

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
NOVEMBER 13, 2013  
7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Scott Huss, Randy Snyder, Jerry Twombly and Charles Batchelder.

**COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:** Jim Watts

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** City Attorney Ted Collins, City Police Officer Blaine Kennedy, City Police Chief Brandon Whetstine, City Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach, and Assistant City Clerk Joann Karn.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Pam Twombly, Esther Gormley, Ross Thompson, Dennis Lentz, Mike Batchelder, Jerry Bruns, Dorothy Diveley and Scott Sisk.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Ken Stewart

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum of Council members present.

Mayor Stewart announced the new water tower has been filled and the north water tower overflowed first. The water level height between the new (West) tower and the North tower is off by only inches.

Charles Batchelder moved to approve the minutes of the last Regular City Council Meeting held on October 9, 2013. Scott Huss seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Scott Huss moved to approve the bills for the month of October, 2013. Jerry Twombly seconded, motion carried 4-0.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Ross Thompson asked for reimbursement of materials and apologized for not receiving permission prior to repairing the shed and benches in Degginger Park.

Scott Huss moved to reimburse Ross Thompson for the materials and that amount be taken from the Degginger Fund. Randy Snyder seconded, motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Esther Gormley apologized on behalf of the Lions and Pride for the lateness in asking to use Degginger Park for the Snowflake Festival to be held November 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 p.m. Activities include: Lions selling food items – hot dogs, chili, soup, and drink, Santa will arrive for pictures with the kids, living nativity scene, tree lighting, and sweet shop selling cookies, candy, etc. in the Senior Center. Also, asked for the closing of Main Street (Kirkwood to Genesee) from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Snowflake Festival decorations will be taken down after the first of the year and stored for the beginning of this annual event.

Jerry Twombly moved to allow use of Degginger Park and close Main Street (Kirkwood to Genesee) for the Snowflake Festival. Randy Snyder seconded, motion carried 4-0

Jerry Bruns asked about lighting the new water tower. A light directed to shine and focus between the letters “H” and “L” in “Highland” which could be seen from a distance. Councilman Huss asked for pricing and be discussed at the December meeting.

Jerry Twombly secured a bid from Bottorff Construction to repair the culvert drain on Pennsylvania Street west of the elevator for \$4,500. Following discussion, since several others in town need repaired, bid specs will be developed to secure three bids for the December meeting.

Jerry Twombly asked about the progress of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. Chuck Simmons and Dennis Lentz are working to become certified.

Jerry Twombly inquired about the current enforcement of our dogs at large in the city since November 1<sup>st</sup>. Following discussion, Mayor Stewart and Attorney Ted Collins will meet regarding procedure.

Ken Stewart had a citizen's request to review the parking at the corner of Main and Ives. Mayor Stewart and city police will check the situation and report at the December meeting.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

Mayor Stewart reviewed pump #1 repairs and the findings appeared to be electrical inconsistency which may have been a surge with the incoming power. Further repairs may be needed and when completed the total will be submitted to our insurance.

Mayor Stewart noted he signed a letter of support for Doniphan County Svc. & Workskills transportation grant.

Mayor Stewart commented on the possibility of advertising Highland on two Hwy 36 signs (currently Iowa, Sac & Fox Mission State Historic Site). The state is working with Thomas Outdoor Adv. to secure local governmental/not-for-profit organizations to be promoted on the signs.

Anthros Clean-up – A meeting in the near future will be scheduled with Nancy Babcock, Attorney Collins, and Mayor Stewart.

Assistant Clerk Joann Karn provided addition information on the budget. All budgeted funds will appear to be within budget authority at year end.

Assistant Clerk Joann Karn requested the city submit a tax exemption application for the west water tower at a cost of \$400 payable to the Court of Tax Appeals.

Jerry Twombly moved to submit the tax exemption application for the west water tower. Randy Snyder seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Assistant Clerk Joann Karn presented information which would allow city hall to accept credit card payments for water/sewer fees and court fees.

Scott Huss moved to authorize the mayor to enter into an agreement with Kansas.gov, a service of Information Network of Kansas (INK), for acceptance of over the counter credit card payments. Randy Snyder seconded, motion carried 4-0.

City Police Officer Blaine Kennedy asked permission to be a reserve officer for Mound City, MO so he could keep his Missouri certification.

Randy Snyder moved to allow Officer Kennedy to be a reserve officer at Mound City, MO. Scott Huss seconded, motion carried 3-1.

City Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach explained the city would need to hire an individual to oversee the waste water management as the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will not allow him to be an “Operator in Training.”

Following discussion, Scott Huss moved to negotiate with Mark Morgan, City of Troy, to oversee the operation until Supervisor Aaron Leach secures his license (several months). Jerry Twombly seconded, motion carried 4-0.

Supervisor Aaron Leach asked to purchase a power washer for vehicles and equipment. He received bids from Highland Hardware - \$275 and JP Engines - \$350 for the same washer. Following discussion, Supervisor Leach is to present bids at the December meeting for a hot water power washer.

Supervisor Aaron Leach stated that the City has enough salt but will probably need to purchase some sand.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mayor Stewart asked the thoughts on BG Consultants sewer presentation last month. Held discussion on the current lines and per ordinance a back flow preventer is required for new construction.

Mayor Stewart stated City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh is on-call two afternoons a week and has not been called out.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

8:00 p.m. Jerry Twombly moved to go into executive session until 8:05 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel for the protection of the privacy rights of the protected employee and for City Attorney Ted Collins and Assistant Clerk Joann Karn to remain. Randy Snyder seconded, motion carried 4-0.

8:06 p.m. Scott Huss moved to adjourn. Jerry Twombly, motion carried 4-0.

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Mayor

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Assistant City Clerk