

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

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

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Pam Twombly, Dennis Lentz, Mike Batchelder, Dorothy Diveley, Scott Sisk, J.W. Twombly, Jerod Edie, Pam Wiedner, Scott Huss, Colton Huss, Joe Florence, Mari Ann Parker, Ben Gilmore, David and Selena Diveley.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Ken Stewart

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

Mayor Stewart commented the Post Office will be conducting a survey and the Highland Post Office would appreciate a favorable reply in attempt to retain our post office.

Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting held on February 12, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

Charles Batchelder moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of February, 2014. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Stewart informed the council Scott Huss resigned and presented the council with a list of individuals that would be willing to accept appointment and asked the council to submit their choice of replacement. The list of names was: Scott Sisk, Michael Stonebarger, Ben Gilmore and Mike Parker. After reviewing the council's selection, Mayor Stewart announced he would like to appoint Ben Gilmore and asked for a motion to approve his decision.

Jerry Twombly moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Ben Gilmore to the city council. Jerry Twombly and Jim Watts voted yes; Charles Batchelder and Randy Snyder voted no. Mayor Stewart asked Attorney Mike Schmitt the procedure to follow for a tie vote.

Attorney Schmitt explained the state law concerning the mayor's appointment of a new city council member. Charles Batchelder asked if the council could revote.

Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to revote on the mayor's appointment of Ben Gilmore to the city council. Motion carried 3-1

Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Ben Gilmore to the city council. Motion carried 4-0

Ben Gilmore signed the Oath of Office and took his seat at the council table.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:** Mayor Stewart announced the Fish & Chicken Dinner, organized by Mike Batchelder, for Community Center improvements will be Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> starting at 11:00 a.m.

Mayor Stewart contacted the City of Severance regarding Highland's old sand spreader and has not received an offer back yet.

Mayor Stewart reviewed the freezing issues at the West water tower. The one time freeze was believed to be the door was left open to long although heat lamps have been placed in the area and turned on since that time. The consent of the council is to have this properly taken care of before final payment and in writing their method of correction will not allow freezing to happen again.

Acting City Attorney Mike Schmitt introduced himself to Ben Gilmore and updated the council regarding the settlement of \$797.40 through negotiations with Officer Blaine Kennedy.

Asst. City Clerk Joann Karn asked permission to use the city logo on t-shirts to be sold and/or given for the Biking Across Kansas event. The council did not have any objections. And a reminder, a drop off box is in the lobby of city hall for retired flags which is sponsored by the Wathena VFW.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstone has received several applications for a police officer. The Law Enforcement Committee will be meeting to review applications and/or interview. Police Chief gave a handout sheet to the council on police officers salaries to assist in establishing pay raises and increases.

City Superintendent Aaron Leach reported on a main sewer line issue and contacted the first contractor available (MConn) to dig. Bud Sewer filmed and jetted approx. 130' and found few tree roots, pipe separation and settling in the line which needs to be addressed. Council asked Mr. Leach to secure two or three bids for the next council meeting.

Following discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to negotiate with Bud Sewer Service to jet the city's sewer mains with a total cost not to exceed \$9,000 and the work to be done as soon as possible. Motion carried 5-0

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mayor Stewart and City Superintendent Leach presented bids for street crack repair. Council is to review and this item placed on next month's agenda.

Joe Florence asked the city to authorize the writing of a check to Wald & Co. Inc. (All American Display Fireworks) for \$2,408.00 by booking deadline of 4-4-14. Mr. Florence provided an update from the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee meeting regarding the insurance, fireworks, shooter (Ks. Skylighters), Rural Fire Dist. #2 fund raiser donation, preliminary plans for the day/weekend, future budgeting/sustain funding and accountability.

Jim Watts moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to write the check to Wald & Co., Inc. (All American Display Fireworks) for \$2,408.00 with the difference of \$908 to be received from donations. Motion carried 5-0

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor Stewart announced the city clean-up day is April 15, 2014; rain date of April 22, 2014 and Highland PRIDE will organize pick-up items, etc. As in the past, a dumpster will be available at the old depot and Dennis Lentz will salvage scrap items and donate the money back to Highland PRIDE. The city is looking into options to dispose of stick and leaves (currently take to Wathena land fill). A second clean-up day may be scheduled in May.

Charles Batchelder moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to pay for the dumpster during the April, 2014 clean-up day. Motion carried 5-0

Aaron Leach will have better information on the summer recreation at the next regular meeting as the youth sign-up numbers will be known. Some youth have been playing in St. Joe but are trying to join the NE Kansas League. Mayor Stewart stated Highland would only pay for individuals umpiring in Highland and the city would pay the umpires directly for games worked.

The council was in agreement to table the approval of project documents for the water tower until Mr. Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants, could attend a meeting to clarify several concerns.

Charles Batchelder moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to not include the \$677 data compromise coverage in the 2014 insurance renewal policy with Highland Insurance. Total cost without data compromise coverage is \$34,039.00. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Stewart advised the Police Chief was concerned he would not be able to use his vacation leave by May 1<sup>st</sup> due to not having another on-duty officer. Police Chief Whetstine was asking for an exception to the policy to roll over unused vacation leave this year.

Charles Batchelder moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to make an exception to the personnel policy and allow Police Chief Whetstine to roll over unused vacation leave this year. Motion carried 5-0

Charles Batchelder moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

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Mayor

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City Clerk