“Pamida will not be coming to Holyoke,” was the announcement made by Mayor David Nygaard at the Holyoke City Council meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

However, Pamida representatives, when contacted, wanted to remind the public there already is a Pamida store in Holyoke—Pamida Pharmacy. According to them, the pharmacy will remain open and operational.

Nygaard revealed that earlier on Feb. 17, the city received a letter from Colver and Killin, LLP, on behalf of Rupert and Claire O’Neal, indicating Pelstar Development, LLC will not be going through with the intended purchase of the O’Neal land south of town.

The letter further stated, “While the O’Neals have performed under their contract with Pelstar to the maximum extent possible, Robert Pelshaw (owner of Pelstar) stated in the Notice as follows: ‘Buyer has been unable to secure financing due to the fact the tenant (Pamida) no longer wishes to operate the business at that location, which makes it impossible to secure financing acceptable to the buyer.’”

Yet when contacted, Pelshaw said the O’Neal contract was contingent upon financing as a simple land purchase contract. “It’s too bad the local banks there were not more community-oriented,” he added. “We could not get the financing we needed.”

He also said he appreciates all the help he received from the city, adding perhaps this is something that could be revisited in the future.

Pamida reps said the corporation is still considering all its options, and will not rule out the possibility of building a store in Holyoke at a different location. It will all depend on the economy, they added.

As for the O’Neal land that was recently annexed by City of Holyoke, the city still plans on developing it at some point in the future.

Other business

In other Holyoke City Council business on Tuesday night, board members:

—held a 31-minute executive session for the purpose of receiving legal counsel from the City Attorney.

—approved a travel request for employees Rich Wittman and Duane Werner to attend Hot Line School in Grand Junction.

—granted a special events permit to Holyoke Vets Club for Saturday, April 4.