

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
January 26, 2010

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.

Minutes of the January 12th meeting were approved.

Commissioners and Mayor Reports:

Commissioner Hill answered a question posed at the last meeting concerning citations issued by unmarked versus marked police vehicles. In 2009 there were 488 traffic citations issued with 369 of those issued by unmarked vehicles. In 2008 there were 451 traffic citations issued with 309 issued by unmarked vehicles.

Commissioner Hill next asked if she could respond to the newspaper and radio station as to questions concerning her department that were posed to them earlier this month via email. Mayor Baran agreed she should be entitled to answer those questions.

Commissioner Sherer informed the Council that Sid Blankenship would be retiring next month and now is the time to request applications for the position.

Mayor Baran suggested converting that position to a swing-man position that could be shared by all departments. The position would be a union position rather than a non-union supervisor.

Commissioner Hill stated that would leave a department without a supervisor.

Commissioner Trost stated that this would be an opportunity to review the position and see if it could be improved upon. The Council should not use this person on large projects but hire outside contractors for these projects.

Commissioner Trost spoke as a member of the building committee for the proposed new high school. Trost asked for support of the project as he felt schools are an important part of every community.

Commissioner McCammack reported the waste water department has been working on sludge reports. McCammack next informed everyone of a problem with a storm water line collapsing a portion of the road at Jefferson and Tremont. Commissioner McCammack discussed the clearing of streets during snows and the fine line as to when to begin clearing of the streets. The Police Department makes the after hours decision as to when to clear the streets as safety becomes an issue. Commissioner McCammack took this time to thank Hillsboro Township for work they did on a hillside on Vandalia Street. This was a project that could not have been completed without their specialized equipment.

Mayor Baran reported that IDOT intends to mill and resurface routes 16 and 127 in Hillsboro this summer. They will resurface Route 127 from the intersection of Wood and Hamilton Streets to Senator Miller Drive. They will also resurface Route 16 from the 3-way stop going east to Schram City.

Mayor Baran introduced Silas McCormick who was filling in as City Attorney for this meeting.

Attorney McCormick reported Attorney Cullen had been in contact three times with American General who holds the mortgage to the "Chances" building. They have been unresponsive to any overtures of releasing the mortgage so the building can be repaired or sold.

City Engineer Hunt reported paperwork for closing out the 2009 MFT program would be completed and ready for Council approval at the next meeting. Hunt reported copies of the as-built plans for the new water plant have been delivered to the water plant and city hall. Hunt next reported the storm water lines at the rail spur have been completed as well as the encasement piping. Plans for the new water intake screens have been submitted to IDNR and are awaiting their approval. Hunt informed the Council that 13 contractors had inquired about bidding the utility lines to Deer Run mine but 3 have since opted out of the process.

The next item on the agenda was an ordinance concerning video gaming legalization. Mayor Baran asked the ordinance be tabled until the State of Illinois has finalized their regulations.

Sam Whitlow presented the Council with pricing on mowers to replace the current mower that is 10 years old. The consensus of the Council was to make the purchase in town with the same brand he is currently using. Approval of the purchase would be placed on the next agenda.

The next item on the agenda concerned the appointment of FOIA officers. City Attorney McCormick stated this should be addressed by position in the City and by ordinance which would be prepared for the next meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve the proposal from Hurst & Rosche to oversee the 2010 MFT program. The cost would be the percentages of the total project as allowed by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council was in agreement to set a date of February 8th at 6:30 pm to host a meeting with City Supervisors, their assistants and the City Attorney to discuss administration and procedures as outlined by the current labor contracts.

Upcoming agenda items could be the video gaming ordinance, pay requests from Oberkramer contracting, closure of an alley. They would also include recommendations of the pre-qualifying committee on the new utility lines serving Deer Run Mine.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 pm by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk