

Vacant city council seat remains open

Written by Chris Lee

Advertising will continue for any interested parties for a vacant city council seat. The decision came when no candidate obtained a majority vote at the Sept. 7 council meeting.

Linda Langelo and Frostteana Elmquist had both submitted their names for consideration for the open position. Neither candidate was in attendance at the meeting.

Council members entered into a 15-minute executive session for a conference with the city attorney to receive legal advice prior to addressing the agenda item.

A written ballot of the six sitting council members found three not voting, so the required majority of four by one candidate was not reached.

After some debate, council members decided to continue advertising for the vacant seat. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 3 p.m. It was recommended any additional interested parties include a letter or attend the Sept. 21 meeting so council members can get a little better idea of who each candidate is.

The open seat came after mayor David Nygaard resigned during the Aug. 3 council meeting and Orville Tonsing assumed the mayor's seat. The seat will be up for election in 2012.

In an item not on the agenda, councilman Steve Moore questioned other council members about where things stand with a food vendor set up almost daily in front of Phillips County Courthouse. He and other council members said they have been contacted by members of the public concerned with the stand.

Main concerns are for competition with local stores, among other issues.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson said the vendor involved has obtained its sales tax license. It was also mentioned they may move into a building located on East Denver Street once renovation has been completed.

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Reports of city officials

Council members heard reports from City Attorney Al Wall and Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson.

Wall said he would like to hold an organizational meeting with the medical marijuana committee in the near future to spend some time on the topic.

“It’s an issue we’re dealt, and we need to deal with it,” Wall said.

Olofson noted the application for a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant for the ball park bleacher project was sent in and received on time. There was even some time to make suggested corrections and additions.

Other business

In other business Sept. 7, council members:

—approved liquor license renewal for Holyoke Vets Club.

—waived the building permit fee for Phillips County Commissioners on a small storage building at the fairgrounds near Phillips County Event Center.