

Local business discusses ordinance

Written by Chris Lee

Tommy Thompson, Ron Thompson and Charlie Triplette were present at the Sept. 15 Holyoke City Council meeting to talk with board members about recent warnings they received regarding junk vehicles on their property west of town.

Tommy said they built their building in 1970 and have been restoring tractors since 1971. He also mentioned they provide sand blasting services for area residents including local FFA chapters. He also said they have built trailers.

Thompson estimated they have 1,400 combined years of tractors waiting to be restored. He mentioned many are very unique. He also told board members he can't go to a parts shop to get the parts he needs to restore them. Some will be sitting there for more than a year until he can get proper parts manufactured.

Board members questioned the zoning of the property. Currently it is zoned A-O or agricultural and open. Mayor David Nygaard and city attorney Al Wall suggested they apply for C2 zoning to allow the tractors to sit there and not violate city ordinances and board members agreed.

Reports of city officials

City Supt. Mark Brown said the street crew was working on the 400 block of Melissa Lane applying new asphalt.

Police Chief Phil Biersdorfer reported they have seen a couple of vandalism cases in recent weeks. In his report, Biersdorfer mentioned they had 156 calls to service. Council member Ray Bailey questioned the number of calls and tickets issued compared to the number of traffic stops.

Bailey also said he was contacted about issues concerning traffic early in the morning on S. Interocean Ave.

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Code Enforcement officer Dawn Worley said she has seen the number of dogs at large grow. Council members discussed ideas of transferring unclaimed dogs to shelters located in Grant, Neb. and Sterling. Worley said the shelter in Sterling is in the process of expanding and in the future would be a place to take stray dogs.

Under new business, the council discussed flu shots for full-time city employees and council members. Kathy Olofson said there will be a day for employees and board members to get flu shots at half price. The board voted to pay for the other half.

Council members received a request from the cemetery board to purchase a plaque in recognition for the Millage family and the work they did in putting up the flags at the cemetery. The board discussed prices and approved to purchase a plaque costing no more than \$400.

In other business Sept. 15, council members:

—approved the property/casualty premium for 2010.

—accepted workers compensation quote for 2010.

—renewed contract with Vaisala Inc. for AWOS maintenance.

—approved liquor license renewal for Holyoke Vet's Club.

—accepted travel request for Supt. Brown and another employee to attend a snow and ice conference.