

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
January 8, 2020
5:00 P.M.**

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Rocky Ruhnke

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins arrived at 5:25 p.m., City Clerk Joann Karn, City Superintendent Kevin Lackey, Water & Sewer Superintendent Trevor Saunders, Chief of Police Brandon Whetstine and Officer Tom Williams

GUESTS PRESENT: Janet Tyler

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 December 11, 2019, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

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

PRESENTATION:

Janet Tyler shared information on the upcoming Big Kansas Road Trip which showcase's the counties of Brown, Doniphan & Nemaha during May 7th – 10th. A meeting will be held at city hall on Tuesday, Jan. 14th, 6:00 p.m. with Terry Gibson to represent the council.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – The sewer camera has arrived with the jetter later this month.

Attorney Collins – Absent

Clerk Karn – The city received a generous donation from the James Daniel Hopkins Trust to be used towards a splash pad to be located in Minier Park. If interested in attending, the KRWA Convention is March 24-26 in Wichita and the council can appoint a voting delegate. Clerk Karn provided a brief review of the 2019 yearend finances with Karlin & Long auditing Jan. 9th.

Police Chief Whetstine – No activity, town is quiet with HCC students gone.

Superintendent Lackey – Supt. Lackey provided an update on moving the emergency siren. Blue Valley Siren can move the pole and siren for \$4,500 or remove siren from current pole and reinstall it on the pole next to city hall for \$5,500. Supt. Lackey has checked with Gerald Neibling on moving the siren. Following years of discussion, Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to accept the cheapest method of moving the siren in a timely manner. Motion Carried 4-0 Following Supt. Lackey explaining the water tower maintenance program from three (3) companies, Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion approving saving \$24,000 a year in an interest bearing account, relying on our maintenance staff to determine needed water tower maintenance, subject to being able to terminate current contract with Suez (Utility Services). Motion Carried 3-1 (Allen) Supt. Lackey and Saunders requested to attend the KRWA Convention March 24-26 in Wichita. Marty Allen moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion approving the request and pay the registration, lodging and meals at the convention. Motion Carried 4-0 Supt Lackey did not have an update on the lift station pump and remarked the new sewer camera is top quality and should be very beneficial to the city. Chlorine samples are required to be taken every day which Trevor Saunders is currently doing. Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to compensate Trevor Saunders or Kevin Lackey one hour per day on weekends and/or holidays to record the chlorine samples. Motion Carried 4-0

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

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

Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Executive Session later in the meeting

Parks and Rec. Committee – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Nothing at this time

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Nothing at this time

Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Gerald Neibling will be submitting a bid for the February meeting on the cost of building a concrete building, moving all the electrical equipment and bring the water system up to date.

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

Personnel Committee – Greg Delzeit & Dan Collins – Executive session later in the meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

Following a short review of the city’s group fringe benefit insurance package, Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit 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

NEW BUSINESS:

Terry Gibson moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to reduce the sidewalk allocation amount to \$5,000 for the 2020 calendar year. Motion carried 3-2 (Allen, Delzeit)

Supt. Lackey explained the city’s use of a loaned plasma cutter. Greg Delzeit moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to purchase the plasma cutter for \$1,500 from Roger Rush. Motion carried 4-0

RESOLUTIONS:

Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-01, waiving GAAP accounting requirements for the City concerning financial statements and fixed accounting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020, in accordance with K.S.A. 75-1120A. Motion carried 4-0

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2020-02, Kansas PRIDE Program for 2020 which urges Highland citizens to join efforts and allows the city to be an official entrant in the PRIDE Program. Motion carried 4-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:08 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 6:18 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor asked the city attorney, police chief, police officer and city clerk to remain

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:18 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 6:28 p.m. Motion carried 4-0. Mayor asked the city attorney, police chief, police officer and city clerk to remain

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to pay Officer Williams an annual salary of \$36,400 (pay biweekly) plus benefits for year 2020 pay periods with an understanding the hours worked be adjusted to eliminate overtime pay. Motion carried 4-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

Mayor

City Clerk