

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023**

Mayor Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm at the Highland Area Senior Center. Council members Sloan, Frey, Bellm, and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney John Hackett, Directors Cook, Gillespie, and Presson, Fire Chief Straub, Coordinator Hubbard, Manager Pinsker, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, and 2 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2023 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Hemann reported he was just at the Optimist Youth Appreciation Banquet, tonight, where the Optimist recognized area high school students for their leadership. Mayor Hemann read a document proclaiming the week of December 4 through 8, 2023 as Youth Appreciation Week.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

2024 Highland Farmers' Markets – Lucas Pinsker, Sports, Leisure & Facilities Manager, stated we had our first year of the farmers' market this year. We are hoping it will pick up and grow from there. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the 2024 Highland Farmers' Markets at the Highland Square as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Mayor Hemann expressed he felt that it was well attended and received this past summer. We look forward to another year. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Optimists' Club – 2024 Shootout – Special Event Application – Mayor Hemann, in the absence of Rick Ringwald, spoke on behalf of the Highland Optimists. This year's Shootout will be January 6. They are asking for police presence at the event as well as \$4,000 in hotel/motel tax funds for sponsorship. The Optimists sell approximately 2800 – 2900 tickets for the event. Tickets went on sale four days ago; and, we have sold over 900 tickets so far. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Highland Optimists' Club's Special Event Application for the annual Shootout on Saturday, January 6, 2024 as requested. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Rick Ringwald, Representative, arrived. He stated he thought meeting was still starting at 7pm. Mr. Ringwald added there would be eight games featuring teams from Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky with eight players over 6'10" tall. We have thirty hotel room stays, here in Highland, for this event. We host one of the premier events in the area. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

John Kapp expressed the Lighted Christmas parade was really good. The Square looks beautiful all lite up. The mayor did a good job a promoting shopping local. I went to Square, on Saturday, to do the Hot Chocolate Walk. On Saturday night, there was a big group of about 50 Santa Clauses doing a bar walk. You can always tell it is Christmas! Mayor Hemann thanked Mr. Kapp for always being one of our biggest cheerleaders.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan reported it was a really nice Breakfast with Santa, on Sunday. I enjoyed flipping pancakes with Chief Presson. Councilwoman Bellm noted it was a record crowd.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad reported we have fourteen active code enforcement cases. Several home cases finally dropped off; the same property owner owned several and was going through bankruptcy, so we got those issues fixed.

Fire Chief Straub reported on a fire that occurred Friday night. It started the duplex's garage area at 58 Malan Court. The resident of 57 Malan Court was able to move back in on Saturday morning. Mayor Hemann stated I heard there was a lot of fire departments that assisted. Chief Straub explained that all are volunteer departments, and it is deer hunting seasons, so it took several to get the number of people. We got assistance from Highland-Pierron, Grantfork, Troy, Marine, Breese, and St. Rose.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill #23-122/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing Allocation of Hotel/Motel Tax Funding for the 2024 Highland Optimists' Club Shootout – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #23-122/Resolution #23-12-3066 approving and authorizing allocation hotel/motel tax funding for the 2024 Highland Optimists' Club Shootout, in the amount of \$4,000 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-123/RESOLUTION Authorizing the Sole Source Purchase of 32 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Air Bottles for the Fire Department and Waiving Normal and Customary Bidding Procedures – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #23-123/Resolution #23-12-3067 authorizing the sole source purchase of 32 Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Air Bottles for the fire department to Feld Fire, in the amount of \$56,654.12, and waiving normal and customary bidding procedures as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Chief Straub reported we are saving about \$15,000 with doing it this way. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #23-124/ORDINANCE Regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #23-124/Ordinance #3310 regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. City Manager Conrad explained there is a new law going into effect. By passing this ordinance, this brings us into compliance, as best as we can interpreted, as advised by IMRL. We were in compliance with our full-time employees. This covers us with any part-time staff. For whatever reason, at the state-level, part-time state employees, seasonal full-time state employees, and school employees are not covered under this new act. The IDOL is working on clarification on that. City Attorney John Hackett added we do not expect any action that until next year at the earliest. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Schedule of 2024 Meeting Dates for Council, Boards, and Commissions – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve schedule of 2024 meeting dates for council, boards, and commissions as

attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. City Manager Conrad noted both January meetings, will be on Tuesdays, because of New Year's Day, and MLK Day. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORT

Accepting Expenditures Report #1255 for Nov. 18, 2023 through Dec. 1, 2023 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to accept Expenditures Report #1255 for November 18, 2023 through December 1, 2023 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk