

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
MARCH 14, 2018  
5:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles Batchelder, Matt Peterson, and Rocky Ruhnke

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dana Clary and Jesse Marriott

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Dennis Lentz, Cyndi Florence, Dorothy Diveley and Jason Foland

**PRESIDING:** Council President Matt Peterson

President Peterson called the regular city council meeting to order.

Charles Batchelder moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the last regular city council meeting held on February 14, 2018. Motion carried 3-0

Charles Batchelder moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 3-0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dorothy Diveley inquired about the looks/placement of current orange netting and poles at the old post office sidewalk. Attorney Collins indicated it is still a safety issue and should be adequately blocked off. Due to the continued movement of the netting and poles, the consensus is for Supervisor Leach to place a more appealing and stable barricade blocking the sidewalk around the building. Supervisor Leach will barricade with safety cones.

The Smithton Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M. donated \$1,000 to the city's summer recreation program for youth baseball/softball equipment. Paused the meeting for a picture with Jason Foland, Master of the Lodge, and council members. The city thanked the Lodge for the generous donation.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

Mayor Twombly- Absent

Attorney Collins – The sewer issue at the Delzeit residence is being discussed between the insurance adjusters. The sewer/water committee along with the Supervisor Leach, Clerk Karn, and Attorney Collins should meet to formulate a longer-term plan for sewer maintenance.

Clerk Karn – Requested to attend the 2018 budget workshop with any council members. Charles Batchelder moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion allowing Clerk Karn and Member Ruhnke to attend the May 30<sup>th</sup> workshop in Topeka at a cost of \$60 per registrant. Motion carried 3-0

Clerk Karn spoke to the 40-year GO Bond, interest rates at 2.5%, and the state requests 30-60 days advance notice if early payments are made, which the bond allows. Rocky Ruhnke addressed the interest rate cost savings by paying off early. The city's long-term financial review should include items such as low bond interest rates, capital reserves for funds, possible near future water treatment plant, and other major needs.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine – Read his report

Maintenance Supervisor Leach – Requested 15 ton of cold patch at \$90/ton to begin repairs streets. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to purchase 15 ton of cold patch at \$90 per ton. Motion carried 3-0

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Finance Committee** – Jesse Marriott – Absent

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Charles Batchelder - Nothing at this time.

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Dana Clary – Absent

**Street and Alley Committee** – Rocky Ruhnke – The ball park concession area concrete will be broken out and replaced with rock. The amount of rock purchased will be within the mayor's authorized spending limit.

**Water and Sewer Committee** – Matt Peterson – Will meet prior to next month.

**Outreach Committee** – Jerry Twombly, Jesse Marriott – Absent

**Planning & Zoning** – Jerry Twombly, Matt Peterson, Jesse Marriott – Nothing at this time  
**Personnel Committee** – Jesse Marriott - Absent

**OLD BUSINESS:**

In discussion with Cyndi Florence, summer rec coordinator, the consensus of the council is to allow Ms. Florence to order shirts, secure team sponsors, authorize team league fee payment from approximately 90 participants registration fees.

Rocky Ruhnke has designed the community center parking lot and now knows the needed rock tonnage, length of pipe, etc. and will be meeting with the fire board regarding the joint agreement; for a high-end cost of approximately \$30,000 but will have an amount for next month's meeting.

Following discussion, Rocky Ruhnke moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to approve paying up to \$45,000 from the street fund for oil/chat this summer (approx. 60 blocks). Motion carried 3-0

Charles Batchelder moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve the use of the community center building, exempt for all day Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> through 2:00 a.m. Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, for HCC Student Government Association Spring Fling Dance. Motion carried 3-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to adjourn at 5:53 p.m. Motion carried 3-0

---

Mayor

---

City Clerk



Standing L-R: Jason Foland, Master of the Lodge; and Matt Peterson, Council President  
Seated L-R: Charles Batchelder and Rocky Ruhnke