

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 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, Manager Wilken, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy City Clerks Hediger and Von Hatten, City Clerk Bellm, and 8 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2021 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

BID OPENING

Mayor Hemann explained, at this time we were to open all bids received before 3:00 PM, today, and those were to be considered by the City Council for the sale of a surplus parcel of real estate at 1808 Olive Street. To my knowledge, we have not received any bids.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Highland Arts Council – Presentation of Artwork for Weinheimer Mural –Lynnette Schuepbach, President, Highland Arts Council introduce Robert Fishbone, Artist. Mr. Fishbone introduced himself, stating I have been a mural painter/maker since 1974, and have done 200+ murals. Some of those were with my wife, Sarah, and now with my daughter. I have dealt with buildings of all different shapes and sizes. Mr. Fishbone showed photos of some of the various murals. These included one that was 6,000 sq. ft., in downtown St. Louis, in 1974; a Volkswagen repair shop; Charles Lindbergh; and a “Car Heaven” mural at a car manufacturing facility. Mr. Fishbone explained we incorporate surrounding elements such as utility wires and poles, meters, etc. into mural and make these a part of the mural. Inspiration comes from different things. Sometimes it is the history of the building, the current purpose of the building, and the feel its surroundings. Murals speak to the neighborhood, with details of what the neighborhood or building is used for. He showed an apartment building, recently built, where the developer wanted something on the building to fit into the neighborhood. We have had a client, since 1996, that we have done several works for over the years. Several of the murals this owner wants are floral. We are in the process of updating and touching up the murals. We try to make the mural, often times, appear three-dimensional.

Mr. Fishbone presented the proposed rendering for the Weinheimer Building. He explained this mural challenge has been how to the feeling of the town into it. I spent a lot of time with Mr. Roland Harris and all of the memorabilia; then, I looked through all the books provided to me. There are important elements that will be incorporated into the mural, like the early Pet Milk can, Hug Truck Co.,

the land and farmers in the area; the monument to well-known Swiss settlers; all the celebrations held in the community throughout the years; the brewery; and Mr. Weinheimer who dedicated the building to the community. Mr. Weinheimer and the kids will be painted objects off the building, to give it more dimensions. The boy will be holding a PET Milk can. The spaces between the columns are arches. The passing orange and the birds represent the past moving into the future. Ms. Schuepbach noted the Weinheimer Building represents our past, but also our future. Mr. Fishbone stated, as an artist, we see opportunities rather than challenges. Mayor Hemann asked what the timeframe to start and finish is. Mr. Fishbone replied we plan to begin in early September and finish up around mid-October, at the time of Art in The Park. Kevin Korte, of Korte-Luitjohan Contractors will be donating the scaffolding for the project. Mayor Hemann expressed, having grown up with a lot of time spent in the Weinheimer, I think this is very exciting. Ms. Schuepbach reported The Korte Company is going to help us do a time lapse of the project. My brother is going to use his drone to track of the project, as well.

Eagle Scout Project Request – Bell Tower Beautification – Jonathon Pierce, of Boy Scout Troup #8040, stated that back in June, Jacob Rose brought the idea of putting flower planters around the Bell Tower at City Hall. The three planter boxes 37x12.6x15.4 would look nice around the three sides of the bell tower and would be planted with perennials in each of the boxes. I hope to have the boxes in place by May 2022. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Eagle Scout project request of Jonathon Pierce to do the Bell Tower Beautification Project. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Mary Ottis stated, that after the presentation of the mural, I am not going to do what I intended to do. Since Mr. Gillespie does not call me back, I would like to ask that Director Gillespie give me a call to set up a time to meet and talk with me.

Requests & Comments of Council:

Councilman Frey asked for an update on the Broadway project and how the signage is coming along. Director Gillespie stated the contractor has been pouring the foundations for the new decorative poles. The poles have not come in yet and we do not have an anticipated date at this time. As far as the resurfacing of Broadway, we are going to wait until the spring, at this point. We feel it is too late in the year. We do not want snow and ice on it right away.

Staff Reports:

Swimming Pool Operations & Planning – Director Mark Rosen stated this is my 39th year of working at the pool. Laura and the staff have kept it going the last twenty-plus years. The pool is starting to nickel and dime us. The building is starting to settle and drainage more atrocious. Director Rosen passed around a concept of the proposed idea by the subcommittee. He reported, basically, the subcommittee has decided the new location, to be adjacent to the Korte Rec Center at Glik Park. Ideally, we build a new pool and leave the old in operation until it is ready. Then we would work with the Sharpshooters to negotiate a contract for a splash pad or water feature at the existing pool space, to provide something for those living near this area.

Councilwoman Sloan expressed the survey response showed most wanted the pool to stay at the current location. Manager Laura Wilken reported the survey actually picked to have the location moved. Director Rosen noted there is a segment that believes the people ride their bikes to the pool. In watching things, the biggest group of bikes as 15-20 bikes at most, and far more cars than that in the parking lot. So, the idea that people ride bikes to the pool is not true. Councilman Frey noted, over in St. Louis, this recently was a two-year project. What are we looking at? Director Rosen stated we have no timeline for the project. The fact that we have utilities there and the land is flat already will help with moving the project along. Councilwoman Bellm asked where we are with the budget. Director Rosen reported around \$5M. Councilwoman Bellm stated I cannot approve \$5M for something that serves a limited

segment of the community. I am trying to keep an open mind, but I cannot support that kind of money. There are several that want an indoor pool; some that want a destination pool. Director Rosen pointed out the other option is to keep putting significant money into what we have just for operations. Mayor Hemann noted in the budget we have right now, we cannot afford this. Director Rosen stated \$5M is the barebones of a pool. Councilwoman Bellm stated that has changed from what we had discussed. We need to figure out what we can spend and work from there. I know some of the objection to Lindendale is that we did not own the property. However, the Sharpshooters are willing to work on another long-term lease. We had talked about \$3.5M. I had a problem with that; however, Mark and I talked about it. The parking lot needs serious attention as well as other things out at the Korte Rec Center. A lot of the bond repayment funds that will be available need to go to taking care of what we have already. I am not prepared to throwing \$5M to a pool. Mayor Hemann acknowledged he had several people come to him and say it needs to stay where it is. Frankly, Question 13 (of the survey) was kind of a leading question towards a different location, by how it says why it cannot or should not be there. I think there should be more discussion about it. Building something today is a lot higher cost. I think we should look at what we should be doing to keep the current facility going for one more year. I know we did not have the baby pool this year, because of issues. I know the school is looking at tearing down the Primary and moving it to Four Diamonds. If that happens, there would be more parking. The amphitheater effect of the topography of it there is an asset. I know out the by hospital is not an option that anyone is interested in. Kudos to you and Laura for keeping the pool going. Director Rosen pointed out building out there means the no swim lessons or swim team for the total construction time, and we will still have the races and the fair to work with. Councilwoman Bellm inquired the new plan does not include an indoor pool. Director Rosen noted it does not. Councilwoman Sloan pointed out it is community pool; not a swim team pool. So, I do not think we should focus it for competitive swim.

Mayor Hemann noted we can talk about this at length, but I think we need to listen to staff as far as what is need to fund the pool. Councilman Frey expressed this is my ninth year on the council. We keep putting Band-Aids on that pool. The rates are tremendous for financing, right now. We need to take some action. We cannot keep talking about it forever. City Manager Chris Conrad stated option would be business district taxes; former KRC bonding fund trying to get caught up on. This year, as we have talked about, we are still coming out of the COVID hangover. At the same time, we are seeing new revenue collection methods, which have made our former steady streams of revenues through the State interruptible. He warned everyone, we can look at different financing options; however, most will not be very palatable. We have been very fortunate. If we are going to look at major capital project; now is the time to do that. We can put options together.

City Manager Conrad reported, with regards to the Expenditure Report, there is a \$31,000 transaction in there payable to Hunsche Excavating. That was for the Silver Lake Stabilization Project, and that will be handled through Heartland Conservatory grants, so I wanted to make you aware we have voided that transaction.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill #21-133/ ORDINANCE Approving Request for Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-133/ Ordinance #3123 approving request for funds from the American Rescue Plan Act as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor’s Reappointments of Brad Korte and Bob Vance to the Combined Planning & Zoning Board and Appointment of Anthony Walker as the CPZB Chairman – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the mayor’s reappointments of Brad Korte and Bob Vance to the Combined Planning & Zoning Board, for five-year terms, to expire August 31, 2026, and the appointment of Anthony Walker as the CPZB Chairman as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilwoman Bellm stated Brad Korte has served on this board and as Chairman for many years. He looks at each issue, pours over it, and loses sleep over it. I am sure Anthony will do well. However, I want to recognize all that Mr. Korte has done in his position over the years. He always handles it with grace and with a practical mindset. I am glad he is going to remain on the committee and remain diligent. Mayor Hemann expressed I am sure he would appreciate those comments. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PW-06-21, for Construction of the Parking Lot at Broadway and Zschokke St. – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PW-06-21, for Construction of the Parking Lot at Broadway and Zschokke St. as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PW-07-21, for Silver Lake Spillway Retaining Wall Reconstruction – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PW-07-21, for Silver Lake Spillway Retaining Wall Reconstruction as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-134/ORDINANCE Authorizing Purchase of an Option to Buy Additional Real Estate from Grandview Farms Limited Partnership for Future Construction of Part of the Southern Peripheral Route for City of Highland - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-134/Ordinance #3124 authorizing purchase of an option to buy additional real estate from Grandview Farms Limited Partnership for future construction of part of the southern peripheral route for City of Highland as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-135/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 6, of the Code, Alcoholic Liquor, to Increase the Number of D1 Liquor Licenses to 8 – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-135/Ordinance #3125 amending Chapter 6, of the Code, Alcoholic Liquor, to increase the number of D1 Liquor Licenses to 8 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-136/RESOLUTION Issuing an “D1” Liquor License to Schlafly Illinois, LLC, Pursuant to Chapter 6, of the Code, Entitled Alcoholic Liquor – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-136/Resolution #21-08-2863 issuing an “D1” Liquor License to Schlafly Illinois, LLC, pursuant to Chapter 6, of the Code, entitled Alcoholic Liquor as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-137/RESOLUTION Waiving Normal & Customary Bidding Procedures and Authorizing Purchase of One Pick-Up Truck for the Parks & Recreation Department – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-137/Resolution #21-08-2864 waiving Normal & Customary Bidding Procedures and authorizing purchase of one pick-up truck for the Parks & Recreation Department 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 #21-138/RESOLUTION Approving Affiliation Agreement for City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services, Between Vivicast Media, LLC and Smithsonian Network Television Service – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-138/Resolution #21-08-2865 approving Affiliation Agreement for City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services, between Vivicast Media, LLC and Smithsonian Network Television Service as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-139/RESOLUTION Approving Affiliation Agreement for City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services, Between Vivicast Media, LLC and NHL Network US, L.P. - Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-139/Resolution #21-08-2866 approving Affiliation Agreement for City of Highland d/b/a Highland Communication Services, between Vivicast Media, LLC and NHL Network US, L.P. as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-140/RESOLUTION Authorizing Allocation of Hotel/Motel Tax Funding for Flugel Fest Marketing - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-140/Resolution #21-08-2867 authorizing allocation \$4,067.05 of Hotel/Motel Tax Funding for Flugel Fest marketing as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilwoman Bellm asked Finance Director Kelly Korte if we have those funds available in the budget. Director Korte replied yes. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #21-141/RESOLUTION Waiving Competitive Bidding Requirement and Authorizing the Purchase of a 2021 Ford Interceptor SUV for the Parks and Recreation Department – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #21-141/Resolution #21-08-2868 waiving competitive bidding requirement and authorizing the purchase of a 2021 Ford Interceptor SUV for the Parks and Recreation Department 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 #21-142/RESOLUTION Approving Amended Intergovernmental Agreement Between City of Highland and the Illinois Department of Transportation for 2021 Traffic Signal Master Agreement – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #21-142/Resolution #21-08-2869 approving amended intergovernmental agreement between City of Highland and the Illinois Department of Transportation for 2021 Traffic Signal Master Agreement as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilwoman Bellm asked what is that. Director Joe Gillespie explained this is an agreement with IDOT as to how all the maintenance of the traffic signals in town are handled. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORT

Accepting Expenditures Report #1201 for July 31, 2021 through August 13, 2021 – Councilman Frey made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1201 for July 31, 2021 through August 13, 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 adjourn; seconded by Councilman Frey. All councilmembers voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk