

**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
HIGHLAND CITY COUNCIL
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024**

Mayor Kevin Hemann called the Regular Session to order at 6:30pm at the Highland Area Senior Center. Council members Sloan, Frey, Bellm, and Napper were present. Others in attendance were City Manager Conrad, City Attorney Kathryn Warren, Directors Cook, Gillespie, Heimbürger, Rosen, and Widman, Manager Pinsker, Fire Chief Staub, Treasurer Nicolaides, Deputy City Clerks Hediger and Flake, City Clerk Bellm, and 4 citizens.

MINUTES

Councilman Frey made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024 Regular Session as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

SWEARING IN

City Clerk Barbara Bellm swore in Christopher Flake as Deputy Clerk.

BID OPENING

City Attorney Kathryn Warren opened sealed bids submitted by parties interested in purchasing 516 9th Street. Said property was declared surplus by Ordinance No. 3346 and offered for sale by advertising in The Troy Times Tribune on August 29, September 5 and September 12, 2024. City Attorney Warren reported one bid was received from Family Bible Church, in the amount of \$5,000. Bid is contingent upon zoning approval for property to be a parking lot. Mayor Hemann noted this property has been vacant for some time now. City Manager Conrad acknowledged this is the second time the property was advertised for sale.

PUBLIC FORUM

Citizens' Requests and Comments:

John Kapp noted there was the Laps for Love event held on Friday night. Then yesterday we had the Chili Cook-off. It was wonderful. The weather was beautiful. With all the different things going on around the Square - the businesses, the farmers' market, things are great. We got the Trick-or-Treat coming up this week.

Requests of Council:

Councilman Frey suggested it's time to visit our nuisance ordinances. We need to assist the people that patrol these properties and put some teeth into it so that our staff does not have to continue to go back to these properties every 30-60 days. It seems people do the minimum or say they are working on things, but never get things completed. I feel like staff is doing their job; however, I just feel like there is not enough teeth to get things done. City Attorney Kathryn Warren reported Trent (Attorney Carriger) and I have both been writing dates on the court orders to get them to understand what has to be done. Deadlines in the court orders definitely help.

Councilman Frey recalled that before COVID we had a number of groups doing clean up in different areas of town. I would like to see if we can get that going again. For example, Rotary does the roadway in front of the school. Councilman Frey stated, as a business, I would be happy to take an area. I would be happy to do the area off Poplar and Broadway, which I do already as a business owner.

Staff Reports:

City Manager Chris Conrad provided an update on the Highland Arts Council's Art in the Park Sculpture. Parks & Recreation Director Mark Rosen has found an area by the Korte Rec Center. Along the walkway, from the parking lot, there is a tree, which was damaged by a storm, earlier this year. We would remove that tree and put the sculpture in that area. We will work with the artist on a pedestal, to get it to the right height for best viewing.

We are about two weeks out from opening up Sixth Street. City Manager Conrad expressed a lot of people are looking forward to that being opened up.

We had several linemen go to storm damaged areas, recently. In association with the American Public Power Agency, Chris Scarbrough and Barkly Schlafer worked for about twelve days in Georgia. Then electric crew staff, David Grossmann and Reid Freimann and fire department Chief Straub, Travis Tebbe, and Ben Straub reported to Florida to assist after Hurricane Milton. If we should ever have such a disaster, we believe we would have that same assistance sent our way. It is also a learning experience for our crews to work on other systems. The American Public Power Agency is a tremendous resource that we have thru IMEA. Proud to be a member of it.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Mayor's Reappointment of Joseph Garson to the Historical Commission – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve the mayor's reappointment of Joseph Garson to the Historical Commission for another term, to expire October 31, 2027 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #E-10-24, Purchase of One 2000 KVA, 480Y/277V 3-Phase Pad Mount Transformer – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Notice of Municipal Letting, Bid #E-10-24, purchase of one 2000 KVA, 480Y/277V 3-Phase Pad Mount Transformer as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #24-101/RESOLUTION Accepting IMLRMA Renewal of Property, Casualty, and Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage for 2025 – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #24-101/Resolution #24-10-3133 accepting IMLRMA renewal of property, casualty, and worker's compensation insurance coverage for 2025 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Napper. Director Jackie Heimbürger reported this is a 2% increase. IML recommended increasing the value of some of our property due to construction industry costs. Overall, it was pretty good renewal. City Manager Conrad expressed we are very pleased to see that small of an increase compared to what we are all seeing in our personal lives with insurance renewals. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #24-102/RESOLUTION Designating Freedom of Information Officers Pursuant to Section 3.5 of the Freedom of Information Act – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #24-102/Resolution #24-10-3134 designating Freedom of Information Officers pursuant to Section 3.5 of the Freedom of

Information Act as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #24-103/RESOLUTION Approving and Authorizing a Tender of Defense, Indemnity, Hold Harmless, and Lease Agreement for Shared Space at the Korte Recreation Center Between City of Highland and Ron Williams – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #24-103/Resolution #24-10-3135 approving and authorizing a Tender of Defense, Indemnity, Hold Harmless, and Lease Agreement for shared space at the Korte Recreation Center between City of Highland and Ron Williams as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #24-104/ORDINANCE Implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax And a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax – Councilman Frey made a motion to approve Bill #24-104/Ordinance #3354 implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Bill #24-105/ORDINANCE Amending City Code, Chapter 2 – Administration, Article VI – Boards and Commissions, Division 4 – Foreign Fire Insurance Board, Section 2-366. – Established, to Change the Specified Date for Election of Trustees – Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to approve Bill #24-105/Ordinance #3355 amending City Code, Chapter 2 – Administration, Article VI – Boards and Commissions, Division 4 – Foreign Fire Insurance Board, Section 2-366. – Established, to Change the Specified Date for Election of Trustees as attached. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. Councilwoman Bellm asked what the foreign fire insurance board is. Fire Chief Chris Straub explained if an insurance company does not reside in the State of Illinois, they have to pay a fee to the State of Illinois, which is funneled down to local municipalities and districts. This is to change the ordinance to allow for holidays, as we are having difficulty getting a quorum. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Accepting Expenditures Report #1276 for Oct 5, 2024 through Oct. 18, 2024 – Councilman Frey made a motion to accepting Expenditures Report #1276 for October 5, 2024 through October 18, 2024 as attached. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bellm. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Sloan, Frey, Bellm and Napper voted aye, none nay. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bellm made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Councilman Frey. All aye, none nay. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

Kevin B. Hemann, Mayor

Barbara Bellm, City Clerk