

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**CITY HALL**  
**April 14, 2021**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**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:** Mari Ann Parker and CB Lackey

**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 March 10, 2021, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented including the hold check to Allied Systems, Inc. Motion carried 5-0

**PRESENTATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mari Ann Parker asked if the city would purchase flowers for the street planters. Ms. Parker secured a quote from the Doniphan West FFA for \$110. Also provided a quote of \$827 from Moran Lawn & Landscape for sidewalk brick edging in Degginger Park. Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to accept the quote of \$827 from Terry Moran Lawn & Landscape, payment from Degginger Fund. Motion carried 5-0 Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to purchase flowers for the street planters from Doniphan West FFA, totaling \$110. Motion carried 5-0

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

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

**Attorney Collins** – Provided background information on our Rural Fire District, the possibility of contracting with a firm to provide staffing for our ambulance services, possible increased funding, possible restructuring district, etc. The district is looking at all options to best serve our area. The discussions on the Dollar General store project are continuing and more information will be known later. The process regarding the county foreclosure and sale of real property for unpaid delinquent real estate taxes is moving forward.

**Clerk Karn** – Provided reminders: The Big Kansas Road Trip will take place May 6-9, 2021, featuring Brown, Doniphan and Nemaha counties and the citywide clean-up dates are Friday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. The Doniphan County Girl Scouts will be meeting monthly on the second Monday and not the first Monday of each month. The ice machine at the community center has quite and the consensus of the council is to bring quotes to next month's meeting. The first very unofficial number the city may receive from the American Rescue Plan is approximately \$139,000, with funds distributed through the state to cities under 50,000 population. More information on the plan will be provided when received. The city is not eligible for the CDBG-CV3 program.

**Police Chief Whetstine** – Announced the high school wishes to close West Ave. for the high school track meet as they did for the junior high meet. Discussion included: number of blocks to close, cones vs. gates, placement of gates, gates made like ones at city ball park, etc. Following discussion, Terry Gibson moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to close West Ave. for three blocks, stop sign going north, with gates made by city staff similar to ones installed at the city ball park, closed for all sporting events at the HCC track/soccer facility, with cone restrictions at the Wellness Center parking lot. Motion carried 5-0 Chief Whetstine reported the PD Durango was fixed and in service, St. Patrick's Day Parade was held and meth is an issue, arrested 4, 2 dealers. Chief is asking for any unusual activity in the neighborhood be reported to him or the Sheriff.

**Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey** –Supt. Lackey reported a water leak in the service line to the Pam Wiedner home. Engemann's quote to repair and bore under Main Street is \$2,845. Following discussion regarding traffic to the cemetery, Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to hire Engemann's to repair the water leaking service line to Pam Wiedner's, costing \$2,845. Motion carried 5-0 Supt. Lackey reported the dumpsters are scheduled for citywide clean-up day and requested purchase of tubes for ditches. Discussion was had on number of feet and size of tubing at various location, landowners reimbursing city,

superintendent's priority list of needed tubing with not all landowners contacted yet. Following discussion, Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson moved to purchase up to \$5,000 worth of tubing which includes the known \$1,820 to be reimbursed, continued contacting landowners on the remaining, paid from the Street Fund. Motion carried 5-0

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

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

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Chief Whetstine commented Dave Wilson reviewed the unsafe structures and is doing the update.

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Rocky Ruhnke reported the summer youth rec. is underway with 2-K-Ball Girls, 2-K-Ball Boys, 1-10 Under Girls, 1-10 Under Boys, 1-12 Under Girls; local hire of umpires – possible high school students; Zach Lee is asking permission to hold a Summer Softball League; the need to review the city ballfield agreement; and the need for more practice facilities. Mr. Ruhnke will present a proposal for review next month on the development of the Matthias/Saddle Club area. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion granting permission for a Summer Softball League, subject to scheduling. Motion carried 5-0

**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.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Intending to fill the summer recreation position locally with high school students umpiring. Pay will be determined.

Supt. Lackey will address the requested handicap parking in front of a Main Street business next month.

Supt. Lackey indicated the sweeping of streets, painting of parking lines, curbs, and possible fire hydrants on Main Street will be done before the Big Kansas Road Trip, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to hire Dave Wilson, Hiawatha's code enforcement officer, during evenings and weekends to provide services for Highland costing \$25 per hour and \$11 mileage per trip. Motion carried 5-0

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to submit both a water and wastewater pre-application form (Intended Use Plan) to Ks. Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE) to be eligible and considered for low interest loan financing through the Kansas State Revolving Fund programs. Motion carried 5-0

Greg Delzeit moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion permitting the clerk to attend Municipal Services virtual 2021 budget workshop on Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, costing \$75. Motion carried 5-0

Marty Allen moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

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Mayor

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City Clerk