

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
August 11, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Delzeit, Marty Allen arrived at 5:02 p.m., Rocky Ruhnke, Dan Collins and Terry Gibson

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins, City Clerk Joann Karn, Superintendent Kevin Lackey, and Water & Sewer Superintendent Trevor Saunders

GUESTS PRESENT: Ben Gilmore, Doniphan Darlings; Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants; Garrett Nordstrom, GAS; Melody Fields, Debbie Zlab and Charlie Hopp

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

The Public Hearing for the purpose of evaluating the performance of Grant No. 20-CV-087 which was for a small business grant program within the city limits of Highland, KS was held.

After a brief review by Garrett Nordstrom of GAS, with no public comments, Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to close the Public Hearing. Motion carried 5-0. The council thanked Mr. Nordstrom for administering the grant.

Mayor Batchelder called the regular city council meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2021, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2021, special city council meeting. Motion carried 5-0

Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Garrett Nordstrom, GAS, provided an update and reviewed the financing of the water treatment plant along with possible funding for a CDBG street project. The consensus of the council was to move forward on a street project.

Melody Fields addressed the issue of dogs at large and her encounter with dogs at large when walking and asked the city to enforce the ordinance.

Ben Gilmore, Doniphan Darlings, referring to his handout, explained where the chain link fence would need to be located as grass will be the soft play area. Mr. Gilmore is open to any suggestions. Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion approving the installation of the chain link fence as shown on drawing. Motion carried 4-0 Rocky Ruhnke abstained

Charlie Hopp and Debbie Zlab told of dates and concerns with dogs at large in their neighborhood along with parking safety issues on South Avenue, especially at Pennsylvania/South Ave. intersection. Ms. Zlab referred to parts of the ordinance referencing dogs at large and asked the council to enforce the ordinance.

Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants, provided an update on the progress of the water treatment plant project. Highlights included the need for Evergy to provide stable service, a diesel backup generator, brine disposal and reviewed the proposed design. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to issue a formal appeal to KDHE regarding the disposal of the water treatment plant brine. Motion carried 5-0

Council took a 5-minute break – 6:30 p.m. to 6:35 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Nothing at this time.

Attorney Collins – Later in the meeting.

Clerk Karn – Received numerous complaints regarding Main Street – Noted multiple complaints about the appearance of the Gilmore Classics property, grass clippings blown into street, and not mowed grass yard. Joe Florence's request for zoning change being held at 7:30 tonight at the courthouse; Dove Creek Premier is finishing out Schmitz Lawn Care agreement; Auditors Karlin & Long will no longer provide audit services; and estimate employees September 10th hours with adjustments to be made in the following pay period.

Police Chief Whetstine – Absent

Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey – Supt. Lackey requested 4 ton of cold patch which will last until spring, costing \$400. Rocky Ruhnke moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion authorizing purchase of 4 ton of cold patch, cost \$400. Motion carried 5-0 Supt. Lackey spoke to the number of Ash trees that are dying and asked who is responsible to take them down. It is the responsibility of the land owner to have the trees removed although the city has authority to address problem trees in the right of way. Supt. Lackey will provide a list and location of dead trees in town.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

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

Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Addressed dogs at large and barking dogs and in the absence of Police Chief Whetstine, Attorney Collins will visit with him. Terry Gibson reported BJ Smith would have all jet skis, etc. removed by the end of August; Terry Moran would move items out of town but would like to request some equipment remain in town the month of September; Dennis Lentz is building an 80' x 100' building to store everything inside; brief discussion of possible remedy for removing equipment from the lot of Gilmore's Classics; and unable to visit with Mari Ann Parker regarding tall grass.

Parks and Rec. Committee – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Rocky Ruhnke stated his survey is completed at the Matthias/Saddle Club area; Zach Lee is interested in the 2022 Summer Rec. position; discussed preliminary design layout for the Matthias/Saddle Club with update next month.

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Nothing at this time. Marty Allen addressed the need for a street sign indicating dead end for East Pennsylvania.

Water and Sewer Committee – Rocky Ruhnke & Terry Gibson – Noted that BG Consultants doing a great job on the future disposal of brine from the proposed water treatment plant.

Planning & Zoning – Marty Allen & Greg Delzeit – Nothing at this time. Supt. Lackey indicated that in the future, Corn Knife Industries, LLC will probably be annexed in and wish to connect to city sewer, nearly 1000' to the corner of Edie's.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

The consensus of the council was to publish the proposed 2022 budget as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

The consensus of the council was to not act on the request for additional street closure of 100 block South Kirkwood for August 14th. Kirkwood & Co. already has it closed from Main Street to the alley.

Attorney Collins explained the process of the sublease agreement with USD #111 and Doniphan Darlings, LLC. A final agreement will be available at a later date, possible next meeting as tentative opening is October 1st.

Attorney Collins explained the amendment to the GSI contract, Marty Allen moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to approve the GSI contract amendment. Motion carried 5-0

Attorney Collins ask for council direction regarding the unopen portion of East Ohio Street. Street access for the proposed new home owner is needed. Discussion was had on developing the street, water and sewer connections. Terry Gibson moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to secure a bid for road construction to the homeowner's driveway, spec written by Attorney Collins, Terry Gibson and Supt. Lackey. Motion carried 5-0

Marty Allen moved and Rocky Ruhnke seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried 5-0