

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
December 8, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, the Oath of Office was given to the newly elected Council members Terry Gibson and Tana J. Snyder.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Allen, Tana Snyder, and Dan Collins

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Gibson

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins, City Clerk Joann Karn, City Superintendent Kevin Lackey, and Chief of Police Brandon Whetstone

GUESTS PRESENT: Shelly Underwood, MAP; Keith Edmonds and CB Lackey

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

Mayor Batchelder called the regular city council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Batchelder read the resignation letter from newly elected council member Greg Delzeit. Mayor and all present thanked Mr. Delzeit for his past service and welcomed Ms. Snyder to the council. Also, thanks to Rocky Ruhnke for his service to the community. Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to accept the resignation of Council member Greg Delzeit. Motion carried 3-0 Mayor Batchelder nominated Keith Edmonds for the open position. Marty Allen moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to confirm Mayor Batchelder's nomination of Keith Edmonds to fill the unexpired term of Greg Delzeit. Motion carried 3-0

Keith Edmonds received the Oath of Office.

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2021, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2021, special city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2021, special city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 4-0

PRESENTATION

Shelly Underwood, MAP, provided several print-outs on various water rates for a period of the next five years to consider. Ms. Underwood explained the results of remaining at the current water rate (\$28) and reviewed the projections of a \$33 base, \$38 base, \$40.50 base and \$43 base. Funds must be available by February 2024 for the first water treatment plant bond payment. Following discussion and need for more information, council wished to schedule a work session for Wednesday, December 15th at 3:30 p.m. with Ms. Underwood available via Zoom. Additionally, a special council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 28th, to conduct end of year business.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Re-organization

Tana Snyder moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to elect Terry Gibson as Council President. Motion carried 4-0

Committees will be proposed by the Mayor at the December 28, 2021 special meeting.

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to approve The Kansas Chief as the official city newspaper. Motion carried 4-0

Marty Allen moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to establish The Bank of Highland, a Branch of Bendena State Bank, as official city depository, with authorized signers of Mayor Batchelder, Treasurer Tyler, Clerk Karn and Council President Gibson. Motion carried 4-0

The Board of Zoning Appeals appointment will follow at a future meeting. Larry O'Bryan, Mike Parker, Randy Snyder and Bryan Rhodd currently serve.

Attorney Collins –Later in the meeting. Provided a brief summary on the following: follow-up on the survey of the Matthias/Saddle Club grounds; no new information regarding the Evergy claim due to the fallen tree at the Dorrell property; lot of complaints regarding the in-town open burn of which a citation has been issued; sent several informal letters to individuals in violation of zoning and citations will be forth coming; regarding the Main St. unsafe structures (Bauer's), Do. Co. Attorney is dealing with the U.S. Attorney's office and will be moving forward with a tax sale in the near future; and had a brief discussion on the Dorrell properties.

Clerk Karn –ATV parade will be held on Saturday, December 18th; League is offering a virtual class webinar December 9th, 2021; audit scheduled for January 6th by Gordon CPA; reviewed the finances with noting the need of planning for the upcoming payments, esp. Water and General funds; and the November 8th water sample was analyzed at 13 mg/L for the 4th quarter.

Police Chief – Business as usual and noted additional copper theft in the area.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey –City Supt. Lackey indicated the loader will be needing new tires, approx. \$1,600 to be requested later; but for winter, ask to purchase a set of chains for the rear tires, \$250.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Marty Allen – Nothing at this time.

Law Enforcement Committee – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Nothing at this time

Parks and Rec. Committee — Nothing at this time.

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Nothing at this time.

Water and Sewer Committee – Terry Gibson – Nothing at this time.

Planning & Zoning – Marty Allen – Nothing at this time.

Personnel Committee – Dan Collins – Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Attorney Collins led discussion on a proposed Evergy improvement of the electrical service to the water treatment plant. Evergy is asking the city to pay a small portion of the cost, \$34,944. A decision will be had at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion approving the 2022 Cereal Malt Beverage license for Casey's General Store. Motion carried 4-0

Following a short review of the city's group fringe benefit insurance package, Marty Allen moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to accept the recommendation and renew the current agreements which included the "grandfathered" status with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of KS and continue with the same plan from Advance Insurance. Motion Carried 4-0

ORDINANCE:

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion approving Ordinance No. 578, providing for the acquisition of certain private property, consisting of fee simple title to real estate, for the purpose of improving the public water supply system of the city, designating the lands required for such purposes, directing the city attorney and mayor to proceed with the acquisition and providing for payment of the costs. By roll call vote: Edmonds-yes, Allen-yes, Snyder-yes, Collins-yes. Motion carried 4-0

RESOLUTIONS:

Following review of 2021-08 resolution, Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-08 which is a resolution of the City of Highland, KS approving the execution and delivery of an agreement to

release and assign the city's opioid claims to the Kansas Attorney General and certifying costs attributable to substance abuse and addiction mitigation in excess of \$500. Motion carried 4-0

Keith Edmonds moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

Mayor

City Clerk