

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
APRIL 8, 2015  
7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Batchelder, Ben Gilmore, Randy Snyder, Jerry Twombly 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:** Dorothy Diveley, Mary Lou Glynn, Dan Glynn, Gloria Winder, Dennis Lentz, Pam Twombly, Jerry Cole, Erica Foster, Tammie Petrik, Matt Peterson, Rocky Ruhnke, Scott Huss, Scott Sisk, and Jerod Edie.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Ken Stewart

7:00 p.m. - Mayor Ken Stewart called the regular city council meeting to order.

Mayor Stewart asked for any discussion and/or approval of the minutes from the last regular council meeting held March 11, 2015. Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last Regular City Council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Assistant City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh informed the Council that there were four bills that needed to be added to the bills listed in their packets for approval. They included: K.R.W.A. - \$75.00, Miller Trash - \$296.80, Washena Car Wash – \$14.50 and U.S. Postal Service - \$16.95. Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of March, 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Erica Foster updated the Council on the summer ball program. She explained at this time the City would have 2 - K-ball girls teams, 2 - K-ball boys teams, 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls teams and 1 – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys team. Most of the kindergarten kids will be playing in a league in Hiawatha. A few of the kindergarteners who had older siblings on the K-ball teams would be playing on those teams. She said the first games will be starting toward the end of May.

Ms. Foster said they might need another set of catcher's gear for one of the teams and they would need new game balls for all the teams. Ben Gilmore moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to purchase the catcher's gear if needed. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor Stewart approved for Ms. Foster to purchase the game balls up to \$500.00.

Ms. Foster asked if the City would be paying the umpires like they did last year, the Council agreed to do so.

Dorothy Diveley of Highland Pride thanked the City for their help with the clean-up day on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Ms. Diveley announced the City Wide Garage Sales and the Highland Pride Annual Food Sale would be on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. She asked the Council for permission to use the council room for the food sale as they have done in years past. The Council agreed to let Pride use the room for their food sale.

Tammie Petrik addressed the Council concerning a letter she had recently received from the City concerning annexing her property into the City. She stated that she and her neighbors were not interested in being annexed into the City and asked what the City's plan was for maintenance of Colorado Street. City Attorney Ted Collins and Councilperson Gilmore explained to Ms. Petrik that the right-of-way designated as Colorado Street is not wide enough to support a regular street, as it varies in width around the perimeter of Highland, with approximately 24 feet at its widest point. The area east of Kirkwood Street is roughly 12-14 feet in width, and

the current driveway location is both within and without the corporate city limits. The City had previously decided to provide regular maintenance to the portion of Colorado Street from Kirkwood east up to Simmons' driveway, because that property pays city taxes, and to perform snow removal to that section of the road and on east to the end of the road as a courtesy. It was noted that the council has suggested that the properties along the north edge of town be voluntarily annexed several times over the years, but that no landowners have ever been willing to do so. As a result, the council cannot provide a regular roadway along Colorado and, furthermore, those properties pay no city property tax that help pay for road construction and maintenance.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:** Mayor Ken Stewart announced the City had received a letter from Doniphan County Road and Bridge asking for a list of streets the City would like to oil and chat this summer. After some discussion, the Street and Alley Committee will be looking into other options for street maintenance this year.

City Attorney Ted Collins led a discussion concerning the property where the Doniphan West Primary School is located. He stated that at this time the School Board had not made a decision on what they were going to do with the building. Mr. Collins said there may need to be a future conversation with the School District depending on their decision. Mr. Collins also said he had been asked about possible other locations in Highland to have preschool, including the Community Center. Mayor Stewart stated that the City would need to look into the Kan-Step grant regulations for the building before that would be an option. Other location ideas mentioned were the local library, local churches and the HCC Building Trades building.

Attorney Collins informed the Council once again that the City as well as the USD 111 School District would be receiving money from the Minier Estate. He said the family had very specific wishes with respect to the manner in which the money is to be used within the City of Highland. The mayor suggested the City form a Committee to possibly meet with representatives of the School District and Foundation and put together some ideas on how they could use the money separately or jointly to benefit the community. The Council agreed to look into these options at the May meeting with the new Mayor and Council members.

City Attorney Collins presented the Council with copies of several emails and attachments showing his communication on behalf of the City with Doniphan County Rural Water District #6, USDA, and KRWA stating the City's continued interest in cooperating with RWD#6 in their search for water supply and infrastructure. Mr. Collins stated that recently the Doniphan Co. RWD#6 project had been delayed due to high nitrate levels in their new wells, and there has been some preliminary discussion of formation of a regional water district, resulting from that delay and a dispute between the city of Hiawatha and Brown Co RWD#2. Such a district could include the city of Highland and Don RWD#6, as well as other entities in the area. The city will pursue whatever is in the best interests of its citizens, but would like to work with Doniphan Co. RWD#6, if it serves the interest of both entities, to preserve the existing wells and infrastructure.

Assistant Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh stated the Doniphan West After Prom Committee had sent the City a letter asking for support through a donation for the Doniphan West After Prom Event. Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Doniphan West After Prom Event. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine presented his activity report to the Council to include: 2-Arrests, 7-Citations, 11-Verbal Warnings, 38-Calls for Service, 10-Assists to other Agencies and 0-Accident Reports. The Police Department assisted the Doniphan West School with the State Basketball pep rally on Main Street and escorted the basketball team thru town as they left for the State tournament. The department also traveled to Concordia to pick up an inmate on a Highland City warrant.

Chief Whetstine informed the Council that he had obtained two estimates for the damage on the 2004 pick-up. After some discussion the issue was tabled until next meeting.

Chief Whetstine said he had been asked by the Mayor to go over the derelict structures list with the Council that the Chief had previously prepared and presented in 2013. The structures on that list were 507 West Missouri, 305 South Genesee and the “Old Post Office and Candle Shop” on West Main street. After some discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to have Chief Whetstine get in touch with Malcolm Grier to come back to town and inspect those and other properties to come up with a more current list for the Council to consider. Motion carried 5-0.

City Attorney Collins asked if there had been any money set aside in the budget this year for derelict structure removal. City Clerk Joann Karn stated that no money had been set aside.

Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach gave his report to the Council to include: Projects completed – treated sewer mains, installed new swings at ball park, cleaning and maintenance on ballpark bathrooms, installed new valve at ball park, assisted MCON with installation of new fire hydrant at intersection of North Carolina and East Vermont and helped fix leaks at Mike Parker and Gerald Rosenberger’s properties, helped with City Wide Cleanup Day, and many other miscellaneous jobs. Projects planned – patch potholes, paint curbs and lines on streets, install new speed limit signs along Missouri street and West Avenue, burn the brush pile, test fire hydrants, and many other miscellaneous jobs.

Mr. Leach informed the Council that a load of rock had been delivered and the cold patch had been ordered.

Mayor Stewart asked that the flush hydrant for Well #3 be a priority on the “to do” list.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Leach said that Bud’s Sewer service had got in one good day of sewer maintenance in the City for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year and they had also been in town a couple of other days to help with other issues. Mr. Leach stated that he hoped to get more done with them in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

Mayor Stewart asked that the party who is interested in the maintenance and cleaning at City Hall and the Community Center be given a copy of the job description for the position and an agreement needs to be signed.

Supervisor Leach stated he had received an estimate for the manhole extension at North Nebraska and Virginia Street from MCON of Wathena, KS for \$4325.00. After a lengthy discussion, the Council agreed to table the issue until the next Regular Council meeting in May.

The issue concerning a drop box at the intersection of Nebraska and Virginia streets was also tabled until the May Council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor Stewart stated that the City had received two bids for electrical upgrades for Degginger Park. Smith Plumbing & Small Repair of Troy, KS submitted a bid for \$2000.00. Eagle Electric of Denton, KS submitted a bid of \$1890.00. Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to accept the bid for \$1890.00 from Eagle Electric to perform the electrical upgrades at Degginger Park. Motion carried 5-0.

**GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS:** Council member Ben Gilmore mentioned that he would be interested in attending the Governing Body Institute in Topeka on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. He asked if other members of the Council or the Mayor elect might be interested in attending also. After a brief discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to pay the registration fee of \$160.00 for up to 5 people to attend the Institute. Motion carried 4-1 with Snyder voting no.

8:25 p.m. Jim Watts moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

