

Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
February 24, 2009

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.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Commissioners' and Mayor's Reports:

Commissioner Sherer reported work is progressing at the Challacombe House and ads are being placed for lifeguard positions.

Mayor Baran informed the audience that the Council had received a critique from Leland Storm concerning issues at the Police Department. Mayor Baran stated he had met with Police Commissioner Hill concerning the report. Mayor Baran informed everyone that his appointment of Chief Satterlee would stand.

Commissioner Hill discussed the recent IDNR permit that had been issued to the new mine. Commissioner stated that after reading the permit all the questions that had been posed to IDNR during the permitting process had been answered. Hill next reported on the latest insurance meeting in which representatives of all departments were in attendance. The proposal as presented looked like it would be a good fit for the employees and the City. Employees would not lose benefits and the City could save a great deal of money. The next step is the application process and then a check for one month premium would be issued to complete the process, with Council approval. If the official proposal from the insurance company was approved the transition could take place soon. There would also need to be an oversight committee formed to monitor the fund.

Commissioner Hill discussed the Police Department and stated that since October she has been observing and learning the position.

Chief Satterlee reported that power washing of the brick front of the Farm Bureau building will be taking place soon. Parking spaces in front of the Farm Bureau will be blocked off during the process. Satterlee also reported that IDOT will be doing a study to determine if the intersection at Route 127 and Fairground needs to be designated a school zone. Lastly, Satterlee reported on a new program called "A Child is Missing". The program uses sophisticated mapping systems to place 1000 phone calls per minute to areas in which someone has gone missing. The program can also be used to find missing elderly or Alzheimer patients as well as physically or mentally challenged adults.

Mayor Baran took this time to commend the Police Department for their resourcefulness in locating and installing a portion of the front bumper on one of the squad cars at a significant cost savings.

Mayor Baran also stated he had met with Commissioner Hill and Chief Satterlee to establish a written set of duties that will be expected of Chief Satterlee.

Commissioner Trost informed any of the Council, that had not previously heard, that the current loan has been paid down to \$70,000.00 from an original \$318,000.00. Trost also informed the Council that the general fund budget was currently \$20,000.00 to the negative. To help with budget expenses Roy Hertel was introduced to discuss the option of purchasing electricity on the open market.

Mr. Hertel informed the Council that they could save money on their power bills by looking at other sources to purchase electricity from other than Ameren. The City would still have the infrastructure portion of the bill from Ameren, but not the usage. It was estimated that the City could save \$1,000 per month. There would be some billing and accounting issues that would need to be in place first in order to make a smooth transition. A contract could be for one year and reevaluate savings at the end of the year. It was also mentioned that the City could contact Ameren and ask to have KW costs reduced from .10/kw to .08/kw and abandon outsourcing any purchase.

Mayor Baran asked Commissioner Trost, Roy Hertel and Clerk Booher to serve on a committee to research electric suppliers and potential savings.

City Attorney Jarman stated he had received a letter from Devon and Fortson Oil Company stating they would not be renewing their oil and gas lease agreement on the Challacombe estate in Texas.

Mayor Baran asked Attorney Jarman to see if there were any other interested parties in leasing the mineral rites.

City Attorney Jarman next illustrated to the Council the area the Village of Butler was seeking for an easement from the City for construction of a new sewer line. Official documentation should be ready for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Baran stated this project could open the door for adding sewer to the residents of Northwood Heights.

Mayor Baran next asked the City Attorney if an injunction could be filed concerning two properties that have not complied with abatement notices. The City would clean the properties up and place a large lien on the properties. Jarman stated this could be done.

City Engineer Hunt reported work is continuing at the new water plant with the disinfection of piping and tanks, completing control wiring and painting. The next update meeting would be scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> by which "substantial completion" should be completed and retainage could be claimed on the pay request. Hunt also reported plans have been completed to finalize a new NPDS permit allowing for land application of sludge from the backwash lagoons.

Mayor Baran informed everyone that an "open house" for the new water plant is tentatively scheduled for sometime in April.

The Council was presented a water agreement from Hillsboro Hospital in which the City would guarantee them access to water in the case of an emergency. Commissioner McCammack had an issue with the quantity the City would be committed to. McCammack asked for a clarification of

the quantity before the agreement would be approved. This would be addressed before the next meeting.

Mayor Baran presented the Council with a grant application from IDNR addressing issues in the watershed. The grant would have a limit of \$40,000.00 and would be a competitive grant with only 5 being awarded.

Action was tabled on the application until Commissioner Sherer has time to evaluate the application and make any decisions as to the project site and monetary commitment.

Commissioner Hill noted that C.J. Liddell of the local NRCS office would be a good source of information concerning the grant application.

Commissioner McCammack informed everyone of the need to purchase replacement equipment to read our radio meters.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack** and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to approve the purchase of equipment to read meters in the amount of \$2,350.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner McCammack next informed the Council of the need to begin repairs and replacement of lift station pumps for the Waste Water Department. The pumps would be replaced by priority with billing spread out to help with financing.

Commissioner McCammack also expressed the need to begin a study involving upgrades at the Waste Water plant as it is nearing its capacity.

Mayor Baran stated he would form a Committee and have it for the next meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack** and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve \$10,000 in expenditures to repair or replace Waste Water pumps on a priority schedule. The first to be replaced will be a 30 hp pump. Motion carried 5-0.

Upcoming agenda items would be an emergency water agreement with Hillsboro Hospital, Village of Butler sewer easement, IDNR grant application and selection of Committee to study Waste Water plant expansion.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 7:56 pm by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Booher, City Clerk

Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
February 24, 2009

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.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Commissioners' and Mayor's Reports:

Commissioner Sherer reported work is progressing at the Challacombe House and ads are being placed for lifeguard positions.

Mayor Baran informed the audience that the Council had received a critique from Leland Storm concerning issues at the Police Department. Mayor Baran stated he had met with Police Commissioner Hill concerning the report. Mayor Baran informed everyone that his appointment of Chief Satterlee would stand.

Commissioner Hill discussed the recent IDNR permit that had been issued to the new mine. Commissioner stated that after reading the permit all the questions that had been posed to IDNR during the permitting process had been answered. Hill next reported on the latest insurance meeting in which representatives of all departments were in attendance. The proposal as presented looked like it would be a good fit for the employees and the City. Employees would not lose benefits and the City could save a great deal of money. The next step is the application process and then a check for one month premium would be issued to complete the process, with Council approval. If the official proposal from the insurance company was approved the transition could take place soon. There would also need to be an oversight committee formed to monitor the fund.

Commissioner Hill discussed the Police Department and stated that since October she has been observing and learning the position.

Chief Satterlee reported that power washing of the brick front of the Farm Bureau building will be taking place soon. Parking spaces in front of the Farm Bureau will be blocked off during the process. Satterlee also reported that IDOT will be doing a study to determine if the intersection at Route 127 and Fairground needs to be designated a school zone. Lastly, Satterlee reported on a new program called "A Child is Missing". The program uses sophisticated mapping systems to place 1000 phone calls per minute to areas in which someone has gone missing. The program can also be used to find missing elderly or Alzheimer patients as well as physically or mentally challenged adults.

Mayor Baran took this time to commend the Police Department for their resourcefulness in locating and installing a portion of the front bumper on one of the squad cars at a significant cost savings.

Mayor Baran also stated he had met with Commissioner Hill and Chief Satterlee to establish a written set of duties that will be expected of Chief Satterlee.

Commissioner Trost informed any of the Council, that had not previously heard, that the current loan has been paid down to \$70,000.00 from an original \$318,000.00. Trost also informed the Council that the general fund budget was currently \$20,000.00 to the negative. To help with budget expenses Roy Hertel was introduced to discuss the option of purchasing electricity on the open market.

Mr. Hertel informed the Council that they could save money on their power bills by looking at other sources to purchase electricity from other than Ameren. The City would still have the infrastructure portion of the bill from Ameren, but not the usage. It was estimated that the City could save \$1,000 per month. There would be some billing and accounting issues that would need to be in place first in order to make a smooth transition. A contract could be for one year and reevaluate savings at the end of the year. It was also mentioned that the City could contact Ameren and ask to have KW costs reduced from .10/kw to .08/kw and abandon outsourcing any purchase.

Mayor Baran asked Commissioner Trost, Roy Hertel and Clerk Booher to serve on a committee to research electric suppliers and potential savings.

City Attorney Jarman stated he had received a letter from Devon and Fortson Oil Company stating they would not be renewing their oil and gas lease agreement on the Challacombe estate in Texas.

Mayor Baran asked Attorney Jarman to see if there were any other interested parties in leasing the mineral rites.

City Attorney Jarman next illustrated to the Council the area the Village of Butler was seeking for an easement from the City for construction of a new sewer line. Official documentation should be ready for approval at the next meeting.

Mayor Baran stated this project could open the door for adding sewer to the residents of Northwood Heights.

Mayor Baran next asked the City Attorney if an injunction could be filed concerning two properties that have not complied with abatement notices. The City would clean the properties up and place a large lien on the properties. Jarman stated this could be done.

City Engineer Hunt reported work is continuing at the new water plant with the disinfection of piping and tanks, completing control wiring and painting. The next update meeting would be scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> by which "substantial completion" should be completed and retainage could be claimed on the pay request. Hunt also reported plans have been completed to finalize a new NPDS permit allowing for land application of sludge from the backwash lagoons.

Mayor Baran informed everyone that an "open house" for the new water plant is tentatively scheduled for sometime in April.

The Council was presented a water agreement from Hillsboro Hospital in which the City would guarantee them access to water in the case of an emergency. Commissioner McCammack had an issue with the quantity the City would be committed to. McCammack asked for a clarification of

the quantity before the agreement would be approved. This would be addressed before the next meeting.

Mayor Baran presented the Council with a grant application from IDNR addressing issues in the watershed. The grant would have a limit of \$40,000.00 and would be a competitive grant with only 5 being awarded.

Action was tabled on the application until Commissioner Sherer has time to evaluate the application and make any decisions as to the project site and monetary commitment.

Commissioner Hill noted that C.J. Liddell of the local NRCS office would be a good source of information concerning the grant application.

Commissioner McCammack informed everyone of the need to purchase replacement equipment to read our radio meters.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack** and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to approve the purchase of equipment to read meters in the amount of \$2,350.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner McCammack next informed the Council of the need to begin repairs and replacement of lift station pumps for the Waste Water Department. The pumps would be replaced by priority with billing spread out to help with financing.

Commissioner McCammack also expressed the need to begin a study involving upgrades at the Waste Water plant as it is nearing its capacity.

Mayor Baran stated he would form a Committee and have it for the next meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack** and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve \$10,000 in expenditures to repair or replace Waste Water pumps on a priority schedule. The first to be replaced will be a 30 hp pump. Motion carried 5-0.

Upcoming agenda items would be an emergency water agreement with Hillsboro Hospital, Village of Butler sewer easement, IDNR grant application and selection of Committee to study Waste Water plant expansion.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 7:56 pm by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Booher, City Clerk