

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney John Long; Directors Imming, Korte, Peck, Rosen and Schoeck; Police Chief Bell, Library Director Kim, Supervisor Limestall, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm; 29 citizens and two members of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2015 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilman Schwarz abstained. Motion carried.

MAYOR RECOGNITION

Mayor Michaelis recognized the HHS Girls' Softball Team on their outstanding season. Jennifer Wright and twelve members of the 2015 HHS Girls' Softball Team. This team was the first Sectional Champions in HHS history. In route to the championship, we beat Carbondale and Waterloo to win. In the super-sectionals, we lost to Sacred Heart. Coach Whitten introduced Mallory Rutz, Lauren Wright, Hannah Miener, Rylee Kissa, Megan Frey, Jenna Gnaedinger, Aubrey Hacke, Sierra Huelsmann, Kirsten Plocher, Hannah Sullens, Addison Rinderer, Mallory Klostermann, and Coach Brittne Zobrist.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Highland Chamber of Commerce 2015 Street Art Fest Request – Nancy Zobrist, Director of the Highland Chamber of Commerce, thanked the city for their past support of this event. We are requesting to hold the Street Art Fest on Saturday, September 19, 2015, with a raindate of Sunday, September 20. We are requesting closure and use of Washington, Main and Laurel Streets around the Square, with the intersection of Laurel and Main Streets to remain open for access to the post office. We request the closure of the streets begin at 6am on Saturday and continue until midnight on Sunday. Councilman Schwarz made motion to approve the Highland Chamber of Commerce's request to hold the 2015 Street Art Fest on Saturday, September 19, 2015, with a rain date of Sunday, September 20, as requested; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilwoman Bellm abstained. Motion carried.

HHS Homecoming Parade Request – Kim Etter, Parade Chair and a parent of a student who will be a sophomore this upcoming school year, requested permission for the HHS Homecoming Parade to be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, starting at 6:30pm. The parade line up will be at the Lindenthal Campus. The parade route will be the same as the past few years, so we ask for street closure from Lindenthal, at the elementary school, to Washington Street, and then north to the downtown square, with closure of Main Street and Laurel at the Square. For traffic control, we will have volunteers at the intersections affected. We are requesting closure of Lindenthal, near the elementary school, from approximately 5:00-7:00pm, with restrictions of traffic to one-way traffic in the area by the school to allow for safe lineup. This is the same as in past years, also. We would also request use of the Downtown Square and facilities until 11:30pm that evening. Mrs. Etter stated that prior to the event we will be contacting the downtown businesses so they are aware of all activities. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request for the HHS Homecoming Parade to be held Wednesday, September 23, 2015 with road closures and use of facilities as requested; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests made.

Staff Reports:

Chief Bell introduced the new EMS Chief, Brian Wilson, who joins us from Edwardsville, Illinois, where he served as fire chief. Mr. Wilson, who was with his wife, stated it is a pleasure to be here tonight and he is honored to have been chosen for this position. We are looking forward to becoming residents of the community. In the short meetings with the staff at the station, I feel there is a lot of good talent here.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve 5K Run in Honor of the EvUcc's 175th Anniversary – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the 5K Run in honor of EvUCC's 175th anniversary on Saturday, September 19, 2015 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Petition for Transfer of Graves in City Cemetery – Stevens to Hemann – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the petition to transfer Grave Spaces 3 & 4 of Block 17, Lot 74, from Gloria Jean Stevens to Betty A. and William I. Hemann as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Petition for Transfer of Graves in City Cemetery – Stevens to Essenpreis – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve petition for transfer of Grave Spaces 5 & 6, in Block 17, Lot 47 from Gloria Jean Stevens to Barry L. and Shirley A. Essenpreis as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid #PR-04-15 for Purchase of One Ford ¾ Ton Regular Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck for the Parks and Recreation Department – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid #PR-04-15 for purchase of one 2016 Ford ¾-ton Regular Cab 4x4 Pickup Truck to Breese Motor Sales, Inc., for the amount of \$22,857.00, as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilman Schwarz asked City Attorney John Long if we have to select lowest price. Attorney Ling stated under state statute the council is to award to the lowest responsible bidder. Councilman Schwarz inquired if we would have the ability

to select the Highland business over the other bid, since the price is close. Attorney Long replied no, there would have to be other factors to justify it. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #15-65/ORDINANCE Approving Agreement for Use, Maintenance and Repair of Roadway and Modification of Right-of-Way Easement Over a Private Road Affecting a City-Owned Tract of Land – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #15-65/Ordinance #2685 approving agreement for use, maintenance and repair of roadway and modification of right-of-way easement over a private road affecting a city-owned tract of land; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #15-66/ORDINANCE Establishing Homebuyer Down Payment and Closing Costs Assistance Program – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #15-66/Ordinance #2686 establishing Homebuyer Down Payment and Closing Costs Assistance Program as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz asked if it going to be the responsibility of the buyer or the lending institution to provide the required documents. Community Development Director Lisa Peck explained these would be duplication of documents they already have, as this program is similar to what is offered by Madison County, as well as communities of Granite City and Alton. Councilman Schwarz asked what would be the required man-hours to service a loan, on our part. Director Peck acknowledged there will be creation of documents that are customized with the names of buyers and financial institution on standardized forms and review with a checklist for required documents, along with a simple calculation. The financial institutions will handle the economic information and verification of feasibility for lending.

Councilman Schwarz asked is it likely that we would try to retrieve the assistance, if they do not stay in the home for the full five years. Director Peck explained this would show up as a lien on the house for up to five years. Councilman Schwarz noted we are trying to promote the sale of homes. Are there other areas that we will need to expand to cover? Are we making other areas of town less attractable because of us providing this to homebuyers? Director Peck stated we feel the other areas of towns attract a different market of buyers. Councilman Frey asked how long has this been in effect in the county and other communities. Director Peck reported that Madison County's has been in place for over twenty years. Councilman Schwarz expressed concern if this will influence the behavior that we want. Does \$3,000 make a difference? In this instance, I think it does. I am sure that real estate agents will be able to trumpet it. Councilwoman Bellm stated, to me, if it is just the little bit of incentive to get someone to purchase a home in historic area of town versus renting, I feel they will tend to it and improve it versus letting the property sit idle or become rental property. Councilman Schwarz inquired how long we feel it will take to see the results of this program. Director Peck estimated five years. In the worst-case scenario, no one uses the program. Councilman Schwarz asked what if one hundred people take advantage of the program. Can we shut it down by stating we have maximized the program? Director Peck replied yes. The one side effect could be someone will buy House B, start fixing it up, and then the neighbors start fixing their homes by it up, but get no subsidization. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #990 & #991 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrants 990& #991 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Councilman Nicolaides abstained. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk