

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MAY 7, 2018**

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, Directors Bell, Cook, Imming, Korte and Rosen; EMS Chief Wilson and Fire Chief Bloemker, Lt. Conrad, Interim H.R. Director Ann Stoecklin, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 3 citizens and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2018 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2018 Special Session as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Memorial Day Parade and Band Funding Request – Kate Broadhurst, Chairperson for the Memorial Day Parade requested permission for VFW Post 5694 and American Legion Post 439 requested permission for the Memorial Day Parade, on Monday, May 28, 2018. We would like to ask for assistance in paying for the high school band for the parade and event. Ms. Broadhurst invited Mayor Michaelis and Chief Bell to participate in the parade and the ceremony at the VFW Hall, which will begin at 2:00pm. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request to hold the Memorial Day Parade and a donation of \$200 to offset the cost of the high school band as requested; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Mayor Michaelis asked Kate to discuss what will be going on July 4.

Ms. Broadhurst reported on May 14 we are going to start putting up the bricks that the seventeen plaques that get attached to the bricks. For the dedication, on July 4, we are asking for restrictions to all for parking on both sides of Veterans' Memorial Parkway, beginning at 10:00am. Mayor Michaelis asked is it too late to donate for the bricks. Kate replied no; however, anything not in at this time, Lager may not be able to get them in until after the dedication, unless we get at least twelve of for Lager to run. I do have about six ready to go towards that. Mayor Michaelis asked how it works to make a donation towards this. Whom do you get the money to? Kate explained all funds go through the Highland Community Foundation. I make a request, along with vouchers to any vendors for this project. The Foundation pays the vendors from the donations made. Diversified Services is putting the bricks in. We are assisting to offset the costs. There are three different color choices on the forms, designating the different size bricks. Blue, 4"x8" brick is a \$100 donation; yellow, on the form, for a 8"x8" brick, \$200; and, 12"x12" grey granite stone, \$300. Regarding the approval for the parade and donation towards the

parade, the council voted in a Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Alzheimer's Association Brain Freeze 5K Request – Stacey Howard, Representative, who serves as a region master through her church, reported we have organized a team and are holding an event. This event would use the trail around Glik Park and the multi-purpose trail. Pine View Drive would be the only public roadway that we would cross, and I have arranged for volunteers to be at the intersection. Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the request to hold the Alzheimer's Association Brain Freeze 5K, on Saturday, June 23, 2018 on the path around the Korte Rec Center, as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

Councilman Schwarz noted all the council received an email from citizen that brought up some thoughts. What happened to laissez faire economics? I have been concerned about some incentives not being fair to those in town. While we do not see tax base growing they pointed to other areas where that is supported. Councilman Schwarz acknowledged other towns do give incentives. I think, in half those cases, we have to give those incentives to get them to choose Highland. I think we should look at it on a case-by-case basis. There is a lot of guesswork and gray area. Councilwoman Bellm asked City Attorney Michael McGinley, with the business districts and TIF areas we have in place, can we be selective. City Attorney McGinley advised, ultimately the decision lies with what is at this table with the council. Any money given out is ultimately the decision of the council. Councilman Schwarz pointed out, right now, everyone gets the same forms and same applications. We are using a cookie-cutter approach and I think there could be a better way of doing things. I saw the email and I felt it was well thought out. Councilman Frey agreed it was a well-written letter. In the past, I based my judgments on the value the city is getting. I have had it pointed out to me a number of times that it is not fair to existing businesses. I have, personally, started four businesses and never came for an incentive. Every growing city does it with the purpose of creating jobs. There are pro and cons to everything. We have made good decisions on the funds given out. I am glad counsel has pointed out that we can choose. Councilman Schwarz concurred. He noted the business we just did, in the special session, I think was a good decision. I do not think that restaurant decisions are based upon the incentives.

Councilwoman Bellm pointed out some that apply for incentive and get them granted never use them and take advantage of them, because they chose not to report. Councilman Schwarz noted that is good point. Councilwoman Bellm stated if we do let something through that maybe we did not need to give incentive to, it is offset by those that are granted, but then choose not to take advantage of it. I am glad counsel pointed out we do have a choice. When I owned my own business there was no such incentives to help business. Times have changed. I do think we have been careful and need to continue to be careful. Councilman Frey stated the more we can offer the more it offers and encourages people to come to our town to shop and receive services. I did some homework after receiving this letter. There are six million people still unemployed. School will let out in a few weeks, and that will increase the number of people in the workforce. With my son's business, many of his workers come in from surrounding towns. They spend money in the community. City Manager Latham pointed out that while these incentives are approved with TIF agreements or business development districts, staff is very strong at enforcing. If the business wants to receive the funds approved, they have to file report within the requirements set. If they do not report in accordance with the agreements, they will not release the funds. Attorney McGinley pointed out we have been clearly putting in the agreements the requirements for them to receive the funds. Councilman Frey acknowledged it is good letter. It is good to see the feedback from the community. Mayor Michaelis reported Deputy City Clerk Lana Hediger contacted the person and City Manager Latham, Attorney McGinley and I will be meeting with that citizen on Tuesday. We do follow up on those communications.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham pointed out Director Korte provided information on estimated equalized assessed valuations (EAV) for property tax revenues. It speaks to the overall growth of the community. The EAV is under the projected. If the growth is not there, the EAV does not increase.

Public Works is still awaiting EPA for their approval for loan.

City Manager Latham was pleased to announce that he was notified by Senator John Shimkus' office that the city was awarded \$1.2M for ITPA, which will be used for the Broadway re-paving project.

City Manager Latham reported Directors Imming and Cook, Economic & Business Recruitment Coordinator Mallord Hubbard, and I went to a broadband conference, in Texas. Angela and I spoke at the conference. We have received about twenty-percent of the user surveys back, so far. Over fifty-percent of respondents say they would relocate if they did not have broadband. Over fifty-percent responding work from home. The full survey will be posted May 15.

City Manager Latham reported Lana Hediger has earned her designation of Master Municipal Clerk (MMC), by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. The organization was founded in 1937 and is recognized in the United States, Canada, and fifteen other countries. The organization's focus is the professional development of their diverse professionals.

EMS Chief Brian Wilson reported there have been numerous first responders that have shown valor and life saving measures throughout the year. The State of Illinois will be recognizing those responders. The City of Highland is represented there along with Madison County. Medal of Honor recipients from Highland are Todd Zobrist, for the lake rescue, and Ty Barr. Of the thirty-two receiving awards, seven will come from Madison County this year.

Mayor Michaelis reported that since the last council meeting, City Attorney McGinley, City Manager Latham and I met with a concerned citizen regarding handicap access in the Council Chambers and the volume in this room. There was a lady, that came a few months ago, whom serves on Planning & Zoning, and she expressed her concerns. City Manager Latham has been working with a vendor for getting equipment. City Manager Latham reported the equipment is ordered and it should be installed for the first meeting in June. City Attorney McGinley reported we are getting an engineer involved to provide an ADA compliant area up at the top, with use of a wireless microphone. They can sit be able to utilize a wireless microphone for those in the back wishing to speak. Councilwoman Bellm stated, in my time here, I have seen people not realize there is a step down off those risers along the ramp. Can we do something to address that? Attorney McGinley responded that is where the engineer is going to come in. We all agree something needs to be done. When it comes to ADA compliance, we need to get an engineer involved to ensure we meet compliance standards.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Request for Proposals for Employee Benefit Broker – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Request for Proposals for Employee Benefits Broker as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. What is the employee benefits broker? City Manager Latham reported it has been nine years since we have done this. The employee benefits broker shops the market for healthcare providers and provides benefits services. We have had Cornerstone for nine years. We switched to IML for liability a few years ago. It is not that Cornerstone is not doing their job, but we need to just search the market. Mayor Michaelis stated the broker shops the medical market. If you look at what our

employees are paying for insurance - it is outrageous. We owe it to our employees to shop the market and make sure the brokers are getting us the best options.

Award Bid PW-08-17, for Relocation of 12" Transmission Water Main on Matter Drive – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to award Bid PW-08-17, for relocation of twelve-inch transmission water main on Matter Drive to Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$64,050.00, as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-57/RESOLUTION Approving Agreement for Highland Communication Services, Between Vivicast Media, LLC and Herring Networks, Inc. d/b/a AWE and One America News Network – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #18-57/Resolution #18-05-2526 approving agreement for Highland Communication Services, between Vivicast Media, LLC and Herring Networks, Inc. d/b/a AWE and One America News Network as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz asked do we have any choice. Director Angela Imming reported One America News is one of the up and coming news channel. It is pretty popular with the viewers. It is relatively cheap. It is a conservative news channel. We have had it for about three years. If you go to any other market, it is included in their packages. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-58/RESOLUTION Approving Agreement for Highland Communication Services, Between Vivicast Media, LLC and Weather Group Television, LLC – Councilman Schwarz made motion to approve Bill #18-58/Resolution #18-05-2527 approving agreement for Highland Communication Services, between Vivicast Media, LLC and Weather Group Television, LLC as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Michaelis stated City Attorney has asked me to go to Item F on the Agenda before Item E.

Bill #18-60/RESOLUTION Authorizing Sole Source Purchase of Ambulance from North Central Emergency Vehicles – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #18-60/Resolution #18-05-2528 authorizing sole source purchase of ambulance from North Central Emergency Vehicles as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz stated I read the sole source justification. It is, basically, “we like this”. EMS Chief Brian Wilson stated we started this process about six months ago, to see what was out there in the market and built already. We brought them in and looked at how they are built. Are their cheaper units? Yes, but with the Braun, what stands out for us is that the cabinets are built of a better quality. Quality built box allows us to take the boxes off and remount on a new chassis in years to come. By doing that, you save 35-40%. The construction quality of the box and the fact that Braun has a patent on the oxygen tank storage loading. North Central Emergency Vehicles is the representative for Braun. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-59/ORDINANCE Authorizing Borrowing of Money from First Collinsville Bank in Highland to Finance the Sole Source Purchase of One 2017 Ford F-450 Chassis with Braun Chief XL Ambulance Module – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #18-59/Ordinance #2849 authorizing borrowing of money from First Collinsville Bank in Highland to finance the sole source purchase of one 2017 Ford F-450 Chassis with Braun Chief XL Ambulance Module as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz asked would it not be beneficial to borrow from other department reserves. Director of Finance Kelly Korte reported Brian set this up in his budget this year. It is a rolling payment for replacement of units in the fleet. Chief Wilson reported I have a spreadsheet that goes out to 2030. We told the council we needed about \$180,000 to replace capital items

each year. This allows for payment back each year. Councilman Schwarz stated I can understand that. I just wanted to know if we could do this with a loan in-house. Chief Wilson stated we should not have an ambulance over 8 years old. The one we are looking at replacing first, with this, is sixteen years old, with just under 900,000 miles. People not happy to see it roll up and even less happy after they get out of it. Councilman Schwarz acknowledged it is an excellent program. I am just looking to see if we can finance this in-house through other departments. Director Korte stated we would like to leave reserves. Councilwoman Bellm stated we are doing this now because it helps us down the line. Councilman Schwarz stated it just seems that if I could squeeze and hold off on taking a line of credit I would, personally. Councilman Frey acknowledged it is a great rate, at 2.55%. I do not know that there is enough reserves out there. Councilwoman Bellm expressed I worry about depleting the reserves. If something else happens and then have to go out for a loan and interest rates are 4%. Roll Call vote: Bellm, Nicolaides voted aye. Councilmen Schwarz and Frey voted nay. Mayor Michaelis voted aye. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #1092 & #1093 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrants #1092 & #1093 as attached; seconded 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 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) to discuss collective negotiating matters. Motion seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:11pm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Nicolaides, Bellm, Frey and Schwarz were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Latham, City Attorney McGinley, Director Bell, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, and City Clerk Bellm.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Bill #18-61/RESOLUTION Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police – Telecommunicators’ Unit - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #18-61/Resolution #18-05-2529 approving a collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police – Telecommunicators’ Unit as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-62/RESOLUTION Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police – Sergeants’ Unit – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #18-62/Resolution #18-05-2530 approving a collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police – Sergeants’ Unit as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. 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 8:14pm.

Joseph R. Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk