

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2017 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The City Commission of the City of Holton met at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall on Monday evening, December 18, 2017. Commissioners Mike Meerpohl, Tim Morris and Dan Brenner were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann was also present. Commissioner Twila White was absent.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the regular meeting to order.

Minutes of the December 4, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between December 5, 2017 and December 18, 2017 were presented to the commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance 2198. Tim Morris made the motion and Dan Brenner seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all; yes.

CMB LICENSES: Each December cereal malt beverage (CMB) licenses are renewed for the next year. CMB renewals received for 2018 include Your Place or Mine Catering, LLC, Off the Square Grill, LLC, PH of Holton, LLC, Holton 66, Casey's General Store #1308, Casey's General Store #3413, Walmart #378, Trails Café and Catering, 7-Eleven Sales Corp #35782. We also have a new license for Cecil K's Hometown Market which will be opening up in 2018. Mike Meerpohl made a motion to approve the renewals and new license for 2018. Dan Brenner seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL: Arcada Liquor LLC has their retail liquor license up for renewal. Dan Brenner made a motion to renew the retail liquor license for Arcada Liquor. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

YEAR END MEETING: It is time to set the year end meeting to close the books on 2017 and open the books for 2018. Dan Brenner made a motion to hold the year end meeting on December 29, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Mike Meerpohl seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Kerwin McKee, City Manager, told the commissioners that the trees around the square are becoming a problem for the curbs and sidewalks. The trees, which grew much bigger than was anticipated when they were planted, are heaving the curbing and sidewalks around the root system in many places around the square. Greg Tanking, Street Superintendent, also explained that he was approached by the county about the sidewalk they are wanting to finish on the south side of their property. The curbing needs to be replaced before the sidewalk is put in, but the city does not have budget for that. The state no longer maintains the parking area of state highways, but recommended a federal grant program that could help. Tanking explained that it is an 80/20 grant to replace curbing. As there are many bad curbs around the square, and the bigger the project we have, the better chance of getting the grant. The only problem is that in order to replace all the curbing, the trees would have to be taken out. Tanking felt that starting the discussion now so we could get input on what we should replace the trees with would be a good idea as the grant application would need to be done in early 2018 for distribution in 2020. Tim Morris said we needed to make sure the name bricks went back in. Tanking explained they would only be removing bricks along the curb area where there are no name bricks. Tim Morris felt we should go for the grant.

McKee also informed the commission of an opportunity to extend our contract with Nextara at a lower rate than we are currently purchasing power. He said we will probably look at this in February.

Teresa Riley, City Clerk, informed the commission that our Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance renewal for 2018 has been received. Policy options increased between 5% and 7%. She reminded commissioners that we had budgeted for a 15% increase during budget season so rates were quite a bit less than planned for. Also, Blue Cross has presented an option for dental insurance that is voluntary for the employees. Riley asked if enough employees were interested in the plan if it was OK to offer it at renewal. Commissioners agreed since there was no monetary commitment on the city's part that they had no problem with offering it to the employees to find out what interest was in a dental plan.

Kerwin McKee also reported to the commissioners that he had checked with Greg Tanking and it was not a problem to use the street sweeper on chip and seal streets and it was something that had been done for years. Tanking explained that what typically wears out on the street sweeper is the gutter broom and there are no gutters on chip and seal streets so it isn't an issue.

Mike Meerpohl asked if we had any ideas on what was causing the water problem at the new elementary school. McKee said not yet, but it was an issue within the school building. The city water going to the school is not an issue.

Dan Brenner read a statement commending city staff on the accomplishment of paying down city debt. He also alluded to a possible consolidation of departments that could save the city tens of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Dan Brenner made a motion to go into executive session until 7:55 p.m. to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Mike Meerpohl seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Dan Brenner made a motion to go into executive session until 8:05 p.m. to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Meeting Adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk