

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
September 09, 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 Police Chief Brandon Whetstine

GUESTS PRESENT: via ZOOM: Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants; Garrett Nordstrom, GAS; Shelly Underwood, MAPS. C.B. Lackey attended part of regular meeting.

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

The Public Hearing for the purpose of considering an application to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds under the Water/Sewer category was opened at 5:00 p.m. with council members, city staff and guests present.

After a brief review of the application and procedure, Mr. Nordstrom reviewed Resolution No. 2020-06 and 2020-07. Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve Resolution #2020-06 – Certifying Legal Authority to Apply, as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Marty Allen moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve Resolution #2020-07 – Operation and Maintenance of Improvements, as presented. Motion carried 5-0

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing at 5:17 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Batchelder called the regular city council meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2020, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – The City of Severance has made great improvements in their clean-up and wishes for the City of Highland to continue with our clean-up.

Attorney Collins – Input on other agenda items; brief review of Doniphan County rural fire districts EMS situation with his needing to leave for their 6:30 p.m. meeting; provided review of the three (3) ordinances #566, #567, and #568.

Following discussion, Greg Delzeit moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 566 – Amend Zoning Regulation – Prohibiting Livestock in Certain Zoning Districts with additional amendments (add R3 for domestic pet and insert qualified support animals). By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Allen-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Collins-yes, Gibson-yes Motion carried 5-0

Marty Allen moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 567 – Water Supply Conservation Program as presented. By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Allen-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Collins-yes, Gibson-yes Motion carried 5-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 568 – Uniform Public Offense Code as presented. By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Allen-yes, Ruhnke-yes, Collins-yes, Gibson-yes Motion carried 5-0

Discussion was had regarding the violation list of the city codes, the procedure used to identify the violation and corrective action. Several codes discussed were weeds, nuisances, dogs, and unsafe structures.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion authorizing \$30,000 to be allocated towards cleaning up unsafe structures in FY2021. Motion carried 5-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion authorizing the Police Chief to retain an individual to mow property that is in violation of the city codes and submit the bill to the property owner. Motion carried 5-0

Clerk Karn – Input on later agenda items; reminder to promote the importance for all community members to complete the 2020 Census; and City of Severance is planning to have a tire disposal day in October with more information available later.

Police Chief Whetstine – Progressing with the code enforcement list and DWest Homecoming Parade this Friday @ 2:00 p.m.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey – Supt. Lackey provided a map showing the lower lagoon which needs a new woven wire fence before summer 2021. Several items discussed were the legal description of the area, solicit bids or city workers complete fence. Council will review next month following more information.

Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to reimburse Thomas Keller, 304 East Virginia, for his payment to Bud Sewer Service regarding a clog in the main sewer line. Motion carried 5-0

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

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

Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Several items were discussed in a meeting with the police chief.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Financially, the Summer Youth Ball Program was about a break even. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to purchase one (1) bucket machine pitch baseballs for summer 2021 for \$274.99 plus s/h from Sports Advantage. Motion carried 5-0

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

Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Regarding the water treatment plant, Mr. Ruhnke has visited with Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants, and feels the city is going in the right direction. The brine, salt solution, from the treatment plant can be used in the winter time on our streets. Rocky Ruhnke left the meeting.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Jake Simmons, 400 Block North Ives Street, requests the city to place “No Parking” signs on the east side. Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to change from allowed parking to “No Parking” on the East Side of 400 Block North Ives and update the city traffic map. Motion carried 3-1 (Allen)

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to submit the request for Time Extension to Complete Diversion Works until December 31, 2021 to the Kansas Department of Agriculture for Well #3 costing \$100. Motion carried 4-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion for the city to opt out of the presidential executive order which would allow deferral of the employee portion of Social Security tax on wages paid from Sept 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Motion carried 4-0

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to adopt the Municipal Water Conservation Plan as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Brief discussion on the last nitrate test of Well #4 which returned at 13 mg/L on August 28, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:30 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 6:40 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried 4-0