

City Council examines costs to develop in south Holyoke

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

After a brisk Tuesday, Feb. 4 meeting, Holyoke City Council members held a short work session to discuss the estimated costs of expanding city utilities south of Cobblestone Inn and Suites in Holyoke.

Tom Bennett joined the conversation, stating that he has been looking into various outlets for money through grants. Options are available depending on the commitment level the city would have to apply.

City Superintendent Mark Brown put together a rough list of estimated costs for development purposes south of the hotel. The total project could carry a price tag upward of \$160,000 if started from scratch.

Extending water services would cost roughly \$110,000, with approximately \$90,000 for supplies. Brown stated that much of the materials for this portion of the project are already owned by the city.

Sewer costs could reach over \$35,000, with \$12,500 attributed to materials. The price to extend electricity may run close to \$21,000, with \$15,000 for materials.

“This has been my objective the whole time—to get the general costs on everything so we can look at the whole project and see if it makes sense or not,” Bennett said.

With the estimated costs in hand, Bennett noted that the feasibility of the project will be easier to determine.

Officials report

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Brown reported at Tuesday night's meeting that the electric department had been busy replacing lights around town and that street crews had their hands full with snow removal.

Mayor Orville Tonsing stated that he had heard several comments from business owners that were grateful for the work of city crews in removing snow from parking spaces.

Holyoke Police Chief Doug Bergstrom reported that from Jan. 16-29, the department generated 62 calls for service. He commented that there has been a number of calls for barking dogs recently as well.

Bergstrom notified board members that the department is down a car due to repairs. While on patrol in the snowy weather, officer Larry Drake's patrol vehicle slid into a curb Friday, Jan. 31.

A scheduled paint job for the newest department vehicle is postponed until the other vehicle is repaired.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson stated that the city had received the annual franchise fee check from SourceGas for \$14,886.91, up nearly \$1,000 from last year.

Other business

In other business Feb. 4, the council:

—set the price of city-owned lots at \$90 per frontage foot for center lots and \$95 per frontage

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foot for corner lots with a minimum lot size of 75 feet. It is mandatory to sell the lots in a manner so the entire block can be sold. The prices will be reviewed the first of each year and the city furnishes curb, gutter and oil.

—approved the 2013 year-end transfers.

—approved travel requests to send Rich Wittman to Mesa Hotline School as an instructor in Grand Junction from May 4-9.

—approved a request from Phillips County commissioners to waive the building permit fees for the remodeling project at the garage east of the courthouse.

—accepted a quote from Weathercraft Companies for \$6,569 to replace the well house roofs at the golf course well and the water tower well.

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