

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
March 8, 2023
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Gibson, Marty Allen, Tana Snyder, Dan Collins and Keith Edmonds

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Andrew Parker, Asst. City Clerk Debra Keebler, Maintenance Worker Wyatt Denton

GUESTS PRESENT: Ben Gilmore and Bruce Gaskell. Bryan Ptomey arrived at approximately 5:25 p.m.

PRESIDING: Council President Terry Gibson in the absence of Mayor Charles Batchelder

Council President Terry Gibson opened the regular city council meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Tana Snyder moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to approve the regular city council meeting minutes of February 8, 2023 and special meeting minutes of February 27, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Tana Snyder moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS: Terry Gibson presented the results of the Bid Opening for the Street Phase 2 on behalf of BG Consultants. One bid was received by Bettis Asphalt & Construction of Topeka, Kansas and was in excess of over \$300,000.00 of projected costs. After discussion, it was suggested that the council allow BG Consultants to contact a couple of more contractors to see if they would be interested in bidding. Other suggestions would be to look at modifying the original plans to not cover all the streets originally planned. A timeline of when the project needed to be completed was discussed with Attorney Parker stating that there was a two year window from start to finish which would put it somewhere in the vicinity of February 2024. The committee will look into this for next month's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – None - absent.

Attorney Parker – Is following up on the option of repurposing/converting the police vehicles for use by the maintenance department. Whether or not it would be feasible to remove lettering or if in the near future a new officer would be hired and the vehicle would need to be used for that purpose again. He will research further what needs to be done in order for the switch over and if, after having the current maintenance vehicle repaired if there is still the need to repurpose the police department pickup. Supt. Trevor Saunders will need to make a decision as to whether or not they are still interested in utilizing the police pickup. Attorney Parker also reported he went over the status of the agreement with the first responders and use of the community building. Ken Stewart is in contact with the company and we should have a signed contract by the next council meeting. He also reported that he had reviewed hiring board practices and would pass that information on to the board.

Asst. City Clerk – Debra Keebler reported the need for a semi-annual or similar schedule for deep cleaning of the community building. She suggested that the city inquire of some of the service/community groups if they would be interested in helping clean on a rotation basis with other groups.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders – In the absence of Superintendent Saunders, maintenance worker Denton reported that the proposal from Utility Service Co., Inc., that was passed at the November 2022 regular council meeting will need to be redated to a current date, signed and returned to them.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Marty Allen & Keith Edmonds – None

Law Enforcement Committee – Tana Snyder & Marty Allen – No new applications for the police officer position have been received and the prior applicant had cancelled her interview.

Parks and Rec. Committee — Terry Gibson & Tana Snyder – Tana Snyder reported that the City had received notice that they had been awarded the grant from the Ruth and Roger Wolfe Charitable Trust in the amount of \$3,750.00. A proposal for 3 sets of concrete bag toss games had been obtained and Tana will finalize the order with the company. She also reported that the Pride organization had reported to her that they had also been awarded the grant that was applied for the purpose of installing pickleball courts. No applications have been submitted for the summer youth recreation director and the Council requested that the city go ahead and place an ad in the paper for the position.

Street and Alley/Bldg. & Grounds Committee – Dan Collins & Terry Gibson – Nothing at this time. It was asked that Attorney Parker look into the possibility of changing traffic control signs on both Pennsylvania and Missouri streets.

Water and Sewer Committee – Terry Gibson & Dan Collins – Terry reported that a progress meeting had recently been had with BRB, Paul Owens, City Attorney Parker and various personnel at the treatment plant site.

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

Personnel Committee – Tana Snyder & Dan Collins – Nothing at this time.

PATRONS COMMENTS: Bryan Ptomey arrived late and expressed concern on the ongoing status of the unsafe structure across from his property. He also made a brief statement regarding the condition of the sidewalk on the south side of his property. He inquired about an application for help in replacing the walk. He stated that as it is right now, the sidewalk possesses a serious liability for him as a landowner and in his opinion for the City as owner of the easement for the sidewalk.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Treatment Plant Project – Attorney Parker addressed the delays and issues of concern regarding the slow moving progress at the treatment plant. There was also concern expressed over an interruption in water supply if the pumps were pulled prior to the electrical and working components being installed in the pump house. These issues were addressed in a progress meeting at the site with BRB, Paul Owens, Councilman Terry Gibson and Attorney Parker.

Street Project – It is the opinion of BG Consultants after bid opening that communication be made with some other contractors in hopes of other options to bring the project closer to the original bid projections. He feels the City needs to re-evaluate and perhaps alter the scope of the work at this time. City Attorney Parker discussed the reasoning for the overage of the bid in relation to what was originally projected. After discussion it was the consensus of the council to allow additional communication with other potential bidders.

Unsafe Structures Update – Nothing new at this time - City is waiting on bid returns.

North Kansas St/Coronado Rd Culvert – At this time the city is still waiting on a response from the county.

Doniphan Darlings Purchase Request – In a report from the meeting held last week with representatives from the City, USD #111 and Doniphan Darlings, it would be Doniphan Darlings proposal that the City quit claim that portion of the real estate upon which the current buildings stand with the understanding that the old portion of the school will be removed at no costs to the City or the school district. If the daycare would ever close and no longer want to own the buildings, status would return to the current status held by the City and the school. The daycare is still looking into the issue of ad valorem taxes at this time. No action from the council was taken at this point.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor

Asst. City Clerk