

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
PUBLIC HEARING
AND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
MAY 14, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

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

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins, City Police Chief Brandon Whetstine, City Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach, City Clerk Joann Karn and Assistant City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh.

GUESTS PRESENT: Garrett Nordstrom of Governmental Assistance Services, Pam Twombly, Mike Batchelder, Dorothy Diveley, Betty Lewis, Joel Bacon, Becky Gilmore, Bobby Edie, Rocky Ruhnke, Carrie Blevins, and Bobby Watkins.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ken Stewart

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Stewart explained to all those present, the purpose for the Public Hearing was to evaluate the performance of Grant No. 12-PF-021 which was for the construction of a new 125,000 gallon elevated storage tank, installation of 7,500 LF of 6" looped PVC water lines, the upgrade of approximately 30 fire hydrants and 60 gate valves, telemetry, and miscellaneous appurtenances related to construction activities.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any comments or questions.

Jerry Twombly moved, seconded by Randy Snyder to adjourn the Public Hearing. Motion carried 5-0.

7:02p.m. The Regular Council meeting was called to order with all Council members present.

Randy Snyder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular City Council meeting held on April 9, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

Randy Snyder moved to approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on April 18, 2014. Jerry Twombly seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Randy Snyder moved to approve the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on April 23, 2014. Jim Watts seconded, motion carried 5-0.

After a brief discussion, Ben Gilmore moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of April, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS: Charles Batchelder moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to approve the recommendation of the Doniphan County Regional Planning Commission, a recommendation to change 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 and therefore direct City Attorney Ted Collins to prepare the required Ordinance No. 520 to be adopted at the next Regular Council meeting on June 11, 2014. By roll call vote: Randy Snyder-yes, Jim Watts-yes, Ben Gilmore-yes, Charles Batchelder-yes and Jerry Twombly-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jerry Twombly said he would like to see the speed limit reduced on the south entrance into town. City Attorney Ted Collins suggested that he, the Police Chief and the Street and Alley Committee look into options and bring back recommendations to the next Regular Council meeting in June.

Ken Stewart led discussion on ideas for upgrading Degginger Park. There were 4 basic ideas suggested to include: #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 the Council to consider all the options and then make a decision at the next Regular Council meeting.

Bob Edie asked the Council to reconsider which streets in town they were going to oil and chat this summer. He suggested the City oil and chat where repairs were done and the base rock was put on last year so as not to lose the improvements that have already been done and paid for. Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to change the oil and chat schedule for this year to add in those blocks suggested by Mr. Edie and work with Roger Hopkins of the County to decided which other streets would receive the oil and chat. Motion carried 5-0.

Becky Gilmore updated the Council on a group that has been meeting to look into options on getting a grocery store back in Highland. She said the next meeting for the group was set for Thursday May 22, 2014 at 6:30pm at Highland Community College Stadium Center in the Barber Room.

After some discussion, Jim Watts moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to form a Summer Recreation Committee consisting of Marty Allen as Community representative and committee chair, Aaron Leach as City representative, and Chris Lackey for the school district until the school decides on a definite representative. Motion carried 5-0.

Rocky Ruhnke of Highland Stop and Shop, formerly Highland Total or Clark Brothers convenience store, informed the Council that he would officially start business on May 15, 2014. He also wanted let the Council know that Bill Clark had been in business for 27 years in the City. Mayor Stewart asked the Clerk to mention in the minutes, the City's appreciation for all of Bill's hard work, generosity and support over the years and to draft an official letter in appreciation.

Carrie Blevins asked about summer co-ed softball. Aaron Leach stated he would talk to her at a later time to get details set up on that and he would ask the new Committee to look at it also.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: Mayor Stewart asked about painting the center lines and parking lines on Main Street. Aaron Leach stated he would contact some other cities and the state to see what the City's options were for the center lines and that they were planning on getting to the parking lines as soon as possible. He mentioned he would like to have all the lines done before the Biking Across Kansas event on June 14, 2014. Council member Randy Snyder asked if the parking lines could possibly be painted at a different angle to allow for the abundance of larger vehicles parking on Main street.

City Attorney Ted Collins was welcomed back to his first meeting in person since his accident back in January. Mr. Collins was met with applause from the Mayor, Council and those present as he made his way into the Council chambers just prior to the start of the meeting.

Assistant City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh announced to the Council that the Abram M. Minier House at 307 South Avenue in Highland has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places as of April 7, 2014. The house is currently owned by Paul and Janet Tyler of Highland and had been listed on the State Register of Historic Places earlier in the year.

Randy Snyder moved, seconded by Jim Watts to begin preliminary procedures to demolish the old water tower located in the 200 block of West Illinois street in the City of Highland. Motion carried 5-0.

Council member Randy Snyder asked what the plans were for the old City Hall building after the old water tower is taken down. Mayor Stewart asked the Council to table that issue until the next Council meeting on June 11, 2014.

OLD BUSINESS: Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach updated the Council on: Bud's Sewer Service progress on cleaning out sewer lines in town, Mark from KRWA adding the new water lines to the City's GPS network, MCON to be starting work soon on a sewer issue in town, supplies needed by the Summer Recreation Committee to get all teams up and running and American Family Insurance in Wathena, KS has donated some money toward the summer ball program.

Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to purchase several items for the summer baseball program totaling \$794.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Charles Batchelder moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion for the City to pay the umpires for the upcoming summer baseball games for a total of \$1345.00. Motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Stewart announced that some representatives from Verizon had met with him, Aaron Leach and Michael Hunsaker of the Maintenance department and Joann Karn and Melanie Hollabaugh of the Clerk's office to discuss VN electronic read registers/meters and drive by read registers/meters for use in the City. Mayor Stewart asked the Council to purchase four of the VN meters with registers at \$350.00 each and one antenna for \$20.00 for the City maintenance to place around town to try out before any decisions are made on whether to purchase electronic meters for the rest of the City. Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded to purchase the four meters with registers and the antenna. Motion carried 4-1 with Randy Snyder voting no.

City Appointments were tabled until next meeting.

8:32p.m. Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded to adjourn the Council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk