

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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, Asst. City Manager Peck, City Attorney McGinley; Directors Cook, Gillespie, Korte, and Rosen EMS Chief Wilson, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, and City Clerk Bellm, Library Director Kim, 5 citizens and one member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2017 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Shirley Lodes, 9 Suppiger Lane, Apt. 2 stated she has been reading about Queen of Hearts Raffles and has some observations and concerns. Ms. Lodes stated I have been going to Aviston's raffle since September. The nicest thing I can say is that it is mega colossal chaos. If Highland allows for something like this, I think it should be limited to \$100,000 - \$200,000 and limit the pin numbers. Aviston has just under 9,000 people registered. After the other half goes out, they plan to drop their pin numbers down to 5,000 pins. Their drawings are held at the American Legion Hall. The upstairs level is full, the downstairs is full, and they have two large Kirchenfest-size tents set up outside. Aviston is a town of 2,000 people. Every street had cars parked on them. Yards had cars parked in them. Then you had the cars coming and going. ATVs were loaded up on pickup trucks and brought in, so they could be used as shuttles for people, so then you had 50-75 ATVs added to the parking area at the Legion Hall. Tickets are sold at the hall every day except Sunday. Citizens in Aviston had several complaints about parking in their yards and people walking through their yards, even with a shuttle bus, taking people from parking lots. I am in favor of Queen of Hearts Raffles, but I think some thought need to be put into this. Aviston had 6-8 portable potties outside the building. I did not even want to go into the hall the last few weeks, because had there been an emergency, I am not sure what people would have done. As far as tickets being sold at the Korner Keg, I feel that could be the biggest disaster. If this got to the same size, and there were a visitation going on at Meredith Funeral Home, you would have parking issues. If the drawings are to be held at the dance hall, what is the limitations as far as what the hall can hold? The Aviston Legion was giving donations to various organizations such as Boy Scouts, Houston Disaster Relief Fund, and the Shriners. Where does the liquor association? Are they non-for-profit? The Lebanon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Queen of Hearts Raffle in Summerfield, since no place big enough to

hold it in Lebanon. Ms. Lodes offered the contact information of Dale Rakers, who post the rules for Aviston's raffle, to the council as a resource. Councilwoman Bellm asked what people do after number is drawn. Ms. Lodes reported the fire department volunteers would direct traffic. The main drawing was at 8:00pm and then there was a 50/50 drawn at 8:30pm. People would come in early afternoon with snacks, sit around and play cards, just to get a good spot to park and a place to sit. Mayor Michaelis assured Ms. Lodes that legal counsel, the city council and police department are going to go very slow and look at this thoroughly. If we go ahead and do this, it is going to be done slowly and we are going to make sure we do not have the logjams that other communities have done. Councilman Schwarz noted there is a good point that it is going to tie up some of our resources. I feel the city should be compensated in some way. Mayor Michaelis expressed I am really concerned about the security matter; however, I feel private security is the best way to handle that. Councilman Frey acknowledged if it goes on for 54 weeks, it becomes burdensome. Mayor Michaelis stated I am saying for the entities that are going to do this, it is better to have private security.

Ms. Lodes stated I have been on the Planning & Zoning Board for twenty-some years. I was told then that something is going to be done with the acoustics in this room, and still nothing has been done. The sounds in this room sucks. Councilwoman Bellm responded it is something we budget for every year. We have not gotten anyone to come in and fix this. There has been several different options looked at, but without ruining the aesthesis of the room, we have not found a solution.

Ms. Lodes reported I have talked to the Highland Chamber of Commerce about doing community-wide garage sale weekend. All the communities around us have community-wide garage sales. I was told they do not have the manpower to host such event. In these small towns such as Marine, people pay \$5 to get their address on a map. People come in to town and pick up a map at designated public spot. Mayor Michaelis noted some small towns only allow garage sales on this designated weekend, at least years ago that is how it was. New Douglas, at that time, it was the only time of the year you could have it. Ms. Lodes reported Troy, Lebanon, New Baden and others do it. Just something I think needs to be done, since it brings people into town. Mayor Michaelis asked Lisa Peck if this is something under her area. Asst. City Manager Peck responded she had not really thought about it, but it is worth looking at what other communities are doing. Councilwoman Bellm asked if this is something that could be done in conjunction with Spring Clean-up. We would have a weekend when it is publicized to bring people into the community. Mayor Michaelis asked Ms. Lodes if she would be a consultant for this. Ms. Lodes replied no.

Mayor Michaelis asked Police Lt. Conrad for his thoughts regarding the overtime of officers assisting with the Queen of Hearts Raffle. Lt. Conrad reported when officers worked the racetrack, it got very difficult to fill the schedule. Officers only get two weekends a month off. Overtime gets old pretty quick. The officers' wives hate it long-term. Mayor Michaelis noted that the Lieutenant and Sergeant would not work it, since they are salary. Lt. Conrad stated if the schedule is not filled, we have to cover the shift. The racetrack now uses private security.

Lt. Conrad reported he went to Aviston's raffle, a couple weeks ago, just to observe. Shirley painted a very good description of what we could be dealing with, if the pot got high. I spoke with deputies and staff with Clinton County Sherriff Department. Lt. Conrad pointed out the fairgrounds gives us an advantage. Aviston maxed out their footprint. One of the weeks I went down, you could see people until you saw the corner of the building. Lt. Conrad showed a drone shot of the crowd. Councilman Frey noted we could a fire truck get out to the fairgrounds. Lt Conrad stated we work with fair association on planning emergency routes for how get in and out. This past year, we had McGinley's dealership loan us an ATV for use by emergency staff. So, the fairgrounds provides us more room to work with.

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests presented.

Staff Reports:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Award Bid #E-17-17 for Purchase of LED Street Light Fixtures – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to award Bid #E-17-17 for purchase of LED street light fixtures to Anixter Power Solutions, of Mattoon, IL, in the amount of \$32,600 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz asked what the payback on this is. Director of Light & Power Dan Cook responded if you include the maintenance schedule in the calculations then the payback is less than five years. These lights are more resilient to people that want to shoot them out, in addition to using considerably less watts while providing a bright illumination. Councilman Schwarz are we seeing the price drop. Director Cook acknowledged the costs do continue to go down. The pricing we got this time from Anixter is lower than the cost than one of the other bidders would pay for them. He also added that since these light fixtures illuminate better, as drivers are approaching intersections, they provide better visibility, which prevents accidents, especially with pedestrian. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #E-19-17 for the Purchase of three 34.5KV Vacuum Breakers for the Westside Substation – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #E-19-17 for the purchase of three 34.5KV Vacuum Breakers for the Westside Substation as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Discussion: Recreational Non-Profit Demand Electric Rate – Director Dan Cook reported we have been getting some questions regarding the non-for-profit demand electric rate. The city has a rate in place for commercial use, for non-profit customers. A nonprofit organization is formed for serving a public or mutual benefit other than the pursuit or accumulation of profits for owners or investors. The nonprofit sector is a collection of entities that are organizations; private as opposed to governmental; nonprofit distributing; self-governing; voluntary; and of public benefit. The rate use is limited to outdoor sports fields owned and operated by nonprofit organizations. Organizations must pay to install a special use demand meter, which is a one-time \$500 fee. Demand Charge is per billable kilowatt-hours for peak times as determined to be between 1pm and 7pm. We this originally set up for the VFW Hall and we gave them a rate as long as they did not turn on the lights before 7pm. This is when we still had the load shedding meters in place. That is where I believe the hours were set in. Since then the KC Hall has gotten this put in. In the last month, the 5pm game league only plays until daylight ends. They have asked if they could speak to the council about having the rate structure changed.

Director Cook suggested framing something up that would easily put into place the peak charge only in a season, such as from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It is typically light outside until at least 7pm during that season. He stated he had several questions as to why Glik Park does not apply for the same ability as nonprofit. According to the ordinance, Glik Park, since operated by the city, which is a public entity, does not qualify, even though they serve in a nonprofit capacity with the organizations that use the fields. Director Cook stated he is seeking the council's direction on these matters.

Councilman Schwarz asked is their rate different from residential. Director Cook replied yes. If they exceed 25kw, they pay the demand charge. Councilman Schwarz expressed it is a good idea for using the seasons in the ordinance. This is something for the community. Councilwoman Bellm stated she had been approached by VFW members about this, in the past. It is awkward when it is getting late in the season, but the places do not want to pay the additional cost of turning the lots on. Director Cook asked if there is any comment regarding Glik Park. According to this ordinance, this is for private non-for-profit organizations. Glik Park is run by a public government entity. Can we specifically put the exception of Glik Park into the ordinance? City Manager Latham clarified this would include the KC Hall, VFW Hall, and Glik Park. Mayor Michaelis asked would this not also include the racetrack, which is run by the Madison County Fair Association. We met with Darrell Apken years ago, regarding the metering and demand charges. City Manager Latham reported I think the issues there are the meters on the coolers, which are the Sharpshooters, and there is the multitude of meters. Mayor Michaelis suggested City Manager Latham maybe get the fair associations and Sharpshooters together.

Curt Spies, manager of the ball fields and concessions at KC Hall, and Ken Klostermann, manager of Knights of Columbus Hall were present. They had inquired about the demand charges and requested a change. Mr. Spies reported we had over 550 games played on our fields this season. We had seven boys' baseball teams, as well as St. Paul's boys' baseball and girls' softball teams using the field as their home field. We hosted ten tournaments, with 8-12 teams each tournament. Those tournaments bring a lot of people into town, who shop and eat. We hosted the KC State Softball tournament. Seven teams were not from this area. This upcoming season, we will have eight teams that will call our fields their home field. Mayor Michaelis asked if what is proposed will help. Mr. Spies replied yes, we will be able to start the boys' games in the spring at 5-5:30pm, and it will allow us to host two games in an evening. If things go well, we will host four games in an evening. Mr. Spies and Mr. Klostermann thanked the council for their consideration of this.

Discussion: 2017 Tax Levy – Director of Finance Kelly Korte reported the actuary for the Department of Insurance sent in their report for the police pension, after 5:00pm on Friday. For the upcoming year, \$532,453 is what they have requested. The Police Pension Board hired an independent actuary and they suggested \$575,000. I am providing the council with two options. The \$575,000 amount creates a total tax levy of 2.1073, and increase of 2.95% over the prior year. The \$532,453 yields a tax rate of 2.0839, a 1.80% increase over the prior year tax rate. The last two years, we used the independent actuary's numbers. Councilman Schwarz questioned if we over fund, then it will just save us for the next year. At this time, I would keep it the same at \$575,000. Director Korte reported the levy will be brought to the council at the next meeting.

REPORTS

Approve Warrant #1077 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrant #1077 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. 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 7:53pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk