

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

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

**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:** Pam Twombly, Jake Simmons, Dorothy Diveley, Randy Snyder, Bryan Rhodd, David Diveley. Dennis Lentz arrived at 8:00p.m.

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Scott Sisk

7:00 p.m. – Mayor Sisk called the meeting to order.

Mayor Sisk asked for any discussion and/or approval of the minutes from the last regular council meeting held June 10, 2015. Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last Regular City Council meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Asst. Clerk Hollabaugh stated that there were a few quarterly reports that were completed after the bills were printed: Unemployment was paid - \$54.12, Sales Tax - \$222.68, Water Protection Fee - \$412.11. Also a bill from Keller Construction - \$891.00 needed to be paid. Charles Batchelder asked about the Roadside park issue. Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of June 2015 with the additions. Motion carried 4-0.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:** Mayor Scott Sisk presented some estimates to the Council from Simmons Excavation LLC to repair tubes in the streets of North Avenue between Vermont and Missouri for \$4524.00 and the tube in the 100 block of N. Nebraska Street for \$1040. Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to have Simmons Excavation LLC repair North Avenue. Motion carried 4-0. Jerry Twombly asked about getting a lower price for the actual tubes for the repairs. Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded the motion to have Simmons Excavation LLC repair the tube in the 100 block of N. Nebraska subject to the Mayor looking into prices for the tube. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Sisk announced that Highland Community College is purchasing a new score board for the City Ballpark. The total price for the new score board is estimated at \$8844.00. HCC has asked the City for a contribution to help pay for the score board. Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded the motion to give HCC \$1500.00 toward the purchase from the City's Parks and Rec. Fund. Motion carried 4-0.

City Attorney Ted Collins updated the Council on the City's ongoing study for cost of water production and his understanding of the status of the regional water issue and Rural Water District #6.

Attorney Collins presented the Council with updates to Section "X-12" of the Personnel Policies and Guidelines pertaining to updating the same to specifically include telephone and cell phones usage. The Council agreed to review the policy and table this issue to the August meeting.

Assistant City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh stated that the updates to the front door of City Hall to make it handicap accessible are scheduled to be done on Friday of this week or early next week.

Ms. Hollabaugh reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities went very well, many good comments had been received and “Thank You” to all those who helped make the event a success.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine gave his report to the Council to include: 1-Arrest, 4-Citations, 17-Warnings, 20-Calls for Service, 7-Assists to other Agencies, 1-Accident Report. The department also sent out bills to property owners that Schmitz Lawn Care had mowed, assisted with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and sent out letters to property owners at 104 W. Ohio and 502 North Avenue for Unsafe/Dangerous structures.

City Attorney Collins stated that the County was in the beginning stages of the tax sale process on properties in the county that were delinquent on their taxes. Attorney Collins said that he and the Police Chief would pursue the next step in the process to take action on the property at 507 W. Missouri under the City’s unsafe and dangerous structures ordinance.

Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach gave the Maintenance report to the Council to include: projects completed-treated sewer mains, chlorine samples sent, read meters, locates, patched pot holes, added gravel to alleyways, daily nitrate samples, lead and copper tests sent in, flags out for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and many other miscellaneous jobs; projects planned – patching pot holes, installing new meters, tree trimming, paint curbs and lines on streets, paint bathrooms at ballpark, fix cross walk light burn around lagoons and many other jobs.

Mr. Leach presented a bid of \$4500.00 from Blue Valley Public Safety Inc. to move the storm siren and pole to a new location in the City. After some discussion the Council agreed to look into other options.

Supervisor Leach and Mayor Sisk asked the Council to consider establishing a plan to replace some water meters at the College and other larger water users. Mayor Sisk suggested the Water and Sewer Committee bring back a recommendation at the August Council meeting.

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

Mayor Sisk said he would get in contact with Eagle Electric to have the electrical work done in Degginger Park done by the August meeting or they would need to rebid the project.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:** Council member Dana Clary announced that Jerod Edie had agreed to serve on the Parks and Rec. Committee.

Ms. Clary informed the Council that she had put a survey out on the City’s Facebook page asking community members their opinion on what they like about Highland’s parks, what they see that could be improved and suggestions on how that could be done. Ms. Clary said she had already received around 50 responses and hoped to have results of the survey at the meeting in August. She also had planned to have a Parks and Rec. Committee meeting sometime in the next few weeks.

Chairman of the Law Enforcement Committee, Jerry Twombly said he would like to have a meeting next week also.

Council member Ben Gilmore of the Finance Committee stated that he and other committee members along with City Clerk Joann Karn had met a few days ago to discuss the budget for 2016.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Concerning the Old Depot area, Council member Ben Gilmore said the City would need to first look into the existing right of way and possibly changing the zoning to make the entire tract industrial. Following further discussion, Attorney Collins suggested asking Dave Clark come in and stake out the property and Mr. Collins said he would contact Mr. Clark if the Council decided to move forward. Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded the motion to have City Attorney Collins contact Dave Clark to find the property lines. Motion carried 4-0.

The man hole and drop box at Nebraska and Virginia streets was tabled until the next meeting.

City Attorney Ted Collins updated the Council concerning communications received from USD #111 and their legal counsel concerning the old grade school buildings located in blocks 57 & 58.

City Clerk Joann Karn went over a draft of the 2016 budget with the Council and suggested that Jim Long of Karlin & Long LLC will need to review the proposed budget prior to publication. Dana Clary moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to publish the proposed budget, following the City auditor's review and approval, in the Kansas Chief. Motion carried 4-0.

Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:14 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel for the protection of the privacy rights of the protected employee(s) and the open meeting will resume in the City Council Chamber at 8:34 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. City Attorney Collins was asked to remain.

8:35p.m. Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

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Mayor

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City Clerk