

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
May 13, 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 she has received a \$500 donation for the Parks Department from this year's Roubaix Bike Race. Hill also informed the Council that there was an inspection last week by IDNR of the City's main dam structures. The initial report is that structure 5 across from the hospital is in great shape. The silt dam structure was in good shape. The recommendations for the dam at Glenn Shoals were not to cut the grass on either side of the dam or emergency spillway so short.

Commissioner Sherer reported that the Fire Department has responded to 23 calls this year and at this pace could set a record low for calls.

Commissioner Sherer reported the Police Department was involved in a detail this weekend which stemmed from information from the State Police.

Commissioner Sherer gave the Council some suggestions for increasing revenue for them to review. The first involved an alarms ordinance imposing a response fee for excessive false alarms. The second suggestion was to place a permit fee on beer garden events and also a permit if they have live music.

Commissioner Sherer also discussed the need to change the ordinance involving the Assistant Police Chief whereby if that person serves longer than 12 consecutive months he can only be removed from this position by a majority vote of the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Baran added that all appointments are for four-year terms and the ordinance involving the Code Enforcement Officer calls for annual reappointment. Mayor Baran stated this needs to be revisited and put at same terms as other appointments

Commissioner Sherer next discussed the need for house numbers to be displayed on all buildings.

Commissioner Sherer next mentioned the Council might want to review the current liquor license fees and see if they need adjusted.

Commissioner Sherer discussed changing fees for Rural Fire Protection by creating a new minimum rate of \$900.00 rather than the present rate of \$500.00 and then add an additional charge for equipment and man-hours.

The next item on his list was dealing with hazardous material removal and establishing a fee for cleanup and damages.

Commissioner Sherer next mentioned the possibility of establishing a permitting process and fees for tattoo establishments and of increasing the taxi license fees.

Commissioner Sherer next stated he thought the job description for the Code Enforcement Officer needed to be revisited, especially concerning park and lake duties.

Lastly Commissioner Sherer wanted to review the zoning code as it pertains to swimming pools especially the small backyard pools that you might purchase at Wal-Mart.

Commissioner Trost presented the Council with a draft copy of the new budget. As of now the draft illustrates an \$85,000 shortfall in the general fund and an \$113,000 loss in the water fund. Trost stated he left money in the Street Department budget to purchase a new backhoe as this is an essential piece of equipment.

Mayor Baran informed everyone that he and Engineer Hunt had spoken with IDOT and the contract for the new rail siding could be let in July. Mayor Baran also stated talks are ongoing concerning the water and airport sales agreement with the coal company.

Commissioner Hill informed everyone she had been a part of a group touring the Eagle Zinc site and it seems there is now some progress as to remediation of the site.

With Council approval Mayor Baran moved agenda item #15 up to accommodate Mr. Richmond, who had other engagements.

Mr. Richmond spoke to the Council concerning the properties at 224 Grant Street and 237 N. Welch. Mr. Richmond noted to the Council that the property on N. Welch has begun cleaning theirs up. Richmond noted the property at 224 Grant was a mess from one street to the other. Code Enforcement Officer Booher stated this property was in a bankruptcy and he was not sure who the present owner was. City Attorney Jarman advised a title search would be the next step to determine the actual owner before a notice could be served.

City Attorney Jarman reported he had been working with Code Enforcement Officer Booher on 2 properties, on Crittenden and the mobile home park, and are ready to begin court proceedings. Jarman reported that the City has received the penalty check concerning the Challacombe oil lease and should not receive any more payments until February 2009.

City Engineer Hunt reported the new water plant is 75% completed, but the last 25% will be mostly work that is not visible. Hunt reminded everyone of the bid opening on May 20th at 9:00 am for the resurfacing of Main Street. A copy of the grant for the rail siding has been sent to the City Attorney for his review.

Mayor Baran reminded everyone that the City's portion of the agreement would be around \$23,000 which will be paid back in use fees and then used to start a fund for upkeep of the rail siding and future infrastructure needs of the area.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to pay this months bills in the amount of \$346,023.39. This includes \$65,000.00 in Risk Management Insurance, \$52,000 water tower payment and \$1309.00 costs incurred getting the dive van here. Commissioner McCammack asked for confirmation that any monies received from the sale of the old dive van would go back into the general fund. Commissioner Trost stated that is the recommendation. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran stated there was a lack of communication concerning the payment of these bills and hopes this can be avoided in the future.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to accept the recommendations of the City Engineers for this year's MFT bids. Group 1 "seal coat and aggregate" was awarded to Litchfield Bituminous Corp. in the amount of \$68,977.07. Group 2 "bituminous premix" was awarded to Louis Marsch Inc. in the amount of \$12,825.00. Group 3 "seal coat" was awarded to Louis Marsch Inc. in the amount of \$8,500.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve Resolution WTP 2008-12 approving the pay request for the new water treatment plant in the amount of \$493,812.59 to Plocher Construction and \$29,945.39 to Hurst & Rosche Engineers. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to approve Change Order #5 for the new water treatment plant in the amount of \$11,654.46. This was to provide electrical service wiring from pole-mounted transformer to meter on raw water pump station building and use flex connectors on the raw water pumps. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran asked Commissioner Sherer for his recommendation on the appointment of Police Chief.

Commissioner Sherer recommended reappointment of present Chief Gary Satterlee.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to reappoint Gary Satterlee as Police Chief. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Hill voting no.

Mayor Baran next asked Commissioner Sherer for his recommendation of Code Enforcement Officer.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Hill to reappoint John Booher as Code Enforcement Officer. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to reappoint Mike Rappe` to a 3 year term of the Police and Fire Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran introduced Nila Hall who was present to address the Council about a problem she has with a ditch.

Mrs. Hall stated she has a problem with the ditch on the South side of her house. Mrs. Hall lives at 1137 Marshall, but the problem is with the ditch on the Mechanic Street side of her property. The bank going to the ditch is steep and she is unable to mow it or use a weed eater on it. She would like to have the city put a culvert along the south of her property and eliminate the ditch so she can mow easier.

Commissioner Hill noted she has looked at the situation with Superintendent Robinson and does not have a solution.

Commissioner McCammack stated he had looked at the problem a year ago and offered to pay half of the cost to put in a large plastic culvert, but Mrs. Hall stated she could not afford her half. McCammack did have his crew shape the bank of the ditch at that time to make mowing easier.

Commissioner Hill stated when the weather cooperates she would send someone over to spray the area with a growth retardant and try to ease the situation, but other than that she did not know what else could be done.

Commissioner McCammack discussed a sewer line problem on Columbia Street that needed Council action. McCammack stated there was a question as to who was responsible for the line extending from Yale to 1233 Columbia. Commissioner McCammack stated he had reviewed the situation with Superintendent Merriman and even though there could possibly be some future problems they would recommend the City accepting responsibility.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to accept responsibility for the sewer line extending from Yale north to 1233 Columbia Street. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner McCammack informed the Council of State of Illinois regulations that enforce connection to sewer systems if you are within 200 feet of a public sewer. The City Code is at 100 feet to require connection. McCammack felt the City should maintain the City Code as is and not switch to State Code.

There was no action taken to change the current code.

There had been a request by Jim Hart to discuss the current brush pickup program. Mr. Hart was not present to give the Council his opinion of the program.

The Council had a brief discussion on the brush pickup listing the pros and cons especially with the price of fuel taken into account. Commissioner Hill did mention that this week they have been picking up limbs from the recent storms and will continue to pick up limbs after storms.

Commissioner Sherer had requested a closed session to discuss an emergency operations plan, but Mayor Baran felt like it should be in the open. Mayor Baran asked the Council to review the plan and contact Commissioner Sherer with any changes or concerns they have.

Under upcoming agenda items Commissioner Trost mentioned reviewing the current water and sewer bond ordinance to see that the sewer rates are up to date.

Mayor Baran mentioned there needs to be some study done to determine the need for increased capacity at the waste water plant. Engineer Hunt commented this would also be the time to address the infiltration of storm water into the system which also reduces the plant's capacity.

Commissioner Hill stated they are working on getting the pool ready to open on June 1st, but if the weather doesn't cooperate the opening will be pushed back.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:25 by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk