

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY HALL  
May 12, 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, Water & Sewer Superintendent Trevor Saunders and Police Chief Brandon Whetstine.

**GUESTS PRESENT:** C.B. Lackey and Deb Fox, HCC President. Via ZOOM – Duke’s manager Brian Conroy and two representatives.

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

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2021, regular city council meeting. Motion carried 4-0

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

Duke’s Rooted In Innovation representatives presented a proposal, Duke’s 360 I&I Microdetection Study & GPS Survey, costing \$84,177.79. Second proposal breaks out the cost for different levels of service; GPS Services, Microdetection, Acoustic Pipeline Inspection, Manhole Inspection, GIS Platform/Integration, and Analytics and Reporting, totaled \$89,309.20. Following the presentation, discussion was had, thanked Duke’s for presenting and will further discuss later in the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

C.B. Lackey informed the council the fuel depot will be operational by October.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:**

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

**Attorney Collins** –Brief update on the unsafe structures; discussions on the Dollar General store project are continuing and more information will be known later; and the county attorney received a request for more time regarding the sale of real property for unpaid delinquent real estate taxes.

**Clerk Karn** –The city’s allotment from the American Rescue Plan is approximately \$139,292, funds 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. Passed during the 2021 legislative session, Revenue Neutral Rate removed the tax lid which was about actual dollars, now the RNR is about the mill levy which requires a tax rate hearing to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. Memorial Day Service, May 31<sup>st</sup>, sponsored by Highland Pride and Highland Cemetery Association will be at the cemetery. Council filing deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> at noon, three positions open.

**Police Chief Whetstine** – Provided summary of arrests, cocaine and meth, a traffic stop which amounted in a large quantity of marijuana and four search warrants which means there is a lot of drugs in the area but PD is providing a reason for them not to be in town. A training class in Falls City, NE on August 9, 10 and 11 on drug identification and trends will be used for recertification hours. Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to pay Chief Whetstine’ registration of \$300 from the Diversion Fund for the drug training course at Falls City, NE, August 9 - 11. Motion carried 4-0 Chief left the meeting for a hit and run accident.

**Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders and City Superintendent Lackey** –Supt. Lackey indicated the need of 4 – 8 ton of cold patch at \$90 per ton. Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to purchase 4 ton of cold patch, plus tack oil, at \$90 per ton. Motion carried 4-0

Discussion was had regarding well #3, a meeting to be set between the city and HCC (Terry Gibson, Trevor Saunders, Kevin Lackey, Ted Collins and Deb Fox).

**COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Finance Committee** – Marty Allen & Rocky Ruhnke – Would like to see the city enter a team in the Do. Co. Chamber of Commerce and HCC’s golf tournaments.

**Law Enforcement Committee** – Terry Gibson & Marty Allen – Checked on the updating of the police procedures. Many positive comments on the quality of this year’s college students.

**Parks and Rec. Committee** – Greg Delzeit & Rocky Ruhnke – Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to hire Zach Lee as this year’s Summer Rec. Director for \$1,000. Motion carried 4-0

**Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee** – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Terry Gibson inquired about the allocation amount budgeted to be used on sidewalks this year.

**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:**

A proposal for the development of Matthias/Saddle Club Area will be presented at the July meeting. Rocky Ruhnke, Marty Allen and Ted Collins will meet prior to the July meeting.

The council’s consensus was to do nothing for the requested handicap parking in front of a Main Street business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion was had on the Duke’s 360 proposal. KRWA can provide the GPS services at a per hour cost. Water & Sewer Superintendent Saunders was mainly interested in the I & I Microdetection study but if anything is done on this proposal, he would like to see the problems repaired, not just have another study. Consensus of council was for superintendents to contact Duke’s and secure a bid on just what they feel is necessary and bring it back next month.

Following review of the ice machine quotes, Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to purchase a new Koolaire unit and water filtration system from Ice Masters, Topeka, for an installed cost of \$3,676.91 paid from the Community Center Fund. Motion carried 4-0

Rocky Ruhnke will be meeting with the athletic directors, DWest and HCC, to review the Highland Community Ballpark agreement with recommendation for the June meeting.

Following discussion regarding the current lack of childcare in the community/county, the consensus of the council was to allow the interested group, forming a not-for-profit, to continue to pursue the use of the southern portion of the Highland Elementary School building as a childcare facility, working with USD 111, dual-credit opportunity with HCC, lease agreement terms, licensing requirements, etc.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:50 p.m. for 15 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 7:05 p.m. Motion carried 4-0 Mayor asked the City Attorney and Clerk to remain. Terry Gibson absent from 6:55 to 6:57 p.m.

Marty Allen moved and Greg Delzeit seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Motion carried 4-0

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Mayor

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City Clerk