

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Councilmembers present were Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Harold Belsheim, Directors Gillespie, Rusteberg and Schoeck, Police Chief Terry, Supervisors Stram and Limestall, EMS Captain Crosby, Sharon Walter, Kelly Korte, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 13 citizens, and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2009 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming the third week of October as Women in Business Week.

PRESENTATION

Police Chief Terry Bell presented the police department's portion of the Annual Public Safety Report for Fiscal Year 2008-2009. Chief Bell pointed out this report covers the period of May 2008 to the end of April 2009. The police department has a multitude of civic programs that we offer, which not only is beneficial to the citizens, but the officers as well.

Class A Crimes, which are the more serious crimes (homicides, burglary, narcotic/drug violations, fraud, weapon offenses, etc.) have been fairly consistent the last three years. The clearance rate for Class A crimes, for this last year, was 46%. Over the past five-years, the clearance rate ranged from 38 – 49%. Nationwide, the clearance rate is in the lower 30%-range. Class B crimes, are the less serious crimes, but do not cover traffic offenses. These are crimes where the officers tend to find that an offense has occurred. The clearance rate of Class B crimes was 92% this past year. The range has been 89 – 94% over the past five years. Reported sexual assaults were down to two, from four in the prior year. There were 36 case of domestic battery reported. Burglary is up from 25 to 43 incidents. In reviewing the cases, the targets were primarily, remote vending areas, garages and sheds, etc. Motor vehicle burglary is up slightly. However, theft is down from 172 to 143. We had 20 reported retail thefts, with 19 in the prior year. Drug violation arrests were up to 119 from 107; and, 67 DUI arrests. Traffic accidents increased from 411 to 420. The numbers per year, over the last five years, have ranged 411 – 453. Nuisance violations were up from 298 to 334. We encourage more notification of violations, because we feel the more proactive people are now, it is easier to deal with and will result in

less issues in future years. Leaving the scene of the accident is up from 53 to 66. Private property accidents were up from 76 to 98. Chief Bell explained we do not handle these, except to do a report for insurance, unless there is a death or serious injury. Total police incident reports were up to 11,246. 9-1-1 calls were up, 801 from 776; however, non-emergency 9-1-1 calls were down from 850 to 818. Chief Bell pointed out that if people call 9-1-1 when it is not absolutely necessary it ties up resources for those emergency situations requiring 9-1-1 assistance. Fire calls are down, with false fire alarms dropping from 80 to 43. Miscellaneous fire calls, which would be assists with traffic accidents to the “cat-out-the-tree”-type of service calls, rose from 94 to 109.

EMS Captain Gary Crosby presented the annual report for the EMS Department. He stated our department’s mission statement is to provide the best medical service to the areas of Highland, Grantfork, Pierron, St. Jacob, and St. Rose. We handle medical emergencies, traffic accident scene calls, and inter-facility transfers; we provide public safety education (AED/CPR). Over the last twenty years, we typically have seen a 4% increase in calls per year, with our highest in 2005 of 2056. The numbers were down this past year. We are not sure why the numbers are going down. Our service area is all of Highland and Highland-Pierron Fire District, which extends as far south as Lee Road. Additionally we service all of Grantfork Fire District, St. Jacob Fire District, and St. Rose Township Fire District. Captain Crosby showed a mapping of all the calls in the past year, to show the span of the service area and the concentration of calls within those areas. Calls by type of location: residential, 600; hospital, 513; and, institutions, 300. By fire district: Highland, 1532; Pierron, 190; St. Rose, 33; and, St. Jacob, 87.

From last year to this reporting year (2008-2009), behavioral calls are up 45%, burns are up 100%, cardiac cases are up 22%; and, drowning calls are up 100% (from one case to two). Responded from locations are being tracked to look at where we are coming from. From the station at 1122 Broadway, we responded to 1751 calls; St Joseph’s Hospital, 52; and, Breese Hospital, 78. Unit 4A30 responded to 967 calls, while Unit 4A31 responded to 631. The third unit, which is used as a reserve unit responded to over 300 calls this past year. The trip count by patient age shows the majority calls involve the “baby boomer” age. Emergency calls have remained about the same, at ~1000, while transfers are up slightly. In the current year, transfers are up so far. Motor vehicle accident calls were down fairly significant. However, the ones we have handled lately have been more serious. Overdose and behavioral calls have increase. Trauma cases have increased only slightly over the last five years. Medical calls are 54% of the calls we respond to. Calls within Highland remain steady; Highland-Pierron is increasing slightly; and, St. Rose, St. Jacob, and Grantfork are down in the number of calls.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens’ Requests and Comments:

Brady Kesner – Presentation of Photo Book – Brad Kesner, 15 Meadowlark Lane, stated I work at Jim’s Formal Wear, in Trenton, in marketing and as their catalog designer. As a hobby, I like to take photographs. I read on the internet about an exercise that involved taking a picture a day. So, as a citizen of Highland, before work, after work, during lunch time, and on weekends, I went around photographing different sights. I collected all the pictures and thought about different things I could do to share this with others. I published the book titled, “Highland Day by Day”. The profits from the book are going to be donated to the Highland Animal Shelter. I plan to discontinue the sale of the book after Christmas 2009. He presented Mayor Michaelis with a copy of the book. Mayor Michaelis noted that no one from the Highland Animal Shelter is here tonight; however, I want to express my sincere thanks for you donating the proceeds to them.

Highland Arts Council – Art in the Park 2009 Update – Lynette Schuepbach, 105 North Harvest Crest Ct., Highland, stated, on behalf of the Arts Council, she wanted to share with the council some of the remarks made by artists at this year’s Art in the Park. One artist asked if there was an application you had to fill out in order to live in the City of Highland, as the yards are so pristine and the city so quaint. Another artist expressed gratitude for the city government’s participation in the

event. An art show that they attended each year was canceled because of lack of funding and support by the city that it was held in. This artist was more than happy to come here because the city supported the event. Another artist had trouble with their diesel vehicle. We were able to put our heads together, come up with some names, and to get someone to work on the vehicle on a Sunday. Thanks to Tim Klaus, of Klaus Service, that artist could get on the road on Monday morning. We want to express our sincere gratitude for hanging in there with us on this project from the start. Lynette Schuepbach, Brady Kesner, and Paula Redman presented a framed event poster, on behalf of the Highland Arts Council, to Mayor Michaelis. Mayor Michaelis noted we display the posters on the west wall of the City Hall foyer. Mayor Michaelis stated he was there both days. Saturday's crowd was the largest I have ever seen.

Requests of Council:

Councilman Rickher questioned if the Highland School District and Highland's city government will be paying any subscription fee for fiber optic service. City Manager Latham responded that has not been discussed yet.

Staff Reports:

Update – Tavern Closing Time at Daylight Savings Time-Change – Chief Bell reported letters were sent out to everyone that falls under those licenses governed by this. Daylight savings time begins in the second Sunday in March and reverts back to standard time the first Sunday in November. Councilwoman Bellm asked were the dates and time language in the ordinance up to date. Chief Bell responded yes.

Update – FEMA Appeal Resolution – City Manager Latham informed the council that we did receive a copy of the necessary information to grant the appeal. The application and supporting documentation were sent via FedEx Overnight today.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Treasurer's Report – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-129/ORDINANCE Establishing Highland Business District #1 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #09-129/Ordinance #2384 establishing Highland Business District #1 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilwoman Zobrist stated she read the minutes from the Combined Planning & Zoning meeting. It appears some members had some concerns. The Business District will help not only new business, but existing businesses also? Mike Weber, of PGAV Urban Consulting, responded yes. Keep in mind that this is a discretionary program. All applications will have to be reviewed, regardless if it is a new business or one that is renovating. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-130/RESOLUTION Authorizing Execution of Water Standpipe Lease Agreement – Harold Belsheim stated Attorney Long advised me that he is looking for supporting comparable documentation to verify that the \$150 is appropriate. He requested this be tabled until this is verified. Councilman Bardill made a motion to table Bill #09-130/Resolution authorizing execution of a water standpipe lease agreement with Southwestern Illinois Health Facilities, Inc. d/b/a Anderson Hospital as attached; seconded by Councilman Bellm. Councilwoman Zobrist noted a mistake in Exhibit A: It shows the standpipe location is 'Maryville' and it should be 'Highland'. Deputy City Clerk Hediger reported this has been changed already. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried; item tabled.

Bill #09-131/RESOLUTION Authorizing Execution of Mutual Aid Agreement with IMUA – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #09-131/Resolution #09-10-1828 authorizing the mayor to execute a mutual aid agreement with other members of the Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA) as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilman Rickher asked is there any downside to this. City Manager Latham explained we don't necessarily have to respond to the call for assistance. In order to obtain FEMA funding, you have to have one of these agreements in place. Attorney Harold Belsheim stated this agreement contains cross indemnification agreements. We have a little concern with them. While they are not uncommon in these types of agreements, it is the position that our law firm takes on these. We will take that issue up in the renewal process of this agreement. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-132/RESOLUTION Approving Revised Preliminary Plat – Commerce Place – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #09-132/Resolution #09-10-1829 approving a revised preliminary plat of Commerce Place as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-133/RESOLUTION Approving Final Plat – Commerce Place – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #09-133/Resolution #09-10-1830 approving a Final Plat - Commerce Place as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilwoman Zobrist stated that in the minutes from the Combined Planning and Zoning Board meeting there was comment from a business owner, in that area, expressing concern about additional run off. Public Works Director Joe Gillespie explained the original plat had two roads from this development to Frank Watson Parkway. The difference here, in the revised plat, is the second roadway will be further north. It does not add additional pavement surface. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-134/ORDINANCE Approving TIF Agreement with Klaus Service Center - Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #09-134/Ordinance #2385 approving TIF Agreement with Klaus Service Center as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-135/RESOLUTION Approving Commencement of Demolition – RETKO Group – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #09-135/Resolution #09-10-1831 approving commencement of demolition of structure on the site known as Matter Drive Redevelopment Project, at 115 Matter Drive, by Terra Properties, Inc., on behalf of RETKO Group, prior to execution of Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Agreement, as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilwoman Bellm asked City Manager Latham to talk about the project. City Manager Latham asked Darin Girdler to discuss the project. Mr. Girdler reported Terra Properties would like to demolish the former Leisure World structure. We have wanted to tear this structure down from some time. The building has been used for dead storage for Trouw Nutrition. The building is a dead cell, with only electric hooked to it, until recently. There are two businesses interested in relocating to this property. If the two organizations relocate to this property, we will need to subdivide the property and relocate water and sewer lines. The demolition is a very integral part of the TIF project. Our only request is that the demolition costs be considered in the application process once we have the project costs established. Hunsche Excavating is ready to tear the structure down tomorrow, if we give them the okay. The interested parties have expressed a desire to close on the sale of the property once the property is leveled. We are running out of time with the weather.

Councilwoman Bellm expressed I want to see the building down. It is an eyesore. I am not sure what good this resolution does. I am reluctant to promise TIF money at this point. Mr. Girdler stated we are not asking for a guarantee of TIF funding. We are just asking to have the costs allowed for consideration in the TIF application for funding. We want to be able to lump the whole project into the application versus asking just for TIF for the demolition, then coming back another night with an application for another piece of the project. Councilwoman Bellm expressed I want to ensure that we are not setting a precedent by doing this. City Attorney Belsheim stated it is my understanding that the

resolution simply states the village will recognize the demolition expense as a component of the TIF application. If a TIF agreement is not reached then it does not apply. We really do not see the harm. The fact that this is out of order is not that they are not doing due diligence; it is simply that they have an opportunity they are trying to grab hold of. They understand that they are not getting a guarantee. Councilwoman Bellm stated my concern is that in two months, someone comes in and wants to tear down a building but does not have their application filed yet. Attorney Belsheim stated this is a pretty unique situation, from what I have heard. I don't think that you will see this happen again. Councilwoman Bellm asked City Manager Latham, since TIF is new for us, is there anyone that we have told that TIF funds cannot be approved because they started on a project before applying for funding. City Manager Latham responded no. This resolution does not bind the city to reimburse them or approve this project for TIF funding. Councilwoman Zobrist stated I have concerns about this site being elevated, because of drainage in that area. Mr. Girdler stated the elevation of the land will not cause the drainage in that area to change. We do not want to do anything that will facilitate additional flooding. The new building is far smaller than what is there. We will bring a site plan to the city. In raising the structure, we are not elevating the site. Councilwoman Bellm stated this is a particularly unusual circumstance and we are encouraging business to come to Highland. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrant #785 – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Warrant #785 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist 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. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk