Holyoke City Council approved a $50 fee for excavation permits during their regular meeting Tuesday, Aug. 21.

The council voted last Tuesday to set the $50 fee per segment after some discussion. Councilmen David Churchwell and Steve Moore cast dissenting votes.

City Supt. Mark Brown handed out a proposal during the Aug. 7 meeting which carried a suggested price of $30 per segment.

Last Tuesday, Brown noted he'd like to see everything in segments because every city block has something different running below the surface.

"The further you get into the city, the more congested it is," he noted.

Brown thought it would make sense to set the segment length at one block which would be intersection to intersection or intersection to dead end. To make it easier, council members set it at one block or 360 feet.

Council members felt the price should be increased from $30 to $50 to account for extra work by City employees mapping and keeping track of infrastructure located beneath city blocks.

Holyoke City Council began discussion of excavation permits July 24 while also discussing an application form for revocable encroachment of the City of Holyoke rights of way. The discussion began after hearing of EAGLE-Net wanting to install fiber to portions of Holyoke as part of a statewide network.

Reports of city officials

Council members heard reports from City Supt. Brown, Police Chief Doug Bergstrom and City Clerk Kathy Olofson at last week's meeting.

Brown reported the concrete in the alley between Carnahan and Denver streets behind KarDale's to Holyoke Community Federal Credit Union is finished.

Brown also noted the lights along the north end of the runway at the airport have quit. They tried to order some replacement parts but they are no longer made. The manufacturer sent an upgraded system and after being rewired, it still didn't work. Brown said they boxed everything up and shipped it to the manufacturer to find and fix the issue.

Olofson said she has received notification from three people interested in being considered to fill the open Variance Board seat. She placed an ad in the newspaper and said council members will vote during the Sept. 4 meeting.

Bergstrom said he has spoken with Brown about utilizing the office space at City Hall that was used by former code enforcement officer Dawn Worley. He believes the space is secure enough and wanted to see what council members thought about the Police Department using that space.

Other business

In other business Aug. 21, council members:

—approved travel request for Damon Ellis to attend the basic homicide investigators course in Fort Morgan.

—renewed the liquor license for Holyoke Vets Club, Inc.

—approved purchase of 13 Vertex VX-2100 Vhf radios from Scholl Oil & Transportation Co. for $4,557.15.

—approved purchase of CST 211-12 photo eye at $777 and thermacore bottom section at $376 from Perfection Door Co.

—voted to allow police chief Bergstrom to spend no more than $7,000 on a storage unit for the police department.

—amended a personnel policy pertaining to expenses for employee training and development.

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