

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

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 Bell, Cook, Gillespie, Imming, Korte, Rosen and Schoeck; Fire Chief Bloemker, EMS Chief Wilson, Supervisor Limestall, Library Director Kim, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 8 HHS FFA members, and 12 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilman Frey abstained. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Kyle Anderson, of the Greater Gateway association of Realtors/Illinois Association of Realtors, presented a check to the City of Highland for the Jaycees' Dog Park. Mayor Michaelis asked if the check was being made out to the City of Highland or the Highland Jaycees. Director Peck explained the grant was completed by the City of Highland. Since the Jaycees are doing the fundraising for the park, we will sign the funds over to the Highland Jaycees. Mayor Michaelis thanked the Jaycees for doing this project, noting the park is going to be very popular location.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Michaelis will read a document proclaiming the week of February 20-27, 2016 as FFA Week. Morgan Potthast, President; Lane Rinderer, Vice President; Alex Rode, Treasurer; Ali Deluca, Makayla Potthast, Haley Landmann, Cami Ernst, Kayla Rogier, and Advisor Don Schmitz.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Chamber of Commerce 2016 Funding Request – Nancie Zobrist, Executive Director, requested an annual disbursement of funds for our budget from the hotel/motel tax funds. We serve to support business, improve quality of life in Highland, and a welcome office for tourists. Councilman Schwarz made motion to approve a disbursement of \$24,000 from hotel/motel tax funds as requested; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz asked if (the budget provided) is the amount incurred in 2015. Mrs. Zobrist reported those are actual amounts from February 2015 through January 2016 is actual amounts. Councilman Schwarz asked what the wages are. Mrs. Zobrist explained our accountant figured that based upon a percentage of time recorded for coordination of PB&J, Street Art Festival and other time fielding tourism questions. This is estimated time. I would say that actual is more, because 2-3 minute phone calls often are not recorded. Councilwoman Bellm asked if these

funds are available in the city's budget. Director Korte reported it is the same amount as last year, which was budgeted. Mayor Michaelis noted this is the same amount that it has been for many years. Director Korte concurred. Nancie Zobrist stated our costs with increase, this next year, with improvements to our website, to focus more on promoting tourism and advertisement of events that we hosts to bring people into town. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Arts Council 2016 Art in the Park Funding Request – Lynnette Schuepbach, Representative of Highland Arts Council, thanked the city council for their past support of Art in the Park. This event brings in an estimated 9,000 people, when the weather cooperates. We are requesting \$8,000 in sponsorship, which will give you the same benefits as last year. Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the Highland Arts Council's sponsorship requested amount of \$8,000 for Art in the Park; seconded by Councilman Frey. Mayor Michaelis asked if this is in the budget. Director Korte stated it will be in the upcoming budget. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilwoman Bellm abstained. Motion carried. Ms. Schuepbach asked everyone to mark their calendar for April 29, "Celebrating the Arts" Fundraiser, to raise matching funds for the grant the Highland Arts Council received.

Requests of Council:

Alan Noe and James Schleper, representing the VFW Men's Auxiliary presented signs to be posted around town to recognizing any citizen currently serving in the military. There are thirty-one signs that we have. Mayor Michaelis asked where these are going to be posted. Mr. Noe stated along Broadway. Councilwoman Bellm asked how long these are to be up. Mr. Noe reported the signs are made to last for up to ten years. Greenville and Carlyle have similar signs posted in the communities, along the main routes. The sign remain up until the person came home for service, at which time they would take the sign down and it is theirs to keep. Councilman Frey explained there are thirty-one active people in Highland area, right now, that we know of. With the signs going up, there could be approximately forty signs. Mayor Michaelis suggested posting them along Veterans Memorial Parkway. Councilman Frey stated he did not think there are enough posts along there. In addition, the winds out there would be much stronger. The signs would be sheltered more downtown. Councilwoman Bellm expressed this is a good idea; however, she asked, is this permitted in the ordinances we have on the books. Attorney Long stated he would have to check. Broadway is a State route, so we will have to see what the statue is on that. Mr. Noe and Mr. Scheleper noted Carlyle and Greenville does this same project along similar routes. Mayor Michaelis asked Attorney Long to check the ordinances, and, in particular any statues with the State regarding posting these along Broadway.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham noted that a memo was passed out to the council members regarding a retreat on April 29. We have not done this in many years; I feel this would be a good opportunity to look at long-term plans of the different departments.

City Manager Latham reported he and Director Gillespie had an opportunity to go to Bloomington, to receive an award from Illinois Engineering, for the Veterans' Memorial Parkway, based upon design of it and the community involvement in the project with development of Rinderer Park, banners and memorials along the route, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Re-Appointment to the Cemetery Board of Managers – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve re-appointment of Dennis Rinderer to the Cemetery Board of Managers, for another two-year term, to expire March 1, 2018 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor's Re-Appointments to the Silver Lake Advisory Commission – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve re-appointments of Sally Raeber, Ronald Wagner and David Frey to the Silver Lake Advisory Commission, for another three-year term, to expire March 1, 2019 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #1012 & #1013 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrant #1012 & #1013 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Councilman Nicolaides 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 7:28pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 7:37pm. Council members Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides were present. Also present were City Attorney Long, City Manager Latham, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Michaelis stated nothing discussed in the executive session would be acted upon in this open session.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk