

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Councilmembers present were Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist. Others in attendance: City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Harold Belsheim, Directors Gillespie, Rosen, Rusteberg and Schoeck, Police Chief Terry, Supervisors Stram and Limestall, EMS Captain Crosby, Sharon Walter, Ann Stoecklin, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 4 citizens and 1 member of the news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2009 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Michaelis read a document proclaiming the week of November 19 as Youth Appreciation Week in the City of Highland.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Girl Scouts Troop 1426 – Weinheimer Use Request – Carol Drewer, Director of Highland Girl Scouts requested permission, on behalf of Troop 1426, to use the Weinheimer Center on February 12-13, 2010 for the annual Girl Scout “Lock-In”. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the request for use of the Weinheimer Center on February 12-13, 2010 for the annual Girl Scout “Lock-In” as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Requests of Council:

None.

Staff Reports:

Update on the CodeRed Emergency Notification System – Director of Finance Sharon Rusteberg reported all the authorized users have come in for training with CodeRed. We will meet next week to develop policies. After that, we will be able to get it out to the public. CodeRed has populated 5500 phone numbers in the system so far. They have our utility billing system list. We will place a link on our website to allow for people to update information, and add cell phone numbers for text, calls or emails. It will be about another two weeks before we have the policy statement in place and are able to get it to the public. We are also waiting for CodeRed to give us some public

relations/media materials. We will include something with the utility bills. The weather alert portion requires people to actually log into a website to say that you want that service. For people who do not have access to internet, we will set up times at City Hall for people to come in and we will assist them. We may go over to the senior citizens meetings to explain the program and assist with setting up those individuals wanting to have the service. Councilman Rickher asked how long it takes the system to get through ~5,000 users. Chief Bell reported 6-7 minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bill #09-126/ORDINANCE Amending the Municipal Code Regarding Type of Pipe Used for Water Services –Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #09-126/Ordinance #2392 amending Section 78-469(e)(3) and Section 66-5-9.5(d)(6) of the Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, regarding the type of pipe used for water services as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Rickher inquired you want to be able to run plastic from the main to the house. Director Gillespie responded this would allow for all sizes. Councilman Rickher asked where ownership of the line starts. Director Gillespie explained the line from the stop valve to the house is the customer’s responsibility. Councilman Rickher asked if we anticipate receiving any complaints from customers thinking they are getting copper pipe rather than plastic. Director Gillespie explained, from the curb stop to house, the homeowner has the choice of material. Councilman Ricker asked do you think we will save any money by doing this. Director Gillespie responded we are simply offering this as an option. The cost savings depends on the size of the line. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill #09-143/RESOLUTION Approving Estimated Tax Levy – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bill #09-143/Resolution #09-11-1834 approving estimated tax levy for the 2009 taxes payable in 2010 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilman Rickher stated I asked a few questions about this today. I think I understand the mechanics of it. Our estimated revenue compared to our estimated expenses may differ as much as \$150,000 - \$180,000. We are not talking very much, in the scope of things. This is one of the reasons I have voted “no” on a lot of expenditures. While the amount is small, I feel it looks bad to be looking for a tax increase while everyone else are having to watch a budget at home with their expenditures. I would like to see what we can do to manage our expenses. I think this is more of a perception than a monetary thing. We need to be fiscally responsible.

Mayor Michaelis asked Director Rusteberg was this increase due to two major reasons: increases in police pension and IMRF. Aren’t we regulated by law on the contribution requirements of those funds? Director Rusteberg acknowledged that is correct. Police pension went up by 42% and IMRF has gone up, which was a result of the market investments and the number of retirees. We do not have any options to levy those. We are still doing municipal band, PBJ Festivals, comfort station, etc. The proposal is 1.54 for the city side, which comes to \$48.13 per month per household. If we kept it the same, it would be \$46.96. It is \$1.17 more per month per household this way. We projected 2.7% increase in the assessed evaluation, based on information from Saline and Helvetia Township offices. We have been running at 9% increases. Last year, it was 7.7%. So, we are being very conservative. Director Rusteberg reported 60% of property taxes go to the school district; 21% to the city and library together; 8% to Madison County; 5% to Helvetia Road & Bridge; 4% to SWIC; and, 2% to Helvetia Township.

Councilman Rickher stated there are things like the CodeRed that I think we need to hold off on offering. There are things that we need to fund and provide. We are making decisions on discretionary income. To me \$150,000 - \$180,000 would be easy to make up, if we watch all these small approvals. We could save by not hiring for positions for the fiber optic. Director Rusteberg explained that water, sewer, electric, and fiber are enterprise funds that pay for their own through user rates. Councilman

Rickher inquired about the funds we just spent to tear down the house next to the Weinheimer, for a parking lot. Director Rusteberg stated those funds came from the General Fund. Councilman Rickher expressed I feel like we should be acting like family households and adjusting for the economy. We need to watch our expenditures so we don't have to lay anyone off. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, Rickher voted nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-144/RESOLUTION Authorizing Execution of Continuing Services Agreement with Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC – Councilman Bardill made a motion to award Bill #09-144/Resolution #09-11-1835 authorizing execution of continuing services agreement with Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Rickher expressed I feel we should send more things out for bid rather than just renewing contracts. Councilwoman Zobrist inquired we are going with them because we have used them in the past. Director Gillespie explained we have an agreement with Oates Associates to do similar tasks. This just sets general terms and conditions if we decide to use their services. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, Rickher voted nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-145/RESOLUTION Approving Preliminary Plat –Leroy Farms Subdivision – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bill #09-145/Resolution #09-11-1836 approving preliminary plat – Leroy Farms Subdivision as attached; seconded Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-146/RESOLUTION Approving Final Plat –Leroy Farms Subdivision – Councilman Bardill made a motion to award Bill #09-146/Resolution #09-11-1837 approving preliminary plat – Leroy Farms Subdivision as attached; seconded Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-147/RESOLUTION Approving Purchase of Real Estate – Sally Raeber – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bill #09-147/Resolution #09-11-1838 approving the purchase of ~2.22 and 0.56 acres of real estate situated at Raeber Road from Sally S. Raeber as attached; seconded Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-148/RESOLUTION Approving Purchase of Real Estate – Schmitt, Smiley and Raeber – Councilman Bardill made a motion to award Bill #09-148/Resolution #09-11-1839 approving the purchase of ~9.146 acres of real estate situated at Raeber Road from Betty Raeber Schmitt, Marie Raeber Smiley, Sally S. Raeber and Othmar L. Raeber as attached; seconded Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-149/RESOLUTION Approving Purchase of Real Estate – Schmitt, Smiley and Raeber (2) – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bill #09-149/Resolution #09-11-1840 approving the purchase of ~9.586 acres of real estate for the proposed Koepfli Lane Extension and ~1.1442 acres of real estate for drainage areas from Betty Raeber Schmitt, Marie Raeber Smiley, Sally S. Raeber and Othmar L. Raeber as attached; seconded Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-150/RESOLUTION Approving Liability Insurance Renewal – Councilman Bardill made a motion to award Bill #09-150/Resolution #09-11-1841 approving renewal of liability insurance renewal with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Mayor Michaelis noted the renewal went up quite a bit this year. Director Schoeck reported the workers' compensation portion went up a lot. The liability portion increased only ~5%. As far as workers' compensation, we have not had an increase in the number of claims; however, the amount of those claims with surgeries and other medical treatment cost, time off, and money in reserves to close out the claims all factors into the renewal. If some of the open cases are closed out, then the premium could go the other direction, provided we have a good year. There are things we can do to limit our costs and exposure,

such as working on our return to work policies. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #09-151/RESOLUTION Approving Workers' Compensation Insurance Renewal – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to award Bill #09-151/Resolution #09-11-1842 approving renewal of liability insurance renewal with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Health Insurance Plan – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the proposed health insurance plan as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilwoman Zobrist asked if having the employee committee assist with formulating the plan helped. Director Schoeck responded I feel, from the feedback received, that it was a good thing. It has helped employees better understand the costs, information and available options that employees can use to control the cost of their insurance. Costs have increased and we have to get the costs down. We have to use the health and wellness plan and educate employees on options to control costs. There is a 2.2% premium increase. We are not increasing the employee's portion; however, we are raising the deductible and some of the out-of-pocket costs. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #787 & #788 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrants #787 and #788 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to temporarily adjourn the Regular Session to enter into Executive Session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Section 2(c)(21) for discussion of executive session minutes, 2(c)(1) to discuss employment matters, 2(c)(2) to discuss collective negotiating matters, and 2(c)(5) to discuss acquisition of property; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. 7:28pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:25pm. Council members Rickher, Bardill, Bellm and Zobrist were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Latham, City Attorney Belsheim, Director Gillespie, Deputy City Clerk Hediger and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Michaelis announced that no action would be taken this evening on anything discussed in tonight's Executive Session.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk