



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE HOLDEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

January 7, 2025

Members Present:

Mr. Al West	Chairman
Mr. Doug Hayworth	Member
Mr. Rob Hough	Member
Mr. Allen Mensch	Council Liaison

Guests Present:

Mr. Tony Lerda	Superintendent
Ms. Christie Reed	Financial Coordinator
Ms. Kim Morrow	Billing Specialist

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM.

There was a review of the minutes from the December 3, 2024, regular meeting. **Motion** by Mr. Hayworth to approve the minutes, Mr. Hough seconded the motion, Mr. West called for a vote. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Financial Report: **Motion** by Mr. Hough to approve the financial statement and pay the invoices, Mr. Hayworth seconded the motion, Mr. West called for a vote. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER SYSTEM –

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Lerda stated that everything was good. There have been preparations going on for over a week for the incoming cold weather. The plant was winterized mechanically, and shallow meters were insulated. So far there have not been any issues, thankfully and largely due to a long-time crew that knows the issues that have arisen in the past. All this information will eventually be documented in Diamond Maps in time.

Mr. West began discussing the “Eye on Water” app offered to all customers and how many are aware of its usefulness. Mr. Lerda stated that he and Ms. Morrow are working on a strategy to get more customers to utilize the free service. This service can tell a customer at what time water is used and how many gallons were used. It can let them know how many gallons is used to do a load of laundry. If the customer is on vacation, it can notify them of a possible leak. Mr. Lerda continued by saying it is a valuable tool for every household. Mr. Hough recommended placing a tutorial video on the City of Holden’s Facebook page. Mr. Lerda thought it was a great idea and will move forward with that.

SEWER SYSTEM –

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Mr. Lerda informed the Board that they have been jetting sewers in areas that there could be issues. I & I reports are being done and are due on the 28th of this month. There is a diffuser at the lagoon that needs repaired, but it’s not causing any issues, so we’re not going to go out here in this kind of weather. Other than that, Mr. Lerda stated that everything is good.

MAINTENANCE OF THE STORMWATER BASIN

Mr. Mensch stated that the last thing that he heard is that the City Council believed it is the BPW's responsibility to handle the maintenance. Mr. Lerda replied that he hadn't heard that but is happy to help them if they need it. Mr. Lerda thanked Mr. Mensch for the information.

NEW BUSINESS

ARPA MATCH FROM THE CITY OF HOLDEN

Mr. Lerda stated he had sent the City of Holden a letter concerning the 50/50 match that the City and the County had agreed upon for the ARPA funds. The BPW had received a check from the City for \$15,500 and believed that was the City's 50%. After some communication it was determined that the money received was actually the County's 50% that came from funds they had forwarded to the City of Holden. However, the City had not paid their half. After requesting the City's reimbursement, a check and a letter arrived. The letter stated the City had decided not to pay their half of the agreement and would only pay \$775.00. Mr. Mensch interjected and said he wanted to correct Mr. Lerda, stating that "They" did not make the decision, the Mayor singularly made the decision. Mr. Mensch went on to say that Mr. Briscoe wanted a motion from the Council to withhold the funds, except for the \$775 and none of the Council members would make that motion. The Mayor took it upon himself to make the final decision. He felt that the charges were incurred prior to the ordinance being signed and therefore the City should not be obligated.

As this was a surprise to the BPW, there was a delay before Mr. Lerda started speaking. He stated, we had a disaster, a natural disaster, that flooded the sewer system. This placed the City into an unearned enforcement act by the State of Missouri. We had already done preliminary engineering before that happened. This had to be done and had to be corrected. We had to build the stormwater system. It was mandatory, not only to protect the public's investment in the sewer system but also to comply with the State's mandate. Mr. Lerda continued by stating it was his understanding that the whole project estimated it would cost over \$300,000 and we had a commitment from the County and the City for \$400,000 each. Once the bids came in, the project was able to be completed for a fraction of what was anticipated. The ARPA grant funds, through the County and City were especially designed for this type of situation, an unexpected capital need. Apparently, the decision has been made by the Mayor to have the Holden utility rate payers pay this portion of the expense instead of using the federal grant funds that are available, as was initially agreed. Mr. Lerda suggested that the BPW not go to war with the City Council over this. The Mayor and the Council are still free to reconsider the decision if they wish, but it is important that the citizens are aware of this decision.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None

With no further comments offered, a motion was made to adjourn.

MOTION by Mr. Hayworth to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hough, Mr. West called for a vote. The motion passed with no dissenting votes.

Meeting adjournment at 6:19 P.M.

Signed Kimberly Holger
Secretary

Date 02-04-25