

Hillsboro City Council Public Hearing
Grant Funding for Police Vehicles
March 9, 2010

Mayor Baran called the hearing to order at 6:45 pm.

Roll call was taken and those present were Mayor Baran and Commissioners Trost, Hill and Sherer.

Mayor Baran explained the purpose of the meeting was to give the public a chance to comment on the grant application process for supplemental funding of new police vehicles.

Mayor Baran introduced Amanda Cole of the Montgomery County Economic Development office. Ms. Cole explained that after she had heard the news of the Hillsboro Police Department's request for new vehicles she offered her service to write a grant application to supplement a portion of the funds. A pre-application was submitted on behalf of the City and approval was granted to move forward with the full application process. There is no guarantee that the grant will be funded. The grant application would be for \$21,900.

Mr. Richard Small addressed the Council and Ms. Cole with questions on the grant. First he asked if the police cars were the only thing that could qualify for grant funding under Rural Development assistance. Ms. Cole informed everyone there were many areas within a municipality that would be eligible for grant funding, but a priority at this time within Rural Development is public safety. Municipalities are only permitted one grant per yearly cycle which runs from October 1st through September 30th. Mr. Small next asked if these grant funds were allocated as of yet. The response from Ms. Cole was that they have not been pre-approved. Mr. Small asked if the grant writer would be compensated from any of the grant monies and the response was a no. The only expenditures to obtain the grant were paper work completed by the City Attorney.

Mr. Small made the comment that there are cuts being made everywhere from the Federal Government to the State Government to hold spending down. The taxpayers would hope that all forms of additional funding are sought before the City makes any large purchases. The taxpayers urge the Council to use all available funding resources and keep from borrowing to cover the cost of additional equipment. Mr. Small also suggested a longer time period for citizen comments at the upcoming budget hearing.

Mayor Baran assured the audience that the Council continually searches for additional grant funds.

Mr. Small suggested the Council might also look to philanthropic organizations as a source for funding for specific projects.

Mayor Baran thanked Mr. Small for his comments and with no further questions being asked entertained a motion for adjournment.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk