

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
February 10, 2021  
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, City Clerk Joann Karn, City Superintendent Kevin Lackey, Water & Sewer Superintendent Trevor Saunders and Police Chief Brandon Whetstine.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** None

**PRESIDING:** 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 13, 2021, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021, special city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Following discussion and recommendation of Supt. Lackey to not pay Allied Systems, Inc., Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented with the exception of Allied Systems, Inc.. Motion carried 4-0

**PRESENTATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Flowers for the planters on Main Street tabled until next month.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

**Mayor Batchelder** – Nothing at this time.

**Attorney Collins** – Provided a brief update on the CDBG award and waiting on USDA determination of the grant/loan for the proposed water treatment plant. Asked for executive session later.

**Clerk Karn** – Announced the Big Kansas Road Trip will take place May 6-9, 2021, featuring Brown, Doniphan and Nemaha counties. In review of the Highland Community Building application, Attorney Collins suggested additional language under Prohibited Uses; Greg Delzeit moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to add the suggested language under Prohibited Uses #7. Motion carried 4-0 Clerk Karn shared the published yearend financial statement, stated the importance of the city and county share of Sales and Use Tax revenue for General Fund and announced the fund statement for the City of Highland Community Fund has a \$11,548.68 balance.

**Police Chief Whetstine** – Announced he is involved in a couple cases – pursuit ending in the city, damage at city ball park, catalytic converter theft at HCC, and provided update on last month's shooting. Other discussion included police procedure policy, Chief requests hourly wages, and review of unsafe structures. Consensus is to receive a report from Malcom Grier or another inspector before next month's meeting regarding unsafe structures.

**Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey** – Supt. Lackey reported in searching for water loss, the building next to the bank is in poor shape and needs the water shut off which will require cutting into Main Street. This project will be hired out and all expenses documented. Council member questioned if both employees have their required water and sewer licenses in which Councilman Gibson made a motion to exempt Supt. Lackey from obtaining his state licenses. Motion died due to lack of second. Supt. Lackey is to bring back future employments plans next month. Supt. Lackey indicated the winter street salt and sand supply is fine.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

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

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Police policy is being updated. Chief Whetstine is asking for a city wireless camera system and explained other cities have them. Consensus was for the Chief to bring back quotes for next meeting. Chief acknowledge he continually uses his body camera.

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Following discussion, Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to advertise and hire a Summer Recreation Director with negotiable salary. Motion carried 4-0

**Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee** – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Announced streets are slick and begin discussing a city street paving plan. Supt. Lackey will secure bids for next meeting.

**Water and Sewer Committee** – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Supt. Lackey, W/S Supt. Saunders and Councilman Gibson attended a KRWA meeting to listen to nitrate problem solver Ned Marks. Following discussion, Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to hire Ned Marks, costing \$5,000 - \$8,000, to analyze and report findings to reduce the nitrate level. Motion carried 4-0

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

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Supt. Lackey provided a quote from Duke's Inc. regarding the treatment of 6,308 feet of selected 8" sewer mains. Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the presented quote from Duke's Inc. for a total cost of \$10,849.76 for treatment of 6,308 feet of selected sewer mains. Motion carried 4-0

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Referencing the desire to make an additional GO Bond principal payment which is within budget limits, Greg Delzeit moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to make the additional principal payment (03/28/2024) of \$15,288 and transfer from Water Fund to Debt Service Fund \$32,067.78 (Prin. \$14,915.00, Int. \$17,152.78) plus additional principal payment for a total of \$47,355.78. Motion carried 4-0

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion authorizing Chuck Simmons to order a 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display similar to last year with the city paying up to \$4,000, including product insurance. Motion carried 4-0

Following annual review, Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to adopt the Emergency Water Supply Plan as presented. Motion carried 4-0

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion accepting Schmitz Lawn Care bid, option #2, in the amount of \$8,475 prepaid. Motion carried 4-0

#### **GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS:**

Marty Allen suggested the city honor the late Bill Butrick, City Clerk, for his long-time service and bring suggestions to next month's meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:55 p.m. for 15 minutes for consultation with an attorney on legal matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the City Attorney, Clerk, City Supt., W/S Supt. and Police Chief to remain

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 7:10 p.m. for 10 minutes for consultation with an attorney on legal matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 7:20 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the City Attorney, Clerk, City Supt., W/S Supt. and Police Chief to remain

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 7:20 p.m. for 20 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 7:40 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the city attorney and clerk to remain; Police Chief attended 7:35 – 7:40 p.m.

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to move the police chief pay from salary to hourly, beginning with next pay period (February 13<sup>th</sup>), 80 hr. pay period, emergency time (when above regular 80 hrs) processed as comp. time and time clock utilized as accountability only. Motion carried 4-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Motion carried 4-0