

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
March 11, 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, and Chief of Police Brandon Whetstone

GUESTS PRESENT: Trina Earl, Tiffany Rhodd, and Kari Clary for Doniphan County Pet Rescue; Angie Kreider of Rainbow Communications; 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 February 12, 2020, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0

PRESENTATION:

Trina Earl and Tiffany Rhodd are introducing the newly formed Doniphan County Pet Rescue and currently securing documents to be a not-for-profit organization. Trina Earl, Executive Director, has seen that there is a huge need for this type of organization in Doniphan County. They are introducing themselves, explaining their mission and current activities and asking for feedback from each city.

Angie Kreider, Rainbow Communications, provided background information and stated approximate 80% of residential customers are streaming video over the internet. Rainbow will be upgrading infrastructure and working with the residents to meet the needs of the future. The cable franchise goes away on June 30th and Ms. Kreider, assisted by Attorney Collins, reviewed the proposed franchise ordinance, a telecommunications local exchange service provider providing local exchange service within the City of Highland.

ORDINANCE:

Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance number 563, a contract franchise ordinance granted to Rainbow Communications, L.L.C., a telecommunications local exchange service provider providing local exchange service within the City of Highland. By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Allen-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Collins-yes, Gibson-yes Motion carried 5-0

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Received a letter from Mr. J.W. Twombly resigning from the Board of Zoning Appeals. Council will bring back names of individuals interested to next month's meeting.

Attorney Collins – Provide information later in meeting

Clerk Karn – Asked if any councilmembers were interested in attending the KRWA Convention, March 24-26 in Wichita and being appointed a voting delegate. Provided information on the KPERS Employer Rate Increase beginning January 1, 2021. Clerk Karn asked to attend and if any council member wished to attend the budget workshop in Topeka on Friday, May 15th, costing \$75 each. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion allowing Ms. Karn to attend the Budget Workshop in Topeka on May 15th with city paying the \$75 registration. Motion carried 5-0 Former Councilperson Dana Clary applied for and received \$2,800 grant funding from the Ruth and Roger Wolfe Charitable Trust for a rectangle hip shade for Minier Park. There is a cost difference of \$691 and asked for it to be paid with local funds. Greg Delzeit moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion authorizing funds, \$691, towards the purchase of the hip shade. Motion carried 5-0 Clerk Karn shared an email handout reminding how vital that all citizens take the census as it determines numbers for most grant applications and locally receiving federal funding for schools, roads and highways, public health, affordable housing programs and much more.

Police Chief Whetstine – Thanked everyone involved, the fire department, EMS, Riverside & Doniphan West school districts and law enforcement, participated in a mock DUI accident on March 2nd which was a Senior Project to illustrate what might happen if drinking and driving. Following the mock accident activities, a debriefing was held at the high school. Simulators can be brought to Highland to illustrate roll over accidents, impact for not wearing a seat belt and others. Chief Whetstine brought up the Fire Department is concerned there is no markings at the recently installed fire hydrant between Kirkwood & Co. and the Highland Medical Clinic.

Superintendent Lackey – Noted Blue Valley Siren moved the emergency siren with Gerald Neibling finishing the wiring soon. A Husker Steel employee looked at the bridge on the north edge of town, after seeing the concrete is rotting out, highly suggested to remove and replace with a tube. If wing walls were installed, an estimated cost is between \$50,000-\$100,000 and an estimated cost for a 6' x 120' tube is \$20,000. Attorney Collins and Terry Gibson will be contacting the county to work together on this project. Supt. Lackey indicated the need to replace some stop and yield signs due to fading and will bring back numbers next month. Supt. Lackey spoke to the need of trimming tree limbs off power lines and other areas. Possible hire a tree trimmer to drop the limbs and the city guys haul off. Supt. Lackey advised there is a half load of rock left with the need of one more load and one truck load of cold patch. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to purchase one truck load of rock and one load of cold patch, up to 4 ton. Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Marty Allen & Rocky Ruhnke – Committee meet regarding employee/officials spending limits and Attorney Collins reviewed the recommendations which will be added to the personnel policy after approval.

Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Committee needs to review budget with the Chief and Clerk. Following discussion related to property owners' unsightly properties, Attorney Collins, Terry Gibson, Marty Allen and Chief Whetstine will drive the town to make recommendations before citations issued.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Rocky Ruhnke reported 90 kids have signed up for the youth summer ball program with no teams for 5-8 grade girls. Currently 2 teams for K-Ball boys, 2 teams for K-Ball girls, 1 team for 3-4 grade boys, 1 team for 3-4 grade girls and 1 team for 5-6 grade boys. Coaches will be meeting next week to divide teams and hand out gear. The Smithton Lodge will donate a new batting cage to be installed at the north end of the basketball court. Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion accepting the generous donation of the Smithton Lodge for a batting cage. Motion carried 5-0 T-shirts will soon be order, will need game balls and other misc. items.

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Fixing pot holes and discussed oil/chat vs. asphalt streets. Attorney Collins discussed parking request at the Highland Medical Clinic, need of another restricted parking stall from 9 to 5 pm. Also, Kirkwood & Co. suggests adding a handicap slot on the north end of Kirkwood Street which will allow individuals direct access to the restaurant. Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion adding a third restricted parking slot, totaling one-handicap and two 9-5 p.m. on Main Street, one handicap slot on Kirkwood Street near Main Street and change the city traffic map. Motion carried 5-0

Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Waiting on bids for the well house

Planning & Zoning – Marty Allen & Greg Delzeit – Coming up with names for the Board of Zoning Appeals.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Supt. Lackey indicated Gerald Neibling is consulting with the well guy regarding changing out a pump, switching voltage over to match the other pump, possible going to variable speed which would allow blending water of well 4 and well 5 and could allow direct supply to town, if needed. More information to come.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to donation \$100 to the Doniphan West After Prom party as past years. Motion carried 5-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to accept the application of the Highland Christian Church and adjust the water billing to \$1.00 per thousand gallons due to a leak that was greater than ten times the amount of the average monthly usage. Motion carried 5-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion accepting Suez-Utility Services Inc. bid for washout assessment inspection of the West Water Tower costing \$1,700 with date to be coordinated by both parties for the Owner to drain the tank. Motion carried 5-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion setting April 24th, 9-4pm and April 25th, 9-noon as the City's Clean-Up dates and April 17th as the city's last day to assist with hauling limbs to the burn pile. Motion carried 5-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adopt the employees spending limits as proposed and to be added to the employee's personnel policy. Motion carried 5-0

ORDINANCES:

Following Attorney Collins review, Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance Number 562 which provides for procedures to be followed and the associated costs, in connection with requesting access to, and obtaining copies of, open public records of the City of Highland. By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Allen-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Collins-yes, Gibson-yes Motion carried 5-0

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS:

Councilman Allen ask the Chief of Police for an on-duty schedule.

Greg Delzeit moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor

City Clerk