

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
JUNE 10, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

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

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 arrived late.

GUESTS PRESENT: Russell Karn, Jake Simmons, Mike Batchelder, Randy Snyder, Wendy Simmons, Bryan Rhodd, Tiffany Rhodd, Dorothy Diveley, Dennis Lentz, Pam Twombly, Michael Stonebarger, Rocky Ruhnke, Scott Huss, Diane Moran, Paul Rush, Selena Diveley and Chuck Simmons

PRESIDING: Mayor Scott Sisk

7:00 p.m. – Mayor Scott Sisk called the Regular City Council meeting to order.

Mayor Sisk asked for any discussion and/or approval of the minutes from the last regular council meeting held May 13, 2015. Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the special meeting held May 14, 2015. Motion carried 5-0

The council was in agreement with Mayor Sisk to move Item VIII a. to follow XII.

Ben Gilmore moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of May, 2015 with the additions. Motion carried 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rocky Ruhnke spoke of the need for the council to make a decision as soon as possible on the Old Depot area because it would take 8 weeks for delivery of tanks. With more than one party interested in the area, Mayor Sisk assigned the issue to Ben Gilmore, Scott Sisk and Dana Clary to meet with Attorney Collins Tuesday, June 16 at 2:30 p.m. to review the matter and report their findings and/or recommendations to the council at the next regular meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: Mayor Sisk spoke of the duplicate actions of water shut-off notices. With agreement of the council, the water shut-off door notices will be discontinued beginning this month.

Mayor Sisk updated the council on the need for water drainage at the community center parking lot. The council agreed to allow Mayor Sisk to receive bids to correct the water drainage and attempt to reclaim lost parking due to the ditch.

Mayor Sisk spoke of many drainage and/or storm drain tubes being plugged or tube approaches needing repaired. Jerry Twombly moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to hire Simmons Excavation LLC, Everest, KS to correct approx. ten tubes at \$170/tube or \$1,700 and for the Mayor to use his discretion on those ten tubes. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to accept the bid from Simmons Excavation LLC, Everest, less the asphalt, for \$1,475 to replace the tube located at East Main and East Virginia. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Sisk asked Randy Snyder for the Zoning Board to meet monthly to familiarize the board with the new zoning provisions as it is believed some situations would not apply to the city of Highland.

Attorney Ted Collins provided an update on the progress, or lack of, with the rural water district(s). The city submitted an official request for KRWA to perform a water rate analysis. Paul Rush, RWD #6, didn't have anything different. Clerk Joann Karn explained the nitrate charts and the charts showing pumped water from wells #4 and #5. Mayor Sisk and Councilman Matt Peterson will meet with the city attorney next week to review.

Clerk Joann Karn informed the council Tiffany Rhodd and Kari Clary were hired beginning of the month to clean City Hall and the Community Center per agreement. Asst. Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh secured bids for a handicap accessible front door for city hall. After review, Jerry Twombly moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to purchase the Detex option from Pioneer Material, Inc., St. Joseph, MO for \$2,000 plus \$650 installation for a total of \$2,650. Motion carried 5-0

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine read his activity report which included 1 arrest, 5 citations, 15 warnings, 24 calls for service, 07 assist to other agencies, 2 accident reports and sent out letters for weed violations. Chief Whetstine indicated four letters were mailed and one property has been mowed. Attorney Collins suggested separate files and accounting for the properties. Attorney Collins asked for an executive session on legal matters after personnel on the agenda.

Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach indicated Ben Leatherman, Eagle Electric, will be visiting with Travis Clary and Dana Clary on the electrical outlets placement in Degginger Park. The maintenance workers will be attending a conference on waste water in Lawrence on August 5, 6, and 7 and will have more information next month. Herzog has been contacted and referred to McFadden of St. Joseph, MO to rebid sealing crack on the newest asphalt streets. Iseler Demolition, Inc., Romeo, MI will be bringing in equipment on June 23rd and taking down the old water tower on June 24th. Everyone in the immediate vicinity has been notified and one block of Illinois Street (Iowa to Genesee) will be blocked off during this project. The water tower will be drained by June 17th and everything else will be done by June 19th. Supervisor Leach asked to purchase door closures for both restroom doors at the city ball park. Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to purchase two heavy-duty door closer from Highland Hardware at \$165 each. Motion carried 5-0

Wendy Simmons commented their water meter can be read because their underground fence for their dog would permit meter reading.

COMMITTEE UPDATES: Mayor Sisk asked for the committee chairs to name their selection of residents to serve on their committees. **Water & Sewer** – Matt Peterson selected Travis Clary; **Street & Alley** – Charles Batchelder selected Pam Wiedner; **Finance** – Ben Gilmore selected Kevin Thompson; **Parks & Rec.** – Dana Clary will provide name later; **Law Enforcement** – Jerry Twombly selected Michael Stonebarger.

Mayor Sisk asked for the Parks & Rec. committee to meet and discuss the city ball park use, price and conditions agreement. Couple noted items were the condition of the facility during/after the high school usage and possible donation of another batting cage.

OLD BUSINESS: As listed on the agenda - Update on water nitrate testing was discussed in the attorney's report; Jerry Blevins drainage issue has been taken care of; the Nebraska and Virginia Street man hole and drop box is moved to next month; Old Depot area was discussed in public comments and Derelict Structures were updated by Attorney Collins and more discussion in executive session.

NEW BUSINESS: Ball Park contract discussed earlier with the Parks & Rec. committee reviewing. Council can review the Personnel and Police manuals and changes can be addressed at a later date.

Concerned citizens asked about the children riding bicycles in the streets and on sidewalks, especially after dark in the streets. If the children are identified, provide Chief Whetstine with the names of the individuals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Matt Peterson moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:09 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 8:29 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. The Mayor asked for the City Attorney to remain.

Jerry Twombly moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion for Attorney Collins and Mayor Sisk to review cell phone policies. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:30 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 8:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. The Mayor asked for the City Attorney and Police Chief to remain.

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:45 p.m. for 10 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 8:55 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. The Mayor asked for the City Attorney to remain.

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:55 p.m. for 5 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 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. The Mayor asked for the City Attorney to remain.

Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to start the derelict structure process on 507 West Missouri Street. Motion carried 5-0

Dana Clary moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk