

City Council supports summer schedule brochure and project

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke City Council members are excited about a project that is in the works to keep people informed of what is going on in Holyoke and Phillips County throughout the summer.

In a collaboration between Phillips County Family Education Services and Colorado State University Extension Office, a brochure is in the works that will include information on many of the summer activities that will be offered in Holyoke and Phillips County. The publication will be dubbed “Holyoke Happenings.”

Family Education Services executive director Trisha Herman said during the council’s Tuesday, March 6 meeting they are looking to include anything from sports, races, weight programs, museum hours, Vacation Bible School dates, library hours and much more in the brochure.

The idea came from the Haxtun Fun Guide—a similar piece of work that is used in Haxtun.

“What we are going to try to do is have every single thing that we can possibly put on the schedule that anybody would want,” Herman said.

Herman said they are looking at an initial cost of around \$1,000 to get the program started. That cost will mainly include printing of the brochures and advertising. Council members voted to approve a \$300 donation toward the project. Herman said they are looking elsewhere to receive funds for the project as well.

In addition to the pamphlet, they are going to take a six-week chunk out of the summer and use it to offer classes. They hope to find volunteers in the community to help teach different classes geared toward kids. Anything from cake baking to origami to hunter safety will be offered.

The plan is to utilize the Event Center, Peerless Center and schools.

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Herman said they recently acquired a website which will have the schedule of events. They also hope to run a big advertisement that can be cut out and hung up. Every child within the Holyoke School District will receive one of the pamphlets as well.

Committee members for the project include Herman, Kellie Race, Linda Jelden, Linda Langelo and Tracy Trumper.

“I think it will be so beneficial for the community,” Herman said. Council members all agreed it is a great idea.

Broken electric meter leads to large refund

An electric meter at Phillips County Fairgrounds that had been operating wrong has led to a rather sizeable refund to Phillips County. City supt. Mark Brown said a multiplier was wrong and had been wrong for a long time. “How it slipped through the cracks is unreal,” Brown said. After a quick check with the help of Highline Electric, it was found to be overcharging.

Since the amount is so substantial, the auditor requested the council vote on the refund. Council members voted last Tuesday to refund the county \$15,468.50 that they had been overbilled for.

Council to vote on drug paraphernalia ordinance

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Holyoke police chief Doug Bergstrom and city attorney Al Wall have been working together to come up with an ordinance that would allow the city to regulate fines and punishments for drug paraphernalia.

Wall has drafted an ordinance which will be presented for first reading at the Tuesday, March 20 meeting.

Reports of city officials

Council members heard reports from city supt. Brown and police chief Doug Bergstrom at last week's meeting.

Brown said the boiler at the city offices has broken. He has two companies looking into it and will accept bids to replace it.

Brown said money was budgeted in anticipation of something happening.

Bergstrom introduced newly hired police officer Larry Drake to council members.

Other business

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In other business March 6, council members:

—held a 35-minute executive session for negotiations.

—contributed \$10,900 to Phillips County Economic Development Corporation for the 2012 membership.

—changed the date of the April 3 regular meeting to Monday, April 2 due to the municipal election on Tuesday, April 3.

—set wages for newly hired police officer Larry Drake at \$27,000 per year.

—appointed Sandy Saylor, Marianne Sullivan, Lela Carruthers, Betty Ocken and Barb Kreider as judges for the municipal election to be held Tuesday, April 3. Barb Neugebauer will serve as an alternate. Wages were set at \$10 per hour.

—approved travel request for Rich Wittman to attend Hot Line School in Grand Junction May 6-11 at a total of \$603.

—purchased a used refrigerator for the employees' break room at a cost of \$200.

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