

City of The Highlands
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, 6:00 p.m., June 13, 2022
Crazy Horse Sports Club, 922 W. Crazy Horse Dr., Hutchinson, KS 67502
This meeting is being recorded.

I. Meeting Called to Order

- A. Welcome by Mayor Carol Moore
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call by the City Clerk:
 - Council Members Present: Butch Neel, Jeff Jackson, and Kenny Nuss. Mark Kerschen arrived at 6:33
 - Absent Council Members: Brian McElgunn
 - City Clerk: Cindy Dale
 - AZC: Mo Penny
 - FEMA: Loren Frees

II. Approval of the Agenda as presented.

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

III. Public Comments (State your name and address. Please limit remarks to less than five minutes.)

IV. Approval of Minutes: May 23, 2022, Regular Meeting

- **Approval of Minutes of May 23, 2022, Regular Meeting, Jeff Jackson motioned to approve minutes, Butch Neel seconded. Motion approved.**

V. Reports

- A. Mayor: No report
- B. Treasurer:
 - 1. Second and final disbursement monies of American Rescue Plan received (\$23,959.64)
 - 2. Special Budget meeting July 11, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m. at Crazy Horse “Bunker”
 - 3. Invoice for Crazy Horse for food, drink, and use of room \$788.55
- **Jeff Jackson made a motion to pay Crazy Horse bill for \$788.55, seconded by Butch Neel. Motion passed.**
- 4. Invoice from Kenny Nuss for printing of the door hangers of City Meeting \$78.86
- **Jeff Jackson motioned to pay Kenny Nuss \$78.86, seconded by Butch Neel. Motion passed.**
- 5. Invoice from Stan Juhnke for legal services \$310.00.
- **Jeff Jackson motioned to pay the invoice from Stan Juhnke \$310.00 for legal services, seconded by Butch Neel. Motion passed.**

C. AZC Report

1. Mo has not purchased the reflector cones yet. The cones will be stored at Mo Penny or Butch Neel homes
2. No cost building permit for the Yeakels to clear their lot.

➤ **Jeff Jackson made a motion to approve Yeakel's permit, seconded by Kenny Nuss, motion passed.**

3. PBM has not been out yet but plans to start on June 16th or June 20th
4. Request for "No Outlet" sign at corner of W. Snokomo and Crazy Horse. Butch Neel said he has an extra sign and will install it at this location.
5. Mayor Moore will write letters of road abandonment after consulting with the city attorney.
6. Council discussed establishing another exit from the Highlands, possible to northwest, and what this would involve. Could American Rescue funds be used. Mayor Moore will attend a County Commission meeting where use of the ARPA funds will be discussed.
7. Jeff Jackson has contacted a firm in Wichita that does land drainage surveys.

VI. New Business

A. Assessing fines and clean-up to property tax

1. Mayor Moore and Councilman Jackson met with the city's attorney, Stan Juhnke, to discuss Kansas Statutes and our Ordinances because the county clerk said that she can not access fines and costs onto tax rolls. Mayor Moore called the League of Municipalities; they gave us Statutes numbers to refer to and said to consult with our city attorney.
 - The state statutes and our ordinance the city's initial authority comes from the statute 12-1617E, this statute sets out the procedures that must be followed for the city to abate nuisances. The statute further authorizes the city to go in and clean up the nuisance if the property owner does not do so within the prescribed time and (we gave them 180 days) the statute further in section D authorizes the city at its own cost to abate or remove the nuisance after giving proper notice and following the procedures set out in the statute. The city is authorized to set out in the state statute to pursue collection from the property owner by levying a special assessment if the assessment is not paid. The city clerk is to certify the cost to the county clerk and the county clerk shall place the bill on the tax roll against a lot or parcel of ground which was cleaned up. The amount expended from cleanouts shall be collected by the county treasurer and paid to the city as other taxes are collected and paid. There is no guarantee that the city will get fully reimbursed for cost incurred. Ordinances 2020-19 and 2021-23 clearly provide the city with the authority to cleanup offending property according to the city attorney.
 - Jeff Jackson took a copy of the letter from our attorney to the County Clerk, and we may proceed.
 - The city must give lot owners a chance to respond.
 - If lots are not cleaned up by September 1, 2022, the city will hire someone to clean up lot and charges will be assessed to the lot owner.

B. City meeting – effectiveness (advertising, attendance, food, program, handouts, etc.)

1. Council was pleased with attendance and feedback. Put a copy of the checklist on our website.
2. Leftover cupcakes will be donated to the soup kitchen.

C. ROW vegetation spraying: Jeff Jackson said the poison ivy and brush should be sprayed. He will spray and city will reimburse for Crossbow.

- D. Councilman Jackson picked up three boxes of Mosquito Dunks from the health department—they were all gone before the evening concluded. Dunks are for standing water but not for ponds.
- E. Discussion of solar energy. Jeff Jackson found an Ordinance from another community to use as an example to discuss solar panels. Butch Neel will talk to King Solar for information.
- F. Discussion of bond ordinance. A Charter Ordinance that allows City to issue a bond was written by Gilman and Bell P.C. for the City of The Highlands when we are ready. The roads need to be repaired first.

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Participation in Reno Co. 150-year celebration.
 - 1. Mayor Moore will talk to Jess with Crazy Horse to see if they are interested in participations, give out maps, note pads, etc.
- B. City clean-up – results. The dumpster was full. We will re-evaluate if we do again next year.
- C. Progress report on lot clean-up for Phase I and II and violations/fines
 - 1. There are three lot owners that remain in non-compliance for Phase I.
- D. Status of ROW clean-up. Plans are for Kenny, Brian, and the ROW committee to have a meeting at Mayor Moore’s home.
- E. Front Entry/Park update: Jeff Jackson will mow again and spray the poison ivy. See if township will grade the road.

VIII. As may arise

- A. There was a question about the red fire flag that is flown at the fire station and some residents do not drive by the fire station. See if we could install a new flagpole and have the fire department fly the flag at the entrance. Mayor Moore will call Bobby White about putting the flag at the entrance.

IX. Date of next City Council Meeting

- A. Schedule for next meeting

- **Butch Neel motioned to cancel meeting the meeting on June 27, 2022, and next meeting will be scheduled for July 11, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. and Special Budget meeting July 11, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m., seconded by Jeff Jackson. Motion passed.**

X. Motion to adjourn

- **Jeff Jackson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kenny Nuss. Motion pass. Adjourned at 7:34 p.m.**