

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 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 Tuesday evening, January 21, 2014. Commissioners Tim Morris, Hal Cochren, Dan Brenner and Erich Campbell were present. Mayor Bob Dieckmann called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the January 6, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: Claims against the City of Holton between January 7, 2014 and January 21, 2014, were presented to the Commission for their approval. After careful consideration, said claims were approved and given the title Appropriation Ordinance #2102. Hal Cochren moved and Tim Morris seconded the motion for their approval. Vote thereon: all, yes.

KANSAS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION VOTING DELEGATE: The annual Rural Water Association Conference will be coming up in March. Voting delegates for the board meeting must be appointed each year. Erich Campbell made a motion to appoint Bret Bauer as the voting delegate for Kansas Rural Water Association annual conference. Dan Brenner seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

KANSAS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION ALTERNATE VOTING DELEGATE: Erich Campbell made a motion to appoint Dennis Ashcraft as the alternate voting delegate for Kansas Rural Water Association annual conference. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD ANNUAL RENEWAL: Renewal rates for employee health insurance were received from Blue Cross Blue Shield, with an average rate increase of 4%. We were able to keep our plan grandfathered again for 2014. Tim Morris commented about how proud he was of the commission for maintaining the employee health insurance policy as it is a very good policy. It was also suggested that the city pick up the entire increase in rates and leave employee deductions where they were. Hal Cochren made a motion to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal. Erich Campbell seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULE: Bret Bauer, City Manager, presented the commission with an updated salary range schedule that reflected a 3% pay increase to base pay. Tim Morris commented that with the cost saving measures we have implemented we have the resources to give a pay increase and he was in favor of the 3%. He did go on to say that as we continue to give these percentage increases we are increasing the difference between the bottom and top of our scales. In order to attract and maintain good employees he would like to see us keep our wages in a decent range. He would be in favor in the future of doing something different where possibly the lower half of the scale got a bigger percentage to close that gap. He also said he was not in favor of merit increases. Hal Cochren also agreed that he was not in favor of merit increases either. Erich Campbell was also not in favor of merit increases but would like to see some other type of increase available to employees, possibly a training increase or longevity pay. All commissioners agreed to look at this during budget season this year. Hal Cochren made a motion to approve the 3% cost of living increase to the base pay for city employees. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

FINE SCHEDULE: Bret Bauer presented another spreadsheet showing a 50% rate increase from our current fine schedule. Erich Campbell was in favor of the 50% increase on all fines. He would like to see one increased more than 50%, the fine pertaining to domestic battery. City Attorney Dennis White told the commission that Municipal Court has not prosecuted domestic

battery for several years as our court is just not equipped to handle those types of cases, so raising that particular fine will not really make a difference. All of the commissioners agreed the 50% increase was the way to go. A resolution will be drawn up for the next meeting to be effective March 1, 2014.

GO BOND 2004: Bret Bauer has been contacted by several bond companies about refinancing our 2004 GO Bond which is now callable. Several options were presented. Tim Morris was in favor of not refunding the bond and just making extra payments on the principal. All other commissioners agreed. No action was taken.

In other business:

Bret Bauer reminded everyone that City Hall Days at the Capital will be February 5. All five commissioners told Bauer they will be attending.

Bauer also asked the commission if they would like to hold a workshop at 6:00 p.m. before the February 3 meeting to work on a plan for how to use the new sales tax. Commissioners agreed to the workshop.

Erich Campbell gave everyone a heads up that there has been talk lately about citizens wanting a dog park in town.

Erich Campbell moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for non elected personnel. Hal Cochren seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes. After 15 minutes Erich Campbell moved to return to regular session. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes.

Erich Campbell moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes for attorney client privilege. Tim Morris seconded the motion. Vote thereon: all; yes. After 15 minutes Dan Brenner moved to return to regular session. Hal Cochren seconded the motion. Vote thereon: al; yes.

Meeting was adjourned.

Teresa Riley
City Clerk