

MINUTES OF THE JULY 15, 2019 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The City Commission of the City of Holton met at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall on Monday evening, July 15, 2019. Commissioners Mike Meerpohl, Tim Morris, Dan Brenner and Marilyn Watkins were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann was also present.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the regular meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jim Myers, owner of Off the Square Grill, LLC and Arcada Liquor, spoke to the commissioner about current alcohol laws in the city. Myers would like the city to look at amending their laws to allow retail liquor stores to be open on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day. Since the City of Holton does not have expanded sales, which include Sunday sales, they cannot sell on those holidays. If the city had expanded sales, those days would be included. The other option would be to restrict sales on those holidays for cereal malt beverage sales. Either way, he would like to see the playing field equal for both retailers. As it is now, CMB retailers can sell on those holidays while liquor store cannot be open. Commissioners said they would be open to seeing both open equally. They will discuss this at a later date.

Minutes of the July 1, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between July 2, 2019 and July 15, 2019 were presented to the commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance 2238. Mike Meerpohl moved and Tim Morris seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all; yes.

MEET AND GREET: Richard Myers was introduced as a new employee at the Holton Municipal Power Plant. Commissioners welcomed Richard to the City of Holton.

BUDGET PRESENTATION – MIKE PEROO: Mike Peroo, the city's auditor from MDP, CPA, presented the annual budget for 2020 for the City of Holton. Peroo commended the commissioners on the really good job they have done over the years in paying down debt and bringing the city to a more stable financial state. Peroo used the budget worksheets from the departments as they were presented to the commissioners in previous weeks to come up with the 2020 budget. Peroo was able to keep the mill levy the same as last year while incorporating some increases in department budgets due to an increase in property values. He felt that all of our utility rates are well below the affordability index and could use an increase to meet financial requirements in those funds. Commissioners thanked Peroo for his presentation.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY20 BUDGET: A public hearing must be set for the FY20 budget. Dan Brenner made a motion to hold the public hearing on August 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at city hall. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

EASEMENT: Brenda Adkins, Rural Water District #3, was present again to discuss an easement that RWD #3 would like the city to agree to on the west side of T Road by Prairie Lake. Marilyn Watkins asked if the project was going to happen now or if the easement was for future use. Adkins said they would be doing the project now. Marilyn Watkins said she had an issue giving an easement with nothing in return, since RWD #3 won't give the city a meter for the easement. Mike Meerpohl said he did not have an issue with the easement. Tim Morris said he had an issue with the first easement they presented, but did not have an issue with the one they were presenting now. Morris did say he hoped they would remember that we gave an easement for nothing in return in the future when we needed something. Bob Dieckmann stated

he was in favor of the easement. Dan Brenner said he would like to see more given back to the city as Marilyn had stated, but he would support it. Brenner asked if they could do a tap without a meter until we are ready for water. Adkins said that when a tap is made a meter is installed and a minimum charge must be paid each month. Kerwin McKee, City Manager, asked if we could have it turned off when the lake wasn't open. Adkins said they could look at that option. Tim Morris made a motion to approve the easement for Rural Water #3. Mike Meerpohl seconded the motion. Vote thereon: Morris, Meerpohl, Brenner, Dieckmann – yes; Watkins – no. Motion carried.

NO PARKING REQUEST: USD 336 has requested the city add some no parking streets for their bus route. They are requesting that the east side of Dakota 5th to 6th, the south side of 6th Street between Colorado and the alley on the east school property line, and the east side of Kansas Avenue from 7th to 8th Street be made no parking. Greg Tanking, Street Superintendent, told the commissioners he had notified the property owners and had not received an calls about it. Tim Morris asked if this was what was needed to make the flow better. Ginger Binkley, USD 336 representative, said they had met and determined these are the biggest problems in their route. Marilyn Watkins asked about the north side of the building where kids are going out and whether this no parking will be enforceable. Kerwin McKee, City Manager, stated we currently have two officers in training, but they will be back in September and we will be back to full staff then. Mike Meerpohl made a motion to approve the no parking areas. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Marilyn Watkins passed on a complaint she had received from Virginia Hopkins. Hopkins stated she wanted to put a business in a building that had been used as a business approximately 20 years ago and had been told no. She claimed she called Dan Brenner and he did not return her calls. She also claimed to have contacted city attorney Dennis White and he also did not return her calls. She said she went to the County Counselor and she said they told her they make the zoning rules. Kerwin McKee explained that he had talked to Hopkins on several occasions and where she wanted to go was not zoned for business, and the building did not meet any building codes so that location was not an option. Dan Brenner also explained that he had spoke to Ms. Hopkins on three occasions and told her the same information.

Meeting Adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk