

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2011**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney Harold Belsheim, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Korte, and Schoeck, Chief Bell, Supervisor Limestall; City Staff: Steve Ferguson, Sharon Walter, Gary Crosby, and Latzer Library Director Angela Kim, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, 11 citizens, and 1 news media.

MINUTES

Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2011 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Michaelis stated we have a sign out front of City Hall that recognizes those that are serving and returning home from service. Mr. Wayne Marcus has served several times overseas. The accolades that he has received from numerous entities are staggering. His service has spanned from Operation Iraqi Freedom through Operation New Dawn. He has helped Iraq farmers learn how to use resources more efficiently and establish distribution of water. Mayor Michaelis asked Mr. Marcus to come forward and talk about his time over there. Mr. Marcus reported, I went over in 2005, as part of PRT (reconstruction team) to try to establish sustainable essential resources and build the economy by using US money to build infrastructure. The problem is that many things in Iraq are not sustainable, since the central government does not assist. Water systems only work until something breaks; bridges only exist until they become in disrepair. It was great to work with the Iraq people. They like Americans, except for those in the real religious stronghold areas. It is a very hostile country. The weather is very hot and dry, so they rely on neighboring nations for a lot of their drinking water. We administered some medical care and medicine; however, you did not do anything real critical, because the American government has to be careful that they do not harm anyone. In the oil regions of the country, it is different then the southern areas of Iraq. The southern region does not have the resources and it is where the people who tried to stand up to Saddam Hussein live. Mr. Marcus expressed, even though our system has its difficulties, we are very fortunate. Iraq is very disjointed and dysfunctional; I wonder if Iraq will ever find its way. Mayor Michaelis and the council thanked Mr. Marcus for his services and welcomed him home.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chief of Police Terry Bell recognized and thanked Eric Rehkemper of Tri-Ford, Inc. for his assistance in “Operation Street Sweeper.” Mr. Rehkemper thanked Chief Bell and Detective Twyford has done.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens’ Requests and Comments:

Highland Celebrates 175th Jubilee Committee – Benefit Movie Showing at Lory Theatre Request – Linda Jakel, representing the 175th Anniversary Committee, asked for support with the fundraiser, on Friday, August 19, 2011. AMC is opening the Lory Theatre for one night. There will be a showing of “American Graffiti”, in conjunction with a classic car show. We are asking to have Main Street closed down from Laurel Street to Walnut and Laurel Street to Washington from 5:30pm to 10:30pm on Friday evening. Refreshments and music provided outside the theatre. Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Highland Celebrates 175th Jubilee Committee’s request to hold the fundraising event and closure of Main Street as attached; seconded by Councilman Nicholaides. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Prairie Trails Subdivision Block Party Request – Sarah Hapack, 65 Arrowleaf Street, and Tonya Kapp, 100 Arrowleaf Street, were present to request blocking off a section of street to hold a neighborhood block party on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Ms. Hapack stated we would like to have it blocked off from 3:00pm – 12:00am to allow people to cross freely. Along with our written request, we have provided a map of the area and the signatures of the residents affected by the closure. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the requested for street closure of a portion of Arrowleaf Street, from 65 Arrowleaf to 110 Arrowleaf Street, on September 10, 2011, from 3pm – 12am for a neighborhood block party as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Highland Lady Basketball Association 5K Run/Walk Request – Jerry Holtzclaw requested permission for the use of city streets on Saturday, October 22, 2011 for the second Highland Lady Basketball Association 5K/2K Run, 8:00am – 10:30am. This event is a major fundraiser for the HLBA, which provides funds for uniforms, equipment, and conditioning and training programs. Parents in the HLBA will cover the intersections. Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve use of the city streets for the Highland Lady Basketball Association 5K/2K Run on Saturday, October 22, 2011 as requested; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Blanche Hediger, 2011 Zschokee Street, reported the neighbors across the street leave their garbage cans out in front of the house with the lids off. The cans attract flies and mosquitoes and create a horrible smell. The children play in the front yard by the cans. We would like them to take the cans back to the alley, like the rest of us do. Mayor Michaelis stated he would contact Mrs. Hediger tomorrow and take care of addressing the issue with the neighbor.

Requests of Council:

None presented.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported there would be a public meeting on the proposed Route 160/Interstate 70 interchange on Thursday, August 18, 2011, 4–7pm at the KC Hall. He suggested the council stop in and look at what has been put together so far.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Re-Appointment to the Combined Planning Zoning Board – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's re-appointment of Mr. Bob Vance to the Combined Planning and Zoning Board for another five-year term to expire August 31, 2016 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-74/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing Execution of Contract for Solid Waste Services with Harry's Disposal, Inc. - Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #11-74/Resolution #11-08-1985 approving and authorizing execution of contract for solid waste services with Harry's Disposal, Inc. as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-75/ORDINANCE Establishing Rates for HCS Video Systems – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #11-75/Ordinance #2480 establishing rates for Highland Communication Services Video Systems as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Councilman Schwarz stated the most important things are service, quality of the product, and competitive pricing. I think we should be able to beat Charter's service without any problem. I have not seen all of the product. City Manager Latham asked Steve Ferguson to come forward and go through rates. Steve Ferguson, manager of HCS, stated Charter Communications' package rates vary depending on the day you call and who you talk with. Their Basic Cable is \$24.99; our charge is \$26.99. If you package our basic with the phone, we are competitive against Charter, with the same services. Comparing our package against Charter's Basic with Expanded Tier, with sports channels and HDTV, we are \$10 cheaper and we are providing the DVR at no charge. Councilman Schwarz stated I do not disagree with the pricing. We just need to educate consumers. Mr. Ferguson pointed out that Charter continually raises their rates. We do not want to price ourselves too low and then need to increase prices. Increase in video costs each year is part of the business. Our pricing is set through December 2012. The one thing we do not want to do is mislead people like Charter does. City Manager Latham stated it is easier to lower pricing than to lose money and continually raise rates. We feel comfortable with our rate structure. Steve added we also offer more features beyond the competitive pricing.

Councilwoman Bellm agreed we have to cover our costs. I would strongly suggest, if the Digital Family and Digital Plus have features that Charter does not offer, then we need to get that into the advertising. City Manager Latham pointed out Charter does not have all three of the FoxSport networks that are included in the Digital Family package. Councilwoman Bellm stated our service has to be top of the line. If our service is not right, it is going to hurt us. People are willing to pay a little more, if they know that the service is there. Steve reported we did have a configuration problem with a couple of businesses. Unfortunately, with a new system like this, we knew there was going to be some bugs. Councilman Schwarz expressed concern about the the ability to saturate. Three people at a lesser profit are better than only one at a bigger profit. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #11-76/ORDINANCE Renewing Gas Franchise with Ameren IP – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Bill #11-76/Ordinance #2481 renewing a gas franchise agreement with Ameren IP as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Engineering Services Agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for the Library Parking Lot and Landscaping Project - Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve an engineering services agreement with Oates Associates, Inc. for the Library Parking Lot and Landscaping Project in the amount of \$23,900 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Approve Warrants #850 & #851 – Councilman Bardill made a motion to approve Warrants #850 and #851 as attached; seconded by Councilman Nicolaides. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilwoman Bellm abstained since there is a payment to Highland Farmers' Market on Warrant #851. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to temporarily adjourn, to conduct an Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act under Section 2(c)(21) for discussion of executive session minutes, 2(c)(2) to discuss collective negotiating matters; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:53pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:30pm. Council members Schwarz, Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance: City Manager Latham, City Attorney Belsheim, Directors Cook, Gillespie and Schoeck, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, and City Clerk Bellm.

Bill #11-77/RESOLUTION Approving Labor Agreement with I.U.O.E Local #399 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #11-77/Resolution #11-08-1986 approving labor agreement with I.U.O.E. Local #399 as attached; seconded by Councilman Bardill. Roll Call Vote: Bardill, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Councilman Schwarz abstained since his mother works for that union. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Bardill. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk