

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
March 13, 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, Richmond, McCammack and Hill.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Mayor and Commissioners reports,

Commissioner Hill reported her department is entering their busy time of the year they have been getting the campground ready to open by April 1st. They are removing and trimming trees in the campground that were damaged by the ice storm. Hill stated for every tree removed 2 will be planted to replace them. Commissioner Hill also commented on the tree that was removed at the Veteran's Memorial. Hill reported that the tree was damaged by the ice storm and the damage was cut away. After review by the "tree committee" it was decided to remove the entire tree.

Commissioner Richmond reported for the Police Department that for the month of February. They have responded to 15 traffic accidents and made 2 warrant arrests. They have also issued 14 traffic citations, 3 written warnings, 17 non-traffic citations, 4 ordinance violations, 1 parking ticket, 1 verbal warning and 8 arrests.

Commissioner Richmond reported for Code Enforcement officer Booher that since last month there have been 8 vehicle abatement notices of which 6 have complied the other 2 have until this Thursday. There has been two property cleanup notices sent of which one has completed while the other has until the end of this week or the City Attorney will become involved. There has also been 4 building permits issued a fence, deck, pool and new home.

Commissioner McCammack congratulated the Hillsboro Fire Department on their work this past week with the many grass and structure fires.

Mayor Baran echoed the sentiments of Commissioner McCammack. Mayor Baran then discussed the Eagle Zinc property and the fact that our legislators Phil Hare, Gary Hannig and Deanna Demuzio our getting behind the City to get the property cleaned up.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Richmond to approve the payment of this month's bill in the amount of \$ 182,709.27. Motion carried 5-0.

City Attorney Jarman reported on the Perkins cabin at the old lake stating he has a court date of April 3rd to comply with abatement notice. Jarman also informed the Council that Melow on Crittenden has not complied with his notice and a complaint would soon be filed with the courts. Jarman stated Attorney Penni Livingston has drafted the amendment to the Ameren settlement contract for review by Ameren.

City Engineer Hunt reported that 12 contractors had requested bid documents for the new water treatment plant. Hunt stated he is still waiting to hear from Ameren engineers concerning the relocation of the 36-inch sewer main at the old water treatment site. Hunt also asked the Council to have the 2007 Motor Fuel Tax program placed on the next agenda.

Mayor Baran began the discussion of an emergency water line interconnect between Hillsboro and Litchfield. Baran began by stating the interconnecting line would be to supply either town only in the case of an emergency. Mayor Baran introduced Mayor Tom Jones of Litchfield to give his input on the proposal.

Mayor Jones assured everyone that the proposal was one for emergency only. Mayor Jones stated he had heard that the line would be used to supply a proposed ethanol plant in Litchfield, but this is not the case. Mayor Jones informed everyone that Montgomery County Rural Water Company has offered to have their engineers design the interconnect to keep everything impartial.

Attorney for Montgomery County Water Barbara Adams was also present to explain their position on the proposed water line. Adams stated that the company was not affiliated with any governmental entity and therefore could spearhead the project using their engineers as well as help seek funding. This would take away from any Hillsboro vs Litchfield conflicts. Any one seeking to hook to the line would become a Montgomery County Water Company customer. Attorney Adams informed the Council there would need to be a mutual agreement signed between all three entities before they would pursue any engineering or grant funding opportunities.

Commissioner McCammack thought the project would make a great insurance policy for both towns.

Motion was made by Commissioner Richmond and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to permit Mayor Baran along with Commissioners Hill and Commissioner McCammack to work with the City of Litchfield and Montgomery County Rural Water to write an agreement concerning a water line interconnecting both communities. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran introduced Jennifer Ellington of the American Red Cross who asked the Mayor to sign a proclamation making March of 2007 American Red Cross month. Jennifer also thanked the community for their continued support of the Red Cross.

Motion was made by Commissioner Richmond and seconded by Commissioner Hill to appoint Mathew Kernebeck to the Auxiliary Police Department. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran asked the Council if they would like to hire this year's summer help under one all inclusive motion. The Council agreed to use one motion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to hire summer help in City Hall Kate Rappe, Fire Department Jared Luebbert, Police Department Sam Jones, Water Department Eric Fath and Cody Epley, Waste Water Ronald Linn and Jacob Longwell. The Street Department will hire Cody McCoy, Jonathan Richmond, Harrison Carter and Reid Holshouser. The Parks Department will employ Nick Hopwood for the summer. The Public

Property Department will hire Blake Lipe, Andrew Billington, Zach Hopwood and Keegan Lohman for the summer. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the purchase of a sewer camera truck for \$18,000.00. The equipment would be available for rent at a rate of \$150.00 per hour. Motion carried 5-0.

The next item for consideration was a 40 year renewal of the water contract with Montgomery County Water Company to help with their grant funding application.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Richmond to approve the renewal of Montgomery County Water Company's contract for 40 years. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hill informed the Council she had approved a dock extension on Glenn Shoals for Zach Boyers

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to donate \$250.00 to the Hillsboro Post-Prom Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the expenditure of \$2,453.42 to Wright Automotive for repairs to a Street Department dump truck. Motion carried 5-0.

Work is still in progress on a monetary solution to the late rental fee payment on the Challacombe mineral lease. A solution could be ready for the next agenda.

Commissioner Hill tabled any rebuilding plans for the Challacombe House until a later date. The City has yet to settle with the insurance company concerning fire damages. Commissioner Hill stated now is time for public input as to how they would like the City to proceed. Should it be put back just as it was or make improvements that would make it more usable for larger groups or remove the building and build new. Commissioner Hill suggested maybe the newspaper could poll the residents for their input.

Commissioner Hill discussed the need to have additional studies done on our lakes. The City has been approached to sell large amounts of water. Hill stated she would not make any commitments until we know the effects on the lakes from a large daily withdrawal of water.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve the firm of Cochran and Wilkens to answer questions concerning large sales of water from our lakes. The firm would also complete the "Clean Lake Study" on old Hillsboro Lake. The fee for these studies is not to exceed \$25,900.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran introduced Mike Beeler who was present and asking for the use of City property to begin a new business. Mayor Baran explained to everyone that the City does not currently own the property in question, but negotiations are taking place to find out if it could be available. Mayor Baran asked Mr. Beeler to find out exactly how many square feet of property he needs and Commissioners Richmond and Hill would check again on its availability.

Mayor Baran next introduced Brad Collins who wanted to address the Council concerning the present utility tax.

Mr. Collins stated that by now everyone knows that the new electric rates have no effect on the utility tax, but still he asked if was indeed necessary. Mr. Collins stated that the original tax was to be temporary and used to pay off current debt, but later the tax was reinstated with no such provisions. He felt the tax was a windfall and maybe the Council should consider alternatives to the tax. Mr. Collins stated that his utility tax was half of his weekly grocery bill. (Commissioner McCammack asked him what his current grocery bill was.) Mr. Collins stated he budgets about 45 dollars for groceries per week. Mr. Collins believed the budget should be looked at harder and the tax should at least be reduced.

Mayor Baran informed Mr. Collins that Finance Commissioner Trost was researching the need of the utility tax.

Commissioner Trost asked that at the next meeting representatives of the City Council be chosen to begin working on the new union contracts, which expire the first of May.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 pm by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Richmond. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk