

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021**

Mayor Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Sloan, Frey, and Bellm were present. Councilman Hipskind was absent. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Michael McGinley, Directors Gillespie, Korte, Rosen and Vazquez, Police Chief Becherer, EMS/Fire Chief Wilson, Coordinator Hubbard, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy City Clerks Hediger and Von Hatten, City Clerk Bellm, 18 citizens, and 1 member of news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2021 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Relay for Life Celebration Night of Highland – Special Event Application – Kennedy Cherry requested permission for use of the Square, on Friday, September 29, 2021, for the group to hold Relay for Life Celebration Night, along with access to water, electric, picnic tables, and the restrooms. The event will include the walk of survivors and the luminary celebration. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Relay for Life Celebration Night of Highland, as requested, for Friday, September 29, 2021; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Street Art Festival – Special Event Application – Tricia Buehne, Chamber Representative, requested permission to host the Street Art Festival on September 17 & 18, 2021, with a rain date of September 19. Setup will begin at 5am on Friday. Ms. Buehne stated we are also asking to allow for placement of sign in the right of ways, with this approval. Councilwoman Bellm asked is there a map of where the signs would be located within right of way. City Manager Conrad stated I would assume near the roundabouts. Building & Zoning Director Breann Vazquez reported Hillary reached out to me. The signs would be located near the roundabouts, but not within the roundabout. Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the Chamber of Commerce's request for the Street Art Festival on September 17 & 18, 2021, with a rain date for September 19, and for sign placement as requested. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Fire Department Auxiliary – Special Event Application – 9-11 Memorial Run - Erin Barr and Tracey Straub, Representatives, requested street closures on September 11, 2021 for the 9-11 Memorial Run; placement of signs along the route for directional purposes; and, no parking on Lindenthal and Washington Street portions of the route, to allow for fire trucks along the final leg of race route. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Highland Fire Department Auxiliary 9-11 Memorial Run request as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

St. Paul Parish – Request to Block Alley Access between Olive and Lemon Streets during school hours - Mary Thole, representative, stated St. Paul Parish School intends to turn the parking lot along Broadway, between Olive Street and Lemon Street into a playground. We would like to block off the alley during school hours, in the area between the two garages, to allow safe crossing for the kids during school hours. Councilman Frey made a motion to allow blocking access of the alley, between Olive and Lemon Streets, during school hours. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Speedway – Request of Council - Reschedule Summer Nationals for August 13th, 2021 and Remove Previously Requested August 14th Race – Sue Zobrist, Track Manager, reported we got rained out this year for the scheduled night. Brett’s First Responders has stepped up to sponsor the event, and we really want to make it happen. Along with this, we are asking for a one-hour extension. She explained we would like to run four classes; typically, we only run three classes. Mayor Hemann asked how late that would take it to. Mrs. Zobrist responded, midnight. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the schedule change for Highland Speedway by replacing July 10 to August 13, removing the scheduled August 14 race, and approve the one-hour extension, as requested; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Mary Ottis, of Cambridge Meadows Subdivision, reported she has been working the past eighteen months to two years to get the streets fixed. I have worked with City Manager Latham and City Manager Conrad, along with Joe Gillespie. Neither City Manager Latham, City Manager Conrad nor Director Gillespie would return my calls. Thank you to the mayor for meeting with me and walking the streets to see the damage to the streets and the drainage areas. Councilwoman Bellm and Councilman Frey, you both live out there, and you have not done anything. Councilman Frey responded we have streets in other areas of the city that are in worst shape than those streets. Ms. Ottis expressed we should not be paying the taxes we are paying for the streets we have. The city has money for new police stations, fire stations, umpteen vehicles, and new Christmas decorations, among other things. I realize these things come from different pockets; however, we should not have streets in these conditions. Mayor Hemann reported I did share your list with Joe Gillespie and Chris Conrad. I wish I could tell you there is an easy answer. There are priorities. We are going to look into it. Director Gillespie reported his crews have been out there and are working on areas. Ms. Ottis expressed to Mayor Hemann, kudos to you, as you are the first one to respond and to take the time to listen to me on this matter. City Manager Conrad took my pictures and I left several messages with no response. Councilwoman Bellm responded I have to admit I only drive Sunflower. Ms. Ottis suggested she check the streets out. Start near the speedway and drive all the cul-de-sacs.

Robert “Satch” Warnecke stated the streets of Lindenthal, Poplar, and Washington need to be fixed. I am having too many flat tires on these streets. The trash trucks have been leaving a lot of glass in the alleys and along the streets too. I have had twenty-some flats again this year, so far.

Requests & Comments of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan reported two people reached out to her regarding if we can get the crosswalks repainted. The crosswalks are very faded. My neighbor said he almost was hit, because someone did not realize it was a crosswalk where he was crossing. City Manager Conrad reported a crew was out on Lindenthal Avenue last week. We have begun working on them. Mayor Hemann noted it is normally this time of year, as everyone is getting ready for school to start. Councilwoman Sloan expressed there needs to be something to bring attention to the crosswalks.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Conrad reported, at the council's request, we will be do a briefing on the pool at the second meeting in August.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of Erin Mignin and John Coziar to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission - Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Erin Mignin and John Coziar to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission, for additional three-year terms, to expire July 31, 2024 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-116/RESOLUTION Requesting Road Closure for 2021 Schweizerfest Event - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-116/Resolution #21-07-2853 requesting road closure for 2021 Schweizerfest Event as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-117/RESOLUTION Requesting Road Closures for 2021 Schweizerfest Parades - Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-117/Resolution #21-07-2854 requesting road closures for 2021 Schweizerfest Parades as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-118/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article VII, Section 78-732, of the Code of Ordinances, Entitled Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, Creating New Rate Schedule for Sale of 3 Year Contract to Commercial Customers for 1 GB/S For \$900.00 Per Month - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-118/Ordinance #3118 amending Chapter 78 – Utilities, Article VII, Section 78-732, of the Code of Ordinances, entitled Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, creating new rate schedule for sale of three-year contract to commercial customers for 1GB/S for \$900.00 per month as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-119/RESOLUTION Making Separate Statement of Findings of Fact in Connection with Ordinance Granting Special Use Permit to allow for apartments at 1222 Broadway within the C-2 Central Business District - Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-119/Resolution #21-07-2855 making separate statement of findings of fact in connection with ordinance granting Special Use Permit to allow for apartments at 1222 Broadway within the C-2 Central Business District as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilwoman Bellm inquired Planning & Zoning denied this did they not. Director Vazquez replied that is correct. Councilwoman Sloan asked why. What was their reasoning? Director Vazquez reported this is in C-2 Central Business District and along a main artery. We would like to preserve for business use because of that. We like to see as much commercial in this area. Councilwoman Sloan expressed I hate to see a vacant building, which is going to be a hard sell. Because of the amount of work, it is going take a lot to make into a thriving business. Plus, there is a living space in the back already. Director Vazquez reported this would have to be brought up to residential code, in order to be rented, which would be a considerable cost. Councilman Frey inquired to use the building as a business, is there a lot of expense for that. Director Vazquez responded there is cost either way. Councilwoman Sloan asked is she is aware of everything that would be required. Director Vazquez stated we walked through it with her. Our concern is the amount of cost and that it would be left in a half-done state. Councilwoman Bellm expressed a year and half on the market is not too long for commercial sale. Director Vazquez reported we recommended getting an appraisal and adjusting the price. Councilwoman Bellm stated I would like to see proper appraisal and sale price according to that. If it does not sell after

some time, then we could revisit it. Councilwoman Sloan agreed, adding I hate to see vacant buildings in our central heart of town. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted nay. Motion fails. Councilwoman Sloan expressed I am voting against this for now, but if it does not sell I would like to see it come back. Director Vazquez stated the owner could resubmit.

Bill #21-120/ORDINANCE Granting a Special Use Permit to Sharon K. Head, to allow for apartments at 1222 Broadway within the C-2 Central Business District - City Attorney McGinley stated since Bill #21-119f failed, this item does not need to be addressed.

Bill #21-121/ORDINANCE Approving Text Amendment to the City of Highland Zoning Code Regarding Section 90-216 of the Municipal Code to Amend Supplemental Regulations for Short-Term Rentals - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-121/Ordinance #3119 approving text amendment to the City of Highland Zoning Code regarding Section 90-216 of the Municipal Code to amend the supplemental regulations for short-term rentals as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilwoman Bellm stated I did read them, but could someone clarify what the change is. Director Vazquez reported the purpose is that all short-term rentals, such as AirBNB or VRBO rentals, is owner controlled. Mr. Warnecke asked what is that, month to month rentals. Director Vazquez explained no, it would be more like nightly, weekend, or one-week rentals. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-122/ORDINANCE Annexing Certain Territory to the City, Owned by Feldmann Homes, Inc., Specifically PPN# 01-1-24-04-00-000-001.018 – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-122/Ordinance #3120 annexing certain territory to the city, owned by Feldmann Homes, Inc., specifically PPN# 01-1-24-04-00-000-001.018 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-123/RESOLUTION Approving the Preliminary Plat for a residential subdivision located to the south of Falcon Drive and to the north of Quail Drive, annexation – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-123/Resolution #21-07-2855 approving the preliminary plat for a residential subdivision located to the south of Falcon Drive and to the north of Quail Drive, annexation as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-124/ORDINANCE Authorizing 1808 Olive Street, to be Declared Surplus According to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-124/Ordinance #3121 authorizing 1808 Olive Street, to be declared surplus according to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-1 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Mayor Hemann voted aye. Motion carried.

Bill #21-125/RESOLUTION Authorizing 1808 Olive Street, to be Sold According To 65 ILCS 5/11-76-4.1 - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-125/Resolution #21-07-2856 authorizing 1808 Olive Street, to be sold according to 65 ILCS 5/11-76-4.1 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Mayor Hemann voted aye. Motion carried.

Bill #21-126/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing Execution of Refuse Collection Contract with Robert “Bob” Sanders Waste Systems, Inc., for the One-Year Period from October 1, 2021, Through September 30, 2022 – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-126/Resolution #21-07-2857 approving and authorizing execution of Refuse Collection Contract with Robert “Bob” Sanders Waste Systems, Inc., for the one-year period from October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Frey stated I was going to make this comment

before Mr. Warnecke commented on it, tonight. I have noticed that things have gotten sloppier. City Manager Conrad stated we will make some calls. I believe they have been dealing with some new drivers and staffing. Councilman Frey acknowledged; however, just make some comments to them. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-127/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 78 - Utilities, Article III – Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Division 6. – Rates, Charges and Fees Generally, Sec. 78-379. – Basic User Rate -
Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-127/Ordinance #3222 amending Chapter 78 - Utilities, Article III – Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Division 6. – Rates, Charges and Fees Generally, Sec. 78-379. – Basic User Rate as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilwoman Bellm stated I saw this. It is a tiny raise in rates. However, it reminded me of the improvement projects we have going on with the lines and lining them. What is the status of that? Public Works Director Gillespie reported we have a project that we will complete this year to continue with that process of lining the mains. Councilwoman Bellm noted this is a 1.5% increase. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORT

Accepting Expenditures Report #1199 for July 3, 2021 through July 16,2021 – Councilman Frey made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1199 for July 3, 2021 through July 16, 2021 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm 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 5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2) for discussion of collective negotiating matters. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:37pm.

Mayor Hemann reconvened the Regular Session at 7:54pm. Council members Bellm, Frey and Sloan were present. Councilman Hipskind was absent. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney McGinley, Directors Cook and Gillespie, Deputy City Clerks Hediger and Von Hatten, and City Clerk Bellm.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Bill #21-128/RESOLUTION Approving a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City and the International Union of Operating Engineers – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-128/Resolution #21-07-2858 approving a collective bargaining agreement between the City and the International Union of Operating Engineers as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Frey. All councilmembers voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk