

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
March 12, 2025
5:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Gibson, Marty Allen, Robert Ellerman, Tana Snyder, and Keith Edmonds arrived at 5:25 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: Attorney Andy Parker, City Clerk Joann Karn, Water/Sewer Supt. Trevor Saunders, Police Chief Dustin Winters, and Deputy City Clerk Debbie Keebler

GUESTS PRESENT: Julie Bergman, Rainbow; April Heim, Farmers Union Midwest Agency; Bill Noll, Russell Karn, Jill Denton, Charles Preiss Jr., USD #111 board members Brett Miner and Brad McCauley, Principal Chris Lackey, DWHS Baseball coaches and players, Selena Diveley, and Ted Collins.

PRESIDING: Mayor Charles Batchelder

Mayor Batchelder asked for approval of the bills and minutes. Tana Snyder moved and Robert Ellerman seconded a motion to approve the regular city council meeting minutes of February 12, 2025, and February 27, 2025, special meeting minutes. Motion carried 4-0

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Batchelder recognized Ms. Bergman and Ms. Heim for scheduled presentations.

Julie Bergman, Rainbow, provided an update on Rainbow's fiber overbuild. They are working from Wathena, Troy to Highland and the customers' costs will be comparative to current.

April Heim, agent, Farmers Union Midwest Agency, reviewed the city's property and liability insurance policy with Glatfelter and the April 1 renewal premium is \$32,587. Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to continue the same insurance policy with Glatfelter for a premium cost of \$32,587. Motion carried 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jill Denton requested council meetings be live streamed.

Brett Miner, representing USD #111, began discussing the use of the city's ballpark. Mr. Miner stated the school board did not agree with the city's proposal and would not pay for the use of the field. Mr. Miner continued to say one of two things could possibly happen, USD could pay but the district will charge a rec fee to use the south field or the district will find a different facility to use. Brad McCauley, USD board member, stated they had not paid in the past and inquired as to why they are being asked to pay now. USD commented that the baseball team could play in Hiawatha for \$50 a double header and they have six double headers scheduled. USD is questioning their current agreement with the college, \$17,500/year, for the use of the college facilities, as to why the college has priority of the city's ball field and why the college is not paying the city \$3,500. That agreement is strictly between the college and the school district, the city is not involved in that agreement. The city and the district agreed many improvements need to be made such as structural repairs, painting, general maintenance, etc. Principal Lackey stated the school is following the 2013 agreement (an agreement between City, College and USD) as the district decided not to sign the 2019 agreement and the proposed agreement has not been agreed upon; therefore, the team can use the facility. The city suggested in the district's next proposal to possibly include items such as supplying paint, providing labor, etc. working together for park improvements. Principal Lackey stated that we can work together, and he can make that happen. Following various individuals commenting and attempting to continue conversation that would be beneficial, the district will place the topic on the agenda for their next meeting, April 7th.

Selena Diveley stated the Highland Hardware billing would have a minimum penalty of \$3 or 1 ½% added if not paid by the 10th of each month. Following lengthy discussion, Ms. Diveley asked for the hardware payment to be hand delivered the day following the council meeting and no penalty would be charged.

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS:

Mayor Batchelder – Nothing at this time

Attorney Parker – Provided a draft ordinance on animals within city limits for review and suggestion. Mr. Parker stated the Cluck property still has a lien on the property to work through. Mr. Parker will investigate having Brightspeed and Rainbow sign agreement as they are providing a service to the residents. The former Stop to Shop is nearing to open and plans to offer groceries.

City Clerk Karn – Reported the 2024 audit has been uploaded to the state, paying the \$300 filing fee, and the auditor will ask for balance of agreement next month. KDHE is requesting pre-applications for water improvements and GAS will submit application for us with no penalty if the city declines the loan. Cyber Insurance renewal is in June. Depending on the outcome of the rezoning hearing tonight, a special council meeting may need to be called. The city received the Ruth & Roger Wolfe Charitable Trust funds for two “Buddy” benches, 6’ recycled material, Degginger Park. Closure of the 100 & 200 blocks of West Ave., Saturday, April 19th, 12:30 to 2:00 for the Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00. Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to close the 100 & 200 blocks of West Ave., Saturday, April 19, 12:30 to 2:00 for the Easter Egg Hunt due to foot traffic from the track to the Wellness Center. Motion carried 5-0 Clerk Karn review the 2025 CDBG Road Show held at HCC which may have available grant funding.

Police Chief – Reported 10 traffic stops last month with 6 citations issued, 1-accident-Hit and Run Non-Injury; 1-Battery/Fight – Doniphan Darlings/DWHS and attended several Bball games at DWHS. Outside agency assist – 1-fire call on 7 Hwy – requested for traffic control, 1-search for fleeing felon-Elwood, 3-motorist assists at 240th and Castleton and 36 and Castleton, continued follow up on old cases, meetings with KDOT, Motorola, Flock Safety, meeting with concerned citizen, city attorney and mayor and did some work on the vehicles.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Saunders – Requested to purchase a trash pump, electrical tester, curtains for park restroom and toilet repairs, total cost between \$500 - \$755. Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion for Supt. Saunders spend up to \$755 for the pump, tester, curtains and toilet repairs in St. Joseph, MO. Motion carried 5-0 Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to enter into a one year annual preventative maintenance agreement with Fluid Equipment, \$2,469.05, for the lift station. Motion carried 5-0 Robert Ellerman moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to purchase two loads of rock, \$520 per load. Motion carried 5-0 Robert Ellerman moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to purchase the 10” drainage tube for Ohio/Genesee, approximately \$510. Motion carried 5-0 Terry Gibson moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to purchase 12” drainage tube for the WTP, approximately \$220. Motion carried 5-0 Terry Gibson moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion to approve HD Repair LLC to service the WTP generator, costing \$459.40. Motion carried 5-0 Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to approve the purchase of street signs, approximately \$300. Motion carried 5-0 Supt. Saunders will monitor the duckweed on the sewer lagoons which may need to be sprayed, costing approximately \$3,000 and may need to renew the Duke’s agreement on treating sewer lines for tree roots. Robert Ellerman moved and Tana Snyder seconded a motion for Blue Valley Public Safety to repair the emergency storm siren, \$1,435 plus repair parts. Motion carried 5-0

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 – Summer ball teams are forming. Director Zach Lee believes some teams will play at the south campus.

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:

Water Treatment Plant Update: Load of salt has been ordered. Still working to correct deficiencies and will not sign off until satisfactory.

Unsafe Structure Update: A new list has been started. Chief Winters will reinspect and bring back to the council next month.

Annexation: Attorney Parker stated the college and the cemetery has agreed to annexation.

Zoning Change: Attorney Parker will be attending the rezoning public hearing on the application from Parshva LLC.

Highland Community Ball Park Upgrades & Agreement: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Furnaces for City Buildings – Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to accept the bid from Maple City for a Goodman, 100K, 96% high efficient furnace for the shop in the amount of \$4,100 installed.

Motion carried 5-0

Community Building Update – Community building metal roof is 80% good. Terry Gibson will continue to work with three roofers on the best method to repair.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marty Allen moved and Terry Gibson seconded a motion to use the corresponding date as last year for the spring city wide clean up and the city pay for the dumpsters as in the past. Cleanup days are Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th. Motion carried 5-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Tana Snyder moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:25 p.m. for 5 minutes to review individual employee(s) pursuant to the non-elected personnel for the protection of the privacy rights of the protected employee(s) and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked City Attorney and Police Chief to remain.

Tana Snyder moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:30 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 6:45 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked the City Attorney, Clerk and Ted Collins to remain.

Tana Snyder moved and Keith Edmonds seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 6:45 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 6:50 p.m. Motion carried 5-0 Mayor asked the City Attorney, Clerk and Ted Collins to remain.

Terry Gibson moved and Marty Allen seconded a motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m. Motion carried 5-0

Mayor

City Clerk