

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
December 9, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Delzeit, Marty Allen, Rocky Ruhnke and Terry Gibson

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Collins

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

GUESTS PRESENT: C.B. Lackey; Via Zoom: Trina Earl and Ashley Tilton, Doniphan County Pet Rescue

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

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

Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0

PRESENTATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Trina Earl and Doniphan County Pet Rescue members, along with City of Highland and Dr. Wayne Meyer are asking permission to hold a clinic on Saturday, January 23, 2021 at the Community Building from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Plans for the clinic are to take a photo ID of your animal, dog or cat, purchase a city pet license (dogs only), and offer rabies vaccinations and microchip dogs for a small fee. A letter with more details will be mailed in December. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to allow the clinic to be held at the Community Building on Saturday, January 23, 2021. Motion carried 4-0 Discussion followed with Doniphan County Pet Rescue offering to review current ordinances and provide suggestions. Consensus was for the Pet Rescue to communicate with Attorney Ted Collins regarding ordinance suggestions.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Re-organization

Rocky Ruhnke nominated Terry Gibson. Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to elect Terry Gibson as Council President. Motion carried 3-0, Gibson abstained.

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to approve the committees, as proposed by the mayor (no change). 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

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to approve The Kansas Chief as the official city newspaper. Motion carried 4-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to establish The Bank of Highland, a Branch of Bendena State Bank, as official city depository. Motion carried 4-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to appoint Larry O'Bryan, Mike Parker, Mike Batchelder, Randy Snyder and Bryan Rhodd to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion carried 4-0

Attorney Collins – Reviewed the plat and confirmed the access area to the east of the Highland Care Center was private property and not city right-of-way. Participating in a meeting Thursday, regarding moving forward with Dollar General. Needing more information on the proposed location of the water treatment plant lagoons before moving forward. HCC had a representative look at Well #3 and how it could be utilized for irrigation. Input on later agenda items.

Clerk Karn – Announced the 2020 audit is scheduled for January 8, 2021 and asked for council to authorize the Mayor to approve year end expenditures. Auditor Jim Long, Karlin & Long, has asked for the approval of the management letter, maximum cost would be \$7,100. Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion authorizing the Mayor to sign the management letter, \$7,100 maximum cost, for the 2020 audit. Motion carried. 4-0 Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion authorizing the Mayor to approve year end expenditures for closing out the 2020 books for budget purposes. Motion carried 4-0 Clerk Karn reviewed the projected and anticipated decreased in certain funds, year end cash balances compared to last year.

Police Chief Whetstine – Announced the Snowflake Festival went great. Malcom Grier is still not available for code inspections and council asked the status of a couple properties.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey –Supt. Lackey asked the council to consider purchase of 2-3 loads of rock for the lagoon road and rock pile, approx. \$400 per load. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to purchase three (3) loads rock at approx. \$400 per load. Motion carried 4-0 Supt. Lackey will be purchasing two (2) more tires for the skid loader at approx. \$400. Regarding the West Water Tower, Supt. Lackey indicated the bottom part of the bowl has mildew and dirt on the outside, asked for the council to visually observe it. The estimated cost from Suez to clean is \$6,500, unknown if this mildew will affect the outside paint. Supt. Lackey indicated the back door of the police office has a rusted door jam and Supt. Lackey will be soliciting bids for possible complete door replacement. In the near future, Supt. Lackey reported the 2010 Bobcat will need to be traded and Merz Farm Equipment indicated the trade difference would be approx. \$35,000. Supt. Lackey is soliciting bids and will give a recommendation. At January regular meeting, Supt. Lackey will recommend securing Duke’s Inc. to treat the city’s sewer mains for tree roots. Duke’s treatment comes with a two-year guarantee.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Marty Allen & Rocky Ruhnke – Nothing at this time

Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Nothing at this time

Parks and Rec. Committee – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – With Doniphan West Girls Cross Country team repeating as State Champs, Councilman Ruhnke proposed a “Welcome to Highland, Home of Doniphan West State Champions” sign placed on South Kansas Street entering town, installed 4’x8’ is \$1,475 and 2’x4’ is \$650. Possible donations may be secured for a sign, Supt. Lackey will look at a location and further discussion at next meeting.

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Following further explanation, Councilman Gibson acknowledged the access on the east side of the Highland Care Center is private property, not city right of way.

Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Councilman Gibson and Supt. Lackey updated the council on their talks with Ned Marks, Terrance Resources, and the desire to continue talks, regarding the possibility of lowering the nitrate levels by re-casing the wells and installing variable speed drive pumps. Mr. Marks will be providing a dollar estimate.

Planning & Zoning – Marty Allen & Greg Delzeit – Nothing at this time

Personnel Committee – Greg Delzeit & Dan Collins – Nothing at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion approving the 2021 Cereal Malt Beverage license for Kirkwood & Co. and Casey’s General Store. Motion carried 4-0

Following a short review of the city’s group fringe benefit insurance package, Marty Allen moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to accept the recommendation and renew the current agreements which included the “grandfathered” status with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of KS. Motion Carried 4-0

The consensus of the council, there is no change in the employee positions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:25 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 6:35 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:35 p.m. for 42 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 7:17 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to give the Clerk, City Attorney, City Superintendent, Water & Sewer Superintendent and Police Chief a \$250 Christmas bonus. Motion carried 4-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to give the City Superintendent, Water & Sewer Superintendent and Clerk an annual \$2,000 raise for year 2021. Motion carried 4-0

Attorney Collins announced he received an email, during the executive session, from BG Consultants regarding the proposed lagoon site and will do a follow up tomorrow.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

Mayor

City Clerk