

Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
August 12, 2008

Mayor Baran called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

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

Minutes of the previous meetings were approved.

Commissioner Hill reported on the recent storm damage and commended all the City crews and volunteers who helped that evening. Commissioner Hill stated this reinforces the need to have an emergency plan in place for these types of events. Hill informed everyone that it could take two to three weeks to get all the limbs picked up.

Commissioner Hill next informed the Council that the cabins at the Old Lake need addressed. The cabins presently sit on City property and this needs to be changed. The cabin owners need to own the property they sit on. A meeting will be scheduled with the cabin owners to assist in establishing property lines and determine a value on the property.

Commissioner Hill also informed the Council that Merle's Family Fun Center will be having a Family Fun Night on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Baran reminded everyone that there is a generator on the truck bed stored at the Street Department that could be used to power the lights and garage doors at the facility.

Commissioner Sherer also commended everyone that helped with the storm damage of the previous week.

Police Chief Satterlee stated everyone involved did a great job with traffic control and the cleanup of the City streets. Chief Satterlee informed everyone that one of the Police Department vehicles had been damaged in the storm and steps for repair are being taken with the insurance company. Satterlee also mentioned that this past week the K-9 Officers and dogs were in Decatur for training.

Commissioner Sherer also informed the Council that there were claims on electronic equipment at the Fire Station due to lightning strikes from the storm. These are also being dealt with by the City's insurance company.

Commissioner Sherer stated that as of August 7<sup>th</sup> the County 911 dispatchers were to transfer any Hillsboro fire or police calls to our dispatchers.

Commissioner Sherer also noted that he had given Montgomery County ESDA Coordinator Diana Holmes a copy of the emergency operations plan he had written for her input. Ms. Holmes stated you need to adopt a plan and make changes as you go. Commissioner Trost also thanked everyone for their efforts during last week's rain and wind storm. Commissioner Trost next discussed the current budget and stated presently all departments were showing a loss.

Commissioner McCammack informed the Council that a pump on Hickory Street and an auto-dialer were damaged during some periods of low power and the cost of replacement is about \$4,800.00. Damage compensation forms have been filled out and sent back to Ameren for reimbursement and there has been no reply as yet. Mayor Baran stated he would contact them.

Commissioner McCammack next discussed a drainage problem behind the house at the corner of Highland and Freeland. McCammack stated to fix the problem they would need to purchase about 200 feet of 18" pipe at a cost of around \$3,000.00. Commissioner McCammack informed everyone that Mayor Baran and Commissioner Hill have saved \$60,000.00 from \$402,000.00 change order to install the new lines supplying the tower.

Mayor Baran also thanked all the departments and the general public for their assistance after the wind and rain storm. Mayor Baran stated documents would be signed finalizing the sale of the airport on August 27<sup>th</sup> and the final \$175,000.00 payment made. Mayor Baran also reiterated that an emergency plan needs to be put in place. Mayor Baran next informed the Council that all the necessary paperwork for the rail spur has been submitted to I.D.O.T. for their approval.

City Engineer Scott Hunt reported on ongoing painting, mechanical and electrical work at the new water treatment plant. The new 16 inch water line from the new plant to the tower has been completed. Hunt reported there would be a change order to address at the next Council meeting. Hunt also informed everyone that it could be September before the Rail-spur project could be bid. Hunt reported the micro-surfacing of Main Street is scheduled for mid-September. Hunt also mentioned that the NPDS application for the water treatment plant has been submitted to the IEPA for their approval.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$197,554.87 as money becomes available. Motion carried 5-0.

Kyle Putnam of Patton & Company presented the Council with the audit findings. It was explained that loss of revenue is a serious problem and revenue from income taxes will continue to shrink. The State of Illinois is having financial problems and this causes cities to receive their funding later than normal, property taxes will again be late this year and grant funding is drying up. Putnam went on to explain that unfortunately expenses are increasing. On a positive note the City has been proactive by cutting back on summer help and should consider not replacing any employees that are lost to retirement or other reasons. Employee salaries unfortunately are the quickest way to cut expenses. Putnam also stated the City needs to trim expenses and only purchase is you needed. Putnam next stated the City needs to put a capital improvement plan in place, much like that utilized in the Police Department for vehicles.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to accept the audit of Patton & Company. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran asked Commissioner Trost to meet with all the Commissioners and Supervisors to outline a capital improvement plan for each department. The Mayor also stated any purchases should be limited to items that are needed, no frills.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve pay **Resolution 2008-15** for work at the new water treatment plant in the amount of \$352,986.05. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hill discussed 8 acres of City owned property in the Irving arm of Glenn Shoals Lake that could be deemed surplus property and sold.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to pass a resolution deeming 8 acres of City owned property on Glenn Shoals lake as surplus and as such could be sold. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran informed the Council of the need to pay John Unger a small salary so that he could be covered under the City's workman's compensation insurance in case he becomes injured while on duty.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to pay John Unger \$100.00 per month as a part-time Park Patrol Officer. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to annex the property of Bert Wesley Everett and Danna Sue Everett. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Trost to close a portion of Main Street from the Courthouse to Wood Street on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup> for a car show and other Old Settlers activities. Motion carried 5-0.

There was a brief discussion concerning an agreement with the City of Hillsboro and Butler regarding the treatment of Butler's sewerage. The draft agreement caused concern with some issues such as the monitoring of flow and penalties. Action of the agreement was tabled until these issues could be resolved.

Commissioner Trost informed the Council of a request from Gene Knisley for \$20,000 from the Revolving Fund Loan account for upgrades at the bowling alley. The present loan policy is for a maximum of \$15,000.00.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve a loan of \$15,000.00 for seven years at 4% interest if Mr. Knisley agrees to the lesser amount. Motion carried 5-0.

Next on the agenda was the hiring of an engineer/dispatcher for the Fire Department. Test scores had not been received until Sunday. Therefore interviews would not be conducted until this Thursday. The agenda item was tabled until a future Council meeting.

Mayor Baran asked Commissioner Sherer to review wages and see if we could get by without replacing the engineer/dispatcher position at this time.

Upcoming agenda items consist of approval to correct drainage at corner of Highland and Freeland, the sale of City owned property, a resolution for the sale of City owned property and a

change order involving the new water treatment plant. Mayor Baran also reminded everyone that City Hall will be closed the two days of Old Settlers.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 8:17 pm by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Booher, City Clerk