

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:07pm. Council members present were Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Doug Gruenke, Directors Gillespie, Rusteberg and Schoeck, Police Chief Bell, Supervisors Limestall and Stram; City Staff: HCS Manager Steve Ferguson and Tracey Robinson; Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 3 citizens, and 1 member of the news media.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

*Highland Arts Council – Wood Carver Request* – Lynette Schuepbach, 105 N. Harvest Crest Ct., representing Highland Arts Council, explained the group noticed a tree on the downtown square that needs to be taken down. We hope to preserve the tree in some manner by having it carved into a sculpture. We are asking to have the city cut the tree down to the specified height, once the sculpture has provided instruction; permission to allow us to have a sculptor come in and carve it; and, for the city to cover the cost of landscaping around the base, once it is complete. The Highland Arts Council is looking at obtaining a quote from another sculptor. Councilman Bardill asked who else you are looking for costs from. Paula Redman stated that Parks & Recreation Director Mark Rosen had a contact for a person located near Springfield, Illinois. Councilman Bardill stated he knew of a group that does woodcarving and offered to get their contact information as well. Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the Highland Arts Council's request to hire a woodcarver to carve a sculpture out of the tree on the Square, approve manpower to cut the tree to the height required, and provide landscaping at the base of the tree; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Lynette Schuapbach reported the Highland Arts Council would be doing another mural at the Art in the Park this year, to commemorate the city's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Last year's mural was placed at the public swimming pool. The two areas we looked at, for this year's mural, were the Weinheimer Community Center and City Hall. Councilwoman Bellm noted the Chamber of Commerce has been looking for something along the side of their building. Ms. Schuapbach noted the group had discussed that; however, there is concern if someone builds along the side of the Chamber's building. Councilwoman Bellm added there had been some talk about doing something out at Lindendale Park, as well. Councilman Schwarz stated City Hall would be the better of the two choices, because there is more foot traffic by City Hall than the Weinheimer Community Center. It was the consensus of the council to place the mural at City Hall.

Marsha Roe, 713 Poplar St., noted the city is moving towards placement of electronic emitters for water meter reading in homes. She asked if residents are being notified to have expansion tanks. They did not and had a mess of a water leak. Public Works Director Joe Gillespie stated he did not know; he would check what information is included going out to the residents. Older homes often do not have check valves on the meters.

Ms. Roe pointed out that the new payment receipt, when paying by credit/debit card, seems like such a waste. As a resident, when we are trying to save money, reduce costs and waste, that it uses a letter-size piece of paper, when the receipt portion only prints on a small corner of the paper. Director Rusteberg explained that is the new online payment system. She will evaluate options.

Ms. Roe questioned how derelict homes continue to be an issue when there are all these codes. In particular, the property near 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Olive Street, that has a derelict car sitting in the yard for four years. Building & Code Chief Official Kevin Limestall reported the city has been working to get the issue resolved. We have received voluntary consent from the owners to tear down the structures on the property and the city has awarded a contract to proceed with demolition and cleanup. We were trying to work with the owners for some time, then the owners walked away and the bank foreclosed on the property. The bank then decided they wanted nothing to do with the property, and we went for condemnation of the property. Ms. Roe expressed vacant homes that are under foreclosure create eyesores. Supervisor Limestall explained, with regards to the grass and landscaping, we have to notify the owners and lien-holders when ordinances are violated on these properties before we can obtain someone, on our own, to maintain the property. Ms. Roe stated the landlord ordinance has helped tremendously addressing issues with neighboring properties that are rental property.

Requests of Council:

None.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported the final growth management plan is in the council's information for this meeting. Director Gillespie and Staff did a great job at putting that together. We will proceed with a review by the Combined Planning and Zoning Board in June and then to the council for approval.

IMAC performed their in-house review of the fire department, this past week. We hope to have a report in the next week or two.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Mayor's Appointment to the Police Pension Board – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Don Lohman to the Police Pension Board for a two-year term, to expire May 1, 2013, as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-41/ORDINANCE Designating Depositories for the Funds and Money of the City of Highland – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #11-41/Ordinance #2465 designating depositories for the funds and money of the City of Highland as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-42/RESOLUTION Extending Rebates of Building Permit Fees to "First Purchasers" of Single-Family Residences Newly Constructed Within the City's Corporate Limits – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #11-42/Resolution #11-05-1967 extending rebates of building permit fees to "First Purchasers" of single-family residences newly constructed within the city's corporate limits as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilman Schwarz expressed his two concerns are whether \$2,000 is an effective incentive on a \$150,000 - \$200,000 investment and that people are aware of the incentive. Supervisor Limestall reported ten owners used the incentive this past year. We went to the banks, newspapers, contractors and realtors. The realtors have publicized it. Councilman Schwarz stated my fear is that it is just money given. I do not think it influences whether someone decides to locate inside the limits or not. Supervisor Limestall reported he spoke with Tracey

Wellen a few months ago. She stated that the rebate was one of the things that sold one of their houses in Liberty Hills. Councilman Schwarz stated he would abstain from voting on it until we have more information on the incentive's effectiveness. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Schwarz abstained. Motion carried.

Bill #11-43/ORDINANCE Consenting to the Assignment of an Agreement for TIF Proceeds, Concerning Lot 7 of Commerce Place – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #11-43/ Ordinance #2466 consenting to the assignment of an agreement for TIF proceeds concerning Lot 7 of Commerce Place as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid #PW-09-10 for the Troxler Avenue Rehabilitation Project – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid #PW-09-10 for the Troxler Avenue Rehabilitation project to Quality Saw and Seal, Inc., of Bridgeview, IL, in the amount of \$377,792.76 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Change Order on PW-11-08 the Koepfli Lane Extension project – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Change Order on PW-11-08 the Koepfli Lane Extension project in a deduction amount of \$13,789.98 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## REPORTS

Approve Warrant #840 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrant #840 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to temporarily adjourn, to conduct an Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act under Section 2(c)(21) for discussion of executive session minutes, 2(c)(2) collective negotiating matters and 2(c)(11) potential litigation ; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:35pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:08pm. Council members Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance: City Manager Latham, City Attorney Gruenke, Chief Bell, Directors Schoeck and Rusteberg, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, and 1 member of the news media.

Bill #11-44 /RESOLUTION Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement – Wage Re-Opener Only, with the Fraternal Order of Police – Telecommunicators Unit - Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #11-44/Resolution #11-05-1968 approving a collective bargaining agreement – Wage Re-Opener Only, with the Fraternal Order of Police – Telecommunicators Unit as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Adjourned at 8:08pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk