

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
APRIL 11, 2018
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Batchelder, Dana Clary, Matt Peterson, and Rocky Ruhnke

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Marriott

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Leah Johnson, Do Co Economic Development; Tim Collins, Do Co Commissioner; Tom Heath and Pam Wiedner, Highland Insurance; Brian Kingsley and Paul Owens, BG Consultants; Dennis Lentz, Selena Diveley, and Dorothy Diveley

PRESIDING: Council President Matt Peterson; Mayor Jerry Twombly arrived at 5:15 p.m.

President Peterson called the regular city council meeting to order.

Charles Batchelder moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting held on March 14, 2018. Motion carried 4-0

Charles Batchelder moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0

PRESENTATIONS

Leah Johnson, reviewed the draft copy of the Do Co Economic Development Strategic Plan with main emphasis on the 6 Key Initiatives. Copy on file.

Tom Heath of Highland Insurance, an independent agent, reviewed the EMC insurance policy renewal. Due to a substantial increase in premium, they are securing additional quotes and will keep the city updated. The council asked about changing the deductible amounts. Matt Peterson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to pay \$43,826.00 to Highland Insurance for the current insurance coverage with possible future premium adjustment due to change in coverage and/or carrier. Motion carried 4-0

In looking at an aging sewer line, Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants, touched on sewer line replacement, sewer line rehab, available funding/grants, and other possibilities for the city's sewer maintenance/upgrades. Two surveys (LMI & MHI) must be completed if pursuing a grant. It was noted that Rita Clary, KRWA, had not completed the MHI income survey and indicated to Mr. Kingsley that there was no timeline for completion. Garrett Nordstrom, Governmental Assistance Services, could complete both surveys at the same time. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to sign a contract for services with Governmental Assistance Services, as proposed, in the amount of \$9,300 for the Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) and the Median Household Income (MHI) surveys. Motion carried 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Selena Diveley, speaking for Highland Lions Club, thanked the city for repairing the broken cement at the baseball field's concession stand area. Also, asked for rock be placed in the settled portion of South Canada St. that was cut out.

Dennis Lentz thanked the council for providing off street parking at 107 E Main St. Mr. Lentz asked for the sewer inspection pipe, 100 block of South Nebraska, be cut off to grade. Consensus of the council is for Aaron Leach, city maintenance, and Dennis Lentz to complete this pipe cut.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Twombly- Asked Commission Collins to help encourage the county attorney to conduct a tax sale. The sidewalk along Main Street near South Nebraska Street still needs replace.

Attorney Collins – Legal executive session later in the meeting

Clerk Karn – Nothing at this time.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine – Read his report. He is sending a letter to the individuals on the current out of compliance structure list and another inspection will be performed.

Maintenance Supervisor Leach – Thanked the council for allowing both employees to attend the KRWA conference in Wichita. The plants have not start making cold patch, start at the end of the week. The Bobcat tire has been cut and one can be purchased from Triple L Tire for \$225. The council agreed to replace the tire immediately. Mr. Leach passed his sewer operator's license.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Jesse Marriott – Absent

Law Enforcement Committee – Charles Batchelder asked if the city PD was prepared for a mass shooting. Chief Whetstine indicated they have been trained and both schools, high school and college, have current policies.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary – Spring Clean-up Day is April 21st

Street and Alley Committee – Rocky Ruhnke – Met with Mr. Leach regarding plan for oil/chat streets; met with the fire board but does not have any firm numbers on the cost of the community center parking lot. Mr. Ruhnke will be checking to see if the parking lot has a solid base.

Water and Sewer Committee – Matt Peterson – Committee will continue to meet and proposed a plan for water billings due to leaks. Completing installation of radio read meters is a top priority.

Outreach Committee – Jerry Twombly, Jesse Marriott – Nothing at this time

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

Personnel Committee – Jesse Marriott - Absent

OLD BUSINESS:

Matt Peterson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion approving the summer rec umpire pay for K-Ball games at \$15 and all other games at \$20 for each umpire. Motion carried 4-0

D-West Jr/Sr Prom sponsor is asking for West Ave in front of the community building be blocked off for prom couples' walk-in with the intersection remaining open. Chief Whetstine indicated the local police along with Doniphan County Sheriff department will be there for prom and they can assist. Approval was given by council consensus.

NEW BUSINESS:

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion authorizing the mayor to use judgment on the cost and installation of a security fence at the city's well. Kevin Lackey, Lackey Loaderworks, will install the security fence. Motion carried 4-0

Matt Peterson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to purchase the presented items, swings and working crane, for the parks. Motion carried 4-0

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion for the city to again sponsor a street dance during the HCC Alumni weekend in August. Motion carried 4-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Dana Clary moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 7:15 p.m. for 10 minutes for consultation with an attorney on a correspondence that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 7:25 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Rocky Ruhnke thanked Ms. Johnson and Doniphan County Economic Development for a supportive and informative presentation.

Charles Batchelder moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Motion carried 4-0