

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Latham, City Attorney McGinley, Directors Conrad, Gillespie, Imming, Kim, Korte, Rosen, Slover, and Speraneo; Coordinator Hubbard, Fire/EMS Chief Wilson, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, Steve Kyle, of Oates Associates, five members of HHS FFA, six citizens and one member of the news media.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2020 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming February 22-29, 2020 as FFA Week. Nora Thiems, Secretary/Treasurer of HHS FFA introduced other members present: McKenzie Meyer, Rylee Rogier, Allison Workman, Bailee Bircher, and Syler Hogg. This week, the group will host their annual awards banquet to recognize achievements of members and induct new officers. Next Friday night, there will be the annual Alumni Auction, which includes a chili dinner and the auction FFA members for four hours of service. All proceeds from the auction benefit HHS FFA.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Tom Freiderich, 5 Quail Drive, stated I am not sure if the right meeting to bring this up. I was under the impression there would be discussion regarding a new community pool. That being said, I would like to share some information. When I heard about the issues with current swimming pool, I was hoping it would be rebuilt in its current location, which gives it a park-like and community feel to it. As I got more information about it, I realized there are a lot more problems in doing this. Go ahead and explore options for new city pool. Look at what meets the needs of swim teams, safety classes, and the community. Build it on city owned property, where the city can control how it is used and who can use it. Maybe it contains a new bathhouse and concession area. But, don't try to make it an amusement park. We do not need to have the taxpayers of Highland paying for that. Admission revenue will not cover all the costs. One example is one built in Wood River, in 1985. They built a 50-meter pool, with two diving areas and 4-5 story high water slide. It cost \$4M-\$5M, in 1985. The first couple of years, attendance was good, but then the newness wore off. The city was subsidizing the cost by \$30,000-\$40,000 per year. By 2010, it was almost \$50,000 per year. In 2016 and 2017, it cost \$50,000 each year just to get it going. In 2018, it cost them \$150,000 for repairs. The city decided not to reopen it and tore it down. Now, there is

4-5 acres of grass lots where it used to be. Mr. Freiderich urged the council to look into the needs of the community. Keep it reasonable. Mayor Michaelis thanked Mr. Friederich for his comments and the points he brought up regarding a new pool. The matter is where. It is highly improbable it would be built in the same location. Mayor Michaelis asked Parks & Recreation Director Mark Rosen to give an update on the pool. Director Rosen reported we were hoping to have FGM Architects here tonight. We anticipate having it on the agenda for the first meeting of March. While we would like to keep it in the same spot, but with a new pool we would still have some of the same issues. We are pretty early in the process. City Attorney McGinley reported we are in the contract process. I have gone over the ten-page project authorization and spoke with FGM Architects today, to try to finalize these two documents to get this on the agenda for the next meeting. City Manager Latham reported Director Rosen and Finance Director Kelly Korte and I worked through the budget process to make sure there is enough funds left for the needs of Korte Rec Center and other parks projects. It will involve a lot of public input about the design and location. It is going to take some time in the process. Mr. Friederich stated all of the information he provided came from the City Manager of Wood River, those were not numbers made up. Director Rosen stated for the record, the Helvetia Sharpshooters have been fantastic to work with. I want to make sure everyone is aware of that.

#### Requests of Council:

Councilman Hipskind noted there is a business in town, that we have a park named after, which announced relocation of its headquarters, this past week. Did Highland have a chance to have their headquarters moved here? City Manager Latham stated we did not know about it. Councilman Hipskind asked what we are doing to expand our borders. I see a lot of national conferences that we attend. What about local? City Manager Latham stated we are involved in Madison County development organizations. Coordinator Hubbard reported he will be attending Illinois Rural Communities Economic Developers Conference in a couple of weeks. We do a lot of regional work with the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois. Mark added is part of the City Managers Association, which networks also. However, a lot of companies do not make these things known until the deal is done. All we can do is continue to market Highland. Make sure that we get out to any companies we know are looking to relocate or expand. Councilman Hipskind stated we have a great community here. We need to make sure others know about it.

#### Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported the new city website will go online this coming Thursday. We are having a review of it tomorrow night, at City Hall, from 5-6pm, so people can see how to get online and navigate the site. Director Angela Imming and her project time have done a great job with this. Director Imming stated in working with the Industrial Development Commission, we felt the need to reboot the website. We had about 20 people volunteer to be on the group for this project, with a list of 20-25 different things that we wanted this website to do for us. Director Breann Speraneo, Jackie Kutz Heimsburger, and Laura Wilken, along with two interns, who have since moved on, were instrumental in this process. We got a lot of information, photos and resources. There are some things that we are going to hide at the onset and then add them in later when they are developed. There is a drop down menu of service requests. We will automatically be able to respond to peoples' requests. We believe this will be a good token for communication with residents. This was a team effort.

City Manager Latham reported there is a gentleman that is walking 6,000+ miles for PTSD Awareness. He will be Highland on February 25. His name is Stephen Meyers. He was deployed seven times to places in Bosnia, Turkey, Qatar, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Egypt. He held top-secret clearance from 1999-2016. So, for many years, he kept his PTSD a secret and did not seek treatment. Mr. Meyers will be at the VFW on February 25, with a presentation at 6:30pm. His message is that untreated wounds fester and become bigger problems later. Have courage and treat them when they are small and easily managed.

*Requested Update on Building Permits and Code Enforcement* – Director Breann Speraneo provided some information regarding new construction permits for the council. Forty-two new construction permits were issued in 2019, which was an increase from seventeen the prior year. Efforts in getting new single-family homes into the community is working. Building inspection changes have promoted that as well. We do anticipate using up all the incentive funding. We have had new commercial inquiries coming in. For code enforcement, we have focused our recent efforts on property maintenance, with a list of problematic properties. While new construction is important, we need to keep the community clean. Our inspectors continue to follow-up with issue properties. What we have is our first impressions. We are working with the historic commission on projects as well. Councilwoman Bellm expressed she is pleased to see 2019 single-family home permits number (15 in 2019). I am concerned with multi-family (16). I would like to see more single-family built than multi-family. On a side-note, my husband recently dealt with the inspectors, when we had a tenant move out. While the inspectors found some issues, they were very respectful.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Mayor's Re-appointment to the Cemetery Board of Managers- Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's re-appointment of Dennis Rinderer to the Cemetery Board of Managers for an additional two-year term, to expire March 1, 2022 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Mayor's Re-appointment to the Silver Lake Advisory Commission – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the mayor's re-appointments of Gary Pugh, Randy Ammann and Donald Rommerskirchen to the Silver Lake Advisory Commission, for a three-year term, to expire March 2023 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-23/RESOLUTION Authorizing Allocation of Hotel/Motel Tax Funding for the 2020 Fourth of July Fireworks Display – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-23/Resolution #20-02-2695 authorizing allocation of hotel/motel tax funding for the 2020 Fourth of July Fireworks Display in the amount of \$10,000 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilman Frey noted the big thing on this is the permit itself. We said no to others, but the application did not spell out how the funds will be spent, but I do not feel it is that big of an issue for me. City Manager Latham reported we have taken funds out of the hotel/motel tax fund since it has started in 2005/2006 for this event. Since we changed the process of this, it is being brought to the council through this procedure. About \$10,000 is raised in sponsorships for the event. Councilman Frey expressed it is a great thing. My point is we were being very strict with other groups about how they filled out the application. Councilman Hipskind pointed out other communities use their hotel/motel tax funds for general administrative things. The fireworks draws more people into this community, than arguably Kirchenfest. We have staff and volunteers, from the community that staff pull together, stuffing papers at Wall Street journal on Friday nights and hosting fundraising nights at Huddle House and Mazzio's. I do not think city employees should be working outside their slated hours just so the community can have fireworks. Councilwoman Sloan clarified we are not saying we don't approve of the increased amount for the event. Our issue is that the application should be completed as we require other organizations to fill it out. Director Rosen reported he did not review the application. Nancy filled it out. The city has put down the deposit for the event. Nancy has worked countless hours to make this event happen each year. If the application requires a more detailed budget then it needs to be done. We don't want it to be that our staff does not fill out the application as required. Councilwoman Bellm asked do we want to table this until we

clear up the additional funding. Councilwoman Sloan stated that is not necessary this time. We just need to suggest that next time our staff fills it out with the clarification that we require of others. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-24/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing Execution of a Proposal for Additional Engineering Services with Oates Associates, Inc. for the Proposed Broadway Streetscape Improvement Project Relating to Right-of-Way – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-24/Resolution #20-02-2696 approving and authorizing execution of a proposal for additional engineering services with Oates Associates, Inc. for the proposed Broadway Streetscape Improvement Project relating to right-of-way as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-25/RESOLUTION Approving Local Public Agency Agreement for Federal Participation With the Illinois Department of Transportation for Construction of the Broadway Streetscape Project From Poplar Street to Laurel Street – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-25/Resolution #20-02-2697 approving local public agency agreement for federal participation with the Illinois Department of Transportation for construction of the Broadway Streetscape Project from Poplar Street to Laurel Street as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilwoman Bellm noted City Manager Latham and her talked about signage. Does this include the signage? Has anyone talked to Oates Associates about the signage? City Manager Latham replied yes. Steve Kyle, with Oates Associates is here tonight. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-26/RESOLUTION Approving Change Order Number Two, Revised Temporary Location Change Order and Carport, for Fire Station 1 Remodel (F-12-19) – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-26/Resolution #20-02-2698 approving Change Order Number Two, Revised Temporary Location Change Order and Carport, for Fire Station 1 Remodel (F-12-19) as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Hipskind asked Chief Conrad, if this option is \$9,000 cheaper than the first option. Why was this not the first option presented? Director Conrad stated Highland-Pierron Fire Department was not originally set up for 24-hour operation at their new station. We did not want to tear up their new toy. The other thing is this does not include temporary walls, but rather temporary dividers, like the first option. Our EMS crews are going to get rather cozy with one another during this time; however, the end-result has staff looking forward. The carport being purchased will be used for storage during this time with one fire truck under it, at the electric department property, along with Christmas decorations that were stored at HCS. With the Christmas decorations out of HCS, they will store the other fire engine. This is not our first option. Councilman Hipskind asked what happens if this lasts longer than anticipated. Director Conrad responded HPFD Chief Decker has been very helpful and accommodating. The citizens should not notice any change in service during this period. We will begin switch over on February 28. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-27/ORDINANCE Declaring One 2000 Jeep Cherokee Surplus Property – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-27/Ordinance #3000 declaring one 2000 Jeep Cherokee surplus property as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-28/ORDINANCE Declaring Fifteen Dumpsters of Various Sizes Surplus Property – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-28/Ordinance #3001 declaring fifteen dumpsters of various sizes surplus property as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## REPORT

Approve Warrants #1156 & #1157 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrants #1156 & #1157 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilman Hipskind stated he had a copy of questions about some things. There is a \$200 to Station KXEN for advertisement. Director Rosen responded that was for Parks & Recreation. KXEN is more of an internet type of radio station with over 30,000 listeners. Councilman Hipskind asked about a \$9,000 charge for Maxium Silencers. Director Conrad said this was not for the police department. In addition, there is a payment to Quick Connection Printing. Is that a local printer? Director Angela Imming responded that is Bill Napier. Councilman Hipskind noted there is \$3,000 listed for feasibility study. City Manager Latham reported we have partnered up with a local developer that is looking at doing a feasibility study for an additional hotel. Jennifer, with The Olde Wicks Factory stated often the hotel is not available when she has weddings at her venue. It is sold out during the Optimist Shootout and several other times a year. Companies have stated that their corporate customers, suppliers and vendors have to stay outside of Highland, because there are no rooms available. We really need another hotel. Councilwoman Bellm agreed. There have been several people that have come in for the class reunion and had to stay outside of Highland. Finance Director Kelly Korte reported the Maxium Silencers is a minor equipment for the electric department. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. 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 performance and compensation of a specific employee. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:50pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:29pm. Council members Hipskind, Bellm, Frey and Sloan were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Latham, Attorney Michael McGinley, Director Slover and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Michaelis stated nothing discussed in executive session will be acted upon tonight in this session.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Frey. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Joseph R. Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk