

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

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 Michael McGinley, Asst. City Manager Peck; Directors Bell, Cook, Gillespie, Imming, Korte, and Rosen, EMS Chief Wilson and Fire Chief Bloemker, 19 members of Highland Fire, Police and EMS, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 25 citizens and 2 members of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2017 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

With Lola DeGraw, representing Daughters of the American Revolution, present, Mayor Michaelis read a proclamation declaring September 17-23, 2017 as US Constitution Week in the City of Highland and ask citizens to protect the freedoms granted to us through the U.S. Constitution.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

2017 EvUCC 5K Street Closure Request – Beth Hegger, representative for EvUCC, requested permission to host our third annual 5K run/walk on October 7, 2017 at 8am. We ask for the assistance of the police department to put out safety cones and assist with crossing at Faith Drive and Poplar Street. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion approve the request of the EvUCC to hold a 5K walk/run on Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 8am as requested; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

EvUCC Peace Rally Square Use Request – Will Verduin, Assoc. Pastor, EvUCC asked for permission to host a peace rally from 4-5pm, this Sunday, with stations around the Square. Pastor Bev, with Highland Hope, and Pastor Tim, from Grantfork United Church of Christ will speak. We will have peace lilies for the adults and balloons for the children. We are designating this a “no signs, no chants” rally. Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the request for a Peace Rally on Sunday, September 10th, 4-5pm as requested; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

2017 EvUCC Homeless Simulation Square Use Request – Pastor Will Verduin requested permission for the EvUCC youth group to have a box village home simulation on the Square on Saturday night of November 3, 2017. He stated there will be 15-30 kids staying overnight, along with some adults for supervision. The intent to put the kids in the place of the homeless and garner some empathy for those who live that way every day. We will tear down and clean up early on November 4th. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to allow the EvUCC Box Village to be held on the Square on Saturday night of November 3-4, 2017 as requested; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Mike Gilomen, 518 Broadway, stated when it comes to the use of the word “blight”, I know that I made a call to Building & Zoning a few months ago regarding a house on the 700 block of Main Street. A hole in the roof that exceeds six-feet square, is what I call blight. A cleared lot would be better than seeing that. A sign on a building that designates it as a museum. Is there a tax benefit from the designation? If there is a tax benefit in doing so, then should it not be opened on a regular schedule and open to public, if it receives tax funding? I ask because that building is also in disrepair. Mayor Michaelis asked City Attorney Mike McGinley to respond to that. City Attorney McGinley responded the wheels of justice in those areas are rather square. We are working to clean up several properties within the system, but it is a lengthy process. We are hoping to get them resolved soon.

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests were presented.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported, one week from Friday, Assistant City Manager Peck, Dave Oates, of Oates Associates and I will meet with CSX regarding the culvert under the railroad tracks. We are going to propose removing the culvert in front of it, because we believe that is restricting the flow. Councilwoman Bellm expressed at least they are listening.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor’s Appointment of Linda Montayne to the Tree Commission – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointment of Linda Montayne to the Tree Commission, for a three-year term, to expire July 2020, as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Discussion - Creation of Business Development Districts A, B, and C – Mayor Michaelis noted we heard a number of comments from citizens within the community. All had excellent points. I have an option for council to look at, as Option #4; and, that is a referendum for the citizens to vote on. We all have a more vested interest when we are part of the decision. We are open to change and apt to whatever the outcome is when we have been a part of the process. Mark and I came on, about the same time. I talked to him about the peripheral route that had been discussed. Mark did some work on it and looked at ways to fund it. A lot of money went into building that peripheral route. We took the tax to the voters. Then comes a project that came to us for a project to fund fiber, which Mark brought to the council. We took that decision to the public to vote on. After your television goes out for the third time in a week, it was an easy thing to vote on. Here we are again, tonight. Is this another option? Is this something to consider, since you are taxing people, to explain it more openly and earnestly?

Councilwoman Bellm noted we talked about taking it to the people. Initially, I said yes. Then I did some rough numbers on it. With assumption that it would pass, I looked at the delay in time and the

expense of putting it to vote, in addition to the funds that could be raised within that period of time. I am willing to play the “bad guy”. When they look at what we need to do, I would think they would support it. If there is a little indigestion and that is creating resistance, I understand that. Consider, now, that it will cost additional money due to the cost of putting it out for a vote, and the delay of waiting to putting it to a vote. I am not opposed to it; however, stop and think about what we losing in that time and the additional costs in delay of another 12-18 months.

Councilman Frey stated that is a very good point. One thing to remember is everything we are doing. Some people mentioned storm water in areas. A lot of those problems are not going to be fixed for a long period of time. When I ran for office, I told them (voters) that I would listen to them and vote. Councilman Schwarz stated I cannot see how it is “back door” for us to vote on this as a council. Maybe it is getting more acknowledgement now. I am not opposed to taking it to a referendum; however, we cannot be afraid of political issues, when it is what needs to be done. We need money for public safety. I think we need the revenue. I am not, totally, ready to vote in favor of a new public safety facility. I am unopposed to a vote, but I feel we are shirking some of our responsibility. It is real easy to vote down a tax increase, when people have not thoroughly looked at the finances and the issues the city is faced with.

Councilwoman Bellm asked Mayor Michaelis how many years was the peripheral route pushed down the road. Mayor Michaelis replied twenty years. I was a rookie police officer when I first heard about it. Councilwoman Bellm noted that ten years ago would be cheaper than today. Mayor Michaelis pointed out the sales tax that paid for the peripheral route and other street improvements was a 1% sales tax. Councilman Nicolaides pointed out he did not hear anyone say they do not want the additional tax. I did hear them expressed concern about the amount of that set to go towards a new public safety facility. Mike Gilomen questioned are we going to see more money spent on some of these other things that were before. City Manager Latham stated Mayor Michaelis talked about kicking the can down the street. Other communities have a sewer tax rate, which we do not have to fund sewer main projects. This is being looked at as a means for funding water mains along Broadway. We have repaired a lot of the mains that need to be replaced. Beginning in 2013, staff began evaluating the system, prioritizing and putting together a plan to address the issues, and we started looking at ways to fund this with additional increases.

Councilman Schwarz acknowledged there are advantages to allowing people to vote. There clearly is some advantages to it. We are put up here to do what is best for the community. City Manager Latham noted this is scheduled to be on the next council agenda to approve the three business districts. Mayor Michaelis asked the council if they are ready to vote at the next meeting. Councilman Nicolaides stated if that is what is scheduled for the agenda. Councilwoman Bellm replied yes. If anyone has any comments they can make it during the public forum and I think it should be on the agenda. Councilman Frey and Councilman Schwarz stated they agree it should be on the agenda for the next council meeting.

Bill #17-89/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing Execution of Refuse Collection Contract with Robert “Bob” Sanders Waste Systems, Inc., for the One-Year Period from October 1, 2017 Through September 30, 2018 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #17-89/Resolution #17-09-2472 approving and authorizing execution of refuse collection contract with Robert “Bob” Sanders Waste Systems, Inc., for the one-year period from October 1, 2017 Through September 30, 2018 at the current rates as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Michaelis asked if there was any rate increases. City Manager Latham replied no. Councilwoman Bellm stated I receive compliments on their services. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #17-90/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Proposal for Civil Engineering Services with Curry & Associates Engineers, Inc. to Address Concrete Spillway Modifications to Old City Lake – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #17-90/Resolution #17-09-2473 approving and authorizing the execution of a proposal for civil engineering

services with Curry & Associates Engineers, Inc. to address concrete spillway modifications to Old City Lake as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilwoman Bellm asked what kind of modifications. City Manager Latham explained we are not doing very well as staff to fix issues with it. In 1950-60's, they put in two metal culverts in, which are decaying. We would like to start doing engineering so we can submitted the change requests to IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources). Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #17-91/RESOLUTION Approving Contract for Upgrade of Water Treatment Plant and Water Storage Tanks' Control System with Corsair Controls, Inc. – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #17-91/Resolution #17-09-2474 approving contract for upgrade of water treatment plant and water storage tanks' control system with Corsair Controls, Inc. as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid #PW-12-17 for Purchase of One Truck Body with Crane – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Award Bid #PW-12-17 for purchase of one truck body with crane to Krantz Body Co., in St. Louis, in the amount of \$51,956.00 as attached, with five bid packets issued and one bid received; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz inquired why only one bid received. City Manager Latham stated he was not sure. However, one of the bidders, who actually put the bid packet together, stated they just forgot to submit. Councilman Schwarz asked is this below what we expected. City Manager Latham replied yes. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approving a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PW-08-17, for the Water Main (12") Transmission Relocation – Matter Drive – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PW-08-17, for the Water Main (12") Transmission Relocation – Matter Drive as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approving a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PR-13-17 for the Korte Recreation Center Natatorium Lighting – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PR-13-17 for the Korte Recreation Center Natatorium Lighting as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilwoman Bellm asked, what is Natatorium? Director Rosen stated that is a pool house within a building. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #1068 & #1069 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrants #1068 & #1069 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 5 ILCS 120/2(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 7:45pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:00pm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Nicolaides, Bellm, Frey and Schwarz were present. City Manager Latham, City Attorney McGinley, Deputy City Clerk Hediger and City Clerk Bellm were also present.

Mayor Michaelis stated nothing discussed in Executive Session this evening would be acted upon in this session.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk