

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
JULY 12, 2017
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Ben Gilmore, Jesse Marriott and Matt Peterson

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT: Charles Batchelder and Dana Clary

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Rita Clary, KRWA; Jennifer Haynes, NEKES; Mike Batchelder, Randy Snyder, Rocky Ruhnke, Dorothy Diveley, Selena Diveley and Dennis Lentz

PRESIDING: Mayor Jerry Twombly

5:00 p.m. Mayor Jerry Twombly called the regular city council meeting to order.

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to approve the June 21, 2017 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried 3-0

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

PRESENTATIONS:

Jennifer Haynes, NEKES, presented information on tobacco free areas and what the other area cities have already established. KDHE provides free signage and more information can be found on the KDHE web site. Following the presentation, the council consensus was to have tobacco free parks (3 parks) in Highland.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Randy Snyder commented on the continued parking in the 200 block of East Main Street.

Mike Batchelder asked about the bricks that have fallen from the old post office building. Discussion on the possibility of taking the building down. Attorney Collins explained the process which is complicated by pending liens against the property.

Rocky Ruhnke asked if the city was sponsoring the street dance during the Eclipse Event. The city has purchased event insurance for the activities thru Monday, August 21st. The Solar Eclipse Committee will be organizing/coordinating the street dance on Saturday. In case of rain, the dance will be at the community building with the fire department. The plan is to close the 300 block of West Main Street, sidewalk to sidewalk and for officers not to enforce the city's open container of alcohol prohibition during the dance time of 9p.m. to midnight within the blocked-off area.

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion for the city to sponsor the street dance on August 19th from 9p.m. to midnight, close Main Street from Kirkwood to Genesee, allow open containers of alcoholic beverages and cereal malt beverages from sidewalk to sidewalk, between the aforementioned streets, during this time. Motion carried 3-0

Rita Clary referenced the letter from Dan Fischer, USDA. The Medium Household Income (MHI) survey was approved and will be completed by the August meeting.

Randy Snyder asked if anyone was mowing the former Matthias property. Mayor Twombly indicated awareness of the need to mow the property and indicated it would be taken care of.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Twombly also received complaints about the former Matthias property; dog ordinance to be revisited by the law enforcement committee; several places in town being mowed for hay to be reviewed by the street/alley committee; and no report on the roadside park sale.

Attorney Collins does not have anything to report at this time.

Clerk Joann Karn along with Ben Gilmore reported on the 2016 audit and the 2018 proposed budget. Jim Long, CPA, of Karlin & Long provided information showing the city had no significant deficiencies or material weakness in the audit of fiscal year ending December 31, 2016. The finance committee recommends to increase the 2018 budget by 1.2 mills which is allowed by the CPI (consumer price index) adjustment.

Matt Peterson moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to publish the 2018 budget summary at 36.197 mill estimated tax rate with the budget hearing at 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2017. Motion carried 3-0

Police Chief Whetstine read his report. Chief Whetstine presented information and a quote to purchase two (2) body cameras and software from Digital-Ally.

Matt Peterson moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to purchase two (2) body cameras with software from Digital-Ally with extended life battery up to \$2,100 and be paid from the Diversion Fund. Motion carried 3-0

Aaron Leach, Maintenance Supervisor, provided his report and asked to rent a boom trailer from Atchison Hardware, \$350 for 2 days. Supervisor Leach believes tree limbs are knocking the bricks off the old post office building and with this lift he can cut the limbs along with using it to put up the banners for the Eclipse Event.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Ben Gilmore: No addition information

Enforcement Committee – Matt Peterson: Meeting on the dog ordinance and unsafe structures.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary: Absent

Street and Alley Committee – Charles Batchelder: Absent

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:50 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 6:05 p.m. Motion carried 3-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:05 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 6:15 p.m. Motion carried 3-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:15 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 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 3-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:30 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss 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 6:40 p.m. Motion carried 3-0 Mayor asked the maintenance supervisor, city attorney and clerk to remain

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:40 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss 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 6:50 p.m. Motion carried 3-0 Mayor asked the maintenance supervisor, city attorney and clerk to remain

Matt Peterson moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to contract with Elmer Schmitz, Schmitz Lawn Care, (Elmer at \$25/hr. and \$20/hr. for worker) up to \$3,000 to assist with maintenance duties prior to the Eclipse Event. Motion carried 3-0

Matt Peterson moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to increase Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach's salary to \$14.00/hr. beginning next pay period. Motion carried 3-0

Jesse Marriott moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Mayor

City Clerk