

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
December 11, 2019
5:00 P.M.**

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the Oath of Office was given to the newly elected Mayor Charles Batchelder and Council members Marty Allen and Dan Collins.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Allen, Dan Collins, Terry Gibson, and Rocky Ruhnke

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg Delzeit

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins, City Clerk Joann Karn, City Superintendent Kevin Lackey, Water & Sewer Superintendent Trevor Saunders and Chief of Police Brandon Whetstone

GUESTS PRESENT: Ron McCoy and Dee Tollakson, A1 Pump & Jet; and Dana Clary

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

Mayor Batchelder called the regular city council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Ron McCoy and Dee Tollakson, A1 Pump & Jet, provided a brief overview of the city's sewer system which included all sewer lines were jetted but approximately 25% of the lines a camera could not run through due to water infiltration; explained they are now a vendor for Root-X which would be used on the root intrusion; and asked when final payment would be processed.

Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:20 p.m. for 20 minutes for consultation with an attorney on legal matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 5:40 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the city attorney, clerk, City Superintendent, Water & Sewer Superintendent to remain

Concurring with the committee's findings that the bid was not completely fulfilled, Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to pay the balance on the bid amount (\$18,880) but not pay the additional requested amount (\$12,500). Motion carried 4-0 The council appreciated the work and information that A1 provided.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2019, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019, special city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented with the exception of two checks – Jerod Edie & Highland Cemetery Association which will be discussed later in the meeting. Motion carried 4-0

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Re-organization

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to elect Terry Gibson as Council President. Motion carried 3-0, Gibson abstained.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve the committees, as proposed by the mayor. Finance Committee – Marty Allen & Rocky Ruhnke; Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen; Parks and Rec. Committee – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke; Street & Alley/Bldg. & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins; Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson; Planning & Zoning Committee – Marty Allen & Greg Delzeit; Personnel Committee – Greg Delzeit & Dan Collins Motion carried 4-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve The Kansas Chief as the official city newspaper; establish The Bank of Highland, a Branch of Bendena State Bank, as official city depository; appoint Larry O'Bryan, Mike Parker, Mike Batchelder, Randy Snyder and J.W. Twombly to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals; and retain the current employees in their current position: City/Court Clerk Joann Karn, City Treasurer Janet Tyler; City Superintendent Kevin Lackey, Water & Sewer Superintendent Trevor Saunders, Police Chief Brandon Whetstine and Deputy Officer Tom Williams; City Attorney Ted Collins and Municipal Court Judge Kelly Fuemmeler. Motion 4-0

Attorney Collins – Additional information on items later on the agenda. Attorney Collins was informed of a building permit issue and proposed two possible solutions.

Clerk Karn – Announced the 2019 audit is scheduled for January 9, 2020 and asked for council to authorize the Mayor to approve year end expenditures. Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion authorizing the Mayor to approve year end expenditures for closing out the 2019 books for budget purposes. Motion carried 4-0 Clerk Karn reviewed the projected and anticipated decreased in the year end cash balances compared to last year.

Police Chief Whetstine – Assisted Doniphan West schools in activity shooter and safety drills; working on code enforcement issues; and official announcement on the US Postal Service investigation is forthcoming.

Superintendent Lackey – The three pumps at the lift station have been checked, one has a blown gasket, one has a seal out and the third will have the oil replaced. Supt. Lackey commented a new pump system is available which can be looked at in the future. The high school is requesting to place a storage building at the city ball park along with HCC wishing for more storage. Supt. Lackey will continue communications with both the high school and HCC regarding the desired structure type and placement.

NEW BUSINESS

Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion approving the 2020 Cereal Malt Beverage license for Kirkwood & Co. and Highland Stop & Shop. Motion carried 3-0, Ruhnke abstain.

Following discussion on receiving two applications for sidewalk reimbursement, Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion allowing both to be reimbursed one-half of their requested total. Motion carried 3-1 Marty Allen

Dan Collins moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion authorizing the mayor to sign the "Equipment Ownership & Usage Agreement" with the Highland Cemetery Association and reimburse the association one-half of said equipment (\$28,500) per agreement. Motion carried 4-0

Following discussion, Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion authorizing the mayor to sign the "Release/Covenant Not to Sue" agreement and pay \$8,319.26 to Jerod Edie for sewer backups at 107 N. Vermillion Street. Motion carried 4-0

City Superintendent Lackey presented and explained the two comparable bids on a sewer jetter and camera system. Following discussion, Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to purchase the sewer jetter (\$44,995.00) and camera (\$5,940.00) from HotJetUSA, Riverton, UT totaling \$50,935.00. Motion carried 3-1, Marty Allen

The emergency siren at the old city hall building still needs moved. City Superintendent Lackey received an estimate from Blue Valley Public Safety Inc. but further clarification is needed; therefore, this will be reviewed next month.

The city received the Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance renewal rates beginning February 1st next year and a decision is to be made at the January meeting regarding health/dental/life insurance.

After discussion, Terry Gibson moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion authorizing the mayor to sign into a "Cooperative Agreement" with Highland Community College regarding on-campus law enforcement with funding to the city of \$1,000 per month, subject to HCC approval. Motion carried 4-0

Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to increase City Attorney Ted Collins salary by \$700 and acknowledge Debbie Keebler's extra city service with a \$250 holiday payment. Motion carried 3-1, Marty Allen

ORDINANCE:

Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance number 561, an Ordinance of the City of Highland, Kansas, establishing the compensation to be received by the Chief of Police of the City of Highland and

amending prior ordinance number 555 of said city. By roll call vote: Allen-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Collins-yes, Gibson-yes
Motion carried 4-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 7:10 p.m. for 5 minutes for consultation with an attorney on legal matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS:

The mayor and council wished to thank the outgoing council members, Matt Peterson and Dana Clary, for their dedicated service; also, welcomed the two new members, Marty Allen and Dan Collins.

Terry Gibson moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

Mayor

City Clerk