

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
November 27, 2007

Mayor Baran called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Baran called for a motion to appoint Cheryl Whitten Clerk Pro-tem in the absence of Clerk Booher.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to appoint Cheryl Whitten and as Clerk Pro-tem for the meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the previous meetings were approved.

Commissioners and Mayors reports;

Commissioners Hill, Sherer and Trost had nothing to report at this time. Commissioner McCammack reminded everyone of the City wide cleanup and leaf pickup that is going on this week. McCammack stated his department has been working on small water leaks. Commissioner McCammack also stated he would have someone at the Street Department on December 8th to allow for leaf disposal by City residents there may be one on the 15th if needed. Mayor Baran had nothing new to report for this meeting.

City Attorney Jarman reported there will be two nuisance hearings Wednesday night, one addressing the Melow property on Crittenden and one concerning dogs on City Lake Road. Attorney Jarman has been in contact with the bank that holds the mortgage on the "Chances" building concerning prospective buyers for the building. Mayor Baran felt details could be worked out in which the City obtains the title and sells the building by sealed bids. The winning bid would have to comply with guidelines for repair of the building as set by the Council.

Commissioner McCammack stated the City might want to pre-qualify bidders and insure that repairs would be made.

It was also discussed that the City does not want to become owners of the building for any length of time.

City Attorney Jarman stated the City would have to obtain title to the building to have any chance to get the back taxes abated.

City Engineer Hunt reported work at the new water plant is 35% complete and CB&I should be on site December 10th. Hunt reported the next pay request from Plocher Construction will deplete the remaining Ameren IP funds and future payments will come from Rural Development in the form of a loan. Hunt also reported there will be an additional mid month pay request in December due to CB&I's contract allowing for 65% of their contract amount to be paid at the time they arrive on site. Engineer Hunt informed the Council there will be a meeting this

Wednesday morning with Ameren IP at the present water plant site to discuss the relocation of the 36 inch sewer main.

Hunt next discussed a change order involving the construction of the new water plant that involves additional wiring for the settling cones.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve change order #3 involving wiring for the new water treatment plant. The amount of the change order is \$5,084.00. Motion carried 5-0.

City Engineer Hunt next reported that Design 9 is working on the final design for the Hixson rail spur. They are waiting for a couple of responses from Union Pacific Railroad before the plan can be completed. Hunt next stated the plans for the Smoke Tree and Edgewood water main extension are completed and will be sent to the IEPA for their approval.

Mayor Baran appointed Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Trost along with City Attorney Jarman to meet with the coal company to negotiate a water contract. Their negotiations will be based on information supplied to the City from the Natural Resources Committee.

Commissioner Sherer was appointed as an alternate on the negotiating Committee in the event one of the other Commissioners is unable to attend.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to appoint Sports Association Board members as elected by the Sports Association members. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to approve a \$100.00 Christmas bonus for full time City employees. There would be no bonus for part-time employees. Motion carried 5-0.

There was a brief discussion on the proposed new burn ordinance highlighting changes made since the last reading by the Council.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to approve Ordinance #1468 concerning the burning of yard waste. Motion carried 5-0.

There was a discussion involving the need for an ordinance prohibiting certain left hand turns on Main Street. This primarily is needed due to the new drive-thru window at Sullivan's Drugs. City Attorney Jarman was instructed to draft an ordinance addressing this by the next meeting.

Commissioner Trost discussed this year's upcoming tax levy and informed the Council that he expects a shortfall of around \$23,000 due to the Police Pension Fund being under funded. The only way to offset this is by increasing the tax levy beyond the limits, which can only be accomplished with a "truth in taxation" hearing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to hold a "truth in taxation" hearing at 6:45 pm on December 11th. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran asked for a motion canceling the second meeting in December due to the date of the meeting falling on Christmas.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to cancel the second Council meeting in December. Motion carried 5-0.

Upcoming agenda items consist of 2 pay requests for construction of the new water plant, the annual tax levy and a water contract template from the Natural Resources Committee.

Respectfully Submitted
Cheryl Whitten, Clerk Pro-tem