

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 02, 2018**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Councilman Schwarz was absent during roll call (see note on arrival, below). Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Michael McGinley, Directors Bell, Cook, Gillespie, Imming, Korte and Rosen; EMS Chief Wilson, Fire Chief Bloemker, Economic & Business Recruitment Coordinator Mallord Hubbard, KRC Manager Nancy Gramlich, Library Director Kim, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 20 citizens and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2018 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilman Schwarz arrived at 7:02pm., just after the motion was made to approve the minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Michaelis opened the public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed annexation agreement between the City of Highland and Justin Lowe concerning property located at 12053 Highland Road. Hearing no comments, Mayor Michaelis closed the hearing at 7:04pm.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Cathy Chaney spoke regarding the Madison County Transit (MCT) bus discontinuing service. She stated she would like to represent the ones that need the ride but could not be here. I want to thank MCT that kept me from my underwear smelling, kept my medicine refilled, and provided me other trips for things needed. My disability is that I need to get out. It allowed me to get to the store for free. I cannot afford a vehicle. When going a long distance, I need a walking device or wheelchair. The hospital van is not always an option, because it is not always available. If there is a way for the city to get a bus or van, that would be great. My friends – I have lost many. They are not able to give me rides, because they have lives of their own. There are a couple of my friends here tonight.

Cindy Giger stated my daughter and I are disabled, in different ways. It is economics. We go to the store, out to eat and to the hospital. We are contributing to the community. The bus allows us to be members of the community. If there is a call and ride van that would be great. I tried fifteen times in a half hour to get a ride and could not get through. With a van from Madison County, it was a three-week notice required. With the door-to-door service, they could not guarantee a ride because of manpower and

other constraints, especially since we are in the far corner of the county, unless it was a lifesaving issue, like dialysis.

Dr. Lindsey Kampwerth stated I would like to talk about the All Inclusive Playground. As an occupational therapist, we help kids learn to participate in play. It is not the disabilities, but the built in environment that creates the limitations. We need to give everyone a place that is free from these barriers. This all-inclusive playground is that. It allows them to be equal to their peers. The child with cochlear implants can go down the slide. The low-vision parent can be aware of the swings with the checkered background. The aunt or uncle without a limb can play with the kids. It will be a playground of “cans” rather than “can not’s”. As a mom of two children that do not have disabilities we regularly go to playgrounds. Their favorite place is the all-inclusive playground in Breese. It is a place for all people of all abilities.

Corey Clemons stated we have lived in Highland for seven and a half years. I have two children on the autism spectrum. I am here to talk about what this type of playground would mean for my children. We moved to Highland because of the school district’s special education program. We have a typically developed child also, and it makes it difficult to go to a playground. I am excited about this playground, and what it will mean for our family.

John Kapp stated on the behalf of the KC Hall, I want to thank the City of Highland for getting the Queen of Hearts Raffle going. People have been coming out the past couple of weeks. This is like the Kirchenfest with the raffle. The excitement builds as the drawing gets closer, then right before the raffle, it got really quiet. It goes again tonight at the KC Hall. Thank you for helping us out.

Bobby Reidelberger stated I am here to talk about the all abilities playground. I grew up in Highland. Such a great community. This gives us the chance to show other communities what a great place this is. I have a nephew that is three, which I cannot take, because even on wheels, I cannot keep up with him and that makes it a risk. This is going to be such a great thing for Highland.

Dana Bevins thanked the council for starting this project. As a mom with children of specials needs, this is so important to us. As other have said, it will allow the kids, as well as the parents, to be members of the community, socialize, and experience things they would not otherwise be able to. I am a teacher at Highland School in Early Primary Special Education. Even when I take the kids to the playground, there are certain things we can do there, because of our training and equipment. We are busting at the seams, because of the special education program, as we have grown as the community. I think the monies gathered already shows the strong support for this project.

Angie Daley stated she is here to speak regarding the All Abilities Playground also. As a mother of three children, this would mean so much to us. My son, Elijah, is in a wheelchair; Cadence, is blind and autistic; and Emerson is typical. The school does a wonderful job at integrating kids with needs into the setting of education and socialization. Kids with disability face challenges each day. Play should not be one of those. I am sure that we all the wonderful memories of playing on the play. These kids should have that same opportunity. My daughter Emerson would like to say something. Emerson Daley asked will you please build the playground so that my brother and sister can play. Mayor Michaelis stated I don’t think it could be said any better.

Mayor Michaelis reported, three times per year, you will be mailed a magazine with your utilities billing, called “Highland Highlights”. We use it to keep people abreast of what is going on. In the next edition, the featured story will be about the all-abilities playground. We need a lot of funding still to get this project going. When this item comes up on the agenda, tonight, Director Mark Rosen will be coming

forward to discuss the fundraising efforts. He said if we build this playground, that whole end of Rinderer Park will be crowded with families playing.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Bellm stated she received all kinds of comments regarding the responsiveness, recovery, and cleanup during the storm and recovery, last week. She acknowledged it was a long and hot process. It was very appreciated.

Staff Reports:

Presentation by Jerry Kane of Madison County Transit regarding cancellation of Highland bus services as of August 2018 – Mr. Kane reported that due to low ridership on the Highland shuttle will be discontinued as of August 2018. The shuttle stays within the community. The Highland Express that runs between Highland and SIUE and St. Louis, will continue. We recently began offering the Munny Express out of Highland, which has the best turnout of all Munny Expresses.

As an alternative to the Highland Shuttle, there is the Runabout. In the early 1980s, there was no transportation for people with disabilities. That evolved into the ADA/Elderly transportation, with the ACT Runabout. Riders must register to ride the Runabout. It takes riders to medical appointments within the county or community. Mayor Michaelis asked what age someone must be to qualify. Mr. Kane replied 65 years or older. Mayor Michaelis asked what if they do not qualify by age. Mr. Kane stated they would need to qualify under a disability then. The Runabout provides door-to-door service. The manager of that service is here to answer any questions. It leaves the garage at 3:30am and returns at 1:30pm, just as any of the other public transportation services. Mr. Kane stated we do not like to cut service; however, when it does not have the ridership, it becomes too costly for the system. Another option would be for MCT to provide a light duty bus with wheelchair lift at a cost of \$100,000 to the community. It would have an annual lease agreement. MCT will provide the equipment maintenance coverage, because it is specialized equipment. The community would have to provide an operator or we could work with the community to hire a third-party operator.

Councilman Frey asked if this affects the other buses. Mr. Kane replied no. The 14x, 13x and Munny Express services that exist will continue. The bus that stays here in town is the only one we are talking about. Councilman Frey asked would those people qualify for ACT. Mr. Kane reported three have pending applications with MCT ACT; three are eligible under ADA; and, one is age qualifying. Councilwoman Bellm noted that eleven people attended the meeting regarding the discontinuation of this, when it was held at HACSM. Mr. Kane acknowledged ten of those in attendance spoke against the service being discontinued, at that meeting. Councilman Schwarz clarified seven of the eleven would be eligible for the runabout. What about the other four individuals? Councilman Schwarz asked contributes to this. Mr. Kane reported one-quarter of your sales tax contributes to MCT. When there is service that is nonproductive it becomes too costly. The Highland Express has the most trips, with ten in the morning and ten in the afternoon, than any other. When you put a service in place and it is not utilized, we look for better utilization. We have re-configured the routes several times to best utilize it and to try to get better ridership. Councilman Frey inquired if limiting the hours would be a solution. Mr. Kane reported it did not operate on the weekends. In other communities, it operates more. Generally, reduced hours does not improve ridership, but actually, results in lower overall numbers.

Randy Talleur reported the route starts around 9am and the last one comes in at Faith Countryside at 6pm. The 14x starts at 4:30am.

Cindy Giger stated regarding the Roundabout, Robin, the dispatcher, told me we could not be guaranteed anything, unless it was life threatening. We use the bus for going to the social worker, dentist,

and doctor. It would be nice to go somewhere, like IHOP. The dispatcher said do not even ask to do anything fun, because we are down on drivers. Mr. Kane acknowledged that since U.S. Steel fired up, we lost several drivers. The purpose of the trip service does not matter; however, we have to do the trips that are required by law, as first priority. We always tell people to have a backup, because we cannot guarantee. The more flexible you are the better chance you have. Because, the driver might have an opening at a different time, but we do recommend to have a backup plan. So, it would be okay to go to IHOP, if we have it available. You have to call and negotiate. The ACT Runabout makes 60,000-70,000 trips annually. ADA trips get priority due to federal law.

David Long asked how you register to get a pass. Mr. Kane explained call the office, fill out the first two pages, and then have the doctor fill out their portion. You (Ms. Chaney) mentioned your disability is that you need to get out. Ms. Chaney replied yes, they told me to ride the 14x bus.

Councilwoman Bellm stated MCT has made the decision to discontinue this service. It appears they have tried to increase service. Maybe we should have the city manager discuss with MCT the options and costs associated with having our own shuttle. City Manager Latham stated we had a senior shuttle service when back in Arkansas. We would have to look at costs of insurance, and if we want our own drivers. Highland is a very helpful community. We may be able to find some help through HACSM. Mayor Michaelis stated there are others like Kathy with limited resources, but do not qualify. Councilwoman Bellm acknowledged that this resource may be better utilized by MCT. Mr. Kane reported that, several years ago, St Joseph's Hospital approached us because they needed another van to transport. We gave them a van for use. It is not comfortable to know that we could not meet the needs of everyone. It is not often you see this kind of participation in city government. Mayor Michaelis stated we are here to serve the citizens, so I think Councilwoman Bellm is correct in asking City Manager Latham to investigate this further.

City Manager Latham reported, with regards to the storm that came through, last week, I called Lt. Conrad. We set up an instant command center at the police department. It affected most of the southwest are of town. Initially we had a semi-truck and car stuck between two live wires on Highland Road. Six crews worked through the night and finished up on Friday, with all customers restored on Friday. A great job was done by all the crews.

City Manager Latham asked the newspaper to publish that Public Works Street & Alley crews will be doing large limb cleanup this next week. Citizens will need to call in and tell us where the pickup is needed.

City Manager Latham reported we continue to wait on the IEPA. We have been dealing with them for over a year for a discharge permit. It finally, looks like we will get a draft by August. There will be a construction review after that, with going out for bid planned for in October.

A copy of a memo regarding the first month of rental inspections was provided to the council, this evening. There were 44 inspections completed. We were anticipating two to three inspections per day.

We received notice that Madison County will be contributing fifty percent of the federal matching funds for the Broadway/Iberg/Veterans' Memorial Parkway Roundabout project. Presently, the roundabout project will cost us about \$50,000 of an estimated one million dollar project.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill #18-86/ORDINANCE Approving Lease of Land to Peggy Price d/b/a Sammie's Soft Serve and More for Sammie's Ice Cream Parking Area Access – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #18-86/Ordinance #2863 approving lease of land to Peggy Price d/b/a Sammie's Soft Serve and More for Sammie's Ice Cream parking area access as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-87/ORDINANCE Declaring Two City-Owned Vehicles Surplus Property and Authorizing Their Sale – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #18-87/Ordinance #2864 declaring two city-owned vehicles surplus property and authorizing their sale as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-88/RESOLUTION Providing Preliminary Support to Begin the First Phase of Construction on the All Abilities Playground at Rinderer Park – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #18-88/Resolution #18-07-2541 providing preliminary support to begin the first phase of construction on the All Abilities Playground at Rinderer Park as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Director Rosen thanked the people that came tonight and have spoken in favor of this. They just touched the tip of what they deal with on a daily basis. So far, we have just over \$85,000 raised. We have submitted a grant application for 20-40% of project to Madison County. Dan Freker, of Family Care Pharmacy, came to us with the idea of running the Rusty Chain Ramble. We have the Effic Dance Reunion on Labor Day Sunday coming up. Alex Rinderer came to me, tonight, and she has another idea for a fundraiser for this fall. People have jumped onboard. Some people have set up a perpetual fund for playgrounds. This playground will set a benchmark for how we do playgrounds from here on out. I have learned a lot. We want to move on this to meet the deadline of the \$30,000 matching grant from The Disney Corporation. Several construction companies and contractors have volunteered time to this first phase, also, and we need to get this organized before the weather closes in. Councilman Frey questioned Phase 1 is to get the base down. Director Rosen reported the base, plus the ramp with on the four sides, and rocking ramp. There is also the special surfacing and fencing. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Mayor Michaelis voted aye. Motion carried.

Bill #18-89/RESOLUTION Approving Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for the US 40/Hemlock/Frank Watson Parkway Intersection Signalization project (PW-18-17) – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #18-89/Resolution #18-07-2542 approving preliminary engineering services agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for the US 40/Hemlock/Frank Watson Parkway Intersection Signalization project (PW-18-17) as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-90/RESOLUTION Authorizing Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for the Broadway Resurfacing Project (PW-07-18) – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #18-90/Resolution #18-07-2543 authorizing preliminary engineering services agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for the Broadway Resurfacing Project (PW-07-18), in the amount of \$51,420 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-91/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 78, Article VII, Section 78-732, of the Code of Ordinances, Entitled Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, Amending Rates Charged for Commercial and Residential Internet Services – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #18-91/Ordinance #2865 amending Chapter 78, Article VII, Section 78-732, of the Code of Ordinances, entitled Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, amending rates charged for commercial and residential

internet services, in the amount of \$77,225 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Director Angela Imming explained the recommendation is to reduce the rates for the higher speeds of internet. Our competitors are beating our pants off by about 43.35%. We have very low with our overall packages. Anything 200mgs or higher would be more tolerable, but not risk the HCS service. Councilwoman Bellm inquired our businesses do not pay for any services needed “after hours,” 4:30pm – 8:30am. Director Imming reported there are times, but not often, when businesses decide to make a change at 3:00pm, and it causes two or three of us to stay after hours on occasion. In exchange for lower usage rates on a monthly rate, they have to be able to pay for billable hours, if they chose to do something that requires additional service on our part. We have to remain competitive, but pay our costs. I think the change will allow other businesses to come over to us to offset this. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-92/RESOLUTION Waiving Normal and Customary Bidding Procedures and Authorizing Purchase of One Mini-Excavator for Electric Department – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #18-92/Resolution #18-07-2544 waiving Normal and Customary Bidding Procedures and authorizing purchase of one mini-excavator for Electric Department to Fabick CAT, for the amount of \$44,964.00 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Schwarz clarified that this is pretty much saying we are buying through published pricing. Director Dan Cook explained, with most big companies, they have territories assigned to their sales people. They have negotiated pricing established. Councilman Schwarz asked have we looked at other competitors. Director Cook replied yes. They pretty much know each other’s pricing. This particular model and brand allows us to get into areas needed. This model has an articulating arm to allow us to work in small areas and against buildings, which will eliminate a lot of hand digging and trenching, which should save on any ergonomic issues. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Award Bid BZ-05-18 (Rebid) for the Demolition of 1311 Oak Street and 914/916 Deal Street – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bid BZ-05-18 (Rebid) for demolition of 1311 Oak Street and 914/916 Deal Street to S. Shafer Excavating, of Pontoon Beach, in the amount of \$16,800 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilwoman Bellm stated I grew up in Highland, in “White City”. I have had several of the neighbors say, “please do not let them take down the trees.” Mayor Michaelis stated once these buildings are down, the council will need to decide what to do with these three properties. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrant #1098 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrant #1098 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 adjourn; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk