

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
OCTOBER 14, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Mike Batchelder, Dorothy Diveley, Mary Lou Glynn, Pam Twombly, JoEllen Banks, Randy Snyder, Gerald Neibling, Selena Diveley, Brian Rhodd and Adalyn Rhodd.

PRESIDING: Mayor Scott Sisk

7:00 p.m. Mayor Sisk called the Regular City Council Meeting to order.

Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last Regular City Council Meeting held on September 9, 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

After some discussion, Jerry Twombly moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the Special City Council Meeting held on September 16, 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

Asst. Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh reviewed with the Council a list of bills that came in after the packets were distributed. Council member Jerry Twombly had several questions about the bills. Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of September 2015 including the additional bills presented. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: JoEllen Banks said she had purchased the property at 423 W. Main St. She said the sidewalk in front of her building needs replaced and she asked the Council to consider helping with that cost as they had done in the past for another Main Street business. City Attorney Ted Collins suggested the Council might want to establish a policy regarding working with Main Street businesses to update and clean up problem areas.

Council member Twombly asked about the City's policy on replacing driveway tubes on private property.

Mayor Sisk asked the Street and Alley Committee to look at current City ordinances and policies concerning Main Street businesses, sidewalks and private driveway repairs and asked them to bring back recommendations for possible new policies at the November Council meeting.

Council member Twombly asked about any progress on moving the dirt pile at 201 South Avenue. Police Chief Whetstine explained he had talked to the property owner and work was being done to distribute the dirt on the property.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: Mayor Scott Sisk said he did not have an update concerning the old Primary School at this time.

Mayor Sisk asked Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach to update progress on heat in the ballpark bathrooms. Mr. Leach explained that Brad Smith said he had the materials for the project ordered and will begin work as soon as they came in.

Mayor Sisk presented two bids to the Council for a fence and gate to be put up in front of the City's well house. Both bids were for the fence and gate to be made out of square tubing. The bid from Lackey's Loader Works was \$4200.00 and the bid from Fuse It Welding was \$4059.00. After some discussion, Charles Batchelder moved to accept the low bid from Fuse It Welding. The motion died for lack of a second. Following more discussion the Council agreed to table this issue until the February 2016 Council meeting.

Mayor Scott Sisk said he had been approached by several residents asking for more pot holes to be repaired around town. He suggested the Council should consider purchasing another load of cold patch. It was noted that the Council had purchased 26 ton of cold patch last month costing \$2340.00. Council member Matt Peterson moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to purchase 10 ton of cold patch. Motion failed 2-3 with Twombly, Batchelder and Clary voting no.

City Attorney Ted Collins updated the Council about the property at 507 West Missouri. He said that a representative from USDA had come to Highland earlier this month and looked at the property and a couple realtors had also viewed the property. He continued that all parties involved with the property had been noticed of the hearing to be held at City Hall on Monday, October 26, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Mayor Sisk commented that all of the old mobile homes in the trailer park on West Missouri Street had been removed and most of the debris had been picked up.

Asst. City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh gave the Council more information on the City's current Quick Books subscription and other online Quick Books options. Jerry Twombly moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to continue with the current Quick Books subscription and renew on October 23, 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Hollabaugh explained to the Council that the old storm sirens taken off the old water tower had not been listed on Purple Wave yet as directed by the Council. When looking into that option, it was found that it would have to be a "no reserve" auction. After some discussion, the Council agreed to have the clerks put an ad in the local newspaper asking for sealed bids for each of the sirens and for the bids to be opened at the November 10, 2015 Regular Council meeting.

The Community Center information will be presented at a later meeting.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine presented his report to the Council: 9-Arrests, 16-Citations, 22-Warnings, 56-Calls for Service, 20-Assists to other Agencies, 1-Accident Report and 25-Criminal Investigations. Chief Whetstine stated his department had also: assisted with the USD #111 Homecoming Parade, assisted with funeral traffic, conducted random room checks at HCC dorms with drug dog, and issued 5 warning letters for weed/nuisance violations.

Chief Whetstine said he would like the Council's permission to remove the trailer park on West Missouri street from the Derelict Structures list because all the trailers were gone and the area had been cleaned up. Council member Charles Batchelder asked Chief Whetstine to walk around the property and make sure there are no meter covers missing or any other dangerous areas on the property. The Council agreed to remove the property from the Derelict Structures list.

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

Supervisor Leach asked for permission to purchase two new batteries for the City's F450 truck. Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to allow Mr. Leach to get the batteries from Triple L Tire. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Ben Gilmore: Led a discussion concerning the 100 block of South Nebraska Street. Following the discussion the Council agreed to have Council member Ben Gilmore contact both adjoining

property owners and let them know the City is considering taking necessary steps to vacate that street. The Council also asked Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach to look in to what it would cost for the Maintenance Dept. to install an inspection pipe over the existing man hole and bring that information to the November Council meeting.

Law Enforcement Committee – Jerry Twombly: Stated that he and Michael Stonebarger were in the process of compiling a list of code violation properties. Mr. Twombly asked if the Diversion Fund could be used to purchase or help purchase a vehicle for the police department. Attorney Collins and the clerks were asked to look into that request.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary: Reported the Eagle Electric had started the electrical work on Degginger Park. Several trees had been trimmed recently in Degginger Park by the Maintenance Dept. The local 4H Club and the HCC Softball team were scheduled to come out and help with park clean up very soon. Ms. Clary announced that the painting project at the City ballpark should be complete next week. She wanted to express her thanks to all those who have helped with the painting and updating of the ballpark.

Council member Clary stated she had met with Mr. Delzeit of HCC and he was content with the current ballpark contract.

Street and Alley Committee – Charles Batchelder: Thanked the Maintenance Dept. for all their hard work on filling potholes all over town.

Council member Batchelder asked Supervisor Leach to look at the corner at Virginia and Elmira streets and get it fixed or at least get it marked with a cone until it can be fixed properly.

Mr. Batchelder stated there is a manhole cover missing in the street near Dennis Hanlon's driveway and asked Mr. Leach to look into getting that replaced.

Water and Sewer Committee – Matt Peterson: Explained to the Council that the Water and Sewer Committee had met concerning raising water and sewer rates. Mr. Peterson said the committee would recommend removing the price cap on the sewer portion of the bill. Also the committee would like to see the sewer part of the bill calculated according to actual water usage rather than an average on 3 months out of the year. After some discussion the Council agreed to table raising the sewer rates until the November meeting. The committee will plan to meet again and go over flat rate fees versus actual water usage rates.

Council member Peterson recommended on behalf of the Water and Sewer Committee that the water rates be raised for "inside City limits" customers from a \$22.00 minimum to \$25.00 and the "outside City limits" customers from a \$29.50 minimum to \$35.00. The committee also recommended to raise the per 1000 gallon rate from \$4.25 to \$4.75. Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to accept the water rates increase as proposed and asked Attorney Collins to prepare a new Water Rates Ordinance. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS: Council member Jerry Twombly asked for an update on the Roadside Park issue. Mayor Sisk stated the City was waiting on information from Batchelder's attorney.

Council member Twombly asked that it be noted: The Council approves the Mayor's decision to have Mr. Emmett Cole chat and seal all of the right-of-way portion of Colorado Street from North Ives to West Avenue instead of part of it being asphalted and part finished rock. It was also noted that Colorado Street from North Kirkwood to Howard and Mary Lou Huber's driveway was chat and sealed and paid for by Mr. Cole, including base rock and any other materials and or labor.

NEW BUSINESS: Jerry Twombly moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to allow Highland Pride to close the 300 block of West Main Street for the Annual Snowflake Festival on November 27, 2015 from 4:30pm until 7:00pm. Motion carried 5-0.

8:30pm Mayor Scott Sick asked for a 3 minute recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:34 p.m. for 10 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 8:44 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. City Attorney Collins and Brandon Whetstine were asked to remain.

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS: Attorney Collins gave another reminder of the hearing concerning the property at 507 West Missouri on October 26, 2015 at 7:00pm. Police Chief Whetstine mentioned he is working hard on speeding issues going on around town.

Charles Batchelder moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:48p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk