

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
APRIL 12, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Batchelder arrived at 7:02 p.m., Dana Clary, Ben Gilmore, Jesse Marriott, and Matt Peterson

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT: None

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins, City Clerk Joann Karn, City Police Chief Brandon Whetstine, and City Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach

GUESTS PRESENT: Mike Batchelder, Dorothy Batchelder, Dennis Lentz, Rocky Ruhnke, Cyndi Florence, David and Selena Diveley, Dorothy Diveley, Randy Snyder and Nathan Keller

PRESIDING: Mayor Jerry Twombly

7:00 p.m. Mayor Jerry Twombly called the regular city council meeting to order.

Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to approve the March 8, 2017 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried 4-0

Ben Gilmore moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented for the month of March 2017. Motion carried 5-0

PRESENTATIONS:

Cyndi Florence provided an update on the youth summer rec teams and reviewed the financial handout sheet asking the city for assistance of approx. \$2,373.20.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nathan Keller addressed the council expressing interest in either purchasing or leasing the entire “old grade school building” with some modifications to the interior of the building (minimal exterior-signage, additional security, etc) for a convenient store, retail store and law enforcement training facility. Would project to hire 6-10 full time employees and 6-10 part-time employees. The city would like to see a governmental entity take responsibility instead of a private business. The Outreach Committee will meet with a school committee and Mr. Keller (contact information provided).

Selena Diveley inquired what the policy is on dog running loose. Discussion followed. Dorothy Diveley and the Pollyanna Club volunteered to water the city flowers on main street again this year. The council thanked her and the club.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Twombly announced Elmer Schmitz, Schmitz Lawn Care, accidentally left off his mowing bid property known as the former Cluck’s property at 507 W Missouri (\$25/mowing x 15 mowing=\$375). Will be addressed under new business.

Attorney Collins had nothing to report at this time.

Clerk Joann Karn indicated, at this time, the budget numbers were good although the revenue figures from the state sales tax are down the first quarter with potentially being short over ten thousand by year end. The state special highway amount is projected to be a couple hundred dollars less than last year.

Police Chief Whetstine read his report. Chief Whetstine reported the Taser company had multiple issues in the shipping of the two Tasers, magazine and holster that he had ordered; therefore, to correct the error, the company provided the order free of charge, a value of over two thousand dollars.

Aaron Leach, Maintenance Supt., provided his report and added he has been patching pot holes and mowing the former saddle club property.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Ben Gilmore: The city-wide cleanup day, similar like last year with HCC assistance, will be April 21st and Miller Trash will have a roll-off dumpster located at the old depot area. Anyone needing assistance with items are to call city hall. The finance committee has researched the potential income of approx. \$61,000 from establishing a school district wide recreation commission of 1 mil which would be used for the youth of the district. Council supports the committee to meet with the school district on the possible establishment of a rec commission.

Law Enforcement Committee – Matt Peterson: Matt will be meeting with Chief Whetstine to review the unsafe structure list in the near future and bring back recommendation in May. Attorney Collins can provide some updated information about the current list.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary: Reviewed and updated information regarding the Eclipse Event. Donations are being accepted to secure enough Porta-Potties for our community.

Matt Peterson moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion for the city to pay the difference, up to 15 out houses for the Eclipse Event in Highland. Motion carried 5-0

Minier Park – Discussion on replacing the old fence vs. purchasing new fence around the basketball court. A proposal of \$1,750 for new fence has been received and Kevin Lackey could have the old fence install in 1-2 weeks or a new fence in approx. 3 weeks. Will be addressed under new business.

A new logo for the Eclipse Event with other information to consider was included in her handouts to the council.

Street and Alley Committee – Charles Batchelder: Nothing at this time.

Water and Sewer Committee – Jesse Marriott: Nothing at this time.

Outreach Committee – Jerry Twombly & Jesse Marriott: Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cost for Painting Lines on Main Street – Maintenance Supervisor Leach has contacted several companies but has not received bids back. Mr. Leach was asking for Kansas and Main Street center line and/or parking lines.

Cost of Electrical Box & PA System – Following discussion, Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to accept the bid from Gerald Neibling of \$1,200, with generous donations from others (Bank of Highland, Highland PRIDE, Highland Lions Club), for the electrical box. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to purchase, with the generous donation from others, the PA system, as presented, totaling \$1,079.89 from Sweetwater Sound, Inc. Motion carried 5-0

Minier Park Splash Pads – Dana Clary provided information on two styles of splash pads, recirculation vs. drain away. Considering the initial purchase cost and yearly maintenance, will be seeking more funding through grants, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ben Gilmore moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to accept the bid of \$1,209.83 from Brad Smith for the 1993 Ford white bucket truck. Motion carried 5-0

Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to refuse the \$220.05 bid (the only bid received) on the 1998 Ford F-150 red pickup truck. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion approving approx. \$2,373.20, per handout, for summer recreation expenses and offset by entry fees, donations, etc. Motion carried 5-0

Dana Clary moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to add \$375 to Schmitz Lawn Care bid for summer mowing the former Cluck's property at 507 W Missouri. Motion carried 5-0

Matt Peterson moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to install new fencing around the basketball court instead of re-installing the old fence, at a cost of \$1,750, from All About Fencing with funds from Minier Park account. Motion carried 5-0

Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Maintenance Worker Michael Hunsaker. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor Twombly received two bids on contracting out payroll. Kramer & Associates bid \$165 per month with a 48 hr. turn around. Jackie Watts, EA bid was one time set up fee of \$150 and monthly charges of \$150 plus \$18 for direct deposit with a 5 day turn around. Both bids provided complete payroll service.

Following discussion on the main street sidewalk improvements by the Senior Citizen Center, Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion for the city to pay ½ (\$951) of the bid cost; Fuemmeler Flatwork, \$1,902 total. Motion carried 5-0 Attorney Collins suggested adopting a uniform policy on the City's cost-sharing on sidewalks, including the percentage and the required location limitations.

Mayor Twombly commented on the broken drain grate near the doctor's office that needs replaced. Maintenance Superintendent Leach will look at it.

Mayor Twombly indicated some individuals are getting into the community center building that have not rented it. Council authorized the mayor to correct the problem; possible re-keyed with keys that cannot be duplicated and double sided dead bolts.

Mayor Twombly had been contacted about tractor/trailer parking on city streets. Following discussion, the Council suggested for Attorney Collins bring back next month an ordinance which will not allow parking on city streets.

Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion allowing Clerk Karn attend the Municipal Budget Workshop on Thursday, April 27th in Overland Park, KS with a \$60 registration fee. Motion carried 5-0

The Council consensus was not to donate to the county's "Eclipse in the Heartland" as the city is supporting locally.

The Public Records Ordinance will be reviewed by Attorney Collins, Mayor Twombly and Clerk Karn with recommendations for next month's meeting.

Matt Peterson inquired about the streets to be oiled and chatted this year. Matter referred to the street committee. Mayor Twombly will meet with Maintenance Supervisor Leach and Jesse Marriott on the options for drainage at the community center parking lot and check out the ceiling water leak. Matt Peterson inquired on stop signs for Pennsylvania Street as that may help to slow the traffic down. Stop sign placement will be reviewed by the street committee, Chief Whetstone and Attorney Collins.

ORDINANCES: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:40 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss 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 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor asked the City Attorney, Maintenance Supervisor and Police Chief to remain

Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 8:50 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss 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 9:10 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor asked the City Attorney, City Clerk to remain

Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 9:10 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss 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 9:25 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor asked the City Attorney to remain

Jesse Marriott moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 9:25 p.m. for 10 minutes to discuss 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 9:35 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. Mayor asked the City Attorney, City Clerk to remain

Matt Peterson moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to advertise for a full or part time maintenance position. Motion carried 5-0

Dana Clary moved and Jesse Marriott seconded a motion to accept Jackie Watts EA bid of \$150 set up fee and \$168 monthly charge for contracting payroll services. Motion carried 5-0

Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to adjust the assistant city clerk's hours and title to court clerk only. New hours begin Monday, April 17th, 1:00 p.m. to end of court on Monday with remaining hours to finish Tuesday morning, up to 8 hours approved, but up to 10 hours with approval of the mayor. Motion carried 5-0

Charles Batchelder moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to adjourn at 9:37 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk