

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 3, 2022 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The City Commission of the City of Holton met at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall on Monday evening, January 3, 2022. Commissioners Mike Meerpohl, Tim Morris and Eric Bjelland were present. Marilyn Watkins attended the meeting remotely. Mayor Bob Dieckmann was also present.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the regular meeting to order.

Minutes of the December 30, 2022 special meeting were approved as written.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between January 1, 2022 and January 3, 2022 were presented to the commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance 2300. Mike Meerpohl moved and Tim Morris seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all; yes.

DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE: The Cockeyed Pig Dive Bar and Grille has submitted a renewal application for a drinking establishment. City staff have received a copy of their state license and their application fee. Eric Bjelland made a motion to approve the license. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

BCBS RENEWAL: City Manager Kerwin McKee presented the renewal contract for BCBS health insurance and Advance life insurance. Rates increased approximately 2% depending on the policy choice. City staff panned for a 15% change in the 2022 budget. McKee also presented an option for the Life Insurance renewal. BCBS representatives gave the city another option for life insurance. Currently the city pays for \$20,000 in life insurance on full time employees. BCBS proposed changing that to \$50,000, which they said is closer to the industry standard these days. They also noted the city has not changed the life insurance since 1986 when it was implemented. Tim Morris questioned why they sprung this change on us all of a sudden. Mike Meerpohl asked if we could split the change with the employees. Teresa Riley, City Clerk, explained that this is an employer paid policy so we have to pay all of it with no input from employees. Tim asked city staff to check out what other cities were doing on their life insurance. Marilyn Watkins made a motion to approve the health insurance renewal and table the life insurance for more information. Mike Meerpohl seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

NEXT MEETING: Kerwin McKee, City Manager, pointed out that the next meeting day was Martin Luther King Day and a holiday for the city, so the next meeting needed to be moved to Tuesday, January 18. Tim made a motion to move the next meeting to Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Mike Meerpohl seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST WINNER: City Manager Kerwin McKee announced the winners of the annual Christmas Lighting Contest. 1st Place and a \$100 credit to their utility account went to Steve Bohnenkemper at 600 West 3rd; 2nd Place and a \$50 credit to their utility account went to Brian and Nikki Meerpohl at 308 Lilac Drive; 3rd Place and a \$25 credit to their utility account went to Duane and Carolyn Iles at 203 Kansas. McKee commented that the city crews would soon begin removing the Christmas decorations and lighting around the square.

DESIGNATIONS: Each year, commissioners need to designate official depositories and official newspaper. Eric Bjelland made a motion to designate the GN-Bank, Denison State Bank

and the Farmers State Bank as official depositories and the Holton Recorder as the official newspaper. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Kerwin McKee, City Manager, informed the commissioners that he had Greg Tanking, Street Superintendent, get a preliminary estimate for a mill and overlay on Banner Road. The road is over 20 years old and patching and crack filling are not doing the job anymore. Bettis Asphalt gave us a general estimate of \$190,000. McKee explained that he is looking for a grant to help us pay for this project. He explained that the asphalt zipper we purchased has worked well all over town on places where the trash truck has mashed the road and we will continue to use it to work on the streets to improve their state. This particular road has exceeded its lifespan and is in need of more intensive repairs.

Mike Meerpohl asked where Riley Park was located. It was explained that Riley Park is at 3rd and Nebraska, so named by the previous owner of the property who sold it to the city to help with drainage issues.

Meeting Adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk