

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
MARCH 11, 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 Michael Hunsaker, and City Clerk Joann Karn

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Landon Allen, Bill Batchelder, Dorothy Diveley, Mary Lou Glynn, Mary Lou Huber, Scott Huss, Dennis Lentz, Mari Ann Parker, Mike Parker, Matt Peterson, Rocky Ruhnke and Scott Sisk

**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 February 11, 2015. Charles Batchelder moved and seconded by Ben Gilmore to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Following a brief discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of February, 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mari Ann Parker requested Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> with a backup date of Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> be designated as the Annual City Wide Clean-up Day. The old depot area (200 block of South Nebraska) will be open from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and used as a collection area for large and small appliances, old vehicles, aluminum cans, old furniture, sinks, tubs, etc. but cannot accept old tires or hazardous waste. The burn pile at the bottom of the hill east of town is open for only yard waste and tree limbs – No Trash. If assistance is needed with items, call Dorothy Diveley – 442-3718 or City Hall – 442-3765.

Mari Ann Parker asked for use of the community center as Pride is organizing a public forum for the mayor, council, and school board candidates moderated by Esther Gormley and Donna Parish. Mayor Stewart asked she schedule a date with Melanie Hollabaugh.

Mike Parker read his prepared letter and requested the letter become part of the minutes as he has had a leak near his home for approximately 3 ½ months as the city waits on a contractor with proper equipment to repair the leak. (Letter on file)

Dennis Lentz inquired about the sewer manhole cover at 100 Block South Nebraska and the drop box at the intersection of Nebraska and Virginia Street. There was discussion about the proposed use of the street if it was fully filled in and the condition it is presently in. Mayor Stewart tabled discussion until next month for a report from Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:** Mayor Ken Stewart announced we now have four council candidates for the general election on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Stewart had a citizen request the city donate to the Doniphan West Booster Club to help defray meal cost at the State High School Basketball tournament, March 12, 13 and 14.

Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to donate \$100 to the Doniphan West Booster Club to assist with food costs at the 2015 State High School Basketball tournament. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Ted Collins reported he had a legal item for executive session. Also, Attorney Collins met with the USD 111 Superintendent and two board members concerning the property and long-term lease where Doniphan West Primary School is located. To date the school district has made no formal decision to close the facility. The estate Attorney Collins is in charge of has left approximately \$60,000 to each the City and USD 111 Foundation. Attorney Collins will be meeting with both parties to seek the needs of both entities which will meet the estates criteria.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine gave his monthly activity report to the Council: 4 Arrests, 19 Citations, 15 Verbal Warnings, 28 Calls for Service, 8 Assists to other Agencies and 1 Accident Report. After Chief Whetstine provided the cost estimate to replace or repair the side door damage on the 2004 Ford F150 truck and reported the insurance deductible is \$500, the Mayor ask the Chief to contact Diamond Body for an estimate and table until next meeting.

Michael Hunsaker, maintenance worker, asked the Council to purchase 4 new tires from Triple L Tires for the 2004 Ford 250 truck. Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to purchase 4 new tires from Triple L Tires, Highland, KS, for the city's 2004 Ford 250 truck. Motion carried 5-0

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:** Street & Alley Committee: Ben Gilmore read a summary of the letter which will be mailed to the neighboring land owners. The city's immediate resolution to this specific issue at Kirkwood and Colorado is to accept responsibility for maintenance from Kirkwood Street East to the Simmons' driveway at 301 Colorado Street. The City will remove snow on the remaining 125 feet, more or less, to a point where Mr. & Mrs. Huber's driveway turns north, with the permission of the Huber's. To propose a long term plan regarding Colorado Street, the Street & Alley Committee believes voluntary annexation of the properties to the immediate north of the City is the best and most complete option. The City will consider a plan for doing so upon the request of the landowners.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Council member Randy Snyder will contact the interested individual on maintenance and cleaning of the community center and city hall at \$100 a month.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to pay for the roll-off dumpster, approx. \$170, as the city has done in the past years for the citywide clean-up day. Motion carried 5-0.

Council member Ben Gilmore asked what the procedure would be to appoint a new council member if a council member becomes mayor. Kansas statute addresses filling a vacancy which is in summary - the mayor, by and with the advice and consent of the remaining council members, shall appoint an elector to fill the vacancy until the next election for that office.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Randy Snyder moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 7:40 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 7:50 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. The Mayor asked for the City Attorney and Clerk to remain.

Bill Batchelder asked if the City's prior settlement offer on the roadside park property was still on the table and Mayor Stewart indicated it was not.

7:52 p.m. Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.