

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2012**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Nicolaides, Bellm, Bardill and Schwarz were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Long, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Korte and Rosen; Officer Aric Steinbeck, Supervisor Limestall, and City Staff: Steve Ferguson, Tracy Robinson, Clint Conrad, Kathleen Mulcrone; City Clerk Bellm; Steve Kyle and Jason Schreckenber, of Oates Associates, Louis Latzer Library Director Angela Kim, 22 citizens and one member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2012 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2012 Special Session as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Girl Scouts Alyssa, Cory, Allison, Mallory, Katie, Sasha, Makenza, Delaney, Olivia, and Brooke, along with Troop Leaders: Dawna, Sally, Julia and Julie, Debbie, Susan, Nicole, Tracy, Kirsten and Christina were present as Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming the week of March 11-17, 2012 as Girl Scout Week in the City of Highland.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Annual Highland News Leader Easter Egg Hunt Request – Nathan Grimm, reporter for the Highland News Leader, requested permission for the annual Easter egg hunt, to be held on the Square at 2:30pm, on Saturday, March 31, 2012. Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the request of the Highland News Leader to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on the Square on Saturday, March 31, 2012 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

Mayor Michaelis reported a citizen called him this week, regarding numerous phone calls they received from Ameren about electric service and their ability to choose service. These people live

within the city's limits. I contacted Dan, and I have asked Dan and Mark to comment on this. City Manager Latham reported a few of us went to Collinsville, when the IMEA hosted a seminar on this. There are aggregates out there from everywhere trying to solicit service to citizens and industry. Under Illinois law, all municipalities that have their own utilities are protected. This is because municipalities may have bonds out, based upon usage and customer base. Deregulation of power has been out there for ten years. However, the availability of power was in short supply. We all can remember the rolling blackouts out west and along the east coast. Over the last few years, there has been an investment in development of the power grid. Now there is an abundance of power out there on the grid and these services are trying to show that they can purchase cheaper than what the consumer pays now. Light and Power Director Dan Cook added, typically, they advertise a cost two- to three-cents lower per kilowatt-hour; however, there is a transport fee for the lines added on. Many have floating rates that change from month to month. Mayor Michaelis stated another thing we discussed is that it is a third-party company marketing the electricity and portraying themselves as working with Ameren. Unfortunately, they prey upon elderly citizens. City Manager Latham stated I think we will end up putting out a flyer or something in the paper about this. Mayor Michaelis added the confusing part is that they continue to call the people repeatedly, even when the people have asked to be removed from their call list. Director Cook stated we will send out a note. If anyone encounters anyone with questions, please forward them to us. Even if we wanted to allow citizens to chose, we are prohibited based upon our contract with IMEA.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham introduced Kathleen Mulcrone, who will be the Business Retention and Recruitment Coordinator for the City of Highland. Kathleen is a graduate of Mater Dei High School, and is currently working on her Masters degree in Public Administration.

City Manager Latham reported, in addition to the \$900,000 committed from IDOT for the Northeast Quadrant, we have received a letter committing \$2M from the State of Illinois under Economic Development. We are requesting another \$2.6M from the Illinois Commerce Commission. When we went for the Non-Home Ruled Sales Tax, we proposed upgrades to Sixth Street, construction of the NE Quadrant and NW Quadrant. With the grants we have been able to obtain, we will be completing everything within the money we have.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Appointments to the Silver Lake Advisory Commission – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's re-appointments of Mr. Brad Kohlbrecher, Mr. Fred Bircher, and Mr. Dan Shimer to the Silver Lake Advisory Commission, for additional three-year terms, to expire March 2015 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #12-21/RESOLUTION Authorizing Application for Madison County Parks and Recreation Commission Funds from Madison County – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #12-21/Resolution #12-03-2028 authorizing an application for Madison County Parks and Recreation Commission Funds from Madison County as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz stated I assume this is funding that has been allotted and this is our attempt to get our share of it. If we get it, do we have a specific purpose for the funds? Parks & Recreation's Director Mark Rosen stated the funds have been budgeted under revenue for the department. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #12-22/ORDINANCE Authorizing Offer at Negotiated Sale Electric System Revenue Bonds Not-to-Exceed \$5,000,000 Principal Amount – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #12-22/Ordinance #2515 authorizing offer at negotiated sale of Electric System Revenue Bonds not-to-exceed \$5,000,000 principal amount 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 #PW-05-11 Sanitary Sewer Cured-in-Place-Pipe project – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting Bid #PW-05-11 Sanitary Sewer Cured-in-Place-Pipe project as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting for 2012 MFT Maintenance Materials Section 12-00000-00-GM – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting for 2012 MFT Maintenance Materials Section 12-00000-00-GM as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #870 & #871 – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Warrants #869; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. 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)(11) for discussion of potential litigation; seconded Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:23pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 7:55pm. Council members Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Also present were City Attorney John Long, City Manager Latham, Director Gillespie, Resident Engineer Clint Conrad, Latzer Library Director Angela Kim, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, and Steve Kyle and Jason Schreckenber, of Oates Associates.

Mayor Michaelis stated nothing discussed in Executive Session would be acted upon tonight.

Councilman Bardill made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:27pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk