

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023**

Mayor Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm at the Highland Area Senior Center. Council members Bellm, and Napper were present. Councilwoman Sloan and Councilman Frey were absent. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Mike McGinley, Directors Cook and Gillespie, Police Lt. Feeney, Coordinator Hubbard, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, and 15 citizens.

**MINUTES**

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2023 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Mayor Hemann voted aye. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

*Special Event Application - CEO Frost Fest* – Reece Bellm, Jacob Lewis, Jack Meyer and Olivia Kohler of Collinsville Triad Maryville CEO were present. Olivia explained that “CEO” stands for Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities. It is a group of students that area schools who come together daily during the school year. Reece Bellm explained business owners come in and speak with us and we go to businesses and learn about what it takes to run a business. Jacob Lewis explained, this semester we work together to run a class business. Next semester we create our own business program. Olivia explained we are working as a business to do a winter carnival breakfast event, at the elementary school, here in Highland. Councilwoman Bellm asked what kind of business you want to do. They are all undecided. All said it would probably be a service type of business. Mayor Hemann reported he had the opportunity to hear the pitch on all the different businesses, from last year’s students. I look forward to hearing all of yours. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Collinsville/Triad/Maryville/Highland CEO Frost Fest on December 2, 2023, 8:00am-10:00am, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Kay Ahaus, 200 Rinderer Road, Trenton, stated she was here as a concerned citizen and ratepayer for the city’s electric. My request is that you not sign any agreements with IMEA for renewal. The present contract present goes through 2035. You do not need to make a commitment until the end of 2030. There has been significant changes in the last five to ten years. You do not need to sign contract early. The energy picture is going to change. More of the energy will come from more renewals than from the dirtiest provider we have in the state of Illinois. Highland’s greatest expenditure is in electric. It is 2.5 more than spent all of their services combined. Renewal would be the expensive and important of any action taken. You represent us and we elect you to represent our best interest with the IMEA. As a ratepayer and taxpayer, there should be a comprehensive plan for the electric, presented with any offer of

renewal. In the IMEA plan, it should include what are present renewal energy sources and plans for future expansion; as well as how quickly they plan to divest of coal. It should include encouraging installing generation on all municipal buildings, which will save taxpayers money. In some cases, it can save more than 40% upfront. Why not use it to our taxpayers' advantage? While rates go up, I would hope the whole contract be shared with the public and a public hearings. Surely, the city is going to hold public hearings before signing any contracts. Please do not sign an IMEA contract before 2030. I do have back up information that I can share, if you have any questions.

Councilman Frey arrived at 6:38pm

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests made.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad provided an update on open code enforcement cases. There are 27 active. Of those, nine are property maintenance issues; six building nuisances; one overgrown vegetation, one commercial use.

Staff met with Republic Services. It appears what needs to be finalized are operational items and more importantly communication. They expect implementation to take 6-9 months. What takes the longest is that they need to acquire the containers. Communication as we implement changes will be done through our website, social media, and the Highland Happenings app. Republic will also mail out additional info at their costs. We have been pretty fortunate to have kept the unlimited disposal for as long we have. We call it containerized; they call it automation. So far, we are very pleased, in working with Republic Services.

There is a stack of magnets with contact numbers for the various services available for citizens to pick up. We are looking at different options for distributing them. Presently, they are available at all municipal buildings. Mayor Hemann pointed out the QR code in the corner of the magnet, which brings up the Highland Happenings app. City Manager Conrad added the app allows us to push notifications through to residents. If someone is not tech savvy to put it on their phones, they can also use the website to sign up for the notifications.

Mayor Hemann asked if there has been any resolution to deal with the five-bag limit on yard waste. City Manager Conrad reported we are looking at a citywide option. It is tough for Republic Wastes to take on unlimited, because if there is a lot at the start of the route it puts them behind for the end of the route. Potential is to bring in a roll-off dumpster that would be located in a central spot for those peak times.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of Sara Knobloch to the Historical Commission –

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Sara Knobloch to the Historical Commission, for another three-year term, to expire October 31, 2026 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-102/RESOLUTION Accepting IMLRMA Renewal of Property, Casualty, and Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage for 2024 – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #23-102/Resolution #23-10-3057 accepting IMLRMA renewal of property, casualty, and worker's compensation

insurance coverage for 2024 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Hemann expressed it is nice to see rates going down. City Manager Conrad reported staff invited an IMLRMA member in to do OSHA-type inspection of our operations, at the start of last year. I believe that contributed to that. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-103/ORDINANCE Amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 2—Administration, Article II, City Council, and Adding Section 2-29—Maximum of Four Minutes for Each Speaker During Public Comment of Open Meetings for the City - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #23-103/Ordinance #3299 amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 2 - Administration, Article II, City Council, and adding Section 2-29 - Maximum of Four Minutes for Each Speaker During Public Comment of Open Meetings for the City as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilman Napper stated I looked at that. I made calls to a couple other cities and we are right in the middle with this. Mayor Hemann noted if there is something controversial that comes up for discussion, this will everyone to speak and keep things moving in timely manner. Councilman Napper reported, in Edwardsville, you have to give your name, address, and phone number, prior to meeting; then, the mayor calls them up to speak in order. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-104/ORDINANCE Amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 6—Alcoholic Liquor, Article IV – Violations and Penalties, Section 6-80 – Appeals From Order of the Liquor Commissioner, to Include On the Record Appeal for all Liquor License Suspensions, Revocations, Non-Renewals, and Fines – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #23-104/Ordinance #3300 amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 6 - Alcoholic Liquor, Article IV – Violations and Penalties, Section 6-80 – Appeals From Order of the Liquor Commissioner, to include On the Record Appeal for all liquor license suspensions, revocations, non-renewals, and fines as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-105/ORDINANCE Approving and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Economic Development Agreement Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/8-1-2.5, with the Glik Company, On Behalf of Shoe Sensation, and Other Actions Related Thereto – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #23-105/Ordinance #3301 approving and authorizing the city manager to execute an economic development agreement pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/8-1-2.5, with the Glik Company, on behalf of Shoe Sensation, and other actions related thereto as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Mayor Hemann expressed it is nice to see a shoe store back in Highland. Councilman Frey asked will they be opening up shortly. City Manager Conrad reported they are hoping to be open before the Christmas shopping season. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-106/ORDINANCE Amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 2 - Administration, Article IV - Department of Public Safety, Division 2 - Emergency Medical Services and Fire Divisions - Fire Department, adding section 2-233 - Reimbursement for Fire Protection Assistance for Non-Residents of the City – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #23-106/Ordinance #3302 amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 2 - Administration, Article IV - Department of Public Safety, Division 2 - Emergency Medical Services and Fire Divisions - Fire Department, adding section 2-233 - Reimbursement for Fire Protection Assistance for Non-Residents of the City as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. City Manager Conrad reported this mirrors what fire protection districts have been doing for many years. Jaws of Life equipment use, hazmat, and other items utilized can be billed for. It has recently been opened up to allow non-home rule communities to do this. While we do not expect this to be a huge revenue generator, it is allowed. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-107/RESOLUTION Approving Amendment to Agreement Between City of Highland, an Illinois Municipal Corporation, d/b/a Highland Communication Services, and Bally Sports Midwest – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #23-107/Resolution #23-10-3058 approving amendment to agreement between City of Highland, an Illinois Municipal Corporation, d/b/a Highland Communication Services, and Bally Sports Midwest as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Mayor Hemann expressed we have to have Cardinals Baseball and Blues Hockey. City Manager Conrad reported Angela worked hard on this. We started out a couple percentage points higher, but the end of the day we got it here. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-108/ORDINANCE Amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 78-732, Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, Adding New Telecom Services, Including “Soft Client” – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #23-108/Ordinance #3303 amending the City of Highland Code, Chapter 78-732, Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, adding new telecom services, including “Soft Client” as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. City Manager Conrad explained this allows businesses to make phone calls as if they are at their desks, remotely. We tested it with our employees for a few months before putting it out as an added service. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-109/ORDINANCE Authorizing the Execution of a Commercial Real Estate Sales Contract with Wuebbels Family Revocable Living Trust for Right-of-Way for Infrastructure and Other Public Purposes – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #23-109/Ordinance #3304 authorizing the execution of a commercial real estate sales contract with Wuebbels Family Revocable Living Trust for right-of-way for infrastructure and other public purposes as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. City Manager Conrad reported we brought this property to the council a few months ago. This is an empty lot directly west of Hoffman Park. Shortly after, we received final notification for the new FEMA maps. We have challenged with scientific numbers provided by our engineers. We do not have enough ground in one single spot to make a difference. With Woodcrest Professional Park, by utilizing this property, we could have regional detention areas to assist us with making an impact. As we see less frequent, but more intense storms, in our weather patterns, it is changing the game in how we deal with storm water. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Mayor Hemann voted aye. Motion carried.

## **REPORT**

Accepting Expenditures Report #1252 for Sept. 29, 2023 through Oct. 13, 2023 – Councilman Frey made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1252 for September 29, 2023 through October 13, 2023 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk