

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2019 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The City Commission of the City of Holton met at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall on Monday evening, December 2, 2019. Commissioners Mike Meerpohl, Tim Morris, Dan Brenner and Marilyn Watkins were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann was also present.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the November 18, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between November 19, 2019 and December 2, 2019 were presented to the commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance 2247. Mike Meerpohl moved and Tim Morris seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all; yes.

CITY HALL COMPUTERS AND SERVER: City staff were recently contacted by The Computer Doctors that the server was no longer going to work after the first of the year. The server is 14 years old and no longer supported. Recent updates almost crashed the server, but they were able to make it work temporarily. Kerwin McKee, City Manager, presented a bid for \$15,560.00 for replacement of the server and 6 work stations. He explained that they were already planning on replacing the 4 year old workstations and felt it would be a cost savings to do it all at once. Dan Brenner questioned why there was only one bid. McKee said he was trying to stay local with the purchase. Tim Morris said he had no problem with just one bid since they were the only business local and had been a good vendor for many years. Marilyn Watkins agreed with Morris. Tim Morris made a motion to approve the bid from The Computer Doctors for \$15,560.00. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

ORDINANCE 19-014: City Manager, Kerwin McKee, presented Ordinance 19-014 for approval. This ordinance updates the city's beverage code to current laws. He explained the last time the beverage code was addressed in full was 2005. Dan Brenner made a motion to approve Ordinance 19-014. Marilyn Watkins seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

POWER PLANT REPORT: Ira Harrison, Light Plant Superintendent, updated the commissioners on the power plant. Harrison explained that the city has purchase power agreements that total 6640 kw of base load energy. By having three of our engines registered with Southwest Power Pool (SPP) we can be called upon to generate when there is an issue with the grid in our area. By having this available, the city was able to generate a credit on the EMP3 bill in 2018 of \$124,623. For 2019, a more moderate temperature this summer meant our credit has only been \$34,665 so far this year. He also explained that our tie transformer limits what we can receive for power. This means that anytime our power load is above 8000 kw (this only occurs during peak summer times) we must generate. We need to be looking at upgrading this tie transformer in the future. With payoff of the engines at the plant happening next year, we will be freeing up around \$360,000 a year that was paying that bond. The last time Harrison checked on what it would take to replace the transformer was about four years ago, and it was going to take around \$500,000. The lines coming in to the transformer would also need

upgraded, but we may be able to get those upgraded by Evergy as they are required to do upgrade projects each year. Harrison also brought up an opportunity for our power portfolio coming up. The EMP3 has the chance to buy into a solar farm in southwest Kansas in the near future. This power would be available for \$28 per kwh, which is very cheap. He will let them know more about this option as more becomes available.

Kerwin McKee, City Manager, reported that we have been struggling keeping the Christmas lights working on the tops of the buildings. These lights are over 30 years old and the wire is brittle. Distribution is doing the best they can to make them work.

Marilyn Watkins asked about the mid block area on the south side of the square. She said she understands that there is no longer a crosswalk there, but the striping is confusing for people parking. She asked if the Street Department could restripe it and just make it another parking space so people are not so inclined to continue to use it as a crosswalk. Kerwin McKee said he would check on it.

Tim Morris asked about the house on Pennsylvania that is under Resolution to be taken care of. Kerwin McKee said there has been no progress by the owner on the house and it has to be taken care of by December 6 or the city will have it torn down.

Bob Dieckmann wanted to let the crews that worked on the walking path at Countryside Park know he was proud of their work.

Meeting Adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk