

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
February 12, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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 Whetstine

GUESTS PRESENT: Mari Ann Parker, Janet Tyler and Dennis Lentz

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

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

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0

PRESENTATION:

Mari Ann Parker thanked the maintenance for assistance throughout town and repairing the steps at the recycling trailer. Ms. Parker explained the cost the school district's ag department has in the planters for Main Street Highland. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to pay the requested cost of \$15 per planter and the city has 11 planters (\$165). Motion carried 5-0

Janet Tyler provided updated information on the upcoming Big Kansas Road Trip. Attractions, event, etc., will be published in 12,000 booklets to be distributed throughout Kansas which showcases the counties of Brown, Doniphan & Nemaha during May 7th – 10th. Discussion had on general cleanup for the community to be coordinated with the maintenance department.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Read the Boy Scouts of America Proclamation. Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adopt and ask the mayor to sign the Boy Scouts of America Proclamation. Motion carried 5-0

Attorney Collins – Advised the city received a Notice of Claim against the city from Kyle Heinrich's attorney. Attorney Collins provided a brief review of the situation that led to the sewer backup.

Clerk Karn – Asked if any councilmembers were interested in attending the KRWA Convention, March 24-26 in Wichita and being appointed a voting delegate. The Greater Manhattan Community Foundation provided a fund statement for the City of Highland Community Fund which on December 31, 2019, has an ending balance of \$10,334.91. Clerk Karn explained the published yearly financial statement were audited figures for 2019.

Police Chief Whetstine – Commented the fire department, school district and law enforcement will participate in a mock DUI accident on March 2nd. This Senior Project is being done before Jr/Sr Prom to illustrate what might happen if drinking and driving. Everyone is invited to attend. Law Enforcement assisted in a safety program at the elementary school last week. Chief Whetstine requested the purchase of two body cameras, one for the chief and one for Officer Williams to wear. Chief explained this brand is reliable, used by other local department, and payment out of the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to purchase two (2) Crime Cam w/GPS (Night Vision Version) for \$499 each from Martel Electronics, Inc., Yorba Linda, CA, with payment from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund. Motion carried 5-0

Superintendent Lackey – Noted Blue Valley Siren will be moving the emergency siren on February 19th, weather permitting. Supt. Lackey provided an update on the lift station pump and when asked what happened to the pump, Supt. Lackey said it appeared to be a mop head caught and burnt up the motor. A rebuilt motor would cost \$7,000 and a new motor could cost \$17,000. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to rebuild the motor for the lift station pump. Motion carried 5-0 Water/Sewer Supt. Trevor Saunders explained in an attempt to keep our sewer lines clean and flowing properly, individual letters will be given to households/businesses when items such as fats, oils,

grease, wipes, towels, etc. are found in manholes below their location. The city is asking all individuals to do their part in keeping non-flushable items out of the sewer. Supt. Saunders reviewed the letter from KRWA in assisting the city with water loss.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

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

Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Chief Whetstine provided a budget for review.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Rocky Ruhnke reported the sign-up sheets for the youth summer ball program have been handed out. The K-Ball boys will be machine pitch this year. Pitching machine will cost \$479 from Dick's Sporting Goods. Greg Delzeit moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion for the city to purchase enough pitching machines for the league and each city will reimburse Highland. Motion carried 5-0 The Smithson Lodge will donate \$1,500 and invoice the City of Denton for \$250 for the youth summer ball program. Greg Delzeit asked for council consensus on July 4th activities. Following a brief discussion, the consensus is to hold the 4th of July activities on Saturday, July 4th with a rain date on July 5th.

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Had discussion on the bridge/tube area at the city limits on North Kansas Street. Attorney Collins will inquire if the county will join efforts in this project.

Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Had discussion on a generator, building a well house and upgrading equipment on both wells. Supt. Lackey indicated a generator would cost \$30,000 to \$50,000. A 20 x 16 concrete building (walls & ceiling), would cost between \$60,000 to \$70,000. Councilman Gibson believed a first class well house building will cost \$150,000 to \$175,000, a very preliminary estimate. Supt. Lackey will continue working with Gerald Neibling and checking on generators.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Referencing the desire to make an additional GO Bond principal payment which is within budget limits, Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to make the additional principal payment (03/28/2022) of \$14,552 and transfer from Water Fund to Debt Service Fund \$32,068.50 (Prin. \$14,197.00, Int. \$17,871.50) plus additional principal payment for a total of \$46,620.50. Motion carried 5-0

Following discussion for a new computer for the superintendents, Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to accept the quote from Heartland Business Machine for a desktop computer with MS Office installed (\$799.98) and onsite installation (\$75.00) totaling \$874.98. Motion carried 5-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion authorizing Chuck Simmons to order a 4th of July fireworks display similar to last year with the city paying up to \$3,500. Motion carried 5-0

Following annual review, Terry Gibson moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to adopt the Emergency Water Supply Plan as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion accepting Schmitz Lawn Care bid, option #2, in the amount of \$7,900 prepaid. Motion carried 5-0

Marty Allen inquired, discussion followed, as to each employee's spending limit on items without prior approval. Marty Allen and Rocky Ruhnke will provide a recommendation at the March meeting. Attorney Collins will assist in drafting a spending policy/procedure.

Terry Gibson moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor

City Clerk