

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020**

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:00pm. Due to the city's COVID-19 Response, Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm were present via phone. Councilman Hipskind was absent. Mayor Michaelis, Interim City Manager Conrad, Director Korte and Deputy City Clerk Hediger were present via phone in City Hall. City Attorney McGinley was present via phone in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Others present via phone were Directors Cook, Gillespie, Imming, Rosen, Slover, and Speraneo, Fire/EMS Chief Wilson, Coordinator Hubbard, Supervisor Pugh, Deputy City Clerk VonHatten, City Clerk Bellm, and one citizen.

**MINUTES**

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular Session as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

Mayor Michaelis asked if there is anyone on the phone wishing to speak. Hearing no response, the meeting continued.

Requests of Council:

Councilwoman Sloan asked Interim City Manager Conrad if there was any weekly emails going out, as she has not received anything the past two weeks. Interim City Manager Chris Conrad apologized stating he had not. There are a lot of things in the works, but nothing final to update the council on, so he has not sent them out.

Staff Reports:

*Report on Recent IEPA Lead Sampling* - Public Work Director Joe Gillespie reported the routine IEPA lead and copper samplings revealed some elevated levels of lead at some homes. This is not a violation, but a notification of higher than normal levels of lead in the system. Lead is a naturally occurring substance in the system. Sampling was performed at slightly more than 80 sites. IEPA provides 37 of those. We provided sampling kits with instructions left on the porches of residents. Our personnel is not involved. Although most homes were below level, we did have some that were about 15 parts per billions, which is the IEPA action level. Lead can be found in old faucets, particularly in the solder of piping and fixtures. What are we doing about it? There is treatment that we can do within the system, by use of phosphates to create a coating in the pipes and control of pH levels to prevent scaling and corrosion. What does that mean for us going forward? Since we exceeded the level, we must provide public notification to our utilities customers. Additional and more frequent testing will continue for the next twelve months. Information needs to be distributed to our utility customers, so a brochure will be included with the next billing cycle explaining how lead becomes present in the system. Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Gary Pugh is also with us tonight and is available to answer any questions. Mayor

Michaelis asked does IEPA do any testing with businesses. Director Gillespie replied no, these are all residential. Mayor Michaelis stated I would tend to believe those would be paid more attention to them, as more people would utilize those facilities. Director Gillespie agreed; however, residential customers were sampled. The sampling instructions are very specific that the customer is to use a faucet that they use frequently; however, they are not to use the faucet for at least six hours before sampling. Sampling comes from water out of the faucet immediately when turning the faucet on. Interim City Manager Chris Conrad added sampling sites, sampling, and requirements is a law by IEPA and it is pretty inflexible. Director Gillespie reported I spoke with a top official if our personnel could take the samples. The IEPA was adamant that we must not be involved and the customer must do the sampling.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Bill #20-187/ORDINANCE Appointing Christopher Conrad Interim City Manager – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-187/Ordinance #3071 appointing Christopher Conrad Interim City Manager as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilwoman Bellm stated I have no problem with the appointment and the ordinance overall. However, the second “Whereas”, in which it states ‘Whereas, Due to health concerns, former City Manager Mark Latham was forced to retire’. I am uncomfortable ‘forced to retire’ and I would proposed that it state ‘chose to’. City Attorney Mike McGinley requested clarification and asked if in place of ‘forced to retire’ we could suggest ‘abruptly chose to retire.’ Mayor Michaelis expressed the term “abruptly” brings up a bad connotation. Councilwoman Bellm agreed. She added she did not feel the issue of health needed to be mentioned. City Attorney McGinley suggested changing it to ‘chose to retire prior to the end of his contract.’ Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to amend the ordinance to replace ‘Whereas, Due to health concerns, former City Manager Mark Latham was forced to retire’ with ‘Whereas, former City Manager Mark Latham chose to retire prior to the end of his contract’. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Sloan. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote on the motion as amended: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-188/ORDINANCE Amending the 2020-2021 Budget – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-188/Ordinance #3072 amending the 2020-2021 Budget as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Mayor Michaelis voted aye. Motion carried.

Bill #20-189/ORDINANCE for Levy, Assessment and Collection of Taxes – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-189/Ordinance #3073 for levy, assessment and collection of taxes as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Schedule of 2021 Meeting Dates for Council, Boards, and Commissions – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the Schedule of 2021 Meeting Dates for Council, Boards, and Commissions as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Building Permit Fee Waiver Request Submitted by Holly’s House of Hope – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve building permit fee waiver request submitted by Holly’s House of Hope as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Mayor Michaelis asked Director Speraneo to speak on what this entails. Director Breann Speraneo reported Holly’s House of Hope is a local non-for-profit that is relocating to the building behind City Hall. We did ask them to amend their request for waiver and keep it to our in-house services. We will be donating our services in-kind, which is estimated

at \$650. They would be paying any outside inspection and permitting costs incurred. Mayor Michaelis asked Breann to explain what Holly's House of Hope is. Director Speraneo was founded by the Mosaic Church Free Store. They are outgrowing their current location with the job training and other skills training that they do to initiate adults into the workplace. They have agreed to staff our senior center. They collect clothing and household items, which they distributed within the community. They are a wonderful organization and we are grateful to have them in the community. Councilwoman Bellm expressed I do not feel this is out of line with others we have waived in the past. Mayor Michaelis agreed, especially with services they provide to the community. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Building Permit Fee Waiver Request Submitted by St. Paul Catholic Church – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve building permit fee waiver request submitted by St. Paul Catholic Church as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Councilwoman Bellm asked Breann to give a brief on this. Director Speraneo reported this request is for construction of a greeting center and overflow area for some of the larger services. We do not have a set of plans for this yet. We would guess it could be as much as \$16,000 in permits. We ask that they do the same and only request for in-kind of in-house services and pay for services provided by outside inspection. Councilwoman Bellm recalled we have also approved waivers for construction at the school. Director Speraneo acknowledged we did and one for Highland Community Church recently. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-190/ORDINANCE Declaring 2001 Chevrolet Blazer Surplus and Authorizing Its Sale – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-190/Ordinance #3074 declaring 2001 Chevrolet Blazer surplus and authorizing its sale as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-191/ORDINANCE Declaring Water Treatment Plant Riding Mower Surplus and Authorizing Its Sale – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-191/Ordinance #3075 declaring Water Treatment Plant riding mower surplus and authorizing its sale as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-192/RESOLUTION Approving Change Order Number One, Final and Balancing, for IL 160 Shared Use Path, PW-17-19, for a Reduction in Cost of \$27,500.81 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-192/Resolution #20-12-2780 approving Change Order Number One, Final and Balancing, for IL 160 Shared Use Path, PW-17-19, for a reduction in cost of \$27,500.81 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-193/RESOLUTION Waiving Normal and Customary Bidding Procedures and Authorizing Purchase of Itron Electric Meters from Anixter Power Solutions, LLC – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-193/Resolution #20-12-2781 waiving Normal and Customary Bidding Procedures and authorizing purchase of Itron Electric Meters from Anixter Power Solutions, LLC, in the amount of \$93,250.00 as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Mayor Michaelis voted aye. Motion carried.

Bill #20-194/RESOLUTION Waiving Normal and Customary Bidding Procedures and Authorizing Purchase of Meter Communication Modules with Associated Licenses from Tantalus Systems, Inc. – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-194/Resolution #20-12-2782 waiving Normal and Customary Bidding procedures and authorizing purchase of meter communication modules with associated licenses from Tantalus Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$66,825.00 as attached;

seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Mayor Michaelis voted aye. Motion carried.

Bill #20-195/RESOLUTION Approving Retransmission Consent Agreement with Sinclair Television Group, Inc., with Respect to Television Signal Feeds from Station KDNL and Station KDNL-2 in St. Louis – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-195/Resolution #20-12-2783 approving Retransmission Consent Agreement with Sinclair Television Group, Inc., with respect to television signal feeds from Station KDNL and Station KDNL-2 in St. Louis as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-196/RESOLUTION Approving Second Amendment to Affiliation Agreement with Fox Sport Net, LLC – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-196/Resolution #20-12-2784 approving Second Amendment to Affiliation Agreement with Fox Sport Net, LLC as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-197/RESOLUTION Approving 2021 Amendment to Retransmission Consent Agreement with KMOV-TV, Inc., a Subsidiary of Meredith Corporation of Iowa – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #20-197/Resolution #20-12-2785 approving 2021 Amendment to Retransmission Consent Agreement with KMOV-TV, Inc., a subsidiary of Meredith Corporation of Iowa as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #20-198/RESOLUTION Approving Renewal of AMC/BBC – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #20-198/Resolution #20-12-2786 approving renewal of AMC/BBC as attached; seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

## **REPORT**

Approve Warrant #1185 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Warrant #1185 as attached; seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm 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, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried. Open Meeting temporarily adjourned at 7:38pm.

Mayor Michaelis called the Regular Session to order at 7:45pm. Due to the city's COVID-19 Response, Mayor Michaelis and Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm were present via phone. Councilman Hipskind was absent. Mayor Michaelis, Interim City Manager Conrad, and Deputy City Clerk Hediger were present via phones in City Hall. Others present via phone were Deputy City Clerk VonHatten and City Clerk Bellm. City Attorney McGinley was present via phone from the Council Chambers.

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. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, and Bellm voted aye, none nay. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Joseph R. Michaelis, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk