

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
March 9th 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 previous meeting were approved.

Commissioner Hill advised that the Police Department would be hosting an “open house” in the near future. The high school Criminal Justice class will be spending a with the Hillsboro Police Department at the shooting range. Training on the new aerial fire truck will take place this Sunday. Commissioner Hill next asked questions of the proposed surplus property disposal ordinance and if it would apply to the replaced aerial fire truck. City Attorney Cullen stated the purpose was to expedite disposal of surplus property with Council approval in the method in the best interest to the City. If the Council was not in agreement a different approach can be taken.

Commissioner Sherer reported that City Engineer Scott Hunt has informed him that MFT funds could be used for repair of roads in the campground. It was also noted that the City is currently taking applications for summer help.

Commissioner Trost reminded everyone to begin work on their respective departmental budgets.

Commissioner McCammack took this opportunity to thank the fire department for their response to his recent field fire. He also noted that he is very proud of the Council and their decisions on the purchase of vehicles in the Fire Department. These items could help save lives and structures.

Mayor Baran reported to the Council on recent developments with the State of Illinois that could lead to a reduction in tax monies to local governments. This would have serious effect on the City. Mayor Baran also commented on the recent purchase of a new aerial fire truck and stated it was the opinion of many that the City got a great deal on the price. Mayor Baran also discussed the “belt tightening” the City has started and will continue to do.

Commissioner Trost reminded everyone of the cost savings measures that have been introduced this past year. These were the early retirement program, a new health insurance program and using a third party electric provider.

City Attorney Cullen reported a nuisance abatement notice has been sent concerning the “Chances” building cleanup. Notices of failure to pay have been mailed concerning fire calls and liens will be filed on those that fail to comply.

Mayor Baran took this time to report that the City would begin sending nuisance abatement notices to the owners of the Eagle Zinc property to begin cleanup of their property. Fines for non-compliance would be levied each day until the abatement is satisfied.

City Engineer Cody Greenwood reported there remain two items that need to be taken care of on the new water plant construction punch list. A final payment request will be submitted to the Council before the next meeting contingent on completion of those two items. Draft paperwork for the 2010 MFT program is being prepared for Council review.

Mayor Baran stated the grant funds for the Tremont Street resurfacing project are hung up and may no longer be available.

Greenwood reported easements are being prepared for the Deer Run mine utilities installation. The permits for the water and sewer lines have been approved and received.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the payment of this month's bills in the amount of \$ 218,511.26. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve a grant application process for supplemental funding of police vehicles. Motion carried 5-0.

The amount of the funding requested was \$21,900.00.

Commissioner Trost explained to the Council the two grants that he has applied for on behalf of the Fire Department. One grant was from the USDA Department of Forestry as a 50/50 match to be used for turnout gear and an ATV. The City's share would be \$14,513.00. The second grant was from the Department of Homeland Security for gear, hoses and pagers. The total amount of the grant is \$35,122.00 with the City's share being \$1,756.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the acceptance of the two grants, one from the USDA and the other from the Department of Homeland Security. The City's total share for both would be \$16,269.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Hill to accept the resignation of Dr. Roger McFarlin and the deletion of Dave Chesser from the Natural Resource Committee as recommended by the Natural Resource Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the terms of office of the Natural Resource Committee members. Those would be Carl Reynolds for one year, Mark Joy and Roy Thomas for two years with Alan Holman and Vito Passariello for three year terms. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran stated he would like to keep Commissioner Hill on the Committee as a liaison to the Council as she has been since the inception of the Natural Resource Committee. There was no opposition to the Mayor's request.

Agenda item number 13 designating FOIA officers was tabled until the next regular meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Hill to adopt **Ordinance # 1508** permitting the sale of surplus property with approval of the Commissioner of Public Property and Mayor if there are no objections from the Council. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made at 7:32 pm by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to go into closed session to discuss employment issues as allowed under 5 ILCS 120/2 (C) (1). Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran reconvened the regular meeting at 8:52 pm. Mayor Baran informed the audience that after Council deliberations there would be no action taken tonight on items 16 and 17 of the agenda concerning the hiring of two positions.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to table the agenda items addressing the hiring of a public property supervisor and a person in the waste water plant. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:55 by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk