

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Harold Belsheim, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Korte, Rosen and Schoeck, Chief Bell, Supervisor Limestall; City Staff: Andrea Enright and Steve Ferguson; EMS Captain Gary Crosby, EMT Hemann; Interim Fire Chief Rick Bloemker, Captain Kerry Foederer, Travis Knebel and Marty Rinderer; Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm; 6 citizens and 1 member of the news media.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2011 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

None presented.

Requests of Council:

None presented.

Staff Reports:

*ICMA Fire Report Review Committee Recommendation* – Police Chief Bell explained a review was done at council's direction. The committee was made up of members from the fire department, Building and Zoning, EMS, Human Resources, and the police department, to look at the department's leadership structure. While not possible to get 100% consensus we recommend filling the chief's position from within; increasing the pay schedule for this position, as it will require on average twenty-hours per week. While we want it to remain a volunteer group, it will require this to be a paid position, to coordinate and maintain recruitment, training and leadership tasks. If the position cannot be filled within, we recommend looking outward and making it a full-time position or moving some clerical duties to other areas. We have established qualifications through the development of the job description and the re-examination of the fire-EMS leadership structure. Mayor Michaelis expressed he agrees with the idea of looking from within. Are there job qualification that are going to be used in seeking candidates or is it going to be opened up? Chief Bell reported qualified candidates must have Level 2 Firefighter Certification, a minimum of five years experience, and some supervisory experience. Councilman Schwarz asked if this was a result of the review or why this change now. Chief Bell explained the review of the department and leadership structure came from the ICMA report; however, there were some lingering personnel issues. Time will tell what amount of time will

be required for the position, as there is an extensive amount of policies and procedures to be established initially. Interim Chief Rick Bloemker agreed it is going to take an extensive amount of time to get things up to speed and established. Everyone in the department likes what they have and are committed to working to keep the department internal. Recruiting is going to be a key component, as people continue to move out of town or take jobs in other communities. City Manager Latham thanked everyone for their participation.

City Manager Latham reminded everyone there will be a public hearing held here next Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 6:30pm for the TIF #2 District.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Bill #11-115/ORDINANCE Imposing a Service Provider Fee Upon Every Holder of an Authorization Issued By the ICC That Provides Cable Service or Video Service Within the Corporate Limits of the City – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #11-115/Ordinance #2498 imposing a Service Provider Fee upon every holder of an authorization issued by the ICC that provides cable service or video service within the corporate limits of the city as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-116/ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing a Redevelopment Agreement for a Project in Business District No. 1, and Other Actions Related Thereto – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #11-116/Ordinance #2499 approving and authorizing a redevelopment agreement for a project in Business District No. 1, and other actions related thereto as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz inquired what is the benefit to the city for doing this. City Manager Latham explained Business Districts are set up to assist with redevelopment in these areas. We take the total cost of the project and figure 20% of that that will be returned to the business over a ten-year period, provided they meet certain requirements. With projects, such as this, a million dollar project results in higher property assessment. If documentation of this and proof of increased sales tax receipts are provided, the business receives a percentage of sales tax back, up to that 20% estimated project cost amount over a maximum period of ten-years. Councilman Schwarz asked when it becomes maintenance and upkeep of property and when does it become redevelopment. City Manager Latham responded, in this case, they are adding on a service bay and it will add jobs. Councilman Schwarz stated with a new business I am more understanding than that of a business, which is established and profitable. At what point do we stop providing assistance? What makes them eligible and others not? City Manager Latham stated they are in designate area. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, Councilman Schwarz voted nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-117/RESOLUTION Approving Estimated Tax Levy – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #11-17/Resolution #11-11-2007 approving estimated tax levy as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance Program Renewal with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve liability and worker's compensation insurance program renewal with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

Approve Warrant #860 – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Warrant #860 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz and Bardill voted aye, none voted aye. Bellm and Nicolaides voted abstained. Mayor Michaelis voted aye. 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 7:22pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk