

City Council sees short agenda Monday night

Written by Chris Lee

Holyoke City Council saw a short agenda at its Monday, Nov. 5 regular meeting.

The council moved the meeting to Monday to allow the city clerk/treasurer Kathy Olofson to serve as an election judge Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Following the consent agenda, council members discussed a purchase request of an eCIVIS Grants Network program.

Olofson mentioned the program to council members during their Oct. 16 meeting, at which time the council asked to check some references to see if other towns have utilized the program that helps locate possible grants for projects.

During Monday's meeting, Olofson said she checked and was given the names of Basalt and Burlington who have both purchased the program.

Burlington just signed up for the program and they haven't used it yet.

Olofson said Basalt has been signed up the past few years and they didn't give her a good referral. She noted it wasn't due to the program but they are crunching their numbers during budget time and they don't feel like renewing.

The cost, should Holyoke decide to go with the purchase, would be \$1,500 per year for two years. That price would jump up to around \$3,500 a year.

"I don't have a real good feeling about it any more," Olofson said.

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“I don’t think it’d be a good use of funds,” councilman David Churchwell said.

The council decided not to take action on the purchase request during Monday night’s meeting.

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Reports of city officials

Council members heard reports from city supt. Mark Brown, police chief Doug Bergstrom and city attorney Al Wall at last week’s meeting.

Brown said there had been three power outages since the last meeting. The major one that took out the entire city Oct. 20 was caused by a motor vehicle accident hitting a guide wire at the substation.

Brown said crews were gearing to put up city Christmas lights this week. He also noted street crews were still picking up leaves and said they should be close to wrapping that up.

Bergstrom noted his department investigated an incident where a pit bull had been shot in town. He also noted the Humane Society has also investigated it.

The chief also noted Halloween was fairly uneventful and they only had one incident of smashed pumpkins and some toilet paper at the city park.

Wall said he is close to having a proposal for the council as a follow-up on the nuisance ordinance they have been working on. He would like to see a short work session following the next council meeting for all members to look over the proposal.

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Other business

In other business Nov. 5, council members:

—approved and adopted an ordinance amending a chapter of the municipal code relating to zoning. The change will now read “any territory annexed to the City will be annexed as A-O Agricultural and Open District unless the annexation ordinance provides for a zoning other than A-O Agricultural and Open District.

—renewed the liquor license for First Dragon Chinese Restaurant.

—approved purchase request for a Samsung computer for \$559 from Computers Etc. for the electric department.

—approved purchase request for a Dell OptiPlex computer with 22-inch monitor, standard speakers/card reader for \$1,079 from Computers Etc. for the police department.

—held a short budget work session following the meeting.

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