

KCI requests use of Holyoke water tower for broadband

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

During a brief meeting Tuesday, June 17, Holyoke City Council members discussed the possibility of placing broadband Internet equipment from Kentec Communications, Inc. out of Sterling on the city water tower.

City Superintendent Mark Brown noted that Chase 3000 already has equipment on the tower but was reassured that adding KCI would not create a conflict or disrupt frequency. Brown also stated that the electric services that run to the tower are owned by Chase 3000, and it would be at KCI's expense to install a new one that would run parallel.

Like Chase 3000, KCI's Kent Sager stated that KCI would provide the city office with free Internet service or an equal dollar amount. The equipment would include four sectors which are small antennas about 6 inches wide and roughly 18 inches long.

They would be placed outside of the tower rail to send signals in each direction. Two dishes would also be involved, taking up about a 2 feet by 1 foot area.

Sager stated that this is a common practice for KCI, who also has equipment on the Haxtun water tower.

Mayor Orville Tonsing said a committee will be formed to review other KCI agreements before making a decision. Council members Scott Murray and David Churchwell will join Brown to form the committee, and Tonsing stated he will sit in with the group when time permits.

Public records policy adopted

Tuesday night also saw the City Council approve the policy and procedures for handling public

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records requests, going into effect July 1.

The city clerk will act as the official custodian of all public records and will handle all requests for public records. Criminal justice records, however, can only be obtained through a records request from the Holyoke Police Department.

The City has three days—seven days in extenuating circumstances—to respond to a request.

Costs for records requests include 25 cents per page for photo copies, \$1.25 per page for faxed copies or certified copies and \$30 per hour for research and retrieval. After one hour, time will be billed in 15-minute increments. Postage/mailing fees and actual cost will also be taken into account.

For copies of audio or video tapes, CDs, maps or other public records that require the collaboration with an outside service, charges will be at cost, in addition to any applicable research and retrieval fees. The full estimated amount may be required at the time of the request.

The city will return any amount of deposit paid that exceeds the actual charge. No copies will be released until the fees are paid in full.

Officials report

Brown reported that since the June 3 meeting, there had been no power outages in Holyoke. City crews have recently begun working on sewer manholes. Work started on West Furry Street and will move to East Furry next.

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A broken water main in the 100 block of South Morlan Avenue was recently repaired. Crews also replaced an old underground power line in the 600 block of East Hale Street.

Brown also noted that Zeke Finch in the electrical department and Rigoberto Marquez in the refuse department are both out on worker's compensation.

Holyoke Police Chief Doug Bergstrom reported that from May 29-June 12, the department handled 79 calls for service, made two arrests, wrote 11 reports, issued three citations and gave out nine warnings. Through code enforcement, there were 11 reports for dogs at large, two junk ordinance violations and one follow-up performed.

City Clerk/Treasurer Kathy Olofson informed board members that the city had received the second quarter conservation trust payment of \$5,399.64.

Other business

In other business June 17, the council:

—donated \$1,000 to Holyoke Volunteer Fire Department for fireworks on the 4th of July.

—renewed the annual lease agreement with Holyoke Golf Club, Inc.

—approved a travel request for Olofson to attend SOS election training in Englewood for a total of \$320.

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—waived the building permit fee for shingling two apartment buildings at the Holyoke Housing Authority.

—agreed to let Tom Bennett use the baseball field for a Babe Ruth State Tournament tentatively scheduled for July 11-13.

—renewed a liquor license for Lucky's Liquor.

—held a 40-minute executive session following Tuesday's meeting for a conference with the city attorney to receive legal advice.