

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind were present. Others in attendance were Interim City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Michael McGinley, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Imming, Korte, Rosen, Slover, and Speraneo, Coordinator Hubbard, Police Chief Becherer, Fire/EMS Chief Wilson, Deputy City Clerks Hediger and VonHatten, City Clerk Bellm, and 3 citizens.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

*2021 Car Cruises on the Square Request* – No one was present to represent the group. Deputy City Clerk Lana Hediger stated that may have been her fault, as she did not send the information for them to call in. Mayor Michaelis asked that they be notified to have someone present or on the phone for the next meeting.

Jerome Kuhl stated he is glad to see Mr. Hipskind and Mrs. Bellm. He inquired why the snowplows push snow up onto the sidewalks. I have a sign in my yard for the one-percent. I was wondering if we're going to have a party down there for it or let it die like the rest of them. Mayor Michaelis stated he was having trouble hearing Mr. Kuhl. Mr. Kuhl stated I'd like to get some cars to slow down on the street, down there. Some of them are police cars. We live in town; we just don't have a fancy one though. Mayor Michaelis asked Director Gillespie if he could hear what Mr. Kuhl was speaking about. Director Gillespie replied he did not understand. Mr. Kuhl stated you would not because you don't get out to see what is going on around town. There are holes that have never been filled out there by the school. Two or three kids have fallen down. We got a lot of police cars and trucks in this town. Some could convert to golf carts and ride around and see what us poor people see it. I will leave it and come back. I took a \$400 golf cart, spent \$3500 to fix it up, and I still can't drive it around town. Highland is something special. We have sidewalks we need to mess up first.

Requests of Council:

No requests or comments.

Staff Reports:

Interim City Manager Chris Conrad read a memo from Director of Light & Power Dan Cook regarding the electricity bills that will be coming out this next month, council should be aware of what happened during the most current cold snap. The City of Highland ran generators Monday through Friday, at the request of IMEA, due to demand for energy. Due to a lot of generators being retired, we had trouble keeping up in Illinois. Demand charges ranged from mid-\$70 up to \$240 and even \$1,000, at

one point. Due to our interest in Prairie State, it keep the amount we had to purchase off the market grid at a minimum. So that being said, the upcoming energy bills may be higher than normal. We believe it may go up a penny per kilowatt, which equates to \$15-20 per month for the average homeowner. Some homes used more energy. Some homes used more heat and thus more energy. Interim City Manager Conrad noted Public Works staff got to see a unique sight, as the fans from the generators were pulling the snow inside the buildings, at certain points. Councilwoman Bellm expressed we are thank to have kept the generators going and glad to see they were put to use.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Appointment of Ben Eberwein to the Cemetery Board of Managers – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor’s appointment of Ben Eberwein to the Cemetery Board of Managers, to fill a vacancy for a term that will expire March 1, 2022 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Mayor Michaelis noted Dennis Rinderer, who has served for many, many years, has decided to step down, which created this vacancy. If you see Denny, thank him for his service. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-29/ORDINANCE Amending the City’s Official Zoning Map – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-29/Ordinance #3089 amending the city’s official zoning map as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-30/RESOLUTION Approving a Retransmission Consent Agreement Between the City of Highland d/b/a HCS and Tegna, Inc. – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-30/Resolution #21-03-2801 approving a retransmission consent agreement between the City of Highland d/b/a HCS and Tegna, Inc. as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-31/RESOLUTION Appropriating Funds for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials (MFT Section 22-00000-00-GM) – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-31/Resolution #21-03-2802 appropriating funds for Motor Fuel Tax Maintenance Materials (MFT Section 22-00000-00-GM) as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-32/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 46, Article IV – Swimming Pool, Section 46-51, of the Highland Municipal Code, Creating New Fee Schedule for Use of Outdoor Pool – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-32/Ordinance #3090 amending Chapter 46, Article IV – Swimming Pool, Section 46-51, of the Highland Municipal Code, creating new fee schedule for use of outdoor pool as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilwoman Bellm noted we have not raised rates for some time. Director Mark Rosen stated we had hoped to raise the rates in 2019, but held off. Before that, the last time was 2012 or 2013. Councilwoman Bellm pointed out with labor rates, chemicals and other supplies it will be a trend. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-33/RESOLUTION Authorizing Allocation of Hotel/Motel Tax Funding for the 2021 Fourth of July Fireworks Display – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-33/Resolution #21-03-2803 authorizing allocation of Hotel/Motel Tax Funding for the 2021 Fourth of July Fireworks Display in the amount of \$10,000 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Michaelis stated I am going to take a guess that COVID 19 will still be going. Have we looked at a way to address keeping social distancing? Director Rosen acknowledged the reality is it will be limited in numbers. We

will likely have to encourage people to watch where they can, safely from a distance, as they did last year. Mayor Michaelis stated, earlier today, we were talking about the attitude of people. Many people will continue to get a shot; some will not; but, these issues will continue until it can be eradicated. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## **REPORT**

Approve Warrant #1190 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrant #1190 as attached; seconded Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilwoman Sloan abstained, as payment of a vehicle from McGinley, Inc. in included. Councilmembers 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 the performance and compensation of a specific employee and 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) to discuss litigation filed and pending before a court. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:21pm.

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

Mayor Michaelis stated nothing discussed in Executive Session would be acted upon in Open Session this evening.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Joseph R. Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk