

Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
December 9, 2008

Mayor Baran called the meeting to order at 7:25, due to a zoning hearing that ran long preceding the Council meeting.

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

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Commissioner Sherer reported on an erosion problem below the new water tower that is being researched to see if grant money would be available to make the necessary repairs. If not repaired the problem still needs to be rectified in the near future. Commissioner Sherer also noted that he, along with Commissioner Trost, will be visiting a couple of City owned properties on Glenn Shoals Lake to evaluate possible sales of those properties. Commissioner Sherer next informed the Council that he had received a suggestion to help save the City money. A copy would be distributed to the Council for their review as it could be termed a radical concept.

Commissioner Trost commented on the survey completed as to how many employees would likely take advantage of an early retirement program through IMRF. The survey showed there would be 5 for sure and a couple of more would possibly take part in the offer. There would still need to be some more study done on the total cost versus expected cost savings to the City. Trost stated he would also research alternative plans to reduce the workforce through retirement incentives.

Commissioner McCammack reported that he needs Council direction on how to proceed on getting water meters read. McCammack stated his original plan was to convert all the meters to radio read meters to help with labor costs involved with reading meters. Due to expenses the plan would probably have to be abandoned for now, but there are presently 60 to 70 of these meters in place. The receiver for obtaining these readings is in need of repair and is out of warranty. A replacement would cost around \$2,500.00. Therefore, should the receiver be fixed to read these meters? Commissioner McCammack also planned to replace the inactive meters with standard meters to cut expenses as the difference of a radio read versus a standard meter is nearly \$70.00. McCammack said that he would bring the issue of approving the repair of the receiver before the Council at the January meeting.

Mayor Baran stated with the present financial condition of the State of Illinois, grant money for the rail spur has been put on hold. Mayor Baran also stated he would like to meet with Commissioner Hill and Attorney Jarman to see what can be done to speed the sale of two buildings on Main Street.

City Engineer Hunt reported work at the new water treatment plant was going well. Hunt also informed the Council that work will begin in January to close out the documentation for the 2008 MFT program. Hunt also reported dam inspections would be conducted in the near future.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to approve payment of this month's bills in the amount of \$265,278.66. Trost noted there was an increase due to an insurance payment to Risk Management. Motion carried 5-0.

The next item on the agenda pertained to a change in building permit fees and this was put on hold until a meeting in January to allow more time for research.

Commissioner Sherer discussed the need to limit parking on Oak Street and on Hall's Lane. The Hall's Lane parking issue was tabled until more information is gathered.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to limit parking to the West side of Oak Street from Route 16 to West Fairground. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner McCammack informed the Council of an option to purchase a man lift that is already on site at the new water plant. The lift is being used by Plocher Construction, but they would sell the lift to the City for \$15,000.00. Commissioner McCammack explained the lift could be used for numerous maintenance projects at the new plant without the need for tall ladders or scaffolding. McCammack stressed that it would also avoid some safety issues that could arise trying to work from tall ladders, as the process area is nearly 3 stories tall. McCammack also noted the money would come from the loan already approved by Rural Development.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the purchase of the lift in the amount of \$15,000.00. Motion carried 5-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve pay resolution WTP 2008-19 in the amount of \$282,322.56 for the new water plant. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran asked the Council to consider the cancellation of the December 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting as has been done in years past.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to approve the cancellation of December 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran informed the Council that he would like approval to go into closed session to discuss possible litigation proceedings.

**Motion was made at 7:52 by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to go into closed session to discuss possible litigation issues. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:50 with all Council members in attendance.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 8:51 by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Trost. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Booher