

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
FEBRUARY 12, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

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

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** Acting City Attorney Mike Schmitt, City Police Chief Brandon Whetstine, City Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach, City Maintenance Worker Michael Hunsaker, Assistant City Clerk Joann Karn and City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** County Attorney Charles Baskins, Pam Twombly, Dennis Lentz, Mike Batchelder, Dorothy Diveley, Scott Sisk, Roger Hopkins, Wendy Simmons, J.W. Twombly, Candice Prell, Jerod Edie and Pam Wiedner.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Ken Stewart

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

Jerry Twombly moved to approve the minutes of the last Regular City Council Meeting held on January 8, 2014. Charles Batchelder seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Charles Batchelder moved to approve the bills for the month of January, 2014. Scott Huss seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Stewart introduced Attorney Mike Schmitt to the Council and all present as acting City Attorney while City Attorney Ted Collins is recovering from injuries he sustained in an accident on January 27<sup>th</sup> of this year.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Scott Sisk wanted to state his appreciation to City Superintendent Aaron Leach and City Maintenance Worker Michael Hunsaker for all of their hard work with treating the streets and snow removal during these last weeks.

Roger Hopkins asked about purchasing old Christmas lights and street markers. Charles Batchelder moved to sell 2 of the City's old Christmas decorations to Mr. Hopkins at \$50.00 a piece. Randy Snyder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

Wendy Simmons asked if anyone had been certified to shoot fireworks for the City yet. Mayor Ken Stewart stated that no one that he knew of, but there were some firemen that were planning to test for it soon.

Mrs. Simmons asked the Council to consider donating \$1500.00 toward fireworks for Highland's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. Scott Huss moved to donate \$1500.00 to the fireworks for the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration in 2014. Jerry Twombly 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

County Attorney Charles D. Baskins updated the Council on the current investigation concerning one of the Council members. Mr. Baskins stated if there was no resignation at this meeting that he was prepared to officially file Ouster Proceedings in District Court. The County Attorney continued that he would also file a

motion to suspend the Council member and allow the City to appoint a temporary Council member until the court case is finalized.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:** Mayor Stewart stated that City of Severance had asked to possibly buy the City's old sand spreader. Scott Huss moved to ask City of Severance to make an offer for the purchase of the old sand spreader and to authorize Mayor Stewart to make the decision on accepting the offer. Charles Batchelder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Stewart informed the Council that the deadline for residents of Highland to purchase new or renew their current dog licenses is February 28, 2014 for the year of 2014. Any residents of the City of Highland known to have dog(s) and have not obtained the proper license and registration could be subject to fines and court costs issued with a citation by mail beginning March 1, 2014.

Acting City Attorney Mike Schmitt introduced himself to everyone again and told the Council he would be available if his assistance was needed until Mr. Collins returned to work.

City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh informed the Council of a letter they had received from the Kansas Historical Society stating the "Abram Minier House" at 307 South Avenue in Highland, which is currently owned by Paul and Janet Tyler of Highland, has been listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places, the state register. The letter also explained that the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review had approved the nomination of the property for the National Register of Historic Places. The Council should receive notification of the board's decision and a copy of the nomination very soon.

City Clerk Hollabaugh announced to the Council that she had been contacted by a representative from Biking Across Kansas. 2014 is the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Biking Across Kansas and they would like to have their Ending Celebration Meal in Highland on June 14, 2014. Assistant City Clerk Joann Karn explained a few preliminary details she has been working on with interested individuals and Highland Community College and asked the Council for their support in allowing the Biking Across Kansas group to come into Highland and have their "Ending Celebration." Randy Snyder moved to support Biking Across Kansas coming into Highland on June 14, 2014 for their ending meal and celebration. Scott Huss 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 4-1 with Charles Batchelder voting no.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine presented a resignation letter from Police Officer Blaine Kennedy. Charles Batchelder moved to accept Police Officer Blaine Kennedy's resignation. Randy Snyder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

Council member Scott Huss asked if the \$1000.00 moving expense had been paid back to the City. Mayor Ken Stewart stated that issue would be handled by the City Attorney.

City Superintendent Aaron Leach stated the City has contracted with Mark Morgan from Troy, KS to serve as the City of Highland's Certified Wastewater Operator.

Mr. Leach discussed with the Council concerns with cracks in some of the streets within the City. He recommended the Council look into getting the needed repairs done to the streets as soon as possible.

Superintendent Leach then asked the Council for their approval for Michael Hunsaker and himself to attend the Kansas Rural Water Assn. annual conference in Wichita, KS. The conference would be from March 25<sup>th</sup> thru the 27<sup>th</sup>. Jerry Twombly moved to allow Mr. Leach and Mr. Hunsaker to attend the conference and pay expenses. Randy Snyder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:** Ken Stewart presented a recommendation to establish a set sewer rate for Two Timbers Home Plus, from the Water and Sewer Committee, of \$150.00 per month. Jim Watts moved to accept the recommendation of the Water and Sewer Committee. Randy Snyder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 4-0 with Jerry Twombly abstaining.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mayor Stewart informed the Council that he had received a proposal from Herzog Contracting Corp. for an Asphalt Overlay on Main Street from Nebraska St. to Ives St. within the City of Highland, for \$78,500.00. Jerry Twombly moved to accept the proposal from Herzog, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Snyder. Motion carried 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Scott Huss moved to adopt Resolution No. 14-01, the 2014 GAAP Waiver. Randy Snyder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held concerning freezing issues at the West water tower. Mayor Stewart stated he would contact Brian Kingsley to be at the next Regular Council meeting to provide needed information and answer questions about the water tower.

Jerry Twombly moved to adopt the Emergency Water Supply Plan as updated as of February 12, 2014. Randy Snyder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

Randy Snyder moved to continue to allow the Community Workout Group to use the Community Center for their daily workout sessions. Charles Batchelder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

Randy Snyder moved to allow City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh attend the CCMFOA Annual Spring Conference March 12-15, 2014 in Wichita, KS and the 2014 Municipal Court Clerks Conference in Junction City on March 20 and 21, 2014 and to pay the necessary expenses. Scott Huss 2<sup>nd</sup> motion carried 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** 7:45 p.m. Jerry Twombly moved to go into executive session until 7:55 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel for the protection of the privacy rights of the protected employee and for City Attorney Mike Schmitt to remain. Randy Snyder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0. 7:48 p.m. Police Chief Brandon Whetstine was asked to come into executive session. 7:50 p.m. Police Chief Brandon Whetstine was asked to leave executive session.

Charles Batchelder moved to have Doniphan County oil and chat up to \$10,000.00 worth of streets within the City of Highland, with the actual streets to be determined at a later date. Scott Huss 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

7:58 p.m. Scott Huss moved to adjourn. Charles Batchelder 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried 5-0.

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Mayor

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City Clerk