

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
January 13, 2021  
5:00 P.M.**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marty Allen

**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: Garrett Nordstrom, Governmental Assistance Services

**PRESIDING:** Council President Gibson called the regular city council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 24, 2020, special city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0

**PRESENTATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Garrett Nordstrom, GAS, provided an update on the COVID-CV grant, announced the qualifying businesses (Wonder Kidz, Hair Fanatics, Shelly's Daycare, Little Monster Playhouse and Moran Lawn & Landscape) and asked the council to approve the allocations. Mayor Batchelder arrived. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve an equitable split of \$24,000 each for the five businesses and \$12,000 administration to GAS, totaling \$132,000. Motion carried 4-0 Mr. Nordstrom provided an update on the funding notifications for the water treatment plant project.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

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

**Attorney Collins** – Provided a brief update on the sewer litigation. Input on later agenda items.

**Clerk Karn** – Announced the receipt of a generous donation from the James Daniel Hopkins Trust to be used towards the splash park in Minier Park. Clerk Karn reviewed, with discussion, the yearend unaudited balances which included a history summary of the reserve funds within selected funds. Also announced the Highland Clover Patch 4-H generously donated items for the community center kitchen. A brief update was given on the community center roof leak and ice machine. Attorney Collins provided information on the county meetings regarding the EMS/Fire District. Rocky Ruhnke volunteered to attend the upcoming meetings.

**Police Chief Whetstine** – Announced he is involved in a local ongoing investigation.

**Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey** – Supt. Lackey received a verbal bid from Missouri Glass to adjust the city hall's front door and police back door for approximate \$400. Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to secure Missouri Glass to adjust the front door and the police backdoor in city hall for approximately \$400. Motion carried 4-0 Supt. Lackey reviewed possible locations for the DWHS state cross country sign with the Mayor authorizing expenses up to \$500. Water/Sewer Supt. Saunders asked to attend the KRWA Water Well Technology workshop, no charge, on Tuesday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at Tonganoxie and if Rocky Ruhnke is available, he will attend with Saunders.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Finance Committee** – Marty Allen & Rocky Ruhnke – Covered earlier in the meeting.

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Chief Whetstine referenced the restructuring of the Chief's pay back to hourly, and hiring Chris Waggoner as a part-time officer.

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Rocky Ruhnke provided a copy of the summer recreation sign-up form to be handed out at the schools and returned by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Participation in the City of Highland Summer Recreation is free thanks to the generous donation from the Smithton Lodge. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to have the City of Highland Summer Recreation free to all youth participants. Motion carried 4-0

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

**Water and Sewer Committee** – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Nothing at this time

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Supt. Lackey is receiving further information from Duke’s Inc. regarding the treatment of the sewer mains.

Supt. Lackey presented five (5) bids for a new skid steer loader. Following detailed discussion, Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to purchase the Case SV340B Skid Steer Loader (90 hp) from Bruna Implement, Hiawatha, for \$27,500 plus change the quoted 72” bucket for an 80” bucket. Motion carried 4-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to establish the sidewalk amount for 2021 at \$5,000. Motion carried 4-0

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2021-01, waiving GAAP accounting requirements for the City concerning financial statements and fixed accounting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021, in accordance with K.S.A. 75-1120A. Motion carried 4-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2021-02, Kansas PRIDE Program for 2021 which urges Highland citizens to join efforts and allows the city to be an official entrant in the PRIDE Program. Motion carried 4-0

**PROCLAMATION:**

For the City of Highland, Mayor Batchelder hereby proclaims February 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2021 as SCOUTS-BSA ANNIVERSARY WEEK and join with the citizens of this community to express our appreciation to the Pony Express Council and the Scouts-BSA for their interest in and dedication to America’s Youth.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:42 p.m. for 5 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 6:47 p.m. Motion carried 4-0  
Mayor asked the city attorney to remain

Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

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Mayor

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City Clerk