

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:08pm. Council members Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Michael McGinley, Asst. City Manager Peck; Directors Bell, Gillespie, Imming, Korte, and Schoeck; EMS Chief Wilson and Fire Chief Bloemker, Lt. Conrad, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 44 citizens and 1 member of the news media.

MAYORAL RECOGNITION

Coach Emily Becker came forward at Mayor Michaelis' request and announced the HHS Dance Team has now won three IHSA titles. They have reached podium each year of IHSA competition. This year, we won first place in several categories at state competition. They earned the 2017 IHSA Class 1A Competitive Dance Championship, and won the titles in each of the AA Jazz, Lyrical and Pom Dance categories; the AA High Point Team Award with 287 out of 300; and, earned the Grand Champion Award at the Illinois Drill Team Association's State Competition. Ally Becker is the 2017 Miss Illinois Drill Team Association. Miss Wellen introduced the team: Seniors Alley Becker, Team Captain, Hannah Luitjohan, and Reagan Thornton, Juniors Kayla Davis, Katie Etter, Paige Foster, Olivia Genteman, Alana Hollenkamp, Claire Pabst, and Abigail Rogier, Sophomore Brooke Wilson, and Freshmen Bree Etherton, Alexis Finley, and Kylie McFarland. Coach Becker stated Whitney Zobrist is the assistant coach. Councilwoman Bellm asked any of the girls are interested in dancing professionally. Ally Becker stated she would be attending Iowa State University in the fall, where she was accepted into their dance program. Mayor Michaelis reported the information was messed up with IDOT sign ordering, so the sign recognizing Ally as 2017 IL Drill Team Association Champion will be arriving later. Miss Wellen thanked the city and council for recognizing all that we do and how tough the competition is. People tend to overlook the accomplishments, since we win so often. The girls put in a lot of hard work.

PROCLAMATIONS

Jules Branger representing ABATE Motorcycle Club was present as Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming the month of May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in Highland. Mr. Branger explained ABATE goes into some schools to educate drivers about motorcycle safety.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

St. Paul School Student Appreciation Day Road Closure Request – Amber Tallman, second-grade teacher at St. Paul's Catholic School requested permission, on behalf of the St. Paul Viking Parents Association, for the 900 Block of Lemon Street, between 9th Street and Main Street, to be closed off from 9:00am to 1:30pm on Thursday, May 25, 2017, during activities for Student Appreciation Day. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request of the Viking Parents Association for closure of Lemon Street, between 9th Street and Main Street, on May 25, 2017, as attached; seconded by

Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaidides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

Councilman Frey asked if we have gotten any other ideas for incentives for home construction or development of subdivisions. Mayor Michaelis stated he believed it was the council's consensus, at the last meeting, to wait and continue to evaluate for the next six months. It is very difficult to formulate something that will make the impact fairly.

Councilman Schwarz stated something brought to me that would advocate this. There is ~235 lots; however, those lots would not be where they would build these types of homes. Assistant City Manager Lisa Peck stated in some cases that is true, others not. There has been some inquiries about proposed developments, but nothing I can comment, on at this time. Councilwoman Bellm stated what she is hearing people say is that any incentive should not go to the developer for a variety of reasons, but primarily, because how far back do you have to go with subdivisions developed. People I heard from were more interested in providing an incentive to the buyer. If given to the builder, you do not know that it would get passed along to the buyer. I am willing to sit and see what shakes out, here in the spring. We are fifth in Madison County. Asst. City Manager Peck acknowledged, yes, we were #5 in the whole county for single-family new home construction. Councilman Schwarz noted we are trying to spur building, so it would be more appropriate to give it to the builder. It changes the economics of this. I like to see data when basing my decision. If there is a different case that could fix this and is supported by something, it would be something to consider. Councilwoman Bellm noted if there is a shortage in town, it is in the \$180,000 - \$225,000 range. City Manager Latham reported we are at the lowest inventory in availability since 2001. The typical house selling is between \$180,000 - \$225,000. I am hearing this from realtors. We have had some activity in adding another phase to existing subdivision. Another area is between Falcon and Quail, where there is twelve empty lots. Director Peck added there are two other subdivisions that are in talks, presently. City Manager Latham suggested looking at this again in July. Councilman Schwarz expressed he feels wherever a builder thinks they can build a single-family home, with the least amount of restraints would be the best. The reality is, if inventory is low, how we incentivize to change that. Asst. City Manager Peck pointed out we have to consider what the demand is. We are seeing a certain segment that want the villas. Mayor Michaelis stated it is all about finding that balance. Councilwoman Bellm stated if I had two or three builders in here that say a certain amount would change that, and then I am willing to consider it. If we start falling down from that fifth position in Madison County, then we need to look at it. Council member Schwarz pointed out we have to be careful of unintended consequences where they continually hold out for incentives.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham informed the council that we received the latest assessed value report and assessed property values are up 1.57%.

We received our ISO rating, which affects homeowners' insurance premiums. The city rated at Class 4. The ratings are based upon dispatch times, water pressure and water flow, among other factors. Councilwoman Bellm recalled that because we are a volunteer fire department we will never be able to obtain a Class 1 rating. Fire Chief Rick Bloemker stated Springfield was a Class 1, at one time, which was the only one, but that has changed.

NEW BUSINESS

To Authorize City Manager to Issue a Formal Letter Affirming the Council's Full Confidence in the Combined Planning and Zoning Board's Recommendations – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to authorize City Manager to issue a formal letter affirming the council's full confidence in the Combined

Planning and Zoning Board's recommendations as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #17-39/RESOLUTION Authorizing Execution of Employment Agreement Between City and Mark Latham as City Manager – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #17-39/Resolution #17-05-2448 authorizing execution of employment agreement between City and Mark Latham as City Manager as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz asked what is changing. City Manager Latham explained according to statute the agreement goes with term of the mayor. Mayor Michaelis noted there was a change in amount of pay and vacation. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #17-40/RESOLUTION Requesting Road Closure for 2017 Schweizerfest Event – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #17-40/Resolution #17-05-2449 requesting road closure for 2017 Schweizerfest Event as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #17-41/RESOLUTION Requesting Road Closures for 2017 Schweizerfest Parades – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #17-41/Resolution #17-05-2450 requesting road closures for 2017 Schweizerfest Parades as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #17-42/ORDINANCE Creating “Up to 3MBPS P2P Symmetric Tier Rate Schedule” for the Delivery of Intranet Services by City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #17-42/Ordinance #2782 creating “Up to 3MBPS P2P Symmetric Tier Rate Schedule” for the delivery of intranet services by City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #17-43/ORDINANCE Permitting City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services to Sell Surplus Ethernet Internet Service Capacity, at Retail and Wholesale, to Persons Residing and Businesses Located Outside the City of Highland – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #17-43/Ordinance #2783 permitting City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services to sell surplus Ethernet internet service capacity, at retail and wholesale, to persons residing and businesses located outside the City of Highland as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz asked do we have some of this in the pipeline already. Director Imming stated we have a couple people. Councilman Nicolaides asked how they are going to get it. Director Imming explained we are building out to a handoff. It will then be their responsibility to receive wireless into their location from that point. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid #PD-03-17 for Purchase of One Chevrolet Tahoe Police Service Vehicle – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid #PD-03-17 for purchase of one Chevrolet Tahoe Police Service Vehicle to Miles Chevrolet, of Decatur, Illinois, in the amount of \$37,063.00 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid #PD-04-17 for Purchase of One Ford SUV Police Vehicle – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to award Bid #PD-04-17 for purchase of one Ford Interceptor SUV Police Vehicle to Tri-Ford, Inc., of Highland, Illinois, in the amount of \$28,629.00 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #1056 & #1057 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrant #1056 & #1057 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 adjourn; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk