

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
DECEMBER 13, 2017
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Batchelder, Jesse Marriott, Matt Peterson, Dana Clary arrived at 5:10, Ben Gilmore arrived at 5:35

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Rocky Ruhnke, Dennis Lentz, Pam Twombly and Bill Noll

PRESIDING: Mayor Jerry Twombly

Mayor Twombly called the regular city council meeting to order.

Charles Batchelder moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting held on November 8, 2017. Motion carried 3-0

Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 3-0

Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion authorizing the mayor to approve yearend expenditures for closing out calendar year 2017 budget. Motion carried 3-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dennis Lentz made a proposal to install a tube, in part, in the city's right of way, connected to the south end of the tube recently installed at the Virginia St-Nebraska St intersection, then elbow the tube over to the ditch on the south side of the alley. Miscellaneous related issues were discussed. Council agreed for a committee to review his request.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Twombly- MCon has completed the Nebraska Street Project except they will review the area around the tube on the north side of Virginia Street for further sloping and improvements. The 100 block of South Nebraska is not planned to be an openly traveled street. The city intends to plant grass seed in the spring and to allow no driving, parking, etc. on it until sod is established. A discussion followed with landowner Dennis Lentz concerning the nature of a right of way and the obligation of the adjacent landowner to maintain it. He, as a landowner, prefers to plant his own grass seed. City accepted the offer of the land owners planting and maintain the grass on their share of the street, subject to the agreement of the other adjacent landowner.

Mayor Twombly stated much criticism has been received from the council's decision to place the all way stop signs on West Pennsylvania. It was noted that the stop signs are intended to slow down traffic and to make those areas safer.

Attorney Collins – Joint Recreation Commission – He has communicated with USD 111 and President Reist of Highland Community College concerning the proposed college facility improvements and how the same might involve the proposed recreation commission. The USD is awaiting firmer cost estimates from the college and their own financial situation before making any commitments. No one has received a report back from the last school district's meeting following the letter sent by the City. The three entities (HCC, USD & City) will continue to discuss the possibilities of working together on the proposed college athletic project.

Clerk Karn – Received an engagement letter from the audit firm, Karlin & Long, to perform the 2017 audit which is not to exceed \$5,500, same as 2016. Jesse Marriott moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion authorizing the mayor to sign the Karlin & Long's engagement letter for the 2017 audit. Motion carried 4-0 In reviewing the budget projections of year end cash balances, the balances of the major funds are expected to be similar to year end 2016.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine read his report.

Maintenance Supervisor Leach provided his handout and asked for both, Trevor and Aaron, to attend the KRWA Annual Conference in Wichita on March 27, 28, 29, 2018. Charles Batchelder moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion allowing both, Trevor Saunders and Aaron Leach, to attend the KRWA Annual Conference, paying registration and lodging, in Wichita on March 27, 28, 29, 2018. Motion carried 4-0 With Supervisor Leach, Mayor Twombly addressed the need to supply a water line to a new home in the Missouri St./N. Carolina St. area. Dennis Lentz stated the basement will be dug next week and house set within a month. Mr. Lentz, the former owner of the lots, stated that he believes additional housing may be constructed in that area and suggests a 2" water line be run up the alley to supply future development. Following discussion of installation to be possible in one day, either by contracting or by the city crew, the consensus was for the city crew to install a 2" line at that location.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Ben Gilmore: Nothing at this time

Law Enforcement Committee – Matt Peterson: Nothing at this time

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary: Nothing at this time

Street and Alley Committee – Charles Batchelder: Nothing at this time

Water and Sewer Committee – Jesse Marriott: Nothing at this time

Outreach Committee – Jerry Twombly and Jesse Marriott: Nothing at this time

Planning & Zoning – Jerry Twombly, Matt Peterson & Jesse Marriott – Nothing at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Matt Peterson asked about the sale of property at the depot area and old city hall. Attorney Collins suggested to finalize the decisions on the drainage and surface area at the depot area prior to sale, and the storm siren and/or water line needs disconnected from old city hall building. Attorney Collins suggested an auction and the council determine the details.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Twombly opened the sealed bids on the 1998 red maintenance truck and the 2004 white police truck. Two bids were received for the red maintenance truck, Charles Batchelder moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to accept the high bid of \$728.32 from Colby Meyer. Motion carried 5-0 Two bids were received for the white police truck, Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to accept the high bid of \$2,800 from Kevin Lackey. Ben Gilmore abstained, 2-2 tie; Mayor voted yea; Motion carried 3-2

Following opening the community center parking lot proposals, a committee of Jesse Marriott, Matt Peterson, Ted Collins and Jerry Twombly will visit with each bidder before next council meeting to review the possibilities and costs involved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Jesse Marriott moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:55 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss personnel review of non-elected personnel for the protection of the privacy right of the protected employee(s) and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 6:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Matt Peterson moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to continue with the current insurance plans, the city employees receive the 22nd of December (additional holiday) off with pay and provide each employee with a \$300 yearend bonus paid on the December 26th payroll. Motion carried 5-0

Jesse Marriott moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:17 p.m. for 10 minutes for consultation with an attorney on zoning compliance matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 6:27 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Matt Peterson spoke on behalf of everyone thanking Ben Gilmore for his years of service as council member.

Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:29 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk