

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 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 Conrad, Cook, Rosen and Slover; EMS Chief Wilson, City Staff: Mallord Hubbard and Mike Russell, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, Library Director Kim, 15 citizens and one member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2018 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming the city's support for the Illinois Department of Human Rights' Fairness and Equality Campaign. December 3, 2018 marks the two hundredth anniversary of Illinois in the State of the Union. As part of the bicentennial celebration, over 200 municipalities recognizes and reaffirms the rich history of nondiscrimination and diversity, and the City of Highland hopes to develop an inclusive community.

PRESENTATION

With his parents, grandparents, and siblings present, Aaron G. Boulanger, a senior at Father McGivney High School and Highland resident, was recognized for earning a perfect score on both the SAT and ACT.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

2019 Rock-A-Block Request – Apostolic Revival Church - Joe Garson, Outreach Coordinator for Apostolic Revival Church, 11656 State Route 143, requested use of the Square and pavilion to hold their ninth annual Rock-A-Block event on Saturday, July 20, 2019, 10am – 4:30pm. At this event, we give out backpacks and provide food and games, as well as our ministry. Over the past eight years, we have given out over 1500 backpacks. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request of the Apostolic Revival Church for use of the downtown square on Saturday, July 20, 2019 from 10:00am – 4:30pm to hold Rock-A-Block as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Bellm stated an individual, interested in purchasing the property that the city recently purchased on Main Street, approached her. If we did entertain the offer, the properties would have to come up to full code, immediately, so a detailed plan with how and when the issues would be addressed would be required. This person is looking at hiring an architect to put together a plan with a vision for the property. While I would like to have the property for city use, we do not need to have it. I think we should give them an opportunity to present their plan. If this property could turn into some viable real estate or service, that is to our advantage. Councilwoman Bellm recommended the council hear the person out with their plan, knowing that we need a carefully drafted plan with a timeline. I understand this proposal is messy. I also know that I have been told this property is beyond repair. She acknowledged the city would have to declare the property surplus, put it out for proposal for sale, and require those interested in purchasing the property to put timeline together to address the safety issues with the property. City Attorney Mike McGinley advised that he research this thoroughly. Mayor Michaelis stated the original intent was to provide parking in the downtown area for a multitude of reasons, including events on the Square, and for the movie theater and other businesses.

Councilman Schwarz expressed concern that he does not want to waste time when it is not practical. This property was deemed beyond repair. Councilwoman Bellm contended anything is possible if you throw enough money at it. Councilman Frey stated he would be willing to listen; however, I see a lot of future issues, in doing something like this. Mayor Michaelis asked who this individual is. Councilwoman Bellm replied if it is okay with legal counsel, she would provide that. City Attorney McGinley pointed out that this is Open Session, so there is no need not too, if this individual is okay with the information being provided. Councilwoman Bellm stated it is Carrie Finley. Councilman Nicolaides agreed with Councilman Frey that this could create a lot of problems, since the property was purchased for different intentions. Councilman Schwarz expressed I do not understand how it could be economical to restore and develop it. Attorney McGinley stated he would research if any of this is feasible.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported we received letter of resignation from Fire Chief Rick Bloemker. I have asked the Police & Fire Commission to make recommendations on a replacement for that position.

City Manager Latham reported we received FEMA correspondence stating they agree the improvements to the culvert under the rail will help. They are looking at the basin area and how much the changes will reduce the flood plain calculations.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill #18-166/ORDINANCE Authorizing Sale of One 1985 Ford Model LS8000 Tandem Axle Dump Truck – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #18-166/Ordinance #2903 authorizing sale of one 1985 Ford Model LS8000 tandem axle dump truck as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #18-167/RESOLUTION Approving Creation of Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk 2 Position – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #18-167/Resolution #18-12-2579 approving creation of Administrative Assistant/Deputy City Clerk 2 Position as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Frey requested some clarification. I would assume this is to relieve some overloaded positions. City Manager Latham explained deputy city clerk will be retiring at some

point. The position really needs to have someone in there that knows what they are doing. As the state continues to implement regulations and with FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), a lot of time is spent fulfilling those requirements. Councilman Schwarz asked don't we charge for time to provide that information. City Attorney McGinley replied no. There is only a charge over a certain amount. City Manager Latham concurred there is no reimbursement. Now, the State of Illinois wants to enact the Government County Transparency Act. Someone has to take responsibility for these requirements. We are getting ready to do electronic recordkeeping. The cemetery board has been asking for new software, so we are trying to pull information from 1980 software. We have set money aside in this budget and prior for a position to assist in H.R. department. However, after moving some tasks around, we are going to move those funds to this. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #E-12-18, for Purchase of LED Streetlight Fixtures – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #E-12-18, for purchase of LED Streetlight Fixtures as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz asked what the cost savings would be from this. Director Cook reported the general payback on LED is a few years. They are more reliable, so there are less truck rolls with these units. Therefore, there is a savings there. As far as electricity, the City of Highland does not meter the light usage. From feedback of citizens, there is a better distribution of lighting. There is more intangible value with this. We will get 150 fixtures with this bid. We have approximately 700 lights we want to place out. When buying new fixtures for replacements, we only purchase LED. Rental light customers are putting in these units. Councilman Schwarz asked which lights you will target to change out. Director Cook reported we are trying to do the higher traffic areas more. If a fixture downtown goes bad, we will replace with LED, unless we have parts in-house from a fixture we took out of service. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Re-Bid #R-PR-09-18, for Removal and Replacement of Weinheimer HVAC – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Re-Bid #R-PR-09-18, for removal and replacement of Weinheimer HVAC as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilwoman Bellm expressed, hopefully, this will help fix the musty smell of mold. There is a pretty strong smell of mold in the building. Councilman Schwarz questioned where in the building. I am there a lot and I have not smelled that. Director Rosen acknowledged there are times when we get water into the basement locker room area. That is where the smell comes from. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrant #1113 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrant #1113 as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, 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)(21) to discuss approval of executive session minutes and 2(c)(3) to discuss the purchase of real property. Motion seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:10pm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Schwarz, Frey, Bellm, and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Latham, City Attorney McGinley, Deputy City Clerk Hediger and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Michaelis noted that nothing discussed in Executive Session would be acted upon tonight.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Frey. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk