

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The City Commission of the City of Holton met at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall on Monday evening, September 16, 2019. Commissioners Mike Meerpohl, Tim Morris, Dan Brenner and Marilyn Watkins were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann was also present.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the Public Hearing for Issuing Hospital Loan Anticipation Revenue Bonds, Series 2019. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the September 3, 2019 meeting were approved with corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Bruce and Jennifer Shaw spoke in public comment representing the E.U.M. Church. Jeff Draper, Code Enforcement Officer, sent the church a nuisance letter concerning property owned at 226 New York. Bruce Shaw said he felt there were way worse properties than this one that Draper should be worried about. Jennifer Shaw said she felt the whole letter was horrible. It was generic and she felt it should be written specifically to what the problem is instead of listing all the violations under that section of the code.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between September 4, 2019 and September 16, 2019 were presented to the commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance 2242. Tim Morris moved and Mike Meerpohl seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all; yes.

ORDINANCE 19-011: Sarah Steele, Gilmore & Bell, spoke about the Hospital Loan Anticipation Revenue Bonds. Steele explained that the bonds are solely obligated to the hospital. They are a short term bond, 24 months, in anticipation of the USDA Rural Development loan the hospital will get after construction. Steele commented that the hospital had privately raised over 2 million toward the project between donations, pledges and a grant. Marilyn Watkins made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-011. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: Watkins, Morris, Mike Meerpohl and Bob Dieckmann; yes. Dan Brenner abstained. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 19-R008: Kerwin McKee, City Manager, explained that this resolution authorizes payment of the Series 2015 Bond. Sarah Steele told the commission this resolution allowed for the unwinding of everything involved in the series 2015 refunding bond belonging to the hospital. Mike Meerpohl made a motion to approve Resolution 19-R008. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: Meerpohl, Morris, Marilyn Watkins and Bob Dieckmann; yes. Dan Brenner abstained. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 19-R009: Every five years the city must pass a resolution approving the Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City of Holton currently piggy-backs with Jackson County and other counties in adopting the plan. Dan Brenner made a motion to approve Resolution 19-R009. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

ORDINANCE 19-012: The city commission recently heard from a local business that would like to see Sunday sales of alcohol allowed in the city. This in turn would allow liquor stores and CMB retailers to sell on the same days. Currently, CMB retailers are allowed to sell on Memorial Day, the 4th of July and Labor Day, where liquor stores are not. Allowing Sunday sales would open up those holidays to liquor stores and put them on an even playing field with

the CMB retailers. Dan Brenner made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-012. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

ORDIINANCE 19-013: Kerwin McKee, City Manager, proposed a couple of changes to the camping policy for the City of Holton. Ordinance 19-013 would add a provision that requires campers to physically remove their campers from Prairie Lake after 14 days for a minimum of 24 hours before returning. The ordinance change would also allow for the city manager to declare a special event which allows exceptions to the camping rules. Mike Meerpohl made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-013. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

PRAIRIE LAKE CAMPING FOR RETIREES: After several discussions by commissioners, City Manager Kerwin McKee proposed a compromise of the many options put forward. McKee proposed that retired employees with at least 20 years of service be granted 21 free camping days each year. Marilyn Watkins felt that past or present commissioners should not be included. Tim Morris said that while he doesn't camp, he disagreed and felt he was looking out for the future. Watkins respectfully disagreed. Mike Meerpohl felt that this wasn't a big issue and the commission could always look at it again if too many paying spots were being taken up by employees. Tim Morris said he had an issue limiting the days. Dan Brenner said he had been contacted by a retired employee that recommended the limited days. Tim Morris said if they were going to limit it, he felt it should be a day per year of service. Marilyn Watkins felt that varying days was a record keeping nightmare for the lake caretaker. Tim Morris made a motion to allow 1 day per year of service for retired employees with at least 20 years of service. Dan Brenner seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Marilyn Watkins commented that the sidewalks on the south side of the courthouse looked great. She asked if anyone had heard if the new signs for parking by the elementary school were working. McKee said he had not received feedback on the signs. She also asked when the fireworks issue would be back on the agenda. McKee said he had been contacted by Mrs. Gruver and is proposing having it on the October 7 agenda. Tim Morris will contact those that had asked him to be notified when it was going to be discussed.

Mike Meerpohl asked if the city had been contacted about a new business at the old Country Mart building. McKee said we had not been contacted.

Kerwin McKee informed the commission that the sewer jetter and cub cadet utility vehicle were going on Purple Wave as soon as paperwork was completed. He also told the commission that Chris Culligan had resigned as a dispatcher from the Police Department to go to work for the KBI, so we were currently advertising that position. The two new police officers would be graduating the police academy at the end of September. A new officer had been hired to replace a recent resignation, so within the next couple of weeks the police department would be back to capacity.

Meeting Adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk