

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Mayor Michaelis and Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind were present. Also present was City Manager Latham, City Attorney McGinley, Directors Conrad, Cook, Gillespie, Imming, Rosen and Speraneo, EMS/Fire Chief Brian Wilson, Deputy City Clerk Hediger, City Clerk Bellm, and 14 citizens were present in the Council Chambers. To allow for COVID-19 Social Distancing the following present via phone: Deputy City Clerk Von Hatten.

**MINUTES**

Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2020 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

*Lions Lunch Wagon – Lions Club* – Ed Campbell, requested approval of petition to host lunch wagon sales on the Square, from 10:30am -1:30pm on Fridays in August. With a lot of events getting cancelled, this year, we have lost a lot of our fundraising ability. We would serve people in their car with prepared sandwiches. If people walk up, we would ask them to maintain six feet social distance. Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Lions Lunch Wagon on Fridays, on dates as specified, as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

*Building Permit Fee Reimbursement Request – Highland Community Church* – Ray Voshollar requested approval of waiver for building permit fees. Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the fee reimbursement for Highland Community Church. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Michaelis stated I know there are several people here regarding the outdoor pool. We have all received emails from a delegation.

Kevin McGinley, member of the new pool advisory committee and Midwest Swimmers Conference referee reported the swim team, last year, consisted of 158 members. This year, we had to cap enrollment at 120 due to COVID. The kids came from in town and out of town to practice, without any expectation of being able to compete this year. Several drive 20-30 minutes to use the pool. Everyone is excited that the city is looking at a new swimming pool. As part of that, there is a wish in that this project would provide a competition pool for year-around use. We have 190 swimmers willing to swim indoor all year around. We are not saying take the indoor pool and make it for competition swim only. We would like some of the pool project money to enhance the existing indoor pool. The Korte Recreation Center (KRC) is top-notch facility. One of the missteps in constructing the facility was that only three lanes were put in. Essentially, we have hundreds of kids swimming ten months out of the year.

Mr. McGinley suggested the city consider breaking into the pool and expanding it or make a building next door. We understand budgets are tight. With minor modifications, you could utilize the existing locker rooms versus construction another set of locker rooms. We already have a lazy river, slide and hot tub at the KRC. It makes sense to have an indoor pool for use all year around. When it is raining or too hot, people could come to the inside area. You are already paying people to check people in at KRC. You have lifeguards that could go in or out whenever needed. Having all the staff at one spot would be a savings. What about revenue? For year around swimming, the base cost is \$1500 per family. If fielded a team of 100 kids that is \$150,000. Typically, a meet can bring in \$20,000, without including spending at restaurants and shops, along with merchandise sales. That does not take into account more space for swimming lessons, which currently, people often have problems finding lane space available. The swim team would ask for a bit of adjustment, to consider an indoor pool for all-year use versus building one just for three months out the year.

Ryan Poss, coach of Highland Splash Swim, stated I was a member of the Highland Splash; I then actually took eight-year hiatus from the team. In 2014, we started with 109 swimmers and worked up to 160. At the RecPlex, you have to sign up sixty days in advance. Same thing at a lot of facilities, because of the limited space. There is a major need in the area. Check the demographics. It is there. When I started in 2014, parents spoke up and said they wanted a winter team. In two years, we had 120 kids competing, year around. It was so easy, because the kids want to do that. There are colleges in the area looking for pool space, high school teams, and water polo. Look at what is needed in the area. I challenge you.

Councilman Hipskind stated you made a compelling case. The fees intrigued me. Kevin McGinley reported the basic fee in O'Fallon is \$1500, and then there is coaching fees; swim meet entry fees, and lessons. Mr. Poss reported most meets have 600 kids and the fee to compete is \$5 per event. A lot of kids swim 3-4 entries. Councilman Hipskind pointed out the budget for the swimming pool was based upon after bonds paid off for Korte Rec Center that would give a budget of \$5 M. We scaled the outdoor pool budget back to \$3M, so \$2M could go to the KRC. We need to think outside the box and look at what people want. Intriguing that it generates that kind of revenue. It is worth exploring. Councilwoman Sloan asked when these other facilities are used for swim meets and lesson, who gets the money. Mr. Poss explained that whomever is leasing the pool to host the event negotiates the cost with the facility.

Councilman Hipskind asked what was survey response. Kevin McGinley reported there was 150 interested with 97 responses. 100 interested in this on the city's survey. To the point, this is an improvement to KRC and a new project. Councilman Hipskind asked would you be able to relay that to the pool committee, along with the amount of funding that could be generated off such a pool. Mr. McGinley reported the mindset of the committee is that we are here to discuss replacing the outdoor pool, so we cannot talk about an indoor pool. Councilwoman Sloan expressed we have to continue to look at this as a pool for the community – not just for competitive swim. Mr. McGinley stated if we have an outdoor pool, it would complement it. If I take kids to the KRC in the winter, the pool is packed.

Bonnie McGinley stated, for those of you that have not had kids on the swim team, it is a family activity for all ages. It is for ages 5-18. The whole family is there for the meets. It is not running to a baseball game for one and a different field some place somewhere else for another. I know the budget for the KRC was tight when it was built, but this is something that would enhance it.

Connie Abraham stated I do feel a year around pool would be advantageous for the community. There is the gas and driving to Edwardsville 1-2 times per week, and then getting dinner there. All the money is going to Edwardsville, to the YMCA, school district, and restaurants, as well as gas stations. We easily put \$20,000 into the economy just on swimming costs. Some families are going to O'Fallon,

Effingham, or across the river to participate in competitive swimming. I feel, as far as a year-around swim facility, if not happening here, the city would be missing out.

Parks & Recreation Director Mark Rosen expressed the concept of an indoor pool was not really on my radar. As I spoke with Kevin, I began to see that idea has merit. My job is to get people active and give families something to do. If we can get the budget, going it could be something to look at. I think of Silver Lake, Weinheimer Center, and Glik Park, which when all presented were they all were going to be the end of civilization, but we lived through them and prevailed. Councilwoman Sloan asked could such a facility be built off the Korte Rec Center (KRC). Director Rosen reported FGM Architects, Inc. did ask for plans of KRC to look at the infrastructure. A retractable roof could shield sunlight during the day. Mayor Michaelis noted on any project, there are expenses. Is there a possibility of finding grant money to cover such a facility? Director Rosen reported an ISOD grant would go towards a substantial portion. We used that for Glik Park. There may be some private foundations that we could look into, as well as Madison County Parks & Recreation grants. Mayor Michaelis stated, in trying to absorb this over the past couple of weeks, as I heard about it, I thought about how when I came here, Mark and I took off on the adventure of getting the peripheral route built. It was something only discussed for over twenty years before that. It was something that was met with a lot of resistance. We got a lot assistance with grants and funding from ICC and IDOT on the east side. So there is probably away to get it done. The All Abilities Playground was another project that the city did not want to spend tax dollars to build, so Mark Rosen, City Manager Latham and I took off on it and found the funding through grants and private funding. He suggested take one councilmember and put them on the board with the pool committee, to provide a conduit for communication, which would help move this forward. Director Rosen reported we have a very diverse group with the committee we have: Kevin McGinley, on the swim team and his position currently with regional organization; a mom, with daughter with special needs; retire Marine; a mom that simply uses the pool; and, someone that was a former competitive swimmer. Mayor Michaelis noted swimming has increased in popularity over the last forty years, while some other school sports have lost some popularity.

Director Rosen reported FGM hopes to have conceptual drawings done by the end of the month; plans to come to the council in September for presentation to council; and, then put the concepts out to the community for input after that. Councilman Frey noted we have been working the last few years figuring out how to get an outdoor pool. If we change gears now are we going to end up not getting anywhere with this. Would this be a connected pool or a separate pool next to the indoor pool? Director Rosen reported it would be next to the indoor pool. Having the outdoor pool next to indoor pool would allow sharing resources. Councilman Frey expressed we would still have the existing problem we have right now, because the pool would not be available for recreational use when the swim team is using it. Director Rosen stated it would not be just a swim team pool. It would be used for swim lesson and open swim for public, with a detailed schedule. Councilman Frey expressed concern also with it being extremely costly with a retractable roof. Director Rosen reported it would be an eight-lane pool for competitive swim. I have seen somewhere they use the large garage doors to open up the deck area for outdoor feel.

Councilwoman Bellm questioned where the budget for the conceptual drawings is coming from. Director Rosen reported those were included in the project scope with FGM Architects, Inc, along with cost analysis for each proposed spot – by Korte Rec Center, at its existing spot, and out by new public safety facility. Councilwoman Bellm expressed I have not talked to a single person that is in favor of having it out by public safety facility and hospital. Why spend money for drawings at that location to be done. However, if by the Korte Rec Center (KRC) we would need to buy land. Director Rosen reported it could be built off the KRC. They are going to give cost analysis for each. Councilman Frey added if at KRC we will need a lot more parking. I have seen a number of businesses use the garage door idea and it allows for them to created outdoor patio. Because of the Quarterback Club and soccer already held out

a Glik Park, it would be difficult to host swim meets. Would we also have to provide stadium bleachers for such a facility, if used for competitive meets? Director Rosen replied I would assume so. Councilman Frey expressed, if so, then it needs to be include in the cost analysis. Councilwoman Bellm expressed we need to get moving on this, so we do not end up without a pool. Director Rosen noted, if it is built where it is at now, we would not have a pool for a summer. We do the best we can to keep it going.

Councilman Hipskind asked do we need to vote on whether to look into costs for an indoor pool. Mayor Michaelis replied no, this is for discussion only.

Blackie Kuhl stated here we are talking about a swimming pool and special needs. Yet we had two people, a certain young man and lady say that 1% of people was not worth the costs. What is it that 1% people is not worth allowing golf carts for people with special needs that need them. At least learn how to treat people fair. In this end of town, you do not get anything done. How you ever were voted in? Councilman Hipskind asked what comments you are referring to. Mr. Kuhl reference an article in the Highland News Leader. Councilman Hipskind stated he does not purchase that paper and has not read the article, so he is not aware of the statement printed in it. Mr. Kuhl stated he would go get the paper, so Councilman Hipskind could read the article and the comment he is referring to. Mayor Michaelis told Mr. Kuhl the meeting would be moving on, but he would allow him to come back.

#### Requests of Council:

No comments or requests.

#### Staff Reports:

City Manager Latham reported we are seeing a very high rate of COVID cases. We are up to 80 cases. I would caution everyone to follow CDC recommendations. Anything over fifty-people event, we are not going to allow. Chief Conrad added that in our service area there are 80 cases. We are watching the nursing homes. We encourage people to wear masks. We have had some businesses impacted to where they needed to shut down. We are working to get more people to buy into wearing the masks. Mayor Michaelis pointed out the metro east is one of the highest in the state of IL. Chief Conrad reported in the last week, our region is a couple days away from being moved back a phase. Clinton, Madison, St Clair, Bond, Monroe, Washington, Jersey and Calhoun Counties make up our region. Mayor Michaelis noted in the 62249, our ambulance district jumped from twelve cases to eighty in the last week. Councilwoman Sloan pointed out our service district has a population of 15,500. Mayor Michaelis reported we have received several calls about people not wearing masks at the stock car races. Chief Conrad stated the Illinois Department of Public Health received complaints. They notified the State of Illinois and us. We will be having a phone conference with them tomorrow morning.

Mr. Kuhl provided a Highland News Leader to Councilman Hipskind and stated it is pretty bad when come to council meeting and have to provide the only newspaper printed in town. Councilman Frey stated I get the paper, but I have not had the chance to read it yet. Councilman Hipskind stated the reason I do not read the Highland News Leader is because they usually misquote me. Let me tell you my side about the cost to allow golf carts. Revenues for the city are flattening. I actually said we needed to look at this; however, when we looked at the costs it was significant. We postponed it for the community to come in and voice their agreement or displeasure for this. Very few people expressed opinions, to it appears there is little interest. The quote was taken out of context. Mr. Kuhl stated I asked for golf carts, if the person falls off, it stops. Side-by-sides are like Jeeps, they do not have roll bars. They go a lot faster. Golf carts do not go that fast. Councilwoman Sloan asked do you own a golf cart. Mr. Kuhl replied yes. He asked Councilwoman Sloan, if your husband had a heart problem, diabetes, and suffer from lung cancer, do you think a golf cart would be safe way to allow them to get around and go places. Councilwoman Sloan stated if they were having all the issues, I would will not feel comfortable with him driving a golf cart in traffic. Mr. Kuhl stated I picked cucumbers in my front yard tonight. It took me ten

minutes to give them away to people passing by. I do not think 1% is worth throwing things away. Even if one person, it needs to be done. We need to be buying in town. The electric department buys from outside of town. We paid our sewer problems. The person that put our connection in went to eight-feet below the ground to tap on. That is something the city did. I will be reading the newspaper. If you do not want to buy one, I will bring it up and read it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion- Proposed New Pool – Discussed earlier under Public Comments.

Discussion – 916 6<sup>th</sup> Proposed Business Plan – Dustin Barry stated he would like to open a shop that sells coffee, ice cream, liquor, tobacco and offers gaming in a building that last generated taxes in 2009. I know the discussion about gaming has come up several times. The gaming will help us maintain the business. We are proposing a drive up on the northeast side of the building, which would be for coffee sales.

Councilwoman Sloan inquired I am trying to figure out what type of liquor license you would get. City Attorney McGinley agreed. I am looking for direction from the council as to what will be permitted there. Councilwoman Bellm expressed that is my dilemma. This is two requests for gaming in this town in the last two meetings. How far do we want this to go? Is this the new mode of operations for businesses to have? I am not sure I am comfortable in keeping this going. I appreciate gaming is not the main focus. The last one we approved said gaming was not their main focus. When do we say enough is enough? Do we say that a certain percentage of revenues has to come from non-gaming? I realize it is free enterprise. Councilwoman Sloan pointed out Cypress Restaurant has closed. Teffy at Railshake is looking at giving her machines back. Councilman Frey pointed out the last one fit the bar/restaurant license. Councilwoman Bellm questioned is ice cream a food. She added I am more concerned with how many do we allow, regardless of the type of license. Councilwoman Sloan pointed out any bar and restaurant is going to want this. If we want to continue to grow, that is what is going to happen. Councilwoman Bellm expressed I do not want Highland to be the gaming center of Madison County. Councilwoman Sloan contended I don't think Highland is any different from any other community. Councilwoman Bellm acknowledged maybe it does not make any difference. Councilman Frey pointed out some towns require 60% of sales revenue to come from something other than gaming for a business. In Breese, you lose your gaming license if that happens. Councilwoman Bellm stated I just want to air my concerns. Councilman Hipskind stated I do not see the big deal. Councilwoman Sloan noted it is amazing to see how many people do play the machines.

Councilwoman Sloan pointed out DiMaggio's got rid of their dining room, because they with COVID, he can make more money off the gaming than eat-in dining. Director Speraneo reported that will be coming before the council at the next meeting. Councilwoman Bellm expressed maybe I need to re-think this. City Attorney McGinley pointed out the question here is this is somewhere between a restaurant and a gaming parlor. Is there room for another gaming parlor license? Councilwoman Bellm stated we told the last one that no more gaming parlors. Attorney McGinley questioned so is it more of a restaurant license. Mr. Barry explained it is really hard to decide what to do with business that is there. We want a little bit of something for everyone. Councilman Frey asked would there be some mixed drinks or packaged only. Mr. Barry replied we are looking at offering alcohol infused drinks, like shakes. City Attorney McGinley reported we talked about a full bar. I do not know the specific plans, but it sounds like more of an ice cream shop, not a full bar. Councilwoman Bellm expressed to Attorney McGinley that we pay you to figure out where to this business best fits in the licenses.

Approve Appointment of Kurt Vonder Haar to the Tree Commission to Replace Sue Amaro – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve appointment of Kurt Vonder Haar to the Tree Commission, to replace Sue Amaro, for the remainder of her term, to expire July 2021, as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill#20-89/RESOLUTION Authorizing and Directing Application to the 2020 Transport Alternative Program of Assistance, for the Purpose of Constructing a Sidewalk along Illinois Route 160 to Connect Existing Pedestrian Accommodations at the Intersection of Illinois Route 160 and Troxler Avenue to Existing Pedestrian Accommodations at Flax Drive – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill#20-89/Resolution #20-08-2727 authorizing and directing application to the 2020 Transport Alternative Program of Assistance, for the purpose of constructing a sidewalk along Illinois Route 160 to connect existing pedestrian accommodations at the intersection of Illinois Route 160 and Troxler Avenue to existing pedestrian accommodations at Flax Drive as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill#20-90/ORDINANCE Amending Chapter 78, Article VII, Section 78-732, of The Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, Illinois, Entitled Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, Amending Rate Schedule for Commercial Premise Viewing (“Premview”) Component of FTTP System (Highland Communications Services) – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill#20-90/Ordinance #3028 amending Chapter 78, Article VII, Section 78-732, of The Code of Ordinances, City of Highland, Illinois, entitled Schedule of FTTP Rates and Charges, amending Rate Schedule for Commercial Premise Viewing (“Premview”) Component of FTTP System (Highland Communications Services) as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-05-20, for the General Construction of a Combined Public Safety Building – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-05-20, for the General Construction of a Combined Public Safety Building as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-06-20, for the Construction of the Mechanical Elements of a Combined Public Safety Building – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-06-20, for the Construction of the Mechanical Elements of a Combined Public Safety Building as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-07-20, for the Construction of the Plumbing Elements of a Combined Public Safety Building – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-07-20, for the Construction of the Plumbing Elements of a Combined Public Safety Building Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-08-20, for the Construction of the Electrical Elements of a Combined Public Safety Building – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-08-20, for the Construction of the Electrical Elements of a Combined Public Safety Building as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-09-20, for the Installation of a Sprinkler/Fire Suppression System for a Combined Public Safety Building – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve a Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #PD-09-20, for the Installation of a Sprinkler/Fire Suppression System for a Combined Public Safety Building as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## **REPORT**

Approve Warrant #1173 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrant #1173 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to temporarily adjourn this regular session to enter into executive session under the Illinois Open Meetings Act under 65 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) to discuss the approval of executive session minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Hipskind voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting temporarily adjourned at 8:35pm.

Mayor Michaelis reconvened the Regular Session at 8:40pm. Council members Hipskind, Bellm, Frey and Sloan were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Latham, Attorney Michael McGinley, Deputy City Clerk Hediger and City Clerk Bellm.

Mayor Michaelis stated nothing discussed in Executive Session will be acted upon in this session tonight.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Frey. All council members voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Joseph R. Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk