

**11. Executive Session**

**Motion:** Gwyn Franson moved to go into executive session for procurement of property. Motion was seconded by Jan Bunce, and passed by unanimous vote.

**12. Purchase of Adventure and Learning Park**

**Motion:** Pat Hendrickson moved to approve the real estate contract to purchase the Adventure and Learning Park and adjoining property, authorize the Mayor to execute a contract on behalf of the City, and approve an expenditure of \$100,000 for payment into escrow for this real estate contract. Motion was seconded by Jan Bunce, and passed by unanimous vote.

**Discussion:** Mayor Adamson noted the City is entering into an agreement to purchase the Adventure and Learning Park land, amounting to 69.4 acres for \$12,354.15 per acre, as well as developable land above the Adventure and Learning Park totaling 10.9 acres for \$50,000.00 per acre. The total purchase price is \$1,405,870.92.

Mayor Adamson further explained the City presently has \$600,000 in park funds, and the City is collecting \$150,000 per year in park impact fees. The agreement with the State allows payment over 9 years. Teri Jerman also noted the City has 60 days to review the contract.

Rick Nydegger inquired whether the City would require bonding or whether it would mean an increase in taxes to pay for the land. Mayor Adamson indicated the City does not expect to raise taxes. He noted this land purchase will mean that the City won't be building other parks.

Rick Nydegger further inquired concerning an estimate on the costs for maintaining the infrastructures in the Park. John Newman noted the budget set is \$12,000 for maintenance, and this was started in the last budget year.

Mayor Adamson noted the park is in a servicable capacity, and it was felt it's purchase is something we won't have the opportunity to do in the future. Also, open space is a critical issue, and it means preserving something for Highland.

Cindy Horrocks asked about developing the property. Mayor Adamson noted the only property that could be developed comprises the 10.9 acres located on top. However, the City would like to consider a tri-city recreational center, or ballfield, for that property.

Rick Nydegger asked if the intent of the purchase included an east/west corridor through the park. Pat Hendrickson replied that the intent was not for an east/west corridor, but there is a possibility as there is a need for a road from east to west.

Rick Nydegger explained he was part of a committee appointed to explore the issue with the City and State, and he wanted to be apprised of the discussions on any road that goes through the park. He asked for access to the process before decisions are instituted. Mayor Adamson indicated the groundwork would be done by the committee. Pat Hendrickson explained the committee on the road will have representation from Hidden Oaks, Pheasant Hollow, and the west side of Highland.

Cindy Horrocks expressed frustration at not being included in the discussions on the Adventure and Learning Park as it involved the east/west road. She explained the efforts that had been made by the committee appointed to make recommendations on a road. She further noted the committee had provided its own out-of-pocket money to assist with the study, and it had made recommendations.

Mayor Adamson discussed plans for improvements on 4800 West, and reported it will be a collector road. People need to be able to get from the west side of Highland to the east side.