

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
February 26, 2008

Mayor Baran opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were approved.

Mayor and Commissioners Reports,

Commissioner Hill reported they are working in the campground getting it ready for opening on April 1st. 50 picnic tables have been reconditioned and are ready for spring. The Parks Department has 3 priorities at this time and they are getting the campground open, pool open and then repair of the Challacombe House. Her Department has also been working on ideas to help save money in this year's budget.

Commissioner Hill also informed the Council she had attended a meeting with Montgomery County Rural Water concerning getting treated water to service the North marina and abandon the well. The well is in need of repairs and the water from the well has stained all the fixtures in the restrooms.

Commissioner Sherer noted that anything he had for the Council would be addressed later in the agenda.

Commissioner Trost asked the Council to utilize the budget worksheets that had been placed at their chairs to begin working on their departmental budgets.

Commissioner McCammack asked Commissioner Trost if he had looked into the money amounts that could be used for summer help. Trost stated he wanted to see the outcome of the longevity issue before a dollar figure could be finalized.

Commissioner McCammack informed the Council and audience on the process used to determine when to use overtime to clear the roads of snow and ice. McCammack explained that he relies on the judgment of the Police Department to determine the conditions of the roads and whether snow removal or the spreading of fly ash is needed.

McCammack stated the Police Department is on the roads 24/7 and is aware of the changing conditions. McCammack noted there was a small amount of snow with no ice Sunday and it is a fine line as to justify the spending of tax dollars on overtime to plow this small amount of snow. Commissioner McCammack also informed the Council that there is no salt available for treating the roads at the St. Louis warehouse for at least 7 to 10 days.

Mayor Baran announced there would be a Supervisors meeting March 4th at 7:00 pm to discuss the upcoming budget. Mayor Baran also mentioned the need to confer with City Attorney Jarman concerning the proposed loan of \$175,000.00 from Challacombe estate to the water fund. Mayor

Baran next read a letter of resignation from long time Zoning Board of Appeals member Cecil Saunders and asked for the Council to be thinking about a replacement.

City Attorney Jarman presented the Council with a mortgage release pertaining to the Revolving Fund loan payoff of the Kunkel's.

City Engineer Hunt was unable to attend the meeting.

The agreement with Ameren concerning the installation of power to the new raw water pump station was tabled.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve the purchase of repair parts for a pump at the waste water plant in the amount of \$2,300.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to appoint Paul Grider to the Auxiliary Police Department. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve a resolution supporting Police and Fire Pensions, but asking that any changes in benefits not be passed on to the taxpayers. Motion carried 5-0.

RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO:

- 1) STOP MAKING COSTLY BENEFIT IMPROVEMENTS; AND***
- 2) ADOPT REFORMS THAT PROTECT POLICE AND FIRE PENSIONS***

WHEREAS, the Illinois police and firefighter pension funds are facing uncertainty and a financial crisis is developing; and

WHEREAS, generous retirement and disability benefits have caused the funds to incur escalating debt that threatens their long-term sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois General Assembly has continued to add to the growing costs of these pension funds through increasing benefits without providing additional revenues; and

WHEREAS, benefit increases in recent years have contributed to a doubling of the debt carried by police and fire pension funds from 1999-2004; and

WHEREAS, the amount of debt carried by police pension funds as of 2004 reached \$179,958 per active police officer and the amount of debt carried by firefighter pension funds reached \$176,845 per active firefighter; and

WHEREAS, there is no certainty that the current benefit levels are sustainable by municipalities for the existing and improved benefits; and

WHEREAS, local taxpayers are ultimately financially responsible for the growing pension obligations and will invariably be expected to pay those costs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Hillsboro urges the General Assembly to stop approving new and increased pension benefits for the police and fire pension funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly embraces sensible pension reforms in the areas of ethics reform, professionalization of fund management, public sunshine and disclosure of pension board activity, conflict-of-interest restrictions, accountability measures, improved cost impact analysis, meaningful regulation and enhanced local government funding authority.

Passed this 26TH day of February, 2008 by a roll call vote.

Yeas 5 Nays 0 Present 0

William M. Baran

Mayor of the City of Hillsboro

There was a brief discussion again concerning the billboards placed on buildings and the fact that the Council had not followed up on the results of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting that was held over a year ago giving them permission.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to allow the current billboards to remain. This refers to the two advertising Simpson's Century 21. Motion carried 5-0.

The Zoning Board had asked the present Zoning Code to be changed allowing for a special use permit to be issued for billboards on a case by case basis.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to leave the Zoning Code as is concerning billboards. Motion carried 5-0.

City Attorney Jarman explained to the Council the request for a Zoning variance from Jane Calvert so a garage could be constructed. Jarman explained the Zoning Board reviewed the request and found the present garage already encroaches on City right of way for Center Street. Jarman explained an easement could be granted and if the garage were to be removed the easement would cease.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to grant Jane Calvert of 202 Paterson Drive an easement for construction of a garage. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of the 2008 oil and chipping program was tabled until the next meeting.

Approval of a fee agreement with Hurst & Rosche Engineers for incidental engineering was put on hold until the next meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve the Kelly-Miller Circus to set up on Sports Association ground. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran read a letter from the Planning Commission asking the City to begin looking at properties that are adjacent to properties in the City limits on at least three sides and attempt to annex them into the City. They asked that pros and cons be studied and used to help persuade these properties to annex.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to accept the letter from the Planning Commission and to allow Mayor Baran, Commissioner Hill and City Attorney Jarman to study the annexation of properties contiguous to properties within the City limits through cost effectiveness and legal parameters. A resolution would then be prepared committing to annexation proceedings. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council next discussed proceedings that were held with the Labor Union, Mayor Baran, Commissioner Hill and Attorney Jarman concerning longevity increases. The question involved whether longevity backpay would be retroactive to the contract signing date of May 1st or the date the Union asked for a wage opener, which was January 22nd.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to approve longevity back pay to May 1st. Payments would be made in 3 installments with the first being in this fiscal year. The second payments would be made as funds become available this next fiscal year. Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Sherer and Trost voting no.

Commissioner Trost stated he supports the Council's decision in this matter.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:57 by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk