

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Council members Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Mark Latham, City Attorney John Long; Directors Cook, Gillespie, Korte, Rosen and Schoeck; Police Chief Bell, Fire Chief Bloemker, EMS Captain Crosby, Supervisor Limestall, Manager Janelle Gosa, Library Director Kim, Treasurer Foehner, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm; 5 citizens, and one member of the news media.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2013 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Michaelis read a document declaring the week of December 2 - 6, 2013 as Youth Appreciation Week in conjunction with Optimist International. Mayor Michaelis complimented the Optimists for what they do by recognizing many of the youth for their achievements during this designated week.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Connie King, 1248 North Ridge Drive, stated she was here to state my objection to the interchange proposed along Route 160. I have been gathering information on this for a while, because it affects me more than most. Mrs. King read the Access Justification Report that was sent from the federal highway administration to IDOT Acting Deputy Director of Highways Jeffrey Keim, P.E. and asked that it be entered into the records as part of the minutes.

[See attached letter from Norman R. Stoner, P.E. Division Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Subject: Access Justification Report Interstate 70/I 160, Section 60-13HBK, Dated January 11, 2013]

Mrs. King stated, after the report was issued, IDOT stated the interchange was not in their plans, and they immediately sent letters to nine families that there is no money for acquisitions. They also told me that there is no money for this at IDOT. IDOT is not planning to do this and the federal highway commission has no plans for this. I continue to find out more information about this. In the mean time, I do not feel this should be in the comprehensive plan.

Councilwoman Bellm acknowledged to Mrs. King that they talked on the phone. You said it right there, there is no interest in doing the interchange there by IDOT and the feds. We agree there. We are not promoting, striving, or going after it. By it being in the comprehensive plan, we are protecting that area. By keeping it in the plan, it shows we are watching what is going on out there. It is something that will not happen in the next five, ten, or fifteen years. However, if it should happen in fifty years, or some time after we are all long gone, by having it in the comprehensive plan, it allows us to have a say, because we care and oversaw what has goes on out there. The feds have spoken. Mrs. King stated the feds have spoken, so why would you have it in the plan. Why would you keep this hanging over our heads? Councilwoman Bellm pointed out the plan is a working document. There are things that will happen and there are things that will not happen in twenty years. Councilwoman Bellm stated, as I said over the phone, we will agree to disagree.

Requests of Council:

No comments or requests brought forward.

Staff Reports:

Director Rosen will introduce Janelle Gosa, the new Sports, Leisure & Facilities Manager. Ms. Gosa stated she is very excited to be in Highland, which appears to be expanding and growing. We are relatively new to the area and presently reside in Maryville, Illinois. Home is originally the Quad Cities area of Illinois. Ms. Gosa graduated with a Masters from SIUE.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bill #13-110/RESOLUTION Approving Estimated Tax Levy – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #13-110/Resolution #13-11-2164 approving estimated tax levy as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #13-111/RESOLUTION Approving Ambulance Services Contract – St Rose SSA #5 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Bill #13-111/Resolution #13-11-2165 approving Ambulance Services Contract – St Rose Special Service Area #5 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #13-112/ORDINANCE Declaring 100 Calix 722GX ONT's (Optical Network Terminals) as Surplus Property and Allowing Their Sale – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #13-112/Ordinance #2599 declaring 100 Calix 722GX ONT's (Optical Network Terminals) as surplus property and allowing their sale as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz inquired that the memo stays they are no longer needed because

of the phone system. Director Cook explained we adopted a different technology within the homes. The use of coaxial cable does not enable us to use the connectors. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approving Membership in the National Road Association of Illinois - Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve membership in the National Road Association of Illinois as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilman Frey asked have we belonged to this before. Building and Code Supervisor Kevin Limestall reported we have been members since 2008, but not at this level. Councilman Frey asked how this benefits us. Supervisor Limestall explained this brings in tourism, because people travel the route. With this, there will be a kiosk and visitor guide. Previously, we did some plaques recognizing establishments within Highland for their historical value along the route. There are also postcards, brochures, and visitors' guide. Councilwoman Bellm explained they get a lot of grant money, which covers the costs of the kiosks, postcards and brochures. Supervisor Limestall reported we have been at the Drover level of membership, which is \$35 per year, for several years. The board is looking at doing things differently, because of grants. The board does a lot of work with educational programs about the history of the road. They have a covered wagon, which we was used at the 175<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and the Power Show this year. Route 40 is the National Road and it extends through Vandalia, Pocahontas and Collinsville. Councilwoman Bellm asked what is the dollar amount they are asking for. Councilman Schwarz noted the requested amount is \$1,000. Supervisor Limestall explained the board is asking each community to use hotel/motel funds to assist in promoting the National Road and promoting the sites along it. Mayor Michaelis noted a letter was sent by the National Road Association Board making this request. He asked that this be brought before the council and copy of that letter is what is included in the council packet. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted nay, none aye. Motion failed.

Approve Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance Program Renewal with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve liability and worker's compensation insurance program renewal with Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust as attached; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Councilman Schwarz stated I see the rates are changing; however, I would assume we do not have much choice. City Manager Latham responded there are, basically, only two companies that provide this coverage. IML, this one, and a third one, which our broker asked for a quote from; however, they would not quote. Director Schoeck noted that not all carriers will offer the same coverage. The Illinois Rural Water Carriers just put together a package, which we may look into at some point. Councilman Schwarz noted the number of claims dropped last year, so what caused the jump. Director Schoeck explained those claims continue to say on for a few years, with continuing expenses and dollars associated and some litigation. In 2007, there were ten claims; between 2011 and 2012, there were nineteen. The number of claims and the amount of the claims determines those rates. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## **REPORTS**

Approve Warrants #931 & #932 – Councilman Schwarz made a motion to approve Warrants #931 & #932 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz and

Frey voted aye, none nay. Bellm and Nicolaides abstained. Mayor Michaelis voted aye. 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 and 2(c)(11) for discussion of probable litigation matters; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. Roll Call Vote: Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:30pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:20pm. Council members Schwarz, Frey, Bellm and Nicolaides were present. Also present were City Manager Latham, City Attorney Long, Directors Gillespie and Schoeck, Deputy City Clerk Hediger and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Michaelis stated nothing discussed in executive session this evening will be acted upon at this time.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Schwarz. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Joseph Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk