

## MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 4, 2014 CITY COMMISSION MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Holton met at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall on Monday evening, August 4, 2014. Commissioners Erich Campbell, Twila White, Tim Morris, Dan Brenner and Bob Dieckmann were present.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann opened the public hearing for the fiscal year 2015 budget. Mayor Dieckmann asked for any public comment on the budget. Willy Wilson told the commission that over the years the city has spent money that we have not gotten any return on such as Vermont Street in 2007 for Hammersmith which was supposed to employ around 65 employees and maybe has 12 or so, Dakota Street in 2002 for one house, the Industrial Park sale of a lot for \$10,000 that we agreed to pay back up to \$10,000 in dirt work and get no sales tax money out of. He said if we spend the money to do the street at the Industrial Park we will not get our money back there either. Hearing no other public comment, Dieckmann closed the hearing.

Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the July 7, 2014 meeting were approved with corrections.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Carolyn McKee, Holton/Jackson County Chamber of Commerce Director, spoke to the commission in public comment to explain to the commission about a new promotion they are implementing called Second Saturdays. This will be an event to recur on the second Saturday of each month. They are also applying for a grant to help with expenses to implement the program. The Kansas Alcoholic Beverage Control has a new exemption for non-profit organizations to serve alcohol at events supporting the arts. If you meet their qualifications, you do not have to have a license to serve complimentary alcohol in businesses, but you must get approval of the city in the form of a resolution or ordinance supporting the event. Bret Bauer, City Manager, explained that we do not have anything in our current alcohol laws to allow something like this, so we will need to look at changing our rules to incorporate this type of event. Carolyn McKee stated that each business will purchase their own alcohol to dispense and according to Alcohol Control, the event sponsor and the business are responsible for complying with alcohol rules. She asked the city to do a resolution she can attach with her application to allow for these events. Bauer stated that the city will need to address our liquor rules to do this, so we will need to look at that before we move forward. Carolyn McKee thanked the commission for their time.

**APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE:** Claims against the City of Holton between July 22, 2014 and August 4, 2014, were presented to the Commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance #2115. Tim Morris moved and Twila White seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all, yes.

**FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET:** The 2015 budget was presented to the commission for approval. Tim Morris commented that he supported the budget but wanted to remind everyone that we are not locked into that spending without approval. No mill levy increase was presented for the new budget. Tim Morris made the motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 budget as presented. Erich Campbell seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

**PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:** Brett Summers has expressed interest in filling the vacant seat on the Planning Commission. Dan Brenner moved to appoint Brett Summers to the Planning Commission. Erich Campbell seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Tim Morris addressed the commission about the bar graph that was recently removed from the City of Holton utility bills. He did not agree with the explanation given to him by Bret Bauer and Michelle Raaf, Administrative Assistant, as to why it was removed. He felt that it made us look less transparent to remove important information from the bills like that. Bauer explained that we received many complaints from customers that did not understand that the information did not represent exactly the same time frame each month or from one month in a year to the same month in another year. The information has been replaced by information specific to each bill that represents usage for billing period, days in billing period, usage by day and cost per day for electric and water. Dan Brenner commented that he had heard from customers that did not understand the graphs also. Twila White said she really liked the new information and the fact that is broke down by your usage per day. Erich Campbell and Bob Dieckmann also commented that they liked that information also. Erich Campbell said he had every confidence in the decisions made in the office. City Clerk Teresa Riley pointed out that reading periods were not the same from year to year due to holidays, vacations and other events that effect when the meter reader is able to read. Due to these inconsistencies in the time frame from year to year, the comparisons were difficult for customers to understand. Tim Morris said he did not agree with the change but he would move on and drop the subject.

Bob Dieckmann asked if it were possible to get the Holton Wildcats mascot on the water tower when we get it painted. Bret Bauer said we had checked into that and it was cost prohibitive. Tim Morris felt that the school board would be willing to help with the cost. Bauer said he would check with them and let the commission know the outcome.

Meeting adjourned.

Teresa Riley  
City Clerk