

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
AND  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
AUGUST 12, 2015  
7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Batchelder, Dana Clary, Matt Peterson, and Jerry Twombly. Ben Gilmore was absent.

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Mike Batchelder, Dorothy Diveley, Pam Twombly, Selena Diveley, Tiffany & Brian Rhodd, Jake Simmons, Dan & Mary Lou Glynn, JoAnn Dunn, Debbie Hunsaker, Randy Snyder, Mary Lou Huber, Tammi Petrik and Dennis Lentz.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Scott Sisk

The Public Hearing for the 2016 Budget was opened at 7:00 p.m. with the majority of council members present.

After a brief review, Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to approve the 2016 budget as presented. Motion carried 4-0.

Dana Clary moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

7:10 p.m. Mayor Sisk called the regular city council meeting to order.

Charles Batchelder moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting held on July 8, 2015. Motion carried 4-0.

Matt Peterson moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented for the month of July 2015. Motion carried 4-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dorothy Diveley reported the Snowflake Festival is scheduled for Friday, November 27, 2015, in Degginger Park and asked if the electrical project would be completed by that date. Mayor Sisk stated the electrical work at the park would be rebid.

JoAnn Dunn explained the hazards of the newly dug drainage ditch in front of her house at 508 West Vermont. Mayor Sisk provided a bid of \$3,016 for labor and materials from Simmons Excavation LLC to install a tube the length of the ditch. Matt Peterson moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to accept the bid of \$3,016 from Simmons Excavation LLC for labor and materials to install the tube at 508 West Vermont. Motion carried 3-1.

Selena Diveley inquired about the recent dumping in the 100 block of South Nebraska and what was the plan for that area. Attorney Collins provided background information and ultimately the council needs to decide the intended use of the area, including whether it was to remain an open right-of-way, if it must be cleaned up or if vacation is to be considered. Mayor Sisk assigned to the street/alley committee and report back at the September meeting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

Mayor Sisk reviewed a bid from Urban Construction for proper water drainage in the parking lot area at the community center for \$9,500. After discussion, Mayor Sisk will receive more information and bring back next month.

Mayor Sisk commented on a couple water drainage issues. One at the corner of South Canada and East Virginia where the water does not drain due to the construction of USD 111 field. Mayor Sisk will be in contact with Chris Gibson and other USD 111 officials. Another drainage issue is at the 200 block of East Illinois/100 block of North Nebraska due to drainage installation by a prior home owner.

Mayor Sisk announced that the new score board for the city ballpark was shipped today. The scoreboard should be installed in the next week or two.

Mayor Sisk reviewed the letter from USD #111 and asked for dates our committee could meet with the schools committee. Anytime on August 20<sup>th</sup> or August 27<sup>th</sup> would be preferred by the city's committee.

City Attorney Ted Collins highlighted areas of his July 17, 2015 letter to the Doniphan County Rural Water District #6. The letter acknowledges RWD #6 has entered into a *Memorandum of Understanding* with Brown County RWD #2 which details the proposed purchase of water from Brown County RWD #2, subject to conditions, by January 1, 2017. That agreement made it unnecessary for the City to make any further proposal for working with Doniphan RWD#6 for the sharing or treatment of water. The city remains supportive and open to any future meaningful discussions.

Attorney Collins has contacted Dave Clark to flag the property lines at the "Old Depot" area and provided him with the relevant information.

Attorney Collins provided an update on the 507 W. Missouri Street property and the paperwork to initiate the process should be completed before the September council meeting, subject to confirming title ownership.

Attorney Collins commented the county attorney is in the process of preparing for a tax foreclosure sale which could help with the clean-up of several properties in the city.

Attorney Collins indicated the Minier Estate funds will not be available for several months.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine read his report to the Council: 1-Arrest, 4-Citations, 5-Warnings, 19-Calls for Service, 8-Assists to other Agencies, 1-Accident Report and assisted with funeral traffic. Mayor Sisk asked for a police work schedule.

Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach provided a report of the previous month's projects to the Council.

Mr. Leach indicated the City was on the list for McFadden to come and rebid the planned street sealing.

Mr. Leach had been asked by Albert Edie for the city to install a "No Outlet" sign due to increased traffic on East Missouri Street.

Following discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to install a "No Outlet" sign at Missouri and Vermillion. Motion carried 4-0. The traffic map will be updated accordingly.

Mr. Leach commented on the Christian Church using the outfield of the baseball field, 2 sets of summer ball equipment has not yet been returned and heaters in the upgraded restrooms at the ball field which now can be locked. Mayor Sisk will secure prices on heaters.

Mayor Sisk indicated Westar will donate and set a 50' pole for our community, which is 10' higher than the current pole, and the city would have to withstand the electrician's cost to re-hook the storm siren. Chief Whetstone suggested coordination with Highland Community College for both entities sirens be activated simultaneously to better serve the campus and community.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Finance Committee** – Ben Gilmore absent due to an emergency

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Jerry Twombly: Nothing to report

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Dana Clary: Trimming trees, painting and overall upgrades are being made to the city park area. The bottom part of the slide has been broken and needs replaced. A price from Miracle Recreation, Monett, MO was received in the amount of \$249 plus \$159 freight, totaling \$408.

Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to purchase the broken section of the slide for \$408. Motion carried 4-0

Councilperson Clary touched on the highlights of the survey and the survey will be review in another Parks and Rec. committee meeting. The committee will be researching available grants, reviewing the usage of the ball park and stressing clean-up after each usage. Ms. Clary indicated many wanted the sand out of the city park and would like those areas replaced with a rubber like substance, similar to other playground areas.

**Street and Alley Committee** – Charles Batchelder: Mary Lou Huber questioned the maintenance on Colorado Street. Mayor Sisk commented the past city council agreed to rock to Simmons driveway and the removal of snow would continue east to Huber's driveway. The city attorney explained the problems with the existing right-of-way and spending City resources on property outside the corporate city limits. After much discussion regarding ownership, maintenance, access, etc., Mayor Sisk, Aaron Leach and Charles Batchelder will meet with Mary Lou Huber at 10 a.m. tomorrow (August 13, 2015).

**Water and Sewer Committee** – Matt Peterson: Councilperson Peterson explained the need to monitor and improve metering of our water. A joint water/sewer and finance committee met to develop a three year plan to purchase new radio read water meters for all the meters. Year one of the plan calls for replacing 158 meters which contains the majority of the larger size meters and approximately 100 residential meters. The number of meters to purchase in year two and year three will be revisited in August, 2016. Some supplies for installation will need to be purchased in addition to the meters.

Matt Peterson moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to move forward with the three year plan and purchase 158 meters /transceivers and the reading software from HD Supply Waterworks, McPherson, KS for a total cost, including installation supplies, up to \$65,000 for year one. Motion carried 4-0

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Dana Clary moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to adopt Section "X-12 Telecommunications" of the personnel policy. Motion carried 4-0

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The annual LKM Conference is coming up and if any council member is interested in attending, let the mayor or clerk know.

Tiffany Rhodd addressed the council regarding the number of events and cleaning time for the community center and city hall for the month of July and asked the council to reconsider the rate of pay. Mayor Sisk stated Councilperson Ben Gilmore had input on this subject and will address it at the next council meeting.

**ORDINANCES:**

Following discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance # 525. An Ordinance of the City of Highland, Kansas incorporating the *Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas Cities*, Edition of 2015, with certain changes and additions. By roll call vote: Twombly – yes, Batchelder – yes, Peterson – yes, and Clary – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Jerry Twombly moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance #526. An Ordinance of the City of Highland, Kansas incorporating the *Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities*, Edition of 2015, with certain omissions, changes and additions. By roll call vote: Twombly – yes, Batchelder – yes, Peterson – yes, and Clary – yes. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Sisk requested a 5 minute break from 9:05 p.m. to 9:10 p.m.

Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 9:10 p.m. for 15 minutes for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 9:25 p.m. Motion carried 4-0  
Mayor asked for the City Attorney to remain.

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:27. Motion carried 4-0.

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Mayor

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City Clerk