

David Churchwell appointed to City Council

Written by Chris Lee

David Churchwell emerged as the newest member of Holyoke City Council after being appointed to the vacant seat at the Tuesday, Sept. 21 council meeting.

Six candidates presented themselves to the council Tuesday night before the vote. Joining Churchwell were Linda Langelo, Frostteana Elmquist, Dan Waln, Matt Winterrowd and Sandra Rafols.



Before voting, council members entered into a 10-minute executive session for a conference with the city attorney to receive advice on specific legal questions. After exiting the executive session, council members voted using a point system, eliminating candidates one by one until Churchwell was left standing. He will take the oath at the Oct. 5 meeting.

Churchwell said he doesn't have an agenda and feels the current council has been doing the right things. He would like to see Holyoke continue to thrive through the tough economic times and hopes to be a part of that well into the future.

Churchwell grew up in Limon where he graduated from high school. He obtained a degree from Colorado State University in electrical engineering prior to moving to Oregon where he worked for an electrical cooperative.

Churchwell and family moved to Holyoke in 1999 when he was hired as operations manager at Highline Electric—a position he still holds today.

He and wife Nicole have three children, Zachary 11, Ashlyn 9 and Braxten 4. He has served on

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the Holyoke Volunteer Fire Department since 2003.

Council opposes Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101

Council members unanimously adopted a resolution opposing Amendments 60, 61 and Proposition 101. Just like many other organizations throughout the state, Holyoke City Council members feel the three ballot issues would be detrimental if they were to pass.

The resolution states “three measures appearing on the Nov. 2 statewide ballot would significantly damage Colorado’s special districts, state and local governments from funding their most basic level of services related to safety, water, sanitation, fire protection, education, hospitals, rural health care and transportation.

“These measures drastically limit government’s ability to construct new buildings and infrastructure.”

Another council agenda item Tuesday night was the plan of action for the Baldwin building. Mayor Orville Tonsing said a letter was received from the owner and a plan has been put into place to remove the building, beginning within 30 days. Council members requested a plan of action from the owner following the Aug. 17 meeting.

Reports of city officials

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Council members heard reports from City Supt. Mark Brown and Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson.

Brown said the State of Colorado Division of Aeronautics received a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to hook all of the federally funded Automated Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) to the FAA website for weather purposes.

Brown received the necessary equipment; however, an internet connection is needed at the airport. Council members voted to have internet installed so the project can be completed.

Brown also noted some of the city's land leases are coming up and suggested the council decide if they would like to put them back out for bid.

Councilman Ray Bailey questioned Brown about the status of work crews coming to repair areas, mainly in alleys, after fiber optic crews finished last year. Brown said the project may be subcontracted through a group out of Sterling.

Olofson noted it is time for the council to begin thinking about the budget. She requested all committees get together and submit any requests to her. The first draft of the budget will be presented Oct. 5.

Also reporting at last Tuesday's meeting were members of the library board. Polly Skinner, Debbie Tomky and Jean Clayton updated council members on the completion of the renovation project and expressed their appreciation for the council's support of the project.

Other business

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In other business Sept. 21, council members:

—accepted the property/casualty renewal premium quote from Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA) for 2011 at \$54,841 after the equity credit has been applied.

—approved three special event permits for the Holyoke Vets Club for Oct. 2, Oct. 30 and Dec. 31.

—accepted the workers compensation renewal premium quote from CIRSA for 2011 at \$38,368 after the equity credit has been applied.