Mayor Orville Tonsing and council members David Churchwell, Scott Murray and Kevin Scott took the oath of office Tuesday, April 17 during Holyoke City Council's regular meeting. The four incumbents were re-elected to four-year terms in the Tuesday, April 3 municipal election.

Council members voted to retain Kevin Scott as mayor pro tem.

Three Holyoke City Council members and a mayor were sworn into office Tuesday night, April 17 by city clerk/treasurer Kathy Olofson, pictured at right. Pictured from left are David Churchwell, Scott Murray, Mayor Orville Tonsing and Kevin Scott.
—Enterprise photo

Council asks for different date to be selected for triathlon

Council members voted to ask organizers for Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation's amateur triathlon to choose a different date for the competition day.

MMHF requested the use of the city pool July 4 during the swimming part of the competition.

Since a free swim day is no longer part of 4th of July celebrations, the pool hasn't been open since other city offices are also closed. Pool manager Karla Pargas said she would like to see a different day chosen for the competition.

David Churchwell felt they should allow the use on the 4th but only if MMHF could find a licensed lifeguard to donate their time to watch over the pool.

Scott Murray and Churchwell cast dissenting votes to the motion asking MMHF to come up with another day.

Golf course liquor license hearing to be May 1

A liquor license hearing will be held May 1 at 7 p.m. at the council chambers for the Holyoke Golf Club. Council member Brian Akey said the club is looking to sell alcohol from the clubhouse as well as offer a bar during Calcutta nights.

The idea is to also eliminate golfers from bringing their own alcohol onto the golf course and raise money by selling it. Akey said members they have spoken with are in support of the idea to offer alcohol at the golf course.

Research continues on dog pound

City supt. Mark Brown said they are waiting to receive some plans from area dog pounds built within the last five years to base the Holyoke pound after. He noted the city can look at plans already drawn up and tweak them rather than begin from square one.

Reports of city officials

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

Brown noted the annual citywide cleanup will take place Wednesday-Thursday, May 2-3. He noted people need to take into account recent changes with electronics and the fees associated with recycling them. Brown also said the annual seal coat program is tentatively scheduled for June 21-22.

Bergstrom said the newly purchased Dodge Charger has arrived and been added to the department's fleet. He also noted officer Larry Drake is doing well and is a bit ahead of schedule.

Other business

In other business April 17, council members:

—accepted recommendation from the Holyoke Planning Commission to proceed with annexation of the First Baptist Church of Holyoke and passed a resolution initiating the annexation proceedings for First Baptist. A public hearing will be held Tuesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. at the council chambers.

—donated $1,500 to Holyoke Volunteer Fire Department for training and education.

—hired Theresa Tharp as summer recreation director at a salary of $4,400 plus $250 for work conducted in April.

—approved travel request for Mark Brown, Lennie Fisbeck and Jeremy Thompson to attend Action Now seminar in Sterling April 19.

—accepted 2011 Audit Report and 2011 Local Highway Finance Report.

—approved special event permits for the Fair Board for beer gardens to be held during the fair and each of the stock car races.

—approved post prom donation of $100.

—purchased two new VHF radios for police department at a cost of $738.

—approved ordinance adopting optional premises permits for hotel and restaurant licenses.

—approved ordinance vacating a portion of the city of Holyoke's unused right of way easement along the easterly edge of Sherman Avenue located between Denver and Emerson streets.

—passed resolution adopting by reference the Colorado model municipal records retention schedule.

—approved Policy No. 31, financial policies.

—approved travel request for Kathy Olofson and Orville Tonsing to attend Rural Philanthropy Days.

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