

CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
July 9, 2014
7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Snyder, Jerry Twombly, Ben Gilmore, Charles Batchelder and Jim Watts.

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins, City Police Chief Brandon Whetstine, City Maintenance Worker Michael Hunsaker, City Clerk Joann Karn and Asst. Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh.

GUESTS PRESENT: Pam Twombly, Dorothy Diveley, Mike Batchelder, John Petrik, Wanda Adkins and J.W. Twombly.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ken Stewart

The Regular Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular City Council meeting held on June 11, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of June, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: John Petrik requested the City provide access to a home on the north side of Block #6 so the home owner would no longer be required to use his private drive to get to their home. Mayor Stewart asked the Street and Alley Committee to look into options for the next Regular Council meeting.

Dorothy Diveley thanked the Council for the work that was done to repair south Iowa Street in front of her home. She further stated that the repairs have caused drainage problems and the water is cutting a ditch in front of her driveway. Ken Stewart asked City Maintenance to look into the problem as soon as they could get to it.

Wanda Adkins asked when the new box drain was scheduled to be installed at the end of her driveway. Maintenance worker Michael Hunsaker said the box had been delivered and would be put in as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: Mayor Stewart expressed his thanks to all who were involved with the 4th of July celebration in Highland this past weekend. Several positive comments about the Holiday activities were made by the Council and others attending the meeting. Councilperson Jerry Twombly expressed interest in starting plans for next year's 4th of July celebration as soon as possible. After some discussion, Mayor Stewart suggested the Parks and Rec. Committee meet with members of the current 4th of July Committee to get plans underway for 2015.

City Attorney Ted Collins updated the Council on progress of the demolition procedure of the old water tower and possibly changing the speed limit coming into town on south Kansas Street. Mr. Collins informed the Council of House Bill 2578. This bill allows for open and concealed carry of firearms in all City buildings unless the proper signs are posted. Concealed carry permit holders must be allowed unless costly security procedures have been implemented. Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to post the proper signs in City Hall, the Community Building and any other City building that prohibit open carry of firearms. Motion carried 5-0.

Asst. City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh informed the Council that their current exterminator, Ram Exterminators, had raised the yearly rate from \$600 to \$720. One other company, All Pro Exterminating, has submitted a bid of \$660 for the year with a \$66 initial service charge. Randy Snyder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to continue with service from Ram Exterminators for the next year. Motion carried 5-0.

Asst. Clerk Hollabaugh announced to the Mayor and Council that the City had received a Certificate of Completion from CDBG on the Water System Improvement Grant No. 12-PF-021.

City Clerk Joann Karn presented a Budget proposal to the Council. Following discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to publish the proposed budget for 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Stewart stated that the Summer Rec. program has shown an income of \$2100 from summer ball sign up and a donation from American Family Insurance of Wathena. He also stated the program had spent \$4200 on umpires, new bases, and various supplies for the summer ball league.

Maintenance worker Michael Hunsaker updated the Council on several items to include the progress on traffic lines to be painted on Main Street and work being done on water leaks in town.

Mr. Hunsaker asked the Council to consider purchasing roll on roof coating for the Maintenance shop to repair leaks in the flat roof causing problems inside the shop. Mayor Stewart authorized Mr. Hunsaker to purchase the supplies up to \$500 and fix the roof.

Michael Hunsaker stated that the Maintenance Dept. had been trying out a new flag bracket set up for the flags in town. He asked the Council to purchase the flag brackets at a cost of \$35 each which includes a new flag. Councilperson Gilmore stated donations might be a good option for replacing the brackets. Jerry Twombly moved, seconded by Charles Batchelder for the City to purchase and install 10 replacement brackets this year and if any donations were received, more brackets would be replaced this year. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS: Councilpersons Snyder and Gilmore updated everyone on the progress on the upgrades being considered for Degginger Park.

No updates were given on a water/sewer connection for JB Skaggs.

Councilperson Gilmore said that Chris Gibson with Doniphan West High School had informed him of the immediate need to install ground drainage into the street right-of-way near the school. Gibson had also spoken with council person Snyder and City Attorney Ted Collins about the matter. City Attorney Collins was asked to look into the issue to determine if a variance or other paperwork would be needed.

7:45p.m. Randy Snyder moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to go into executive session for 15 minutes for legal counsel relating to the acquisition of property and for the City Attorney and both Clerks to remain. Motion carried 5-0.

Upon conclusion of the executive session, a Public Hearing was opened to consider the Petition for Vacation of Right-of-Way submitted by Nancy Babcock. The right of way is located next to and/or underneath improved property of the owners and had no particular value to the City or general public, given its location between a roadway and creek. The Consent to Vacation Petition and Waiver of Damage has been signed by the land owner. There are no City utilities located in said right of way. Mayor Stewart asked for any public comment. The record of such hearing is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein.

Randy Snyder moved, seconded by Jim Watts to adopt Ordinance No. 521, an Ordinance of the City of Highland, Kansas, vacating that portion of the right-of-way located outside the platted lots and blocks of said City which is immediately eastward of Lots 8 and 9 in Block 81, in the original town, now City of Highland,

Doniphan County, Kansas. By roll call vote: Randy Snyder-yes, Jim Watts-yes, Ben Gilmore-yes, Charles Batchelder-yes and Twombly-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Further discussion was had concerning the proposed purchase of a portion of the land, consisting of a 3.65 acre surveyed tract, located to the east of the former Anthros Medical building, consisting of a Quonset hut and the area utilized for many years by the City for the disposal of tree limbs and brush. A sales contract had been negotiated by the Mayor and City Attorney with the owner, in accordance with the council's prior directive, for a cost of \$10,000. Randy Snyder moved, seconded by Ben Gilmore to adopt Ordinance No. 522, an Ordinance of the City of Highland, Kansas providing for the acquisition of certain private property, consisting of fee simple title to real estate, for the purpose of improving and extending the public services of the City of Highland, Kansas; designating the lands required for such purposes; directing the City Attorney and Mayor to proceed with the acquisition thereof; and providing for payment of the costs thereof. By roll call vote: Randy Snyder-yes, Jim Watts-yes, Ben Gilmore-yes, Charles Batchelder-yes and Twombly-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

8:10p.m. Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to adjourn the Council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk