Hillsboro City Council Meeting
October 23, 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, McCammack and Sherer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Commissioner Sherer asked for assistance on behalf of the Sojourn Women's shelter located in Springfield that has helped many women from Montgomery County for the past 10 years. Fire sprinklers inadvertently were turned on and many items were damaged. They are seeking donations of paper products, microwave meals, cold food items such as cereal and granola bars, and cleaning supplies. The contact person is Tammy Silverman at 726-5100.

Commissioner Trost informed everyone that tax bills will not be sent out until December and we will not be receiving the City share until probably February. Trost stated this would be 10 months into our fiscal year with no property tax income. Trost again asked everyone to monitor all purchases and overtime to help keep expenses as low as possible.

Commissioner McCammack informed everyone that the Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants beginning at 10:00 pm on October 29th and 30th. The hydrants on the West side of Main Street will be done the first night and the East side of Main Street the second night. Consumers can expect to see some discoloration in the water, but this should soon dissipate.

Mayor Baran asked how the water testing on Kinkead Road has been progressing. McCammack stated he has heard favorable comments, but has not received a report from Superintendent Fath yet. Mayor Baran asked McCammack to have his department check the cross tie from Old Oaks Drive and Kinkead Road to make sure the tie was made properly.

Mayor Baran stated he had attended a meeting with Union Pacific Railroad and everything seems to be on schedule for the Hixson rail spur. When we receive the go ahead plans can be completed and bids let. This service will not only be an asset to Hixson Lumber but also to the cleanup of the Eagle Zinc site, which from all accounts should begin this spring.

Mayor Baran briefly discussed the Illinois Municipal League Conference that he and Commissioner Sherer attended this past weekend. Mayor Baran thought the breakout round-table discussions were very beneficial and informative. These discussions were geared more to smaller communities. Mayor Baran stated that in the near future a Central Illinois Mayor's Association would be forming.

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City Attorney Jarman stated the land deed from Fuller's deeding to the City land for a portion of the rail spur is nearly complete. Mayor Baran stated he would also be asking Fuller's for road access from Ash Street to that portion of the property.

Jarman also stated the City has received a judgment against Lois's Groom Room for non-payment on her revolving fund loan. The judgment is in the amount of $50 per month plus all court fees. Attorney Jarman next informed the Council that there are two nuisance abatement hearings scheduled. One concerns dogs and the other is a property cleanup. Jarman stated that he and Commissioner Sherer would hold nuisance hearings every 3rd Thursday as needed. Jarman next updated the Council on the Challacombe mineral lease agreement. Drilling for gas on the property should begin in mid-January and they may also be asking the Council for additional assignments as they may need to bring in another partner.

Attorney Jarman stated the complaint on the "Chances" building is nearly ready for filing. This will allow the City to go in and secure the building and also allow for a lien to be filed recouping any expenses incurred. Jarman stated back taxes on the building could be as much as $20,000.00. Mayor Baran hoped the County could waive the back taxes if a buyer for the building was found.

Attorney Jarman next informed the Council that Saul Quiroz was interested in annexing into the City. His property is contiguous to the City, but we need a description of his property and a written request before action can be taken.

Mayor Baran mentioned that Roger Dennison was in the audience and has been talking with the Airport Board and they could be coming to the Council at the next meeting with a request favorable to all parties.

City Engineer Hunt reported that Ameren is studying the costs that could be incurred to encase the gas line under the railroad to be used by the Hixson rail spur. The cost is anticipated to be $30,000.00. It has not been determined as to who will cover this expense. Hunt next reported the 2007 dam inspections have been completed and sent to IDNR for their approval. Hunt informed the Council that within the next two years there will need to be a comprehensive dam breech study conducted. Hurst & Rosche would be glad to give the Council an estimate for the study. Hunt also mentioned that the outflow of the dam at "structure 5" needs to have debris cleared.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve a Halloween Parade on Main Street on October 31st at 6:00 pm. Motion approved 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to allow trick or treating on October 30th and 31st from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve a Christmas Parade on Main Street on November 11th beginning at 10:00 am. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner McCammack asked to have the City code reviewed concerning the distribution of handbills. McCammack stated according to code all the non profit organizations placing handbills on vehicles are against the law. McCammack did not want to see them lose this method of advertising. This also includes the posting of anything on utility poles. McCammack thought a permitting system could be put in place to govern the passing of handbills.

Mayor Baran asked Commissioners McCammack and Sherer to meet with City Attorney Jarman and give suggestions on revising of the present code concerning handbills.

Commissioner Sherer stated he had reviewed the bids on surplus police vehicles and was prepared to make his recommendations.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to award the bid on the 2002 Chevy Impala to Welcome Motors of Irving Park, Chicago in the amount of $2086.00. Johnny Hamilton was awarded the bids on the 1995 Ford Crown Vic and the 1995 Ford Explorer in the amounts of $850.00 and $750.00. Motion carried 4-0.

There was a brief discussion on the proposed burn ordinance and Mayor Baran asked that a vote on the ordinance be postponed until the entire Council could be present. Mayor Baran also asked each Commissioner to review the entire ordinance and give the City Attorney any suggested changes before the next meeting.

Upcoming agenda items: Commissioner McCammack would like to have a plan for the intersection of Fairground and Main where vehicles block the intersection and refuse to yield to traffic. McCammack suggested an ordinance change placing yield to oncoming traffic below the stop sign on Fairground. Mayor Baran also suggested an "oncoming traffic does not stop" sign added to the stop sign Wood and Rountree. Mayor Baran stated he would have a representative from IDOT look at the situation on Fairground and help with a solution. There will also be a pay request from Plocher Construction on the next agenda.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:47 by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk

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