

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Batchelder, Dana Clary, Ben Gilmore, and Matt Peterson.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Jesse Marriott

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Dorothy Diveley, Dennis Lentz, Mike Batchelder, and Rocky Ruhnke

PRESIDING: Mayor Jerry Twombly

Mayor Twombly called the regular city council meeting to order.

Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting held on August 9, 2017. Motion carried 4-0.

Charles Batchelder moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented for the month of August 2017. Motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rocky Ruhnke thanked the city workers for the Eclipse event, the street dance, the town for everything that was done extra for stepping up and going above and beyond; especially pleased to see Ben Gilmore for helping with everything.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Twombly stated the sale of the roadside park has been finalized and check deposited.

Attorney Collins had asked the mayor to attend the LKM's City Attorney's meeting in Wichita on September 15th and the city pay registration and reimburse one night's lodging subject to motion approval. Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to pay registration fee and reimburse Attorney Collins for one night's lodging for his attendance at the League of Kansas Municipalities City Attorney Meeting in Wichita on September 15, 2017. Motion carried 4-0

Clerk Karn provided informational handout from attendance of the Regional Water Finance Forum in St. Joe on September 12, 2017. Rita Clary, KRWA, is working to complete the MHI survey and will be going door to door later this month. Rainbow Communication bring fiber to Highland and inquiring if the city office and city shop desires to update. Following discussion, Ben Gilmore moved and Matt Peterson seconded a motion to connect the city office with fiber and pursue the Heartland Business Machines estimate of installing a bridge to update the city's shop. Motion carried 4-0

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine read his report and reported the Doniphan County Sheriff is updating their fleet and has a 2014 Dodge Durango with police package, 75 to 80 thousand miles, for sale asking \$13,000. Following discussion regarding the sale of the 2004 officers truck (low mileage) and the 2004 or 05 Chevy Tahoe (190,000 miles), Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to offer up to \$13,000 (partial payment from Diversion Fund) towards the purchase of the county's vehicle and selling the Chevy Tahoe and 2004 officers truck. Motion carried 4-0 The markings and equipment transfer are within the mayor's spending authority.

Maintenance Supervisor Leach asked if the city had use for the old chain link fence at Minier Park. Harry Smith would dispose of it when he removes the school district's trailer. Consensus was for Mr. Smith to remove it. Mr. Leach reported on the painting of the north water tower and the late-night activities at Minier Park. Consensus is to post three (3) matching signs at Minier Park and the city ball park to assist in controlling activities. Ben Gilmore moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to post signs at Minier Park stating No Trespassing during certain hours (hours to be determined). Motion carried 4-0

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Ben Gilmore: Ben Gilmore and Dana Clary drafted a letter to the school board expressing support on establishing a Rec. Commission, proposing a .5 mill (up to 1 mill) levy, establishing by-laws with representation being a ratio to city population.

Law Enforcement Committee – Matt Peterson: Contacted Wayne Meyer again; he's not interested in anything beyond veterinarian services.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Dana Clary: Received the Tobacco Free signs for the parks. Following Rocky Ruhnke's request of replacing the tree in the north pod of Degginger Park, Hewins will cut the tree down for \$500 with Rocky Ruhnke hauling it off, Kevin Lackey will remove the stump to not exceed \$1,000, no estimate received yet to move the electrical box and plant a donated tree. Matt Peterson moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to pay \$500 to Hewins for cutting the tree down, up to \$1,000 to Kevin Lackey for stump removal, up to \$1,500 for planting of a tree (possible a 10' pine) and project competition by Terry Moran paid with Degginger Park funds. Motion carried 4-0 Council consensus is to block off one block (Genesee to Kirkwood) on Main Street for October 30th Halloween's Trunk or Treat. Tyler Nordman, HCC, will host a Sports Day, skills for all sports, on October 1st, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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

Water and Sewer Committee – Jesse Marriott: Absent

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Jerry Twombly will be our representative on the Doniphan County Economic Development Strategic Planning board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to accept the bid of MCon LLC for Nebraska Projects #1 and #2 per bid specs and per bid amounts. (Bid summary attached) Motion carried 4-0

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion for the city to pay up to \$3,000 for fireworks with the 4th of July celebration to be held Wednesday, July 4, 2018 with a rain date on Saturday, July 7th. Motion carried 4-0

Purchase of street rock and paint for the ball park bathrooms will be purchased under the mayor's spending limit. The college will be painting the bathrooms.

Chief Whetstine recommended two (2) cross walks be installed near the school for kids going to the practice field south of the school (Main Street/East Spring Street), and Main Street/Vermillion Street on the north side, purchase School Zone signage and update the traffic map. Dana Clary moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to approve Chief Whetstine's recommendation. Motion carried 4-0

GOVERNING BODY COMMENTS

Matt Peterson asked to secure bids for development/improvements of the Community Center parking lot. A committee of Aaron Leach, Matt Peterson and Ted Collins be formed for input on this project and Attorney Collins draft bids specs. Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion forming a committee for input, drafting bids specs with possible soliciting bids on the parking lot project at the Community Center. Motion carried 4-0

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion to seek a private contractor not to exceed \$4,000 to remove, haul out and pour concrete for a shelter house in Minier Park with possible payment from General Fund. Motion carried 4-0

Matt Peterson moved and Dana Clary seconded a motion accepting the bid of Simmons Excavation for a 20 x 20 storm shelter after competition of the concrete, using the \$3,500 Wolf Grant towards the \$5,800 shelter bid. Motion carried 4-0

Ben Gilmore spoke with the Fire Department along with other representatives from the Doniphan County Community Foundation and the foundation will hold a match day or giving day on November 28th which is National Giving Day. Name of funds will be available for donations and the donor will designate where their funds go. The foundation will have an active web site and have designated sites to donate at such as the libraries in the county on November 28th.

Dana Clary moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:17 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor

City Clerk