

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 12, 2009

5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mike Batchelder, Ken Stewart, Scott Huss, Jerry Twombly and Mari Ann Parker.

ALSO PRESENT: Landon Riley, Jeff Riley, Ted Collins, Brandon Whetstine, Russ Karn, Marilyn McVicker, Mel Edie, Chad Furr, Randy Snyder, Robert Powell, John Cluck, Dr. Heather Reid and Bill Butrick.

PRESIDING: Mayor Marty Allen.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED 2010 BUDGET

Mayor Allen called the Public Hearing to order with all Council members present and asked for public comment or Council comment concerning the proposed 2010 budget.

Scott Huss moved to approve the 2010 budget. Ken Stewart 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Ken Stewart moved to approve Ordinance #487, an ordinance of the City Of Highland, attesting to an increase in tax revenues for budget year 2010 for the City Of Highland. Scott Huss 2nd. By roll call vote: Batchelder-yes, Parker-yes, Twombly-yes, Stewart-yes, Huss-yes, motion carried unanimously.

5:07 p.m. Mayor Allen called the Regular Council Meeting to order.

Scott Huss moved to approve the minutes of the last Regular Council Meeting held July 8, 2009. Jerry Twombly 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Mari Ann Parker moved to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held July 16, 2009, Ken Stewart 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Ken Stewart moved to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held July 23, 2009, Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Ken Stewart moved to approve the bills for the month of July, 2009. Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

CITY OFFICERS REPORT

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine reported on patrol duty scheduling for himself and Officer Case.

Mari Ann Parker moved to open a checking account for VIN inspections and accident report charges using the City's FIN number and allowing for Brandon Whetstine and Bill Butrick to handle all transactions. Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

City Superintendent Jeff Riley reviewed the Ace Pipe Cleaning company report with the Council. He stated that most problems in the sewer lines were caused by roots. After a brief discussion, the Council asked Jeff to check on prices for cutting and foaming for 1000 feet of line and bring estimates to the next Regular Council Meeting.

Riley asked about purchasing a new computer for City Maintenance. He presented bids from E-tek Solutions of \$1,643.00 for a heavy duty lap top and \$846.00 for a desk top. Scott Huss moved to purchase the desk top model from E-tek Solutions. Mari Ann Parker 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Riley asked about fire hydrant replacement for 2009. The Council instructed him to put in as many of the five hydrants as possible and if needed to hire M-CON to complete the installation.

The City Superintendent asked about purchasing a new 7' brush hog mower and presented a bid of \$2,750.00 from Bruna Implement. Scott Huss moved to approve the purchase of a 6' mower from Bruna if it could be purchased for \$2,200.00 or less. Ken Stewart 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Riley asked the Council to consider hiring Chad Furr full-time or to add another part-time helper. Scott Huss moved to hire Chad Furr on a full-time basis. Mari Ann Parker 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS REQUESTS

The Council reviewed a letter from a citizen about her dog running at large, and agreed to take the matter under advisement.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken Stewart reported that the final monitoring visit for the KANSTEP Grant (Community Building Project) had taken place on August 11, 2009, with KDOC representative Salih Doughramaji, Grant Administrator Cassie White, City Clerk Bill Butrick and himself present. Ken stated that the City will need to hold a Public Hearing at the next Regular Meeting to finalize the Grant.

Mayor Marty Allen thanked everyone for their help with the Open House Event. He also stated he had spoke with Fuzz Lewis about a sign for the new building.

City Attorney Ted Collins reported that Clark Surveying Co. should be finalizing the survey for the additional parking area for the new building.

Mari Ann Parker wanted to thank Mike Batchelder and Ted Collins for all the extra work they did for the New Community Center/Fire Station.

Mayor Allen gave an update on the progress of the bridge project. He stated that the earliest it could be put up for bids would possibly be October, 2009.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine presented prices for a 4-wheel drive pick-up for the Police Department. The price for a 2008 Chevy 4x4 with approximately 20,000 miles was \$21,500.00, and a 2004 F150 4x4 with 58,000 miles was \$16,000.00. Scott Huss moved to offer \$15,000.00 for the F150 4x4 to Aberle Ford in Sabetha, KS. Ken Stewart 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

John Cluck, of the Wathena City Council, spoke briefly about the decline in population of the County over the last several years. He felt that if we could join forces to address this problem that it would not be such a large financial burden on one entity. He stated that the first item we might want to consider would be to redo the current zoning regulations. The Council agreed they would be interested in a joint effort if it would be affordable. Mr. Cluck said he would stay in touch and present information as it became available.

Scott Huss moved to reimburse Russ Karn \$1512.02 for basement damages from a past sewer line back-up. Ken Stewart 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Marty Allen talked about the contract with Highland Community College concerning the City ball park. Mayor Allen expressed concern about several items not being taken care of. The Council agreed to change the contract to state that local kids in the summer ball program be allowed to use the facility for practice in April if it does not conflict with the College ball schedule. Bill Butrick was instructed to revise the contract and present it at the next Regular Council Meeting for approval.

Ken Stewart moved to approve Ordinance # 485, Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas cities, edition 2009. Scott Huss 2nd. By roll call vote: Batchelder-yes, Parker-yes, Twombly-yes, Stewart-yes, Huss-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Batchelder moved to approve Ordinance #486, Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas cities, edition 2009. Jerry Twombly 2nd. By roll call vote: Batchelder-yes, Parker-yes, Twombly-yes, Stewart-yes, Huss-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Bill Butrick informed the Council that the Board of Zoning Appeals will be meeting on August 31st at 6:30p.m. to consider a variance from Highland Community College on two residences they have purchased for housing of students.

Mayor Allen asked the Council to review the current City Personnel Manual and to bring their recommendations or changes to the next Regular Meeting. The Mayor also asked about mowing at the New Community Center and installing light poles in the parking lot.

Ken Stewart said he would contact Westar Energy about installing the poles and the Council was in agreement to have City Maintenance do the mowing at this time.

6:22p.m. Jerry Twombly moved to go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel and for Ted Collins and Bill Butrick to remain. Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

6:37p.m. Scott Huss moved to come out of executive session, Ken Stewart 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

6:37p.m. Scott Huss moved to go back into executive session for 15 minutes to continue personnel discussion. Ken Stewart 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

6:51p.m. Ken Stewart moved to come out of executive session, Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Jerry Twombly moved to eliminate the Code Enforcement Officer position effective immediately, but to pay him for the month of August. Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Ken Stewart moved to hire Chad Furr at step #4 of the salary schedule and to provide him with full-time benefits to start August 15, 2009. Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

6:52p.m. Mike Batchelder moved to adjourn, Scott Huss 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Mayor

City Clerk