

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022**

Mayor Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Sloan, Frey, Bellm, and Hipskind were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Michael McGinley, Directors Gillespie, Heimburger, Imming, and Rosen, Asst. Police Chief Becherer, Rhea Ohren, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy City Clerk VonHatten, City Clerk Bellm, and 7 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2022 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation – Schlafly – Party on the Patio – Special Event Application – Emily Wilson, Representative stated, in place of our annual gala, we would like to hold an outdoor event. This year, we are planning to partner with Schlafly Brewery. The evening will be from 6pm-9pm, featuring hor d'oeuvres, drinks, auction and light entertainment, to raise funds for the hospital. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve HSHS St. Joseph's Foundation's request for Party on the Patio at Schlafly, on Saturday, June 4, 2022, as requested. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Councilwoman Sloan inquired if the event insurance is being provided by the hospital for the event. Ms. Wilson reported it should be arriving soon. We are not closing off the street. We are keeping everything within Plaza Park and at Schlafly. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Make-A-Wish Illinois – 2022 Hot Chocolate Walk for Wishes – Special Event Application – Sam Schreiber, Representative – Sue Messerli – locally – third year hosting this. Last year, we raised \$13,000. Most wishes cost on average \$8,000. Our goal this year is to raise \$21,000. I may be approaching the local merchants to offer discounts the week before or after. I also encourage them to stay open during the event, or at least for a while. This year, our child is from Maryville, IL. MAW renews their insurance every March. As soon as that is done, I will provide a current copy. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Make-A-Wish Illinois' request for use of the downtown square on Saturday, December 2, 2022 for the 2022 Hot Chocolate Walk for Wishes as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Easter Egg Hunt – Lisa Sauer State Farm– Special Event Application – Lisa Sauers requested use of the city square on the afternoon of Saturday, April 9, 2022. She noted we took this over from the News Leader, three years ago. We are not asking for street closures. We would need use of the Square from Noon until about 3:30pm. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request of Lisa Sauer's State Farm for use of the downtown square, from 12:00pm – 3:30pm, on Saturday, April 9, 2022, for Easter Egg Hunt as requested. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Deputy City Clerk Megan

VonHatten stated they have also requested to have the Weinheimer Building available as a rain location on that date. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Jerome Kuhl asked how many people here were in the armed services. City Manager Conrad raised his hand. Mr. Kuhl noted that does not help much. He continued we are a "Tree Town". We got all these gum ball trees that blow into the streets. I think we could be better if we got together and play the national anthem daily at 7am, 12pm and 7pm, and were known for that. In the service, I would go down a manhole and lived in fox holes, so that you could all sit in those comfortable chairs. I would also ask that all homes and businesses fly an American flag. We used to have the police put them up and take them down each day. The war started a couple of weeks ago. I think we should start playing the national anthem to get young people up and going, rather than laying around and collecting money off the government. I spoke with several businesses; they say they have flags every holiday. That is not what I am talking about. Mayor Hemann pointed out that every national holiday, the city is lined with flags. The VFW and American Legion does a great job of putting around town. The Highland Optimist Club puts up over 600 flags at private homes for the national holidays. I think that is a great tribute. Mr. Kuhl pointed out that does not address every day. We have a flag. I fly it every day. If you have a flag delivered by the VFW and Legion, you are not flying the flag when you pay others to put them up. Mayor Hemann agreed they are paying for them, but that money is used for other very good causes throughout the community. Mr. Kuhl added I came into City Hall asking to get telephone numbers to call people about this, but City Hall will not give the numbers out. You sure all have our numbers when you want us to vote. Mr. Kuhl stated I would like to have the business and people fly the flag. We did it after "9-11." Councilwoman Bellm acknowledged after "9-11" people flew a lot of flags; however, it is very hard to ask people to put flags up. Mr. Kuhl questioned why not. I think we need to keep the tradition going, but it has not. I presented my request in writing to the city to have flags flown and the national anthem played daily. Mayor Hemann thanked Mr. Kuhl for his suggestions.

Dave Todd, 12514 Silver Lake Road, stated my father worked for and retired from Missouri Department of Conservation. When you drive across the lake at the spillway, you do not see how the lake is filling in with silt each year and the murkiness of the lake. I have lived by the lake for many years. It is deteriorating. I know pretty much every inch of the lake. There was a time you could go all the way to the north end of the lake with a motor on the boat. The silt has filled in the lake by about four-feet, by my house, which is by where the city's boat launch is. I know the lake is not for fishing, primarily. However, I see the diminishing of the water quality with the effects the fishing. I have seen the lake commissions work to improve the lake. I commend Mark Rosen for working to get the grant funding and the work that has been done for the lake, already. I feel like the lake is a "can" that keeps getting kicked down the road. I ask the council to approve Bill #22-25 accepting the 2022 Silver Lake Watershed Comprehensive Plan. A bond issue to finance the projects laid out in Bill #22-25 would be money well spent. We put paint on the buildings and tires on the trucks; however, we need to maintain this asset. Mayor Hemann acknowledging, as having served on the council thirty-some years ago, I do recall discussing these issues back then. So, kicking the "can" is a good description.

Requests & Comments of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan inquired about the status of the signage for Plaza Park. City Manager Conrad reported the city is working with Lager Monuments. There are also the plaques for the donors which is being completed and those will go on the planter boxes, shortly. Councilman Frey inquired about completing the sign board in the parking lot by the post office. Councilwoman Bellm stated she was charged with getting the literature and photographs together for that. She will make it a priority to get it completed.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Conrad reported Director Gillespie is working on getting additional way signage to direct people to the various parking areas downtown.

With regards to the public comments regarding the disconnect notifications, specifically the door hangers being used for notification, City Manager Conrad reported that method used is what is required by ICC statues. Mayor Hemann acknowledged that is a delicate situation. He reminded everyone that City Hall has resources to guide people in need of assistance. We realize there are difficulties. City Manager Conrad concurred. He added some choose to ignore the notices sent prior to the door hangers. Sometimes, the door hangers, is what gets their attention. However, he encouraged people not to wait for those notices. Contact City Hall and let's work towards a solution before that point.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Appointment of Joseph B. Garson to the Historical Commission –

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's appointment of Joseph B. Garson to the Historical Commission, for a three-year term, to expire October 2024, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Mayor Hemann reported that he attended the Historical Commission's last meeting. They do have some open positions. If anyone is interested in serving, please let me know.

Bill #22-25/RESOLUTION Authorizing and Directing Adoption of 2011 Comprehensive Plan for the Silver Lake Watershed Comprehensive Plan - Councilman Frey – made a motion to amend the title to adoption of the 2022 Highland Silver Lake Watershed Plan. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay to amend. Motion carried. Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #22-25/Resolution #22-03-2914 adopting the 2022 Silver Lake Watershed Comprehensive Plan as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #22-26/RESOLUTION Authorizing Allocation of Hotel/Motel Tax Funding for the City Annual Membership to ILLINOISouth Tourism - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #22-26/Resolution #22-03-2915 authorizing allocation of hotel/motel tax funding for the city annual membership to ILLINOISouth Tourism, in the amount of \$1500, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #22-27/RESOLUTION Making Separate Statement of Findings of Fact in Connection with Ordinance Granting Special Use Permit for Short-Term Rental within the C-2 Zoning District – Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #22-27/Resolution #22-03-2916 making separate statement of findings of fact in connection with ordinance granting special use permit for short-term rental within the C-2 Zoning District as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #22-28/ORDINANCE Granting a Special Use Permit to Francis Ostrander to Allow a Short-Term Rental within the C-2 Zoning District at 917 12th Street - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #22-28/Ordinance #3164 granting a special use permit to Francis Ostrander to allow a short-term rental within the C-2 Zoning District at 917 12th Street as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #22-29/ORDINANCE Amending Zoning Classification from “C-2” Commercial to “R-1-D” Single-Family Residential for 1709 Lindenthal Avenue - Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #22-29/Ordinance #3165 amending zoning classification from “C-2” Commercial to “R-1-D” Single-Family Residential for 1709 Lindenthal Avenue as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #22-30/ORDINANCE Amending Zoning Classification from “R-1-C” Single Family to “I” Industrial for Pin# 02-1-18-31-00-000-012, 02-1-18-31-00-000-010 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #22-30/Ordinance #3166 amending zoning classification from “R-1-C” Single Family to “I” Industrial for Pin# 02-1-18-31-00-000-012, 02-1-18-31-00-000-010 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #22-31/ORDINANCE Amending the City Future Land Use Map - Councilwoman Sloan made a motion to approve Bill #22-31/Ordinance #3167 amending the City Future Land Use Map as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORT

Accepting Expenditures Report #1214 for February 19, 2022 through March 4, 2022 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1214 for February 19, 2022 through March 4, 2022 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. 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 the following exemption: 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) to discuss the approval of executive session minutes and 2(c)(1) to discuss the performance of a specific employee. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:39pm.

Mayor Hemann reconvened the Regular Session at 8:38pm. Council members Sloan, Bellm, Frey and Hipskind were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney McGinley, Deputy City Clerk VonHatten and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Hemann stated there will be no action taken on anything that was discussed in the Executive Session.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. All aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:39pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk