

CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
June 11, 2014
7:00 P.M.

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

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT: Charles Batchelder

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Pam Twombly, Dorothy Diveley, Joe Florence, JB Skaggs, Melinda Skaggs, Selena Diveley and Mari Ann Parker.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ken Stewart

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

Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular City Council meeting held on May 14, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

Ben Gilmore moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of May, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS: Wes Cofelt inquiry on sand blasting and painting fire hydrants will be on hold until he is present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Joe Florence, Rural Fire District #2 fire chief, ask for the City of Highland to purchase a tester for testing the city's fire hydrants. Cost would be approximately \$515 plus freight. Jerry Twombly moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to purchase a tester for an approximately amount of \$515 plus freight. Motion carried 4-0

Mari Ann Parker with the Highland Historical Society asked Mayor Ken Stewart to proclaim Friday, June 27, 2014 as Martha Hubbard Day which is the 101st Anniversary of Martha Hubbard's death. Mayor Stewart proclaimed June 27, 2014 be declared Martha Hubbard Day in the City of Highland, KS, to recognize the contributions made by Martha Hubbard and the congregation of Saint Martha's A.M.E. Church to the community.

Selena Diveley asked if more radar could be used on Main Street. Following discussion, several streets need more patrolling.

Dorothy Diveley would like to thank everyone involved in the hanging of the "Welcome to Highland" banners.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: Mayor Stewart asked the council for direction on what to do with the "old city hall" building. The council will consider putting the property up for sale following the tower demolition and was in agreement to table until a later date.

The City of Highland would like to thank Ross Thompson for his past years of volunteer work, especially in Degginger Park.

City Attorney Ted Collins described the process and procedures for the city if the council still wished to dismantle the 50,000 gallon water tower. Randy Snyder and Jim Watts moved to authorize Mayor Stewart and City Attorney Collins to prepare and sign the necessary documents to begin the process. Motion carried 4-0

Clerk Joann Karn reminded everyone Saturday, June 14th would be a busy day for Highland. The Biking Across Kansas group will be arriving in town along with the activity of the annual city wide garage and bake sale as the main events.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstone stated they were running radar on South Kansas and would step up city patrol.

Mayor Stewart spoke for the maintenance department regarding a letter received from Ks. Rural Water on the depth of sludge in the bottom of the lagoons. KRWA estimates it will be 15 years at present rate of accumulation before the need of sludge removal from the two cells at an estimated cost of \$326,000. KRWA recommends a reserve fund be created for when the sludge removal is needed in the future.

OLD BUSINESS: Regarding the speed limit when entering Highland from the South onto South Kansas Street, Attorney Collins has visited with couple individuals at the state and the state agreed to initiate a traffic study. Attorney Collins also requested that the state consider a lower speed limit prior to entering the city limits. Enforcement of the speed limit is key.

The four (4) basic ideas suggested for upgrading Degginger Park included: #1. use all the money in the Degginger Fund to replace the old fountain with a new one #2. fill in the old fountain and use as a large flower planter #3. install a bubbling rock garden and #4. fill in the fountain and plant a Christmas tree. Mayor Stewart asked for council input. Ben Gilmore commented on the bubbling rock as to the simplicity or possible elaborate arrangement in the fountain area. The council will consider contracting for the bubbling rock maintenance. Randy Snyder will head up the project. Ben Gilmore moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to proceed with the bubbling rock concept. Motion carried 4-0

NEW BUSINESS: JB Skaggs inquired about a water and sewer hook-up located at the East edge of Highland for a proposed BBQ trailer. Normally the hook-up expense is paid by the owner and Superintendent Leach will contact Mr. Skaggs with an approximate cost. Mr. Skaggs asked if there are any other areas available in Highland.

Ben Gilmore moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to appoint the Kansas Chief as the official city newspaper for 2014. Motion carried 4-0

Randy Snyder moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to appoint the Bank of Highland as the official city depository for 2014. Motion carried 3-0 Ben Gilmore excused himself.

Jim Watts moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to appoint Jerry Twombly as Council President. Motion carried 3-0 Jerry Twombly excused himself.

Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of the following committees:

Street and Alley – Ben Gilmore (Chair), Randy Snyder and Jerry Twombly

Law Enforcement – Jerry Twombly (Chair), Randy Snyder and Jim Watts

Water and Sewer – Charles Batchelder (Chair), Jerry Twombly and Jim Watts

Parks and Recreation – Randy Snyder (Chair), Ben Gilmore and Charles Batchelder

Finance – Jim Watts (Chair), Charles Batchelder and Ben Gilmore

Motion carried 4-0

Jim Watts moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to appoint Larry O'Bryan, Mike Parker, Mike Batchelder, Randy Snyder and J.W. Twombly to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion carried 3-0 Randy Snyder excused himself.

Ben Gilmore moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to appoint the following:

City Hall: City Clerk Joann Karn, Municipal Court Clerk and Assistant City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh and City Treasurer Janet Tyler; **City Maintenance:** Aaron Leach and Michael Hunsaker; **Police:** Chief Brandon Whetstine, Deputy Officer Tom Williams; **City Attorney** Ted Collins; and **Municipal Court Judge** Roy Roper.

Motion carried 4-0

Mayor Stewart announced the city auditor has requested the annual appointments take place in the month of January.

City Attorney Ted Collins prepared the required Ordinance No. 520 for adoption changing the zoning of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Block #2 from R-2 to R-3, located at 506 N. Prairie St. in the City of Highland owned by Joel Bacon. By roll call vote: Randy Snyder – yes; Jim Watts – yes; Ben Gilmore – yes; and Jerry Twombly – yes. Motion carried 4-0

Randy Snyder moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 7:45 p.m. for 15 minutes for preliminary discussions relating to the acquisition of real property and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked for the city attorney and clerk to remain.

Jerry Twombly moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to adjourn the Council meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor

City Clerk