

CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 9, 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, Pam Twombly, Tiffany & Bryan Rhodd, Randy Snyder, David Diveley and Russ Karn.

PRESIDING: Mayor Scott Sisk

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

Charles Batchelder moved and Jerry Twombly seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last Regular City Council Meeting held on August 12, 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented for the month of August 2015. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Council person Jerry Twombly stated that he had been asked if the large dirt pile on the property at 201 South Avenue could be moved. Also, concern had been expressed about cars driving too fast along South Canada and East Pennsylvania streets. Police Chief Whetstine said he would talk to the owner of the property on South Avenue and patrol the area of South Canada and E. Penn more often.

David Diveley said he had seen several kids on bicycles in the middle of Main Street again lately. Chief Whetstine said he had already talked to several kids about riding on Main Street and he would talk to others when needed.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS: Mayor Sisk informed the Council that he planned to meet with President Reist of Highland Community College and Superintendent Rex Bollinger of USD #111 on Thursday morning at 11:00a.m. to discuss options for the old Primary School building. The Mayor said he planned to attend the next School Board Meeting on September 14th. The committees for the City and the School District concerning the old Primary School will meet again on September 23rd.

Discussion was held concerning the electrical work that needs to be done in Degginger Park. After considering many suggestions, Matt Peterson moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to give Council person Dana Clary authority to talk with Ben Leatherman of Eagle Electric to make sure the work would be completed by September 30th. If the work cannot be done by that date, Ms. Clary is authorized to contact Brad Smith to confirm his bid specifications and get the work completed. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Sisk stated he had no updates on the bid from Urban Construction for proper water drainage in the parking lot area at the Community Center.

Mayor Sisk commented that he had not received any bids for water drainage on South Canada and East Virginia streets.

Mayor Sisk asked Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach to share information he had received on heating the restrooms at the City Ballpark. Mayor Sisk said the restrooms need to be heated because of the HCC baseball schedule having dates in early February and late October. The college has had to rent porta potties in the past because the City winterized and closed the restrooms. Mr. Leach stated that Brad Smith had submitted two separate bids. One bid for \$2600 would be for a 10K furnace, duct work, electrical and labor. The other bid for \$2800 was for 3 electric heaters, 100 amp box, electrical and labor. Matt Peterson moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to approve the bid for \$2600 from Brad Smith if HCC and/or USD #111 will split the cost with the City. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Sisk stated that he had approved a request from Bob Edie with Doniphan County Road and Bridge to store some rock on City property by the burn pile.

Attorney Collins had again contacted Dave Clark to flag the property lines at the "Old Depot" area but had not heard back from Mr. Clark at this time.

Attorney Collins provided an update on the 507 W. Missouri Street property and presented the Council with the first resolution required in the procedure to remove the structure. Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to adopt Resolution Number 15-03, a Resolution of the City of Highland, KS giving notice of a time and place for a hearing, October 26, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m., at which the City Council shall make a determination as to whether or not structures described in said Resolution are unsafe, dangerous, unsanitary or blighted. By roll call vote: Twombly-yes, Batchelder-yes, Gilmore-yes, Peterson-yes and Clary-yes. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Sisk asked about the status of the trailer court at Missouri and North Avenue. Chief Whetstine said he had been notified that someone had been hired to remove all of the trailers.

Council person Twombly stated he would like to have the Law Enforcement Committee meet about derelict structures. Attorney Collins suggested that Malcolm Grier should be contacted to conduct an updated, city-wide review and that the council needs to plan and budget for addressing these properties and encourage the property owners to take voluntary action to resolve the problems.

Asst. Clerk Hollabaugh asked if the Mayor or any of the Council would like to attend the LKM Conference. None of the Council members or the Mayor will be able to attend this year. Ms. Hollabaugh asked for permission to attend the Kansas Assn. for Court Management 2015 Fall Conference, October 1st and 2nd in Newton, KS and the CCMFOA Fall Institute and Academy November 2nd – 6th in Wichita, KS. Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to allow Ms. Hollabaugh to attend both conferences and to pay the registration and other expenses for the conferences. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Hollabaugh stated that Ken Stewart of Highland EMS and the Fire Department had asked for the City to purchase a replacement bulb for the projector at the Community Center. Charles Batchelder moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to purchase the bulb for \$189.99 from Quill. Motion carried 4-1 with Peterson voting no.

Asst. Clerk Hollabaugh commented briefly on: City sponsored sports ads in the local newspapers, Community Center inventory and Quick Books and payroll subscription renewals. The Council asked the clerks to get more information on Quick Books and payroll options and bring that information back to the next Regular Council Meeting.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine stated the department had been very busy this month and read his report to the Council: 10-Arrests, 38-Citations, 26-Warnings, 52-Calls for Service, 10-Assists to other Agencies and 2-Accident Reports.

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

Mr. Leach indicated the department had recently fixed the slide on the playground at the City Park.

Supervisor Leach asked to purchase some cold patch to get some more potholes fixed before winter. Mayor Sisk suggested the City get 20-25 ton of cold patch instead of just the normal 5 ton load. Dana Clary moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion for the City to purchase a truck load (20-25 ton) of cold patch and to authorize Mayor Sisk to talk to Bob Edie at the county about hauling it. Motion carried 5-0.

Council person Jerry Twombly expressed concern on a large hole in the asphalt at Penn and Nebraska streets that needs fixed. Supervisor Leach said he would look into it.

Mr. Leach stated that someone had asked him about purchasing the old storm siren that was taken off the old water tower. After some discussion, the Council asked the clerks to check into listing both of the old sirens on Purple Wave if there are no costs to the City.

Supervisor Leach commented on an issue going on at the well house and the City's wells. He suggested the City consider putting up a fence and/or gates to keep people from driving in and "hanging out" at the well house and well area. Mayor Sisk asked for the Water and Sewer Committee to bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Ben Gilmore: Stated that after looking into options for the City credit card, a card from Banker's Bank of Kansas was the only option found so far that does not require a personal guarantor. Jerry Twombly moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to authorize the Mayor and the Clerk to take the necessary steps to obtain the new card for the City from Banker's Bank of Kansas. Motion carried 5-0. The City's credit card policy was reviewed and no changes were found to be necessary.

Dana Clary moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to have the Clerk cancel the current City credit card as soon as the new one comes in. Motion carried 5-0.

Law Enforcement Committee – Jerry Twombly: Nothing to report.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary: Shared with the Council that they are still working on the painting and overall upgrades at the City Park. Ms. Clary said she had had some fabulous help from the HCC Softball team with the painting and she would be very appreciative of any others that would be willing to help. It was noted that community service workers from municipal court might be available to help. Ms. Clary stated that she had also had meetings with: Principal Chris Lackey of USD #111 concerning the ball park contract and Elmer Schmitz concerning low maintenance ideas to update Degginger Park. Council person Clary commented that she plans to meet soon with Greg Delzeit of HCC to go over the ball park contract.

Street and Alley Committee – Charles Batchelder: Opened a discussion concerning the condition, and possible vacation, of the 100 block of South Nebraska, with no resolution. The Council agreed to have Supervisor Aaron Leach contact Bud's Sewer Service for recommendation on the type of manhole construction needed and then to rebid the project possibly for a non-weight bearing repair. Council person Ben Gilmore volunteered to speak with Terry Moran on the amount of dirt that would be needed to cover the area to get a good grass stand and how much if any of the current contents of the area would need to be removed.

Water and Sewer Committee – Matt Peterson: Informed the Council that the City had not raised the water and sewer rates for three years. He stated that he would like for the Water and Sewer committee to meet again on September 15, 2015 at 4pm at City Hall to discuss rate options.

OLD BUSINESS: After some discussion, Matt Peterson moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to continue to pay Tiffany Rhodd and Kari Clary \$100 per month to clean at City Hall and the Community Center and to also pay them \$10 per event at the Community Center to open, close, restock and check to make sure everything is cleaned up as needed. Motion carried 4-1 with Twombly voting no.

The Council agreed to have Attorney Collins, Council person Ben Gilmore and Asst. Clerk Hollabaugh look into changes that might need to be made to the check list and pricing schedule for the Community Center and bring back a recommendation to the next meeting.

City Attorney Collins announced that he would be making a presentation to the new School Board to bring them up to speed on the Minier Estate. He suggested that the City form a committee to look at possible projects to utilize the generous estate donation. Attorney Collins gave suggestions to include updates on areas such as: the saddle club area, tennis courts and the playground area and equipment. Ben Gilmore, Matt Peterson and Dana Clary volunteered to serve on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS: It was brought to the attention of the Council that the Regular Council Meeting for November was scheduled on a holiday. Dana Clary moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to move the Regular Council Meeting in November to Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at City Hall. Motion carried 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 9:28 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 9:38 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked for the City Attorney to remain.

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign the proposed settlement agreement with Batchelders concerning the Roadside Park property. Motion carried 4-0-1 with Batchelder abstaining.

Ben Gilmore moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:40p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk