

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
April 10, 2019  
5:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dana Clary, Terry Gibson, Matt Peterson and Rocky Ruhnke

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** City Attorney Ted Collins, City Clerk Joann Karn, City Maintenance Aaron Leach and Trevor Saunders and Chief Brandon Whetstine

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Rebecca Thacker and Jon Ecker, Mo-Kan; Dennis Lentz, Jerry Petering, Greg Delzeit, Bill Noll, Russell Karn, Cyndi Florence, Paul Rush, Esther Gormley, Harry Smith and Scott Huss

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Charles Batchelder

Mayor Batchelder called the regular city council meeting to order.

Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Matt Peterson moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0  
Rocky Ruhnke requested payroll summary be included in the bills.

**PRESENTATION:**

Jon Ecker, Director of Mo-Kan, and Rebecca Thacker, Community Planner for Mo-Kan, provided information on various services offered which include transportation safety, security, business support, economic development, GIS mapping, grant writing and others at little or no charge. A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) meeting is scheduled for Doniphan County, May 15<sup>th</sup> at Library District No. 1-Troy, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. involving a comprehensive economic development strategy.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bill Noll thanked the council for the quick action on parking taken at the intersection of South Avenue/Main Street.

Cyndi Florence and Matt Peterson updated the council on the youth summer rec program as Mr. Peterson attended the League Softball Meeting. Mr. Peterson picked up information packets which included: need \$150 check sent to Lori Henry for league dues, reviewed league rules, cities hosting tournaments, and dates. Ms. Florence indicated she had good sign up for umpiring and if they missed the Hiawatha clinic, Highland will host one. Mr. Ruhnke indicated Mr. Derek Jasper is stepping down and passing information along to him for a smooth transition of organizing the K-Ball league.

Paul Rush is asking to close Pennsylvania Street by his house to trim trees Saturday. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to close Pennsylvania Street from Genesee Street to Kirkwood Street beginning at 8:00 a.m. until dark or finished on Saturday, April 13, 2019. Motion carried 4-0

Jerry Petering suggested installing a blinking light on South Kansas Street going out of town since the flashing light seemed to have helped slow motorist coming into town. Chief Whetstine said the speed sign would be moved to South Kansas and around town. The sign records data which provides information to the officers.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

**Mayor Batchelder** – Asked the council to rank the candidates for the open council position after each gave a brief introduction. The candidates were: Greg Delzeit, Jerry Petering and Paul Rush. The council consensus was and Mayor Batchelder appointed Mr. Greg Delzeit to the open position and thanked Mr. Petering and Mr. Rush for their interest and encouraged them to run for office. Clerk Karn gave Mr. Delzeit the oath of office.

**Attorney Collins** – Later in the meeting

**Clerk Karn** – Reported Harry Smith, dba Ernies, completed a CMB application and recommended approval. Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion approving a 2019 Cereal Malt Beverage license for Harry Smith, dba Ernies. Motion carried 5-0

**Police Chief Whetstine** – EMS is doing a take back program of medicine on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> at the fire house. Highland officers are trained as a First Responder and EMT and typically are the first responders on the scene which helps saves lives.

**Maintenance Leach** –State inspector inspected the city's water system and records which appeared to be satisfactory but the final report will be returned in a couple weeks. City, working with the fire department, is developing an improved plan to flush the fire hydrants. Bud's Sewer flushed a line at the upper lagoons. Excellent KRWA conference and Trevor Saunders passed his test so he is now a certified wastewater operator. Maintenance will be painting the crosswalks and parking lines during the night hours and will exchange those hours worked for a late arrival the following morning, if permissible with council. Council agreed to the exchange of hours.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Finance Committee** – Greg Delzeit – Nothing at this time

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Matt Peterson – Explained there are new guidelines for asset forfeiture which better tracks the appropriate training and equipment; will need a separate account; and document all expenditures. Chief Whetstine explained the sale of the Tahoe plus recent seizure of \$3,027 cash would need to be place in a fund named "Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund." Greg Delzeit moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to establish a new fund with the name of Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Motion carried 5-0

Attorney Collins assisted Mayor Batchelder in opening sealed bids for the 2004 Chevy Tahoe. Bids read were: Ronnie Calhoon-\$1,500.25; Marion Howerton-\$2,250.00; Steve Koch-\$2,351.00; Andrew Gilmore-\$2,000; and Jeremy Neal-\$2,311.00. Following discussion of the possible trade-in value at Hiawatha Ford for \$3,000, Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to accept the high bid of Steve Koch, \$2,351.00. Motion carried 5-0

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Dana Clary – HCC is requesting boards to be replace on the bleaches at the city ball park and the cost will be split equally between the USD, HCC and city. Pride assisting with the citywide cleanup on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm and Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 9am-noon. In conjunction with the spring cleanup start a program called Hashtag Grab a Bag which encourages individuals or organizations for one day in the spring and one day in the fall to clean up city streets with the city providing the bags, and return the bags to Degginger Park for city pickup. The city will open up the former Cluck property for additional parking near the city ball park along with removing the horseshoe pit for parking. Parking signs for these areas will be purchased. A big "thank you" to Kirkwood Investments for the donation of dirt at Minier Park and Terry Moran will be planting grass. At the ball park, barricades will be place around the sand pit before the ball games start.

**Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee** – Terry Gibson – Stated another city truck load of cold patch will be needed to continue repairing pothole which is approximately \$500. The current well house has deteriorated due to chlorine and Mr. Gibson is pricing a concrete block building. The city graded the road to the lagoons and in doing so, covered the rock with dirt near Sue Rush's drive; therefore, approximately four ton of rock is needed to repair. Council consensus was to correct the situation. Triple L is interested in purchasing old city hall. Following discussion, Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to sell the old city hall at public auction, water lines and storm siren remain as is, and the city reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Motion carried 5-0

Mr. Gibson is asking for permission to look into the purchase of an outdoor electronic message board as he has dollars committed and will ask businesses if they'd like to donate/advertise. Also, reported the trailer for the radar speed sign is ready to use. Mr. Ruhnke and Mr. Gibson met with Herzog to review the streets and will be giving a comprehensive long-term plan. If dust complaints continue, there is a temporary mix that can be sprayed on the streets. Mr. Gibson reported on the future restaurant construction and connecting to the main water line. The city has capped the two small lines that formerly served the property and will install a 4" line from the city main to a fire hydrant to be installed on the northwest corner of the property. The restaurant will install the water line to the southwest corner of the building at its expense and the water meter will be installed inside the building. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion for installing a new hydrant in the NW corner of Kirkwood Investments property and repairing or replacing the current hydrant at Kirkwood/Main; and the installation of a 4" water line under Main Street. Motion carried 3-0 (DClary absent and GDelzeit abstained)

**Water and Sewer Committee** – Rocky Ruhnke – Nothing at this time

**Planning & Zoning** – Matt Peterson – Nothing at this time

**Personnel Committee** – Greg Delzeit – Nothing at this time

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Maintenance Saunders reported there are 23 intersection on Main and Kansas streets at either \$135 or \$200 per intersection for street signs. Matt Peterson moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to purchase signs from National Sign Company for \$200 per intersection for the 23 intersections on Main and Kansas streets, totaling \$4,600, with Mr. Delzeit and Mr. Ruhnke overseeing the details. Motion carried 5-0  
Ms. Clary indicated Highland Pride will paint the remaining sign posts in town.

Mr. Gibson explained the needed upgrades on Well 4 & 5 to have both wells on the same technology and will be securing options and costs.

Mr. Ruhnke reviewed the updated invitation for bid on the “Sewer System CCTV Inspection and Report” project prepared by the city attorney. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to let the “Sewer System CCTV Inspection and Report” to bid. Motion carried 5-0

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Clerk Karn explained the various options available since the fuser is out of the laser printer. Following discussion and the possibility of working with the cemetery association, decision is tabled until next month.

Greg Delzeit moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

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Mayor

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City Clerk