

Mayor Nygaard resigns

Written by Chris Lee

Citing the safety and well-being of his family, Mayor David Nygaard resigned his position effective Wednesday, Aug. 4 at the conclusion of the Tuesday, Aug. 3 Holyoke City Council meeting.

“I have served on the council for over eight years, and tried to do so with integrity and honor. I regret my inability to fulfill my current term to its conclusion,” Nygaard said. “I’m confident that our current council will remain strong, rational and reasonable.”

Mayor Pro Tem Orville Tonsing will preside over the Aug. 17 council meeting where the six remaining council members will vote on a new mayor and mayor pro tem.

The council will then decide on how to fill the vacant seat. Nygaard’s seat will be up for election in 2012.

City to increase golf course funding

Council members agreed to increase funding to the golf course by \$15,000 a year for three years with a review to follow.

The money will not be applied to wages or salaries and will begin this year.

Nygaard and councilman Ray Bailey have been in communication with golf course officials and agree they have seen great strides. Additionally, Bailey performed a recreational review a few months ago of all services Holyoke has to offer. He came to the conclusion the golf course would benefit the most.

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Reports of city officials

City Supt. Mark Brown reported city crews were set to begin seal coating streets Wednesday, Aug. 4. Brown also said the new Caterpillar loader arrived and is ready to be used.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson said she has been working with the property casualty provider Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRCA) on the new assessed values for city properties. There are some concerns with other municipalities and low premiums.

Council members questioned the last time an appraisal had been done and Brown thought it was 8-10 years ago.

City Attorney Al Wall said he has been speaking with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway concerning leases and bills with the railroad.

Wall was pleased to announce areas where the city has lines or utilities under the railroad, Burlington will get rid of the charges.

Nygaard said numerous people have voiced concern about a full-time farmers market near the Phillips County Courthouse. Nygaard said he has spoken with Brown and Wall and suggested the council look into the situation at a future meeting.

Wall said most communities have provisions for farmer-grown sales and it is different if someone is buying produce and then reselling as a business.

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Wall said at one time Holyoke had an ordinance banning such an activity and suggested revisiting it.

Olofson said the party involved has discussed the possibility of looking for a building and turning it into a business. She also mentioned a list of possible buildings/sites was presented to them.

Other business

In other business Aug. 3, council members:

—approved liquor license renewal for Scormor Lanes.

—appointed Boyce Wernet to serve another five-year term on the Holyoke Housing Authority.

—approved first reading of ordinance 2-2010, repealing certain sections of Title 2, Chapter 2.48, tree board and regulations of the Holyoke Municipal Code and creating a new ordinance for regulation of maintenance and removal of trees and shrubs and licensing within the City of Holyoke.