

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
January 08, 2025
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Gibson, Marty Allen and Tana Snyder

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Keith Edmonds and Robert Ellerman

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Andy Parker, City Clerk Joann Karn, City Water and Sewer Superintendent Trevor Saunders, Police Chief Dustin Winters, Deputy City Clerk Debbie Keebler and Maintenance Dustin Winder arrived at 5:30 p.m.

GUESTS PRESENT: Wyatt and Jill Denton

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

Terry Gibson moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to approve the regular city council meeting minutes of December 11, 2024 and approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 3-0

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Nothing at this time

Attorney Parker – Later in the meeting and is drafting an ordinance for review on feral cats/animals.

City Clerk Karn – Announced Gordon CPA was on-site Friday, January 3rd, reviewing the books and verifying the balances for period of January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024. The yearly financial statement will be published in next week's paper. Clerk Karn emphasized several of the fund balances appear to be higher due to the reserves are included in the balance.

Police Chief – Reported 6 traffic stops last month with 4 citations issued, 2 vehicle unlocks, 1 welfare check, 1 medical call, 2 accidents and 2 motorist assist. For year 2024, documented 473 incidents, 202 traffic stops, 7 accidents, 17 medical calls, 13 vehicle unlocks/motorist assists, and other calls. Chief Winters reported the PD truck was towed to Triple L by Davies Wrecker Service, \$95.00. Triple L will replace the battery for \$158.73. Chief asked for the approval of membership dues and to attend the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police Conference. Membership dues are \$75 and conference registration is \$250, held in Mulvane, KS on April 14 – 17, lodging is \$327 plus meals. Terry Gibson moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to pay the \$75 membership fee and allow the chief to attend the Ks. Assoc. of Chiefs of Police Conference at a cost of \$250 registration, \$327 lodging plus meals for conference dates of April 14-17, 2025 in Mulvane, KS. Motion carried 3-0

Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders – Reported the streets still need to be widened from the recent snowstorm. The controller for the snow blade on the truck quit working. The truck/blade was taken to Jackson Lawn Equipment in St. Joseph, MO for repairs. Following discussion, Councilman Allen would contact MCon for a price quote on removing the city snow due to safety concerns. W/S Supt. Saunders reported he stopped at Reed-Jeep regarding the city pickup truck and trade-in would be \$2,000-\$3,000.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Committee – Marty Allen & Keith Edmonds – Nothing at this time.

Law Enforcement Committee – Tana Snyder & Marty Allen – Nothing at this time

Parks and Rec. Committee — Terry Gibson & Tana Snyder – Zach Lee would continue as Summer Rec. Director again. W/S Supt. Saunders indicated that another person was interested in the position.

Street and Alley/Bldg & Grounds Committee – Robert Ellerman & Terry Gibson – Nothing at this time

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

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

Personnel Committee – Tana Snyder & Robert Ellerman – Nothing at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

W/S Superintendent Trevor Saunders reported a meeting is scheduled for January 16th with the city, BG Consultants and BRB Contractors at the water treatment plant.

Chief Winters continues to work with the parties involved on the Simpson unsafe property as there have been medical issues. Discussion followed. The attorney is checking into the possibility of fines and city paying demolition cost as the chief had a quote of \$6,000.

Attorney Parker reported no change in the annexation process and the new owners have not contacted him regarding a zoning change for the new business.

Attorney Parker reported the HCC, USD 111 and the city met. The parties agreed to use a shared calendar to eliminate conflicts and events out of seasonal schedule need prior approval; USD wants more clarity on expenses or a usage agreement, similar to the agreement the USD and HCC has regarding the track. A committee from the city council and a committee from the school board could meet to negotiate an agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Operational Technology Incident Response Planning Workshop has been rescheduled for February 18, 2025, Lawrence, KS, in which W/S Supt. Saunders and Clerk Karn would like to attend. Tana Snyder moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to allow W/S Supt. Saunders and Clerk Karn to attend the Operational Technology Incident Response Planning Workshop on February 18, 2025. Motion carried 3-0

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion for Clerk Karn to attend the two Kansas Municipal Utilities Workshops, Asset Management and W/WW Rates & Financial Planning, in Troy, KS on January 21 and January 28, 2025. Motion carried 3-0

Marty Allen moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to close Main Street on Friday, September 29, 2025 beginning at 2:00 p.m. for the 2025 DWHS Homecoming Parade with the school communicating with the city's law enforcement a month prior to the event. Motion carried 3-0

Tana Snyder moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to continue with the same amount for Sidewalk Reimbursement, \$5,000; Hazardous Tree Reimbursement, \$5,000; and Unsafe Structures, \$30,000, as last year. Motion Carried 3-0

Tana Snyder moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to designate July 4, 2025 as the date for the 4th of July celebration/fireworks and July 5, 2025 as rain date for the fireworks; authorize up to \$5,500 for the fireworks, insurance, etc.; and pay Aerial XF by January 31, 2025 for the discount. Motion carried 3-0

W/S Supt. Saunders sought bids for furnaces and/or air conditioning in city hall and the maintenance shop. The city hall furnaces were repaired and only one bid was provided for the shop furnace. Follow discussion, the council asked for more bids for the shop's furnace. As all are currently working, this is a future consideration.

RESOLUTIONS:

Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01, waiving GAAP accounting requirements for the City concerning financial statements and fixed accounting for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025, in accordance with K.S.A. 75-1120A. Motion carried 3-0

Terry Gibson moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to adjourn at 5:48 p.m. Motion carried 3-0

Mayor

City Clerk