

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:01pm. Council members Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney John Long; Directors Gillespie, Imming, Peck, Rosen and Schoeck; Supervisor Strahm, Police Chief Bell, Sgt. Athmer, Fire Chief Bloemker, Library Director Kim, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm; Steve Oates, of Oates Associates; three citizens, and one member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2015 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF 2015 FRONTIER GREYS

Vinny Ganz, Frontier Greys Team Manager, introduced several of the 2015 team members: Ben Lodge, Lamarre Rey, Bobby Shore, Nico Lytle, Jhiromar Veras, and Zach Tanner. Mr. Ganz thanked everyone for welcoming them to the community and the hospitality the community has shown. To not have a home stadium is one thing, but have a community and host families' helps. We went from four players being housed to having twenty-one housed this year. That is amazing. The move has been so great. We are interjecting some culture into the community, and we really appreciate it. Susan, our host family leader has been the best. Ben Lodge, from Australia, stated it took me thirty-eight hours to get here. It was wonderful to have someone waiting to greet me at the airport. Mr. Ganz stated we are here to achieve one goal, which is to win a championship in our league. The facilities that you guys have are awesome. When I told the guys from the Dominic Republic their gym would have a waterslide, they did not believe me, so they were pleasantly surprised. Bill, the commissioner of the Frontier league, is thrilled to have the team located here in Highland. People like Mark Rosen and Susan make this possible. Mayor Michaelis asked when their home games are. Mr. Ganz stated we have some exposition games that we will play this week and next week at Glik Park. Then the season starts with us traveling for about two weeks. After that, we play at River City, Gateway Grizzle, and Marion, Illinois, and those are considered home games for us. There are a couple of night practices, but most exposition games are earlier in the day as to not take away from the other programs.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

No requests or comments.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Bellm stated she would like to recuse herself from the meeting during Item F, and not vote from that item.

Councilwoman Bellm reported the Spring Bloom Festival had wonderful presentations with programs on beekeeping and square-foot gardening. Oates Associates sponsored the Endangered Birds, from the World Bird Sanctuary, which was a huge hit. The Tree Commission should be commended for a job well done, especially considering the weather we had that day.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported we finally got the flagpole up in the roundabout at Poplar and Broadway. Special thank you to Brad Korte for helping us fabricate it so that it meets the specs of IDOT.

City Manager Latham reported if you go to Trestle and the new roadway of Veterans' Memorial Parkway, you will see the concrete being poured and see the park is coming together well.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve the Mayor's Appointment of Larry Brammer to the Tree Commission - Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Larry Brammer to the Tree Commission to fill the term vacated by Barb Stallard as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid #PR-12-14 for the Nagel Drive Reconstruction Project – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid #PR-12-14 for the Nagel Drive Reconstruction Project to Rooters American Maintenance, in the amount of \$171,851.30, as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #15-46/RESOLUTION Approving a Collocation Agreement with Missouri Network Alliance, LLC d/b/a Bluebird Network, LLC, Granting Bluebird the Right to Use and to Occupy Space in Highland Communication Services' Headend Building for the Purpose of Installing, Operating, and Maintaining Certain Equipment Therein – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #15-46/Resolution #15-05-2321 approving a Collocation Agreement with Missouri Network Alliance, LLC d/b/a Bluebird Network, LLC, granting Bluebird the right to use and to occupy space in Highland Communication Services' Headend Building for the purpose of installing, operating, and maintaining certain equipment therein as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #15-49/ORDINANCE Authorizing Execution of a 10-Year Silver Lake Boat and Dock Lease to Wayne and Deborah M. Keeven – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #15-49/Ordinance #2679 authorizing execution of a ten-year Silver Lake Boat and Dock Lease to Wayne and Deborah M. Keeven as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz asked for more information on this. Director Rosen explained this dates back to the construction of Silver Lake, which was an agreement with original landowners that each owner would be given the ability to have a dock on the lake, as long as they renewed that lease every ten years. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #15-50/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for Resurfacing of Walnut Street from Broadway to US Route 40 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #15-50/Resolution #15-05-2322 approving and authorizing

execution of a Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Oates Associates, for an amount not to exceed \$79,949, for resurfacing of Walnut Street from Broadway to US Route 40 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #15-51/RESOLUTION Approving Contract for Sale of Real Estate for the Purchase, From Peggy Bellm, as Trustee Under the Margaret J. Bellm Living Trust Dated June 27, 2008, Two Tracts of Land - Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #15-51/Resolution #15-05-2323 approving *Contract for Sale of Real Estate* for the purchase, from Peggy Bellm, as Trustee under the Margaret J. Bellm Living Trust, dated June 27, 2008, two tracts of land, for the amount of \$51,000 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. *Councilwoman Bellm left the Council's Chambers.* Councilman Schwarz clarified the amount we would be paying is \$51,000. City Manager Latham stated his understanding is we are only purchasing one tract of land; the other tract of land is being deeded, as it is a buffer that the City originally purchased in 1961. City Attorney Long explained we do not own the 0.7 acres; there is a total of five acres being purchased. There was a deed from Peggy's mother to Peggy in 2008. The deed described more than what Peggy's mother owned at that time, which was 2.88 acres. Since 1961, the city has owned 2.20 acres. By warranty deed, they will be conveying titles to the city. Tract 2-1-18-04-00-000-041 has been owned by the Margaret J. Bellm Living Trust. Between the two tracts of land, there is five acres. I have broken this down in to two deeds, by means of a warranty deed, which has them conveying the title. Then there is a Quick Claim Deed that, basically, states not sure if I own it or not, but I am assigning it over to you. The purchase price for the two tracts of land is \$6,000 and \$45,000. Councilman Schwarz asked if this connects property for us or extends. City Manager Latham reported this gives us access off the north end of the lake from US Route 160. Director Rosen explained not only for future growth or for maintenance on the lake, it would provide the ability for emergency crews to access people at that end of the lake, for quicker search and rescue efforts. Mayor Michaelis asked if Attorney Long if he feels the issues on the ownership of the land will be resolved with the deeds. Attorney Long replied yes. Councilman Schwarz stated he sees the value in this for the future maintenance on the lake. I do not know what land of this type goes for, but it seems farmland is going for more than this. *Councilwoman Bellm was brought back into the Council's Chamber.* Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilwoman Bellm abstained. Motion carried.

Discussion – Proposed Changes to the Building Permit Fee Schedule – City Manager Latham asked for Lisa Peck and Kevin Limestall come up to present. Building & Code Official Kevin Limestall reported we have had the Neighbors Helping Neighbors members looking at the permit fees. Council looked at the fees in December 2013, and in January 2014 voted down the previous proposal. The group has recommended making the fees half of what they presently are. In review, the options we looked at having code enforcement outsourced and we talked to State of Illinois Department of Public Health, about coming in to do inspections. The State would do that, but it would twenty-fours of notice, at minimum. Director Lisa Peck pointed out this is not a fix, right now, as there is a lot of changes occurring in state department offices. Councilman Schwarz stated, while there is a delay, I do not think that twenty-four hours would be a too much for homeowners. For contractors, they may want the “gold-plated services”. He asked if we could not give them the option, based upon costs. Kevin pointed out there is a certain amount of training and costs associated for these inspectors with the State of Illinois. If they do not get enough work through the City of Highland, they will go to other municipalities with their services. Councilman Schwarz stated he would like to see us offer the option of waiting for a state department or they can pay to have a licensed inspector coming for quicker turnaround. Director Peck emphasized we have to offer the position of enough work; otherwise, these inspectors will go to other communities seeking employment. Both the plumbing inspector and electric inspector work out of the union hall, for contractors that work outside of the community; then in their off time, they do inspections for Highland. Kevin reported the electrical inspector offered me, the other day, that for a salary of \$41,000 they would do all the electrical inspections we could give them for one year. Councilman Schwarz asked how many,

roughly they would have done in the past year. Kevin did a quick estimate of approximately 240. Councilman Schwarz stated we should consider the state option. Councilman Frey agreed we should offer it and try it. These are side gigs for these inspectors and we are looking for a way to save costs for residents.

Kevin pointed out we reduced the fee for staff on the administrative costs. Director Peck explained the point of this is to promote residential improvements versus just doing it and not telling us. We want to make sure the work is done correctly. Councilwoman Bellm expressed she could go either way on this, and she expressed concerned about the stability of the State of Illinois department. If the state says they will here in three days, but then they do not show up, then we have some administration hassle with calling. Councilman Nicolaides stated he feels the less we have the state in this town the better. Kevin acknowledged we have used the state department inspectors before, when there has been conflict of interests with our inspectors. Councilman Frey stated he still likes to at least offer the option to the homeowner and let them decide. Councilwoman Bellm asked for clarified the state does not charge the homeowner or us a fee. Kevin responded the last time we talked to them they did not. With the new budget, things may have changed. Director Peck concurred.

REPORTS

Approve Warrant #984 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrant #984 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilwoman Bellm abstained. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to temporarily adjourn this regular session to enter into executive session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act under 2(c)(21) to discuss approval of executive session minutes; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:03pm. Council members Schwarz, Bellm, Nicolaides and Frey were present. Also present were City Manager Latham, City Attorney Long, Directors Gillespie and Schoeck, Police Chief Bell, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, and 1 member of the news media.

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

SWEARING IN

City Clerk Barbara Bellm administered the Official Oath to recently re-elected officials Councilman Aaron Schwarz and Councilman Neill Nicolaides.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk