on in the year, but that the city was not promising any more would be available.

Carrie Saia, CEO of Holton Community Hospital, made a formal request for the city to work together with the Hospital to get the Kansas Department of Transportation to reduce the speed at the turning lane for the Hospital on Highway 75. They are requesting the city do a formal letter to present along with a letter from the hospital requesting a reduction in speed. Erich Campbell said everyone agrees that the speed needs reduced, but requests since he has been on the commission have been denied. Dick Lake, board member from Rural Health Resources, suggested a joint petition with the city, county and hospital to be presented. He said he would get together with the county counselor to get something drafted.

Lee Doyle also spoke in public comment. He wanted to clarify that he did not make any repairs. He did break the line so water could drain, but he did not make any modifications. He also asked how the manhole was plugged. Bret Bauer, City Manager, told him that the Water/Sewer department employees put basketballs in the lines at the bottom of the manhole to block anything from going in them, poured concrete in the manhole, then topped it off with sand.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between November 3, 2015 and November 16, 2015, were presented to the Commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance #2147. Tim Morris moved and Twila White seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all, yes.

CHRISTMAS BONUS: After discussion at the last meeting about a Christmas bonus, Bret Bauer told the commission that staff had commented that they would rather have a windbreaker jacket over chamber bucks. Tim Morris said he had no problem supporting a windbreaker. Bob Dieckmann said he would like to see a jacket or vest. Commissioners agreed to do a jacket.

DOG PARK: Mike Reichle, Park and Recreation Director, has been researching dog parks. He found a guideline for building a park. The first step is usually to form a committee of local residents that would be interested. Bret Bauer asked the commissioners if they would be interested in forming a dog park committee to make recommendations to the commission on how to do the park. Commissioners agree to form a committee to begin the process.

Dan Brenner said he noticed a new street light had been put up. He was informed that most lights not on a corner or customer paid for yard lights. He also commended the Street Superintendent, Rex Cameron, for coming out on Veterans Day to remove a tree that had fallen in the street.

Dan Brenner made a motion to go into Executive Session for 10 minutes for land acquisition and attorney/client privilege. Twila White seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes. After 10 minutes Brenner made a motion to return to regular session. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Meeting was adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk