

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 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, Peck, and Rosen; EMS Chief Wilson, Fire Chief Bloemker, Library Director Kim, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm; nine citizens, and one member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2016 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

MAYORAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Michaelis recognized Mr. Caleb Denby, a junior at Highland High School for scoring a perfect 36 on the ACT test in February, of this year. He is also ranked 78th in the St. Louis Chess Club, when he was sixteen-years old.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Michaelis opened the public hearing to receive comments concerning final adoption of the Budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year. Hearing no comments brought forward, Mayor Michaelis closed the hearing.

PROCLAMATION

Councilwoman Bellm informed everyone that the Spring Bloom will be held at Silver Lake Park this Saturday. Relevant Options' Stroller Strut will be 10:00am – Noon; Ki-Do Karate will perform; there will be memorial tree plantings, and other demonstrations and entertainment. Oates Associates is covering the costs for the reptile show that will be there, this year. The weather is supposed to be in the mid-seventies, so it should be wonderful. Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming Saturday, April 23th Arbor Day in the City of Highland and urge everyone to participate in activities that promote the growth and well-being of the trees and plants around us. Mayor Michaelis encouraged everyone to stop out at the Spring Bloom Festival.

Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming May 1 – 7, 2016 National Small Business Week in the City of Highland.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

No requests or comments presented.

Requests of Council:

No requests or comments presented.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reminded everyone that the Spring Citywide Clean-up will be May 2-6, with normal trash pickup. More information is being put out in local publications.

A special council session for planning will be held on April 29, at the Korte Recreation Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Reappointment to the Police Pension Board – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's re-appointment of Bonnie McGinley to the Police Pension Board for a two-year term, to expire May 1, 2018, as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #16-26/ORDINANCE Amending Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #16-26/Ordinance #2725 amending Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #16-27/ORDINANCE Adopting Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #16-27/Ordinance #2726 adopting the budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #16-28/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 78, Article VII, Division 3, Section 78-732, (Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges) of the Highland Municipal Code. To Add a Late Fee and to Increase Monthly Fees for Data Services, Basic/Digital Video Packages and the Local Channel Access Fee – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #16-28/Ordinance #2727 amending Chapter 78, Article VII, Division 3, Section 78-732, (Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges) of the Highland Municipal Code, to add a late fee and to increase monthly fees for data services, basic/digital video packages and the local channel access fee as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz asked how we decided on the rates for the packages and late fees. City Manager Latham explained the video side saw an increase in costs of \$5 per customer, last year, for local content. We came to the council and asked just for \$1 per month, to cover local access. HCS is seeing additional costs to provide larger bandwidth to its customers; therefore, we feel we need to a \$5 increase in charges to cover that. He pointed out, if you go back and look at the business plan; it recommended \$124 per month per customer. The trend now is that people are taking only the internet access. The increased monthly fees gives us the ability to increase the revenue per customer. Councilman Schwarz pointed out that we need to be in a competitive position. If we compare apples to apples, HCS to Charter, do we know how

we compare? City Manager Latham reported that, typically, they can show the customer that we are more competitive in long term. While Charter can offer cheaper rates, up front, the term of the agreement levels the costs out. Director of Finance Kelly Korte reported that she is paying \$215 per month for Charter's Triple Play, because HCS is not available in her area. HCS cost is about \$125 per month for same services. Director Angela Imming explained we have a price point for different internet speeds. The only time Charter is better is if they offer a first year discount. However, in reading their contract, there are significant increases in the following years of a three-year agreement. Councilman Schwarz asked how we decided on the late fee. Director Korte responded the \$10 late fee would be consistent with utility late fees. While pulling the service on delinquent accounts is less labor intensive than on the utility side, the billing process and determining late accounts is more difficult on the HCS accounts. Councilwoman Bellm pointed out no one wants to raise prices; however, everything increases in costs. Any increases affect us, personally, also. We have to cover our costs. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #16-29/ORDINANCE Approving Rezoning of Lot 6 in the Highland Business Park Subdivision from "C-3" Highway Business District to "I" Industrial District – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #16-29/Ordinance #2728 approving rezoning of Lot 6 in the Highland Business Park Subdivision from "C-3" Highway Business District to "I" Industrial District as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #16-30/RESOLUTION Approving Final Plat of Highland Business Park 1st Subdivision – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #16-30/Resolution #16-04-2375 approving Final Plat of Highland Business Park 1st Subdivision as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Additional Funding for Homebuyer Assistance Program – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve additional funding for the homebuyer assistance program as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz noted we have been doing the program for six months. Has it had the intended results? Director Peck explained there are several ways to measure the success of the program. One is the assessed evaluation stabilization, which is going to take some years to see. In keeping properties out of hands of rental owners, and returning them or keeping them in homeownership, it seems to be working. To date, we have closed twelve houses and received another seven applications, which are in process. These funds are for the last of the thirty houses approved. This is for approval to move the remaining funds from this year's fiscal budget into next year. The program has moved ten people into town from other communities. One of the homes was a foreclosure property. We have put twelve families into an area that we have targeted.

Councilman Schwarz asked how many houses were sold in that same area. If I were doing an analysis on this, I would look at how many houses did we sell in that same area during the same time, during the past two years. Director Peck stated she did not know that. I do know the days on market have dropped. Some homes on the western edge of the targeted area remain slower properties to move. Councilman Schwarz questioned why we would have not done more analysis. Councilman Frey recalled that we wanted to keep or get the properties into homeownership versus rental property, with this program, and sales were really sluggish in this area of town. Councilman Schwarz expressed if we are spending the money, we should see more analysis of the data. Director Peck stated, if we were requesting additional funding for more homes, to expand the program, she would have that data. However, it is not cut and dry on what is rental and what is not. Councilman Schwarz stated we need to look at things from several different perspectives to better judge if we are getting the results we want or if people are just taking advantage of the money because it is there, and would have purchased the property regardless. Councilman Frey agreed it would be nice to know how many of these properties were rental prior.

Councilman Schwarz expressed I support the program; however, if I am spending the money, I would like to know if this is proving out. Councilwoman Bellm pointed out that some of these homes were once rental property, are now in homeownership, and we are seeing some improvements to them already. Those homes were being marketed as investment property and purchased for rental. Director Peck reported that four out of the ten closings specifically stated that they purchased a home in Highland because of this program. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrant #1019 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrant #1019 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 temporarily adjourn this regular session to enter into executive session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act under Section 2(c)(2) to discuss collective negotiating matters and 2(c)(5) to discuss the potential purchase of real property; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:05pm. Council members Nicolaides, Bellm, Frey and Schwarz were present. Also present were City Manager Latham, City Attorney Long, Directors Bell, Peck and Schoeck, Deputy City Clerk Hediger and City Clerk Bellm.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Bill #16-31/RESOLUTION Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police – Patrol Officers’ Unit – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #16-31/Resolution #16-04-2376 approving a collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police – Patrol Officers’ Unit as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. 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 8:06pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk