

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
July 24, 2007

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 and Sherer.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to appoint Bev McCoy as Clerk pro-tem in the vacationing absence of Clerk Booher. Motion carried 4-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Commissioner Sherer reported his Police Department is working on a two year hiring list and Deputy Stretch has been working on updating the dispatching center. Sherer next reported the Fire Department, along with representatives from Springfield Fire Department had conducted a training exercise at the Hillsboro burn building training site. The leaf and yard waste burn committee met last night and will continue to meet before bringing recommendations to the Council for consideration of updating the present ordinances. Commissioner Sherer next addressed that the new police vehicles are arriving and being decaled, but we are still awaiting the two Dodge Chargers, with hopes all could be ready for the Old Settler's parade. Sherer next reported that he along with Deputy Chief Stretch and Fire Chief Lyerla had been meeting with the County 911 office and other emergency service agency's to discuss the possibilities of a consolidated communication center. The County has stated participation would be optional, but they have no firm costs yet for universal dispatching and the City is not sure on the feasibility of such a venture. Commissioner Sherer stated the cost of saving lives and property is not as important as the ability to respond consistently, effectively and with efficiency. Currently the Fire Department is manned 24/7 with five employees, who dispatch police calls, maintain all the vehicles and tools as well as perform any needed janitorial work. The concern is the City would try to save money by using central dispatch and leave the Fire Department unmanned thus increasing response times. Commissioner Sherer ended by stating he felt without knowing any of the costs involved, in his opinion the City should continue in the manner it has been, but he would continue to attend any 911 meeting concerning the future of "central dispatching".

Mayor Baran reported that on August 3rd there will be a ground breaking for the new water treatment plant beginning at 11:30 am.

City Attorney Jarman stated the notices had been placed on the Chances building concerning its unsafe status. Jarman also reported that a title search had been completed and the title was still held by the same bank as of 2 years ago and would be willing to work with the City on sale of the building, but would not do anything to help secure it. The bank had ceased on its foreclosure so as not to obtain the property, the former owner had filed bankruptcy and even though no taxes had been paid the County does not have to accept possession of the property and a potential tax

buyer had backed out on the purchase for back taxes. Mayor Baran asked Jarman to keep working on the problem and keep the Council aware of any proceedings.

City Engineer Hunt reported that Plocher Construction would begin dirt work the second week of August for the new water plant. Hunt next reminded the Council that the contract with Ameren concerning the 36" sewer relocation in the vicinity of the old treatment plant needs to be completed soon.

Mayor Baran stated he would meet with his contacts early next week to finalize the sewer relocation contract with Ameren. Mayor Baran also stated the plans to run a 10 inch water line behind properties on Broad Street using City manpower has fallen through and he would be working with Commissioner McCammack and City Engineers for an alternative plan to extend a 10 inch water line to the new tower. One plan would be to take it down the sidewalks on the east side of Broad Street. This would increase expenses that were not a part of the loan from Rural Development.

Kyle Putnam of Patton & Company reported to the Council concerning this year's audit. Kyle first reported on the status of the general fund noting that there has been an increase in tax revenues this year primarily in income tax due to the addition of the prison to our population. Interest income has been up due to cds purchased for the Challacombe account from the rental of mineral rights. Putnam next reported that there was \$34,000.00 received from FEMA for reimbursement of damages and labor used after last year's ice storm. Kyle noted that she knew of only 2 other towns that had received their reimbursements and commended the City on their speed and efficiency of getting all the necessary documentation to FEMA. Putnam also explained some general fund expenses were up due to the purchase of a new mower, renovation to the police department and additional leads charges for in car computers. Kyle stated the City needs to continue to monitor expenses and add additional revenue sources to compensate for increasing expenses related to fuel, utilities, pensions, and insurance. Putnam next addressed the water and sewer departments and acknowledged they continue to struggle financially, but the new water rates and new plant should help the water department finances. She next stated the Council should give consideration to small increases in the sewer rates. In summation Kyle accepted there are always challenges, but it is up to the Council and Department Heads to overcome those challenges. Putnam next addressed the issues of fraud and how audits now have to make inquiries into any possibilities that could exist. Another problem mentioned by Putnam was the delay in property taxes and how to overcome these shortfalls. In closing Kyle recommended staying within your budget and creating a timeline for any capital expenditures to spread out their payment.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill to accept the audit report of Patton & Company. Motion carried 4-0.

The next item to be addressed was a request from Gene Knisley to vacate a portion of the City right of way on the West side of the bowling alley by 24 feet wide and approximately 84 feet long. City attorney Jarman stated this could be done through passage of an ordinance if the Council so desires.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to instruct City Attorney Jarman to draw up an ordinance allowing for vacating a portion of the right of way west of Knisley Bowl to be voted on at the next meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Jeff Meyer of Hurst & Rosche was present of behalf of Dave and Nina White to request the platting of a one lot subdivision adjacent to the present Edgewood subdivision. This would need Council approval for a preliminary plat that would meet with all City codes. It was explained there would be no need for any water or sewer line extensions as these utilities are already in place. After approval of the preliminary plat, there would need to be Council approval of the final plat at a later meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve a preliminary plat for a one lot subdivision in Edgewood Subdivision owned by Dave and Nina White. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to appoint Nick Hefley and Chris Papin to active status on the Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to appoint Justin Gonzalez as a Hillsboro Auxiliary Fireman. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Sherer outlined to the Council a course for certification of dispatchers that he would like to have approval for. The course is 8 to 10 weeks concerning emergency fire and police dispatch training and certification.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve a contract with "Priority Dispatch" for the certification of dispatchers both firemen and police officers. The cost would be \$540 per person with 5 dispatchers and 9 police officers for a total of \$8,100. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Baran informed everyone that he was calling a special Council meeting for this Thursday at 7:00 pm. The reason was two fold one to approve a grant proposal under the Clean Water act for work on Hillsboro Lake and the closure of Main Street for a car show on August 12th.

Upcoming agenda items would include a pay request from Plocher Construction involving the new water treatment plant.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 pm by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Beverly McCoy, Clerk Pro-tem