

Penalty assessment in place for unlicensed dogs

Written by Chris Lee

A series of increasing fines have been agreed upon by City Attorney Al Wall and the judge for dogs found to be unlicensed within Holyoke.

Instead of presenting dog owners with a summons to court, a penalty assessment will be given for first and second offenses, according to Wall at the Tuesday, June 1 City Council meeting.

The new penalty is pretty much the same as the dog-at-large fines. “Hopefully this will get people in compliance,” Wall said. Mayor David Nygaard questioned the option of applying this to other ordinances.

Citizens present issues

Randy Boyd presented the council with concerns about truck parking in Holyoke. Boyd said he was contacted on a couple occasions by Holyoke police officers about parking his truck on city streets.

Boyd said he has been parking his truck outside city limits for 26 years and occasionally brings it in to connect his air compressor to electricity and he is always empty.

“These are oversights and never the intention of our ordinance to do this,” Nygaard said referring to contacting drivers who are parking for a short period of time.

“We’ve had a lot of confusion in our office to exactly what we’re supposed to allow and what not to allow,” Police Chief Phil Biersdorfer said. He added he will talk with the officers to ensure everyone is clear on the ordinance and clarification is made.

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Matt Winterrowd is concerned about some dead or dying trees on a neighboring property and asked council members for some guidance concerning broken limbs.

He said the recent wind storm blew some branches off a dead tree and broke some of his fence and took out his cable and phone lines.

Council members said this situation is a private matter and is probably a claim against the neighbor through his insurance company.

Nygaard reiterated the city is in the process of evaluating trees concerning public safety. Wall stated an assessment is in hand; now they need to go and execute.

Reports of city officials

Police Chief Biersdorfer reported Holyoke P.D. assisted with some wind damage after the high winds May 24.

Biersdorfer also said the new Dodge Dakota is now in use and the Crown Victoria it replaced will now be used by Code Enforcement.

The Chief added the Jeep Cherokee and Chevrolet Caprice will be put up for sealed bid shortly.

City Attorney Wall said he may attend a Colorado Municipal League meeting about medical marijuana and would like to learn some more about where things stand and find out some

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options on public provisions.

Other business

In other business June 1, council members:

—held an hour and 10 minute executive session for a conference with the city attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on sensitive legal questions.

—approved donation request from Baby Bear Hugs for 15 \$2 swim passes.

—approved special events permit request from the Phillips County Fair Board to hold a beer garden July 30-31 during the fair and waive the fees.

—accepted request from First United Methodist Church to use showers at swimming pool July 21.