

**City of The Highlands**  
**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday, 5:30 p.m., February 28, 2022**  
**Nickerson Office Building, 13 N. Nickerson St., Nickerson, KS 67561**  
**Social Distancing and hand sanitizing are required, masks are strongly encouraged.**  
**This meeting is being recorded.**

**I. Meeting Called to Order**

- A. Welcome by Mayor Carol Moore
- B. Roll Call by the City Clerk:
  - Council Members Present: Butch Neel, Jeff Jackson, Mark Kerschen, and Kenny Nuss. Brian McElgunn is not present
  - City Clerk: Cindy Dale
  - AZC: Mo Penny
  - Guests: Craig Walle, Dennis Boggs, and Jim Humiston

**II. Approval of the Agenda as presented.**

- **Butch Neel motioned to approve Agenda as presented, seconded by Kenny Nuss. Motion passed.**

**III. Public Comments: Because this is a Special Council Meeting designated for a particular purpose, the Council reserves the right to limit discussion participants to council members and those invited with fire mitigated expertise to the discussion of developing a fire ordinance.**

- A. Introductions:
  - 1. Dennis was an electrician and a former volunteer fireman.
  - 2. Craig Walle has 4-year experience in U.S. Air Force and currently a Captain in the Hutchinson Fire Department and an EMT. In the past few years, he was sent to western states to observe wildfires in western states. Mayor Moore reported that Chief Beers commented that the firefighters who went to fight the fires there brought back invaluable information for this region.
  - 3. Pat Gardner was also invited but was detained at work.

**IV. Discussion on developing a fire ordinance**

- A. Documents sent to the committee in preparation for their review and recommendation included:
  - 1. Draft of the fire ordinance written in 2020
  - 2. Draft of the fireworks ordinance written in 2020
  - 3. Copies of fire ordinances for the cities of Nickerson and Pretty Prairie
- B. In the rough draft of a fire ordinance written in 2020
  - 1. Uniform Fire Code is used for Hutchinson. Captain Walle referenced in the rough draft open burning and agricultural, burning of brush, trees, structures, construction debris and trash. Open burning materials should not include heavy smoke materials such as tires, pallets and railroad ties. Captain Walle recommended that we eliminate allowing burning of construction debris, trash and structures.
- C. Council members related We were told that we can't get assistance with burning trees or brush because we do not have an ordinance.

- D. Need to call dispatch if you plan to burn trees or brush, and they will let you know if burning is allowed on that day.
  - E. Would like to have 82<sup>nd</sup> St. right of way be burned. Right now, there are no plans by the fire district #3 to burn the right of way of 82<sup>nd</sup> St. this year nor the next.
  - F. Should fireworks be included in the ordinance? Fireworks regulations are hard to enforce.
  - G. Fire pit burning is allowed in a fireproof container with cover and attended by a responsible adult except on a red fire day.
  - H. Members of committee will review and make recommendations on writing an ordinance to be written on March 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - I. Reminder that a new ordinance is on the website for four weeks to allow citizen comments. It was agreed that an email should be sent out to notify everyone to review the proposed ordinance.
- **Jeff Jackson made a motion to adjourn Special Council meeting, seconded by Butch Neel. Motion passed.**