

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2011**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 12:00pm. Council members present were Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides. Councilman Schwarz was absent. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Doug Gruenke, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Korte, and Rosen, Chief Bell, Supervisor Limestall; City Staff: Steve Ferguson, Tracey Robinson and Ann Stoecklin; Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 5 citizens, and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2011 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming July 9, 2011 as Knights of Columbus Council 1580 Day in Highland. George Korte, Past Grand Knight, who resides at 2805 Orchid Court, was present to accept the proclamation and thank the council for the proclamation.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Rae Ellen Reece, 65 Northview Drive, stated she has had a water problem in her yard for the past three summers now. I have addressed it with several people, including Mayor Michaelis, Director Gillespie, Director Rosen and some current and past council members. The city cemetery is directly behind my property and then there is the property owned by Don Weder. The city put in a white fence, which filled in the drainage ditch. When there is a steady or hard rain for a period of time, it causes water to back up into my yard and my neighbors' yards. This has created a sinkhole. You can see tree roots from dirt washing. I cannot get sand to stay under my patio. Last week, when we lost electric, I was running buckets of water up the stairs, out of my basement, trying to keep up with as fast as it was filling up around the sump pump. Mr. Weder has to get someone in there to clean that creek bed out. There is so much tree debris in there, it is causing flooding of our backyards and sending water into the homes. The problem keeps getting worst. Wanda has water in their backyard; I have water; and, now, Clint Tompkins has water backing up into his yard. I have just hired Essenpries Plumbing to put in a new backup that will connect to my sump pump, which will run off natural gas, at a cost of \$700. While it is expensive, it will help give me some peace of mind, should I be gone when the power goes out. I would clean out the creek myself, if Mr. Weder would allow me on the property to do it.

Mayor Michaelis asked Supervisor Limestall what the county has said about the issue when they came out. Supervisor Limestall stated the county did not see any issue other than that the ground slopes to that direction, which is how it has been for years. We should be receiving a written letter

from them to that effect. Mrs. Reece stated the issue is the fence closed in the ditch. Director Gillespie noted the fence has been there for about ten years. Mrs. Reece stated not that fence. Director Gillespie inquired about where the sinkhole is located. Mrs. Reece stated it is on the property, which is owned by Mr. Holzinger. He said that he would not fix the sinkhole until the drainage is fixed. Director Gillespie questioned what is causing the sinkhole. Mrs. Reece explained the drainage ditch that ran along the back of the properties, while it was minimal, allowed for drainage towards the creek; however, the water is obstructed by the fence now. Mayor Michaelis stated I was out there, to look at the drainage, before the new fence was installed. Mrs. Reece clarified the fence she is referring to runs along the east end of the cemetery. City Manager Latham reported Councilwoman Bellm came and spoke with him, briefly, about it. He suggested Street & Alley take a backhoe in and see if they can skim it off. Director Gillespie stated there is a swale in the back yard of those homes; however, getting in there with equipment is going to be pretty disruptive to those properties. He suggested going in on the cemetery side and creating a drainage ditch. Councilwoman Bellm reported the ditch stops at Don's (Weder) property, where the fence is. She recommended cleaning the ditch and continuing the ditch on to Weder's property. Mrs. Reece stated if the city is willing to do that, then Mr. Holzinger will fix the sinkhole. The wall of the ditch, that is there now, has eroded; tree roots are showing and have become part of the sinkhole. Mayor Michaelis asked Mrs. Reece if Mr. Weder has had anything done to contribute to blocking the drainage. Mrs. Reece replied no. Clint Tompkins has started putting his grass clippings along the side of the ditch to create a barrier. As far as the creek on Mr. Weder's property, it is a natural build up of debris of tree branches and dead wood. Mayor Michaelis asked has Mr. Weder had anyone clean out that branch. Mrs. Reece reported there were three Mexicans picking up some small twigs a while back. Mayor Michaelis asked Director Gillespie if we have a game plan of what needs to be done, because Rae says the issue is with the city. Mrs. Reece added Don (Weder) does need to clean that creek out though.

Requests of Council:

None.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported the Troxler Avenue Rehabilitation project has started.

City Manager Latham reminded everyone there will be fireworks in Highland this Fourth of July, at Glik Park. Festivities will be held 4pm – 9pm with the fireworks ~9 – 9:30pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Award Bid # PW-01-11 for the Iberg Road and Glik Park Multi-Use Path Construction Project – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid # PW-01-11 for the Iberg Road and Glik Park Multi-Use Path Construction Project to Gleeson Asphalt, Inc., of Belleville, in the amount of \$131,547.15 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-60/ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Business District Redevelopment Agreement with Tri-Ford, Inc. – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #11-60/Ordinance #2474 approving and authorizing execution of a Business District Redevelopment Agreement with Tri-Ford, Inc. in the amount of \$142,300 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-61/RESOLUTION Approving Contracts to Enable Fidelity Solutions, Inc. and Americas Center Corporation to Implement the “Cisco to Minerva Zero Dollar Swap Out” for Highland Communication Services - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #11-61/Resolution #11-07-1977 approving contracts to enable Fidelity Solutions, Inc. and Americas Center Corporation to implement the “Cisco to Minerva Zero Dollar Swap Out” for Highland Communication Services as

attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilwoman Bellm asked this is the best thing to do, with this product. “State-of-the-Art” today is out of date tomorrow with technology. Several people have told me that this is a good thing to do and we need to do it. Director Cook concurred. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrant #846 – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Warrant #846 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: 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 and meeting adjourned at 12:22pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk