

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 4, 2022 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The City Commission of the city of Holton met at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall on Monday evening, April 4, 2022. Commissioners Mike Meerpohl, Eric Bjelland and Marilyn Watkins were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann was also present. Commissioner Tim Morris was absent.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the regular meeting to order.

Minutes of the March 21, 2022 meeting were approved as written.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the city of Holton between March 22, 2022 and April 4, 2022 were presented to the commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance 2306. Eric Bjelland made the motion to approve appropriations and Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all; yes.

PICKLEBALL COURTS: Holton's KAYS group is working on a new Be the Spark grant for Holton parks. This grant will be for pickleball courts at Rafters Park. Emberly Allen and Jack Etzel spoke to the commission about their project and to ask permission from the commissioners to allow this project in the city park if the grant is received. Allen told the commissioners that they had conducted a survey at the school and pickleball was in the top 5 of activities respondents would like to see. Etzel said they would also like to be able to turn the pickleball courts into an ice-skating rink in the winter when the weather was cold enough. Marilyn Watkins made the motion to allow the KAYS to use the area south of the swimming pool parking lot for pickleball courts. Mike Meerpohl seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes. Erika Allen also informed the commissioners that the city had been accepted to do design work on the sidewalk project along Highway 75. Kerwin McKee, City Manager, asked the commissioners if it would be alright to hire a grant writer and an engineer for this project. Commissioners agreed.

ART IN THE PARK: Suzette McCord-Rogers and April Lemon from the Tourism Council spoke to the commissioners about their upcoming projects and to ask permission to use city parks for some projects. McCord-Rogers said their plan for art in the park was actually three projects. The first project is the Watch Your Glass orb project. April Lemon of More Than Lemons has donated the hand-blown glass orbs for the project. They were asking permission for city staff to hide them in the parks. There will be 100 clear orbs and 22 colored orbs. When someone finds an orb, they take a picture with it and upload it to a site. If it is a colored orb, they can keep it. If it is a clear orb, they ask that the finder hide the orb again for someone else to find. Each orb will be dated and numbered. They will break the orbs into three launches – Glory Days on May 28, June 30, and sometime in July. The second proposal is for a Beyond the Mural project that they would like to do during Art Week July 18-28. They would like to do a mural at the site of the old kiddie pool at the Holton Municipal Pool. Katie Morris will be there to oversee the project. They have a mural they would like to paint of a sunflower. Children will be encouraged to help paint. Katie Morris will also be doing a community mural during the art walk that will be a 4-foot x 8-foot canvas. They will take it to Mayetta, Hoyt, etc. and let the community make the mural and then have a professional painter do the mural from the canvas. The 3rd proposal is creating the Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem mural on the Historical Society building. Mike Meerpohl made a motion to allow the Tourism Council to do their proposed projects in the parks. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

2022 STREET PROGRAM: Greg Tanking, Street Superintendent, presented his street program for this year. Tanking said that with the cost of concrete, he would like to skip a brick street project this year and concentrate on curbs. He said they could improve several curbs so they would be ready when we do the street repairs. His plan this year is to do 16 blocks of crack filling, 27 blocks of chip sealing, and the curb projects as time allows. Eric Bjelland made a motion to approve the 2022 Street Program. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Kerwin McKee, City Manager, reported on a ribbon cutting ceremony for Kansas Secured Title on April 7. He also let commissioners know there will be a Glory Days parade on May 28.

Meeting Adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk