

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2013**

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 Terry Bruckert; Directors Cook, Gillespie, Kennedy, Korte, Rosen and Schoeck; Police Chief Bell, Fire Chief Bloemker, Supervisor Limestall, Library Director Kim, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm; Council Candidates Wayne Markus and Bradford Hood, 5 other citizens, and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Representatives of St. Joseph's Hospital, Highland, were present as Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming the month of February as American Heart Month in the City of Highland.

PRESENTATION

Christie Deaton, of the law firm Korein Tillery, presented the City of Highland with a check for \$255,086.04. She explained Korein Tillery represented the City of Highland, as a class member, in a class action lawsuit against Syngenta, the manufacturer of atrazine. Anyone who had a presence of atrazine in their water supply could join in the suit. The City of Highland did a good job of keeping very good records of chemical levels at the water treatment facility. By filing those records, Highland joined in as a class member, not as a plaintiff. The money is reimbursement for the expense you have already incurred in the treatment of water with traces of atrazine. There are no restrictions on how the money is to be spent. City Manager Latham stated our concern about being very public in entering into the claim was concern by the public over the quality of the drinking water. Ms. Deaton stated this does not state in any way that Highland ever distributed bad water. This lawsuit was based upon raw water coming into the treatment facility. You do a very good job at getting the water clean and safe for drinking. City Manager Latham stated Mayor Michaelis and I discussed using the funds to assist with projects at Silver Lake to ensure that the water quality is kept the best it can be.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

St. Joseph's Hospital Announcement of Go Red Events for Heart Month – Pat Noe, Coordinator of Cardio Rehab, introduced Barbara Barr, of the Cardio Rehab Department, and Barb Zaloga, Supervisor of the Cardio Rehab Program at St. Joseph's Hospital. During the month of February, we focus on raising awareness about heart health, by using the theme "Heart to Heart". As part of this, the red heart-shaped light will be lit up on the side of the hospital. The Future Medical Careers Organization at Highland High School will be painting hearts in windows of businesses. There will be a cooking school at The Cabinet Gallery, which will be put on by a dietician. On February 21, we will hold the poker walk at that Korte Rec Center, from 6pm – 9pm. The event is free. Each time participants complete a round on the track they get a punch on their card. After so many punches, they can draw another poker card. One of our cardio surgeons will be there giving two presentations, as well.

Highland Automotive Swap Meet Funding Request – Dick Conner, President of Misfit Motorsports Productions, out of Pocahontas, stated he and his business partner, Carl Hills, of Carl's Four-Wheel Drive, in Bartelso, will be hosting the 18th Annual Automotive Swap Meet, on Sunday, March 3, 2013 at the Madison County Fair Grounds. We have indoor and outdoor activities at this event, which runs from 7am – 1pm. This is an economic development event for the City of Highland, with vendors and customers from Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky and all parts of Illinois. Many visiting from out of state will stay over night and eat out at local restaurants. We have made a request for \$500 from your hotel/motel tax funds to put a display ad in regional papers to reach central and southern Illinois. Councilman Schwarz asked do you know how many people will rent hotels in Highland. Mr. Conner stated there is typically ten to fifteen vendors will come and stay overnight, and each will bring another one to two people with them. Councilman Schwarz asked how many people attend. Mr. Conner explained the event is weather dependent. Too good of weather will keep customers at home, working on their racecars; rain keeps the outside vendors away. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the requested amount of \$500 of hotel/motel tax funds to be used towards marketing the automotive swap meet; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Lions' Club Memorial Day Biathlon Request – Ryan Goodwin, Race Director for the Highland Lions' Club Biathlon, requested permission for the 34th Highland Lions' Club to use city streets on Monday, May 27, 2013 to hold their annual Memorial Day Biathlon. Every intersection will be covered with volunteers. However, at Poplar and Lindenthal Avenue intersection we asked for police traffic assistance. This event usually has ~500 participants. Councilman Bardill made a motion to grant the request of the Highland Lion's Club to hold the annual Memorial Day Biathlon on city streets on May 27, 2013 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

St. Louis Cycling Club and Belleville Area Bicycling & Eating Society – Tour De Stooges Bike Ride Request – Arlene Willmann, of Belleville, Ride Coordinator for the Tour De Stooges Bicycle Ride, requested permission, on behalf of the St. Louis Cycling Club and Belleville Area Bicycling and Eating Society, to hold the annual Tour De Stooges on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Mayor Michaelis asked how many years this event has been going on. Stated this is our sixteenth year and our sixth year in Highland. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to grant permission to the St. Louis Cycling Club and Belleville Area Bicycling & Eating Society to hold the Tour de Stooges Bicycle Ride in Highland on Saturday, May 4, 2013, starting at 8:30am as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Don Bliesh, 1314 6th Street, stated his last two electric bills seem way too high. They were \$236 and \$237; typically, they are \$160. The bills for last year were a lot cheaper. While this is a duplex, the furnace runs on my meter. This unit does not have any washer or dryer. The only electric

appliances running are a television, refrigerator, stove and water heater. Mayor Michaelis reported Director Cook and I have both been there twice. He asked Director Cook to share with the council what he has done so far. Director Cook reported I met with the tenant and walked into the house for minute. There were some space heaters in there, but not plugged in at the time. I offered to validate that the meter was reading correctly and we left that meter running for several days. We also put on a data logger that tracks what the demand is of the appliances when “on”. The tenant informed me that, the month before, no gas was hooked up, so they used the space heaters to heat the home. Looking at the data logger, you could see consistently every hour, a 240-volt spike was occurring. We believe this is about equivalent of a water heater or the stove. It may be that they were using the stove/oven as a heat source. When I showed the tenant the usage, she admitted that heaters were being used. With space heaters, you can easily consume \$3 a day in electric, especially when there are no other heat sources. Mr. Bliesh stated they were not using any space heaters during this last month. Mayor Michaelis questioned how do we to know they did not use space heaters. Mr. Bliesh stated I am trying to help these peoples, because they are good people. Mayor Michaelis asked if he had a different renter in there, at this time last year. Mr. Bliesh replied yes. Mayor Michaelis asked Mr. Bliesh to come up and meet him at City Hall to discuss with the billing department the options available. The council has earnest hearts in the matter; however, there is nothing they can do.

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests were made.

Staff Reports:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Request For Proposals for a Firm to Perform an Art Facility Feasibility Study – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Request for Proposals for a firm to perform an Art Facility Feasibility Study as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz stated I think there is a demand for this; however, if we got something back with the cost for a facility, I do not feel that I could vote on approving money from the budget for such a facility. Therefore, I am going to vote no on this. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, Councilman Schwarz voted nay. Motion carried.

Bill #13-02/RESOLUTION Approving Agreement for Economic Development Incentives for Sammie’s Ice Cream – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill 13-02/Resolution #13-01-2103 approving Agreement for Economic Development Incentives for Sammie’s Ice Cream as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilman Schwarz pointed out this agreement includes reimbursement of permit fees for \$1765; property tax abatement, for the city’s portion in the maximum amount of \$1,040; and, 1% of the city’s sales tax, for a maximum of \$5,800. Director of Finance Kelly Korte acknowledged the agreement if for a maximum amount of \$9,227 total. Councilman Schwarz pointed out the permits come out of the budgets of the departments they come from. What happens if everyone’s taxes go up due to multiplier? How is that calculated? Director Korte explained this is for just the city’s portion of the property taxes. It is on the whole increase, because it is difficult for us to assess how much is the multiplier and how much is improvements. Councilman Schwarz pointed out that if they have a massive year, they could recoup all that in the first year. Where is the benefit for the city over ten years? Director Korte acknowledged if they have a bang up first year, then they get all their incentives right away; however, for the next ten years, we get that additional tax revenue that we would not have gotten from that spot. Councilman Schwarz stated I just feel like that we are giving too much away. Director Korte stated our committee follows guidelines that were set by the council. City Manager Latham explained the council set this in 2009. At that time we had over 90,000 sq. ft. of vacant retail space; looking at a 10% reduction in the budget based upon sales tax; and we were trying to get more commercial development going, to keep the property tax burden off residents. Since then,

our assessed evaluation has only gone down 1.5%, which is far lower than other areas. We are not taking sales tax away. We are taking away one-quarter of 1% of sales tax on electric, which equates to about \$200,000 annually to fund these incentives. The increasing sales tax revenue keeps residential property tax stable. Councilman Schwarz stated I would like to see the city get a part of the sales tax up front versus abating taxes. I think these are good businesses that fit a need; however, ten years is too long of time. City Attorney Bruckert stated I helped prepare the documents. I can say that doing something like this helps to get them started. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, Councilman Schwarz voted nay. Motion carried.

Bill #13-03/RESOLUTION Approving Agreement for Economic Development Incentives for Charlie Dave's – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill 13-03/Resolution #13-01-2104 approving Agreement for Economic Development Incentives for Charlie Dave's as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, Councilman Schwarz voted nay. Motion carried.

Bill 13-04/ORDINANCE #2562 Declaring One Digger Truck as Surplus Property and Authorizing Its Sale – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill 13-04/Ordinance #2562 declaring one digger truck as surplus property and authorizing its sale as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting Bid #E-01-13 for Purchase of Three 3-Phase Reclosers – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting Bid #E-01-13 for the purchase of three 3-Phase Reclosers as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #865 & #866 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrants #865 and #866 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 and 2(c)(1) for discussion of personnel matters; seconded Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:55pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:54pm. Council members Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Also present were City Manager Latham, City Attorney Bruckert and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Michaelis stated that nothing discussed in executive session would be acted upon tonight.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.