

CITY OF THE HIGHLANDS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 11, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Crazy Horse Sports Club, 922 W. Crazy Horse Dr., 67502

This meeting is being recorded.

Minutes

I. Meeting called to order - 6:00 p.m.

A. Welcome by Mayor Moore

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll call of the Council by City Clerk, Bonnie Swenson

Present: Lyle Foss, Christie Gardner, Jeff Jackson, Mark Kerschen, Kenny Nuss

AZC: Mo Penny

Guests: John Hendricks, Steve Wyckoff, Erik Lutz

II. Approval of the agenda as presented

- Kenny Nuss made motion to approve agenda; Jeff Jackson seconded; motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Comment(s) None

IV. Approval of Draft Minutes: Regular meeting, February 12, 2024 and Special workshop meeting, February 26, 2024.

- Mark Kerschen made motion to approve both sets of draft minutes; Kenny Nuss seconded; motion carried unanimously.

V. Reports

A. Mayor

1. Mayor Moore wanted to acknowledge all of the various volunteer groups for their contributions to enhancing daily life in The Highlands.

B. Treasurer

1. Lyle Foss presented numbers for February 2024.

Deposits/Receipts total	502.21
Disbursements total	(1,169.05)

- Jeff Jackson made motion to approve financial report; Mark Kerschen seconded; motion carried unanimously.

2. Approval of invoices

- a. Reimbursement to Mayor Moore for printing history books - \$573.33
- b. Reno Co. Utilities - \$30.79
- c. TW Rolloffs – dumpsters on Wildwood - \$360.00

- Jeff Jackson made motion to approve payment of invoices as presented; Kenny Nuss seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Moore reported on receipt of tax valuations for city lots from Reno County, and status of the alcohol tax. Kansas Department of Revenue has an agent working on the reporting issue. Mark Ahrens said they are working on correcting it on their end.

C. AZC

1. Permit – review verbiage

Mo Penny stated that we need to have an ordinance backing up everything the city asks for on the permits. Had discussion on making updates to current permit to allow for future issues that could arise regarding drainage (culverts and driveways), clearing and leveling of land to prevent erosion, solar panels, landscaping in the ROW, among other things. May consider adding a FAQ section to website.

2. Ground solar (Ordinance 2022-29)

Mo will send fee information to prospective resident – solar panels are considered an accessory, and the fee is \$50.00.

3. Parking and landscaping in the ROW

Mo asked for letter to be sent to residents in violation of these situations.

- Mo will follow up with residents after letters are sent.

VI. New Business

A. Insurance coverage review for the City (Mitch Cramer with ProValue)
Mitch was not able to attend the meeting.

B. Recommendation from the short-term rental volunteer group –
John Hendricks and Steve Wyckoff presented their group's assessment of short-term rentals and how they affect the Highlands since the residents voted in November to allow them. John presented the council with a packet of information, reviewing the pros and cons in detail. Their group's consensus was that there is no need to regulate something that isn't a problem.

- Will put the item on April's agenda for further discussion and discernment.

C. Consider changes in council member term length, Draft Charter Ordinance No. 10 -

Mayor Moore gave the history of term limits Charter Ordinance for new council members, then council discussed benefits of moving from 4 year terms to 2 year terms.

- Jeff Jackson made motion to publish draft Charter Ordinance No. 10 on City's website for 2 months, asking for any comments; Christie Gardner seconded; motion carried unanimously.

D. Goals identified for 2024

1. Status on northwest exit –

Jeff Jackson has a verbal agreement with the Judith A. Hovious Trust representative to purchase their lot for \$5,000.00. We don't need to do it today, but the opportunity is there to construct an exit route.

2. Report on Monroe Street conversation – Jeff was not able to meet with the Township president. Will continue to work on this joint project.

3. Tree removal – Wildwood island

Todd Wilson should be there next week to remove trees. The City will need to put in two culverts to aid in diverting water. This is Step 1 in this 2024 goal. Step 2 will be to hire an engineer to assist in platting out drainage directions.

4. ROW/drainage and lot maintenance work –

May need to develop a dual purpose project to enable applying for grant money and using ARPA funds for drainage projects.

a. Invitation for new ROW maintenance volunteers -

Will have City Clerk send out a mass email to solicit new volunteers to continue the ROW work that has been done.

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Logo status – will contact Fincher's Findings for final logo improvements and ownership, and order generic business cards.

VIII. As may arise - None

IX. Dates for next City Council meeting –

A. March 25, 2024

B. April 8, 2024

- Jeff Jackson made motion that the next meeting will be April 8, 2024, and to cancel the March 25, 2024 meeting date; Mark Kerschen seconded; motion carried unanimously.

C. Agenda items for next meeting

1. Wildwood island
2. Contact of Engineer
3. Drainage plan in place
4. Property pin survey
5. Short Term Rental discussion
6. Northwest passageway
7. Road repair status

X. Motion to adjourn - 7:49 p.m.

- Jeff Jackson made motion; Mark Kerschen seconded; motion carried unanimously.

2024 Goals

1. Prepare a northwest exit
2. Initiate Monroe Street drainage in collaboration with township
3. Re-establish drainage to pond from Wovoka and Wildwood
4. Continue with ROW/drainage and lot maintenance work
5. Continue with road repairs

2023 Goals continued from 2022 Goals

1. Develop long-term plans for roads (obtain estimate from civil engineer)(completed)
2. Identify what needs to be done with roads this year (short term)(completed)
3. Identify drainage concerns
4. Establish Parks & Recreation committee (completed)
5. Continue with vacant lot clean-up

2021 goals: Road repairs, vacant lot clean-up, signage (completed), future drainage concerns.