

**CITY OF THE HIGHLANDS**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
Monday, 6:00 p.m., September 11, 2023  
Crazy Horse Sports Club, 922 W. Crazy Horse Dr., 67502

This meeting is being recorded.

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**Minutes**

**I. Meeting called to order - 6:01 p.m.**

A. Welcome by Mayor Moore

B. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Present: Mark Kerschen, Butch Neel, Kenny Nuss

Absent: Brian McElgunn, Jeff Jackson

AZC: Mo Penny

Guests: Vickie Nuss, Lyle Foss, Debbie Foss, Joyce Schultz, Tina Frees, Corby Miller

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

- Butch Neel made motion to approve agenda; Mark Kerschen seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**III. Public Comment(s)** Resident Corby Miller addressed the council about his dissatisfaction with how his property's ROW is being mowed. He has been trying to control the sandbur problem he has and does not want the City to do any maintenance on his property. He disagrees with the correspondence he has received about not following the ROW requirements and the dead trees referred to are not on his property. Kenny attempted to explain the process of the communications that have been sent to the residents. Mayor Moore had to stop the conversation and the resident left disgruntled. Kenny will allow him some time to cool down and then further investigate confirming the property line between Mr. Miller and the lot to the east of him.

**IV. Approval of Draft Minutes:** August 28, 2023 regular meeting

- Mark Kerschen made motion to approve minutes; Butch Neel seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**V. Reports**

A. Mayor

1. Report on LKM Legislative committee meeting - Mayor Moore attended on September 5, 2023 in Topeka.

## B. Treasurer

1. Mark Kerschen presented the August financial report. There were no questions or discussion.

General Fund Beginning Balance 8-1-2023	\$ 61,707.35
Deposits/Receipts total	664.92
Disbursements total	(29,432.19)
General Fund ending balance 8-31-2023	32,940.08

Capital Improvement Fund	175,793.12
Equipment Reserve Fund	25,604.73
Parks and Recreation Fund	7,952.23
American Rescue Fund	<u>41,419.28</u>
Total 8-31-2023	\$283,709.44

## 2. Approval of invoices -

Powered By ME	\$26,835.00 (street repair)
Reno Co. Utilities	\$202.97 (front entrance water)
Nationwide Insurance	\$175.00 (public officials bond renewal)

- Kenny Nuss made a motion to pay invoices as presented; Mark Kerschen seconded; motion carried unanimously.

## 3. First National Bank Accounts - Money Market and CD.

- Will put on next month's agenda to discuss further.

## C. AZC

1. Update on road repairs - Powered by ME has started on the north end of Paganica Pass headed west. Mayor Moore and Mo met with Rod Taylor who will be building and discussed the street improvements being made with him. They live in California now and have been clearing their lot. They are interested in purchasing more lots.

2. Permits - presented a new permit and fee to the council for review and approval for Gary Tonn, who has purchased Chris Cannon's property. He is building a garage and will paint it to match the dwelling.

## D. Parks and Recreation Volunteer Committee

1. Progress report - Vickie Nuss informed the council that the trees for the entrance have been ordered from Prairie Hills Nursery. They will call Brad Easter when they are ready to plant. The P & R committee is proposing the name "Paganica Park", selected from the submissions they received for the new park.

They asked the City Clerk to send out a mass email on their behalf to the residents revealing the new name and details regarding a t-shirt contest to sell to raise money and awareness for the new park.

- Kenny Nuss made motion to approve the new park name, Paganica Park; Butch Neel seconded; motion carried unanimously.

#### E. The Highlands Volunteer Welcome Committee

1. Refrigerator magnets - Vickie has been working with Fincher Findings on the final design. She will get more artwork based on final suggestions that were made for the coloring.

### **VI. New Business**

A. Posting names of candidates/question on website? (November general election)

1. Discussed obtaining information from candidates, brief bio and photo, and the ballot question on Airbnb's, to provide to residents prior to the upcoming election. If put on the website, there would be no cost.

- Mayor Moore and City Clerk will work on obtaining the needed information to do this.

B. Discussion: Posting "No Hunting" signs - non-resident people have been coming into the City to hunt. Need to post signs at the entrance to The Highlands, 101st, 103rd, and other perimeter areas.

- Mayor Moore asked Mo Penny to do research on costs and order at least 6 signs, and posts to mount them.

### **VII. Unfinished Business**

A. Status of ROW and lot discussion - see resident Corby Miller's conversation in Public Comments section above.

B. Second phase reminder letters - 25 letters were sent out on September 8, 2023 to non-residents that own property in the City, reminding them of the November deadline before the volunteer committee analyzes and prepares to send fines.

C. Education letter and plans for next spring to all landowners - have rough draft ready to finalize and send out to all property owners. Kenny would like to get more people involved with this process in the future to lessen the perception of bias. Will always have people that are unhappy with the procedure - it is an ongoing scenario.

D. Culvert clean out and continued ROW and lot efforts.

- will follow up at next month's meeting.

E. Conversation with Reno County, Don Brittain

- will need to follow up at next month's meeting.

**VIII.** As may arise

1. City Officials Manuals - the League of Kansas Municipalities will send more 2023 updates at no charge.

- Will need Kenny, Jeff and Brian's manuals so these can be incorporated when received from LKM.

2. Mark Kerschen asked about grants for street overlay in the future. Mayor Moore knows of a person that worked on the highway west of Hutchinson that may be a resource. Asked the City Clerk to contact the CCMFOA organization regarding any information they may have on this subject, as well.

- Will follow up with information obtained at next month's meeting.

**IX.** Date for next City Council meeting

A. September 25, 2023

B. October 9, 2023

- Butch Neel made motion to cancel the September 25, 2023 meeting; Kenny Nuss seconded; motion carried unanimously

C. Agenda items for next meeting

1. First National Bank accounts
2. No Hunting signs
3. Jeff Jackson conversation with Don Brittain
4. Culvert clean outs and continued ROW and lot efforts
5. Finalize refrigerator magnets
6. City Official manuals - 2023 updates
7. Street grant information

**X.** 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.)

**XI. Motion to adjourn - 7:03 p.m.**

- Mark Kerschen made motion to adjourn; Butch Neel seconded; motion carried unanimously.