

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
May 8, 2019
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Dana Clary, Greg Delzeit, 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 Whetstone

GUESTS PRESENT: Esther Gormley and Dennis Lentz

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

Mayor Batchelder called the regular city council meeting to order.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2019, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0

PRESENTATION:

Esther Gormley, Highland Pride, stated Pride would be willing to purchase paint (approx. \$200) and possible stencils for painting of the street markers. The markers will be painted white with black lettering. Pride members will not begin painting until after Memorial Day and then when weather permits. Pride would like to thank the city and everyone that participated in the Spring Clean-up Day.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Nothing at this time

Attorney Collins – Provide input on items later in the meeting; has started the sale project of the old city hall property; city court has been quite busy; and prepared an order for the municipal court judge to sign which establishes a uniform rate of pay for a court appointed defense attorney and prosecutor.

Clerk Karn – Greg Delzeit will be attending the budget workshop on May 31st with Clerk Karn.

Police Chief Whetstone – Police and court busy with HCC end of school incidents; data reports from the speed sign for one week at S. Kansas counted eight thousand vehicles; therefore, shows the need for two sets of brackets with another sign to be set up at the jr/sr high school area.

Maintenance Leach – Reviewed the water supply inspection report and updated the council on the two noted areas of correction; visited with HCC staff to assist in cutting base paths for youth ball on the baseball field after both the college and high school schedule is over. Maintenance Saunders indicated if all additions street signs (67) were to be replaced the cost would be an additional \$10,700. This year 25 street signs will be replaced and the consensus of council is to continue the project for the next two years.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Greg Delzeit – Nothing at this time

Law Enforcement Committee – Matt Peterson – Matters for an executive session later in the meeting.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary – Summer baseball is underway; the library is making a vinyl sign for sportsmanship at the ball park costing \$50; Rachael Gibson's cost for painting the sidewalks at Minier Park is \$500. Matt Peterson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to pay Rachael Gibson \$500 for painting the sidewalks at Minier Park, following permission from the school district. Motion carried 5-0 Minier Park upgrades – drainage tube install, grass seed planted and area for parking. City ball park update – area around playground equipment being improved and renewal of the usage agreement with HCC, USD and city. Attorney Collins indicated the agreement is nearly the same as in the past and all parties have been flexible with working together. Matt Peterson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to accept the proposed "Agreement for Usage and Maintenance of Highland Community

Ballpark” as written and forward to Highland Community College and Unified School District 111 for approval.
Motion carried 5-0

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson – When weather permits, asking the maintenance employees to work longer days (receive comp time) to finish installation of water meters and repair pot holes. Represented the city at the commissioners meeting to support local sales tax and inquire on the progress of a tax foreclosure sale on delinquent properties in the city; will be purchasing rock for several alleys; Gerald Neibling estimating \$25,000 upgrade for wells to use the same communication software; first quote on a concrete well house was approx. \$75,000; and will negotiate with HCC regarding well #3 after securing the cost of repairs. Rocky Ruhnke added the council had approved \$1,000 to Jake Simmons for pot hole repairs on Kansas St. and now asking for \$3,000 so there would not be a short load charge on the delivered concrete. Mr. Simmons could not start until June. No action taken and the city will fill the holes with cold patch due to the many activities in May.

Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke – Two prospective bidders on the sewer CCTV project have contacted Mr. Ruhnke; brief discussion on the sewer backup in the Kyle Heinrich resident with Attorney Collins recapping the incident and insurance update along with requesting and receiving council approval to recoup city’s expense of opening lines ; Councilman Gibson added there is an injection system that helps dissolve grease in sewer lines before it hits the city’s main lines.

Planning & Zoning – Matt Peterson – Nothing at this time

Personnel Committee – Greg Delzeit – Nothing at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Old city hall building is mainly cleared out and Attorney Collins will have details of the sale for council review at the June meeting. Also had brief discussion on the unsafe structure list, weed ordinance and nuisance violations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:20 p.m. for 10 minutes to review individual employee(s) pursuant to the non-elected personnel for the protection of the privacy rights of the protected employee(s) and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor asked the city attorney to remain

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:30 p.m. for 5 minutes to review individual employee(s) pursuant to the non-elected personnel for the protection of the privacy rights of the protected employee(s) and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor asked the city attorney to remain

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS:

Matt Peterson announced HCC is ready to send out postcards for their Alumni Weekend, August 17th, and was checking if a street dance will be held in the city. Rocky Ruhnke indicated there would be one, uncertain of the sponsor.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor

City Clerk