

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
December 4, 2019  
5:00 P.M.**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT:** None

**CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT:** City Attorney Ted Collins, City Clerk Joann Karn, and Chief Brandon Whetstine

**GUESTS PRESENT:** None

**PRESIDING:** Mayor Charles Batchelder

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

Terry Gibson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:00 p.m. for 15 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 5:15 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Terry Gibson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:15 p.m. for 15 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 5:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Terry Gibson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:30 p.m. for 10 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 5-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to pay Mr. Jerod Edie \$8,319.26 subject to receiving a release of liability for sewer backups. Motion carried 5-0

A-1 Pump and Jet bid and invoice will be further reviewed with a recommendation forthcoming.

Following review and discussion of the water rates, Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to raise base water rates in the following manner: inside city limit users base rate was \$25, new rate is \$28; outside city limit base rate was \$35, new rate is \$40; and the rate increased from \$4.75 to \$5.25 per 1,000, or any part of, after the first 1,000 gallons of water used. Rate change will be effective January 22, 2020. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance number 559, an Ordinance of the City of Highland, Kansas amending Ordinance number 339 of said City, and specifically amending sections Sixteen and Seventeen of said Ordinance number 339, relating to the rates and fees charged in connection with the waterworks system of said City, adding section Thirteen A relating to an Administrative Fee for service changes, and repealing Ordinance number 527 of said City. By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Gibson-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Peterson-yes and Clary-yes. Motion carried 5-0. (see full ordinance at [http://highlandks.com/ordinances/559-Water\\_Works\\_System-Amending\\_339\\_Repealing\\_527.pdf](http://highlandks.com/ordinances/559-Water_Works_System-Amending_339_Repealing_527.pdf))

Following review and discussion of the sewer rates, Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to raise the sewer rates in the following manner: inside city limit users base rate was \$20, new rate is \$23; outside city limit users base rate was \$22, new rate is \$26; after the first 3,000 gallons of water usage, the sewer rate will be \$1.50 per 1,000 gallon of water used on the yearly average. The business sewer base rate will increase from \$22 to \$25.00 with the per 1,000-gallon charge after the first 3,000 gallons to remain at \$2.25. New residency base rate will be \$23.75 instead of \$21.75 per month. Rate change will be effective January 22, 2020. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance number 560, an Ordinance of the City of Highland, Kansas, amending Ordinance number 340 of said City, specifically, section Ten thereof, fixing the charges for use of the sewage disposal system of said City, and repealing section One of Ordinance number 528 of said City. By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Gibson-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Peterson-yes and Clary-yes. Motion carried 5-0. Motion carried 5-0. (see full ordinance at [http://highlandks.com/ordinances/560-Sewage System-Fixing Charges-Repeal Sec One 528.pdf](http://highlandks.com/ordinances/560-Sewage%20System-Fixing%20Charges-Repeal%20Sec%20One%20528.pdf))

Attorney Collins explained the proposed cooperative agreement with Highland Community College, subject to HCC approval.

Dana Clary moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:07 p.m. for 30 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 6:37 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor asked the city attorney to remain \*Dana Clary left the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Terry Gibson moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:37 p.m. for 25 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 7:02 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor asked the city attorney to remain \*Attorney Collins left the session at 6:48 p.m.

Matt Peterson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to increase Joann Karn salary to \$3,333.34 monthly (\$40,000 annual), Trevor Saunders hourly rate to \$18.00, Brandon Whetstine from hourly rate to an annual salary position totaling \$3,813.33 monthly (\$45,760 annual), and increase Tom Williams hourly rate to \$17.50 effective December 21, 2019; pay in full current compensatory time. Brandon Whetstine questioned the amount of his raise and requested permission to work a second job to compensate for the shortfall. Also asked if police could continue to participate in the Click It or Ticket program and consensus of council was to continue in the program with no cost to the city. Following discussion, agreed further details will be worked out. Motion carried 4-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

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Mayor

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City Clerk