

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**CITY HALL**  
**June 9, 2021**  
**5:00 P.M.**

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

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rocky Ruhnke

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants; Leah Johnson, Do. Co. Economic Development; Jared Ratzclaff, Do. Co. Sheriff Deputy; Tim Collins, Do. Co. Commissioner; Joe Florence and C.B. Lackey

**PRESIDING:** Council President Gibson called the regular city council meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:02 p.m. for 10 minutes for consultation with an attorney on legal matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 5:12 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Council President asked the City Attorney, Clerk and Leah Johnson to remain.

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 5:12 p.m. for 5 minutes for consultation with an attorney on legal matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 5:17 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Council President asked the City Attorney, Clerk and Leah Johnson to remain.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Brian Kingsley, BG Consultants, provided an update on the water treatment plant project. Couple areas Mr. Kingsley touched on were field survey, well improvements, selection of equipment, brine application, energy, soil prep and others. Discussion was had on needed future projects – water distribution, sanitary sewer rehab., streets, funding of the projects, etc. Suggested completion of water and sewer projects before streets due to heavy equipment and possible digging in street/ROW. Supt. Lackey stated a street project is higher priority than a sewer rehab project. Mr. Kingsley will coordinate the beginning of a major street project.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Jared Ratzclaff, Do. Co. Sherriff Deputy, explained the National Night Out and the committee selected Highland to host. Deputy Ratzclaff is asking the city to block off the 300 block of Main Street, Genesee to Kirkwood, for the event on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 to 10 p.m. It is a county event, free to the public, providing food, water and games. The former grade school area will also be used. Greg Delzeit moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to block off the 300 block of West Main, Genesee to Kirkwood, and the 200 block of West Illinois for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 to 10 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

C.B. Lackey inquired what the policy was on trimming trees on the city ROW. Trimming and/or removal of trees is the land owner's responsibility, although the city has trimmed trees in the past. Supt. Lackey will assist with the trimming.

Tim Collins, Do. Co. Commissioner, explained the tube repairs at the county/North Kansas Street at the city limits is being reviewed and repaired in the near future.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

**Mayor Batchelder** – Absent

**Attorney Collins** –Information later in the meeting.

**Clerk Karn** –The ice machine will be delivered approximately June 25<sup>th</sup>; two building permits issued and provided an update on the city’s allotment from the American Rescue Plan, \$150,948.07. Reminding the funds are distributed through the state to cities under 50,000 population, one-half of the funds will be received in 2021 and the second half will be 12 months later, the plan runs thru December 31, 2026 with all costs incurred by December 31, 2024. Brief review of the Revenue Neutral Rate which removed the tax lid, now the RNR is about the mill levy which requires a tax rate hearing to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Most state agencies recommend municipalities exceed the RNR this year.

**Police Chief Whetstine** – Absent

**Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey** –Supt. Lackey announced the new skid loader arrived and will receive 6-10-21. The truck is needing a set of new tires, costing \$750 from Triple L Tire. Greg Delzeit moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to purchase four (4) tires from Triple L Tire, totaling \$750. Motion carried 4-0 Supt. Saunders reviewed the size of water meter to install in the former grade school building. Following discussion, Supt. Saunders recommended installing a 1” meter, then if not large enough, install a 2”.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

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

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Checked on the update of the police procedures and unsafe structures. The unsafe structures process has started.

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. In case of rain Saturday morning, parade is cancelled but other activities will be held. The fireworks display rain date is Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

**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:**

Supt. Lackey asked for the Dukes Rooted In Innovation Bid be put on hold.

Greg Delzeit moved and Dan Collins seconded a motion to clarify the Code Enforcement Officer is Police Chief Brandon Whetstine with Dave Wilson, Hiawatha’s code enforcement officer, acting as an agent. Motion carried 4-0

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to accept the application of Steve Higgins and adjust the water billing to \$1.00 per thousand gallons due to a leak that was greater than ten times the amount of the average monthly usage. Motion carried 4-0

Attorney Collins explained voluntary annexation. Mr. Collins recommended the city accept and pass Ordinance #570 which begins the process to annex the property of Joseph B. and Ellen J. Florence.

#### **ORDINANCE:**

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion approving Ordinance No. 570, annexing certain described land into the City of Highland. By roll call vote: Delzeit-yes, Allen-yes, Collins-yes, Gibson-yes Motion carried 4-0

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:30 p.m. for 10 minutes for consultation with an attorney on legal matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the City Attorney and Clerk to remain.

Greg Delzeit moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Motion carried 4-0