

City of The Highlands
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday, 6:00 p.m., May 27, 2021
Nickerson City Hall, 15 N. Nickerson St., Nickerson, KS 67502

Social Distancing and hand sanitizing are required, masks are strongly encouraged.

I. Meeting Called to Order

- Welcome by Mayor Carol Moore
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call of Council Members by the City Clerk:
 - Council Members Present: Brian McElgunn, Jeff Jackson, Greig Sims, and Butch Neel.
 - Not present: Jennalee Boggs
 - City Clerk: Cindy Dale
 - Council Appointees: Mo Penny (AZC); Loren Frees (FEMA)
 - Guests: Kenny and Vickie Nuss, Peggy Williford, Randy Miller, Herschel Crainer, Robert Bowman, Dean Harcrow and Bob Updegraff

II. Approval of the Agenda as presented.

- **Jeff Jackson motioned to approve Agenda as presented, seconded by Greig Sims. Motion approved.**

III. Public Comment(s): (State you name and address. Please limit remarks to less than five minutes).

- A. Robert Bowman: On behalf of one of his elderly neighbors, Robert was asking about the letter they received about the violation of Ordinance 2021-23. He said they would like to have more explanation of the violation.
- B. Herschel Crainer:
 - 1. Brian McElgunn addressed Mr. Crainer's concerns:
 - Mr. Crainer said that his taxes have been raised: Brian McElgunn responded that The City of The Highlands has not had a mill levy increase since the City was formed. All raises in taxes came from Reno Co. increases.
 - Mr. Crainer asked if The City of The Highlands has been audited: Brian McElgunn responded that the records have been audited annually.

IV. Approval of minutes: May 13, 2021

- **Motion to Accept minutes of May 13, 2021 by Butch Neel seconded by Greig Sims. Motion passed**

V. Reports

- A. Mayor
 - 1. The city clerk received an email from Reno County/KDHE regarding mosquito dunks. Jeff picked up 200 dunks. The city clerk will send an email that dunks can be delivered to your home. Call Mo Penny or Jeff Jackson.
 - 2. The council addressed an email comment/question.

- **Jeff Jackson made a motion that if any negative vote is cast, it will be reflected in the minutes, seconded by Brian McElgunn. Motion passed**

B. Treasurer

1. Received Compensating Tax \$340.26; Sales Taxes \$1,743.40, total of \$2,083.66
2. Jeff Jackson stated that totals for year to date will be included in the new budget.

C. AZC

1. Mowing bid

- Mo received an estimate for mowing the right of ways from Dixon Lawn Care for \$1,500 for each mow. Dixon agreed to mow around the 3rd week of June to ascertain if time and cost estimation is appropriate. There could be a one time charge for applying ground sterilant after trimming around poles and signs to prevent/slow new growth which would be a onetime charge of \$500.00 if the council approves.

- **Jeff Jackson made a motion to hire Dixon Lawn Care for \$1,500 to do one mowing the week before July 4th, seconded by Brian McElgunn. Motion passed.**

2. Roads

- **Phase 3 of 2020 is \$30,792, and Phase 1 of 2021 is \$20,000 to \$30,000**

3. Building permit for 10 x 12 shed and rod iron fence was submitted by Dean Harcrow.

- **Jeff Jackson motioned to approve Harcrow's permit, seconded by Butch Neel. Motion passed.**

D. FEMA No report

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Hutch Rec Bike Ride – Bob Updegraff

1. Bob gave the mayor the insurance liability release for Bike Ride on June 5th. Ride should be over by 11 a.m. The race will be held rain or shine, except for lightning. Greig Sims volunteered to bring cones to keep traffic on south side of Crazy Horse Drive at entrance.

B. Update of City Directory – Vickie Nuss

1. City Clerk sent an email about changes. Kenny has contacted 23 companies about ad in the directory, and 7 ads have taken. Wayne's Printing quoted the best price for printing. Deadline is June 15th.

C. Update on landscaping at entrance

1. Thanks to Butch Neel and Chris Brown for clearing out the old plantings and leveling the ground. The committee has raised \$5,255.15 in donations for the landscaping at the entrance. Peggy Williford will oversee maintenance of planting. Another \$1800 needs to be raised to complete the stone edging.

D. Status of lot clean up

1. Lot clean up is clearing dead trees (standing and fallen) off lots.
2. After the Bike Race, cleaning of city lot will begin at the entrance and north on Monroe.
3. Don Britten of Reno County will allow parking on Reno Co property at Crazy Horse and Snokomo. They will not be allowed on City right of way. The railroad ties need to be moved.

E. Discussion of violation enforcement. Tabled till next meeting.

F. Status of Ordinance 2021-24 is on website and will be published by middle of June. This is moving council meetings from Thursday to Mondays.

G. Election – if residents want to run need to be registered by June 1.

H. Butch Neel requested authorization to purchase 20 posts for \$35/post.

➤ **Jeff Jackson made a motion for Butch Neel to purchase the 20 posts for \$35 each, seconded by Greig Sims. Motion passed**

VII. New Business

A. Budget development

1. It is in progress by Jeff Jackson and Brian McElgunn

VIII. As may arise

IX. 2021 Goals: Road repairs, vacant lot clean-up, signage, future drainage concerns

X. Motion to adjourn

➤ **Motion made by Greig Sims and seconded by Butch Neel. Motion passed. Adjourned at 7:34 p.m.**