

Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
October 28, 2008

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 Hill.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Mayor and Commissioners Reports:

Mayor Baran read a letter of apology to Commissioner Sherer and family for comments he had made at the last meeting that could be deemed inappropriate. Mayor Baran next read a letter from the Senior Citizens Center asking for donations for their Christmas party to be held on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Baran felt this should be on an individual basis and not from the City and therefore pledged a \$20.00 donation from himself. Mayor Baran next informed everyone that the drainage plans for the new rail spur had been approved by Union Pacific Railroad and would be sent on to I.D.O.T. Mayor Baran next congratulated the Old Settlers Association for their idea to spearhead a project to place a statue of Lincoln on the "Plaza". The project will be funded through donations.

Commissioner Hill reported the Police Department would be looking into the purchase of a gun safe to be purchased from their "rural fund". This would enable them to isolate evidence material from where their guns are normally stored.

Police Chief Satterlee reported that the High School Criminal Justice Class attended a 2 hour session at the Police shooting range sponsored by the Hillsboro Police Department. During the session they were able to witness live target shooting, dog handling, and the use of non-lethal force for subduing suspects.

Commissioner Sherer announced that in a written statement he had made two weeks ago he had speculated that a document had been supplied by an ex-commissioner, which was not the case. Commissioner Sherer stated he had met with the permanent campers this past week in preparation for a possible winter camping season. Commissioner Sherer also informed everyone that he would be placing a suggestion box at the Fire Station for ideas on saving or making money for the City. Commissioner Sherer also discussed the implementation of a work order program that would help with record keeping and these should be placed in the same box. Commissioner Sherer mentioned the \$300 allotment that had been proposed for City employees and would be in favor of continuing this plan but not allow after hours work to offset any extra values. This would eliminate including this on W-2's.

Commissioner McCammack commented on the work order forms stating these have already been created and therefore I don't think a new one is needed.

Commissioner Trost discussed finances, throwing out ideas for the Council to consider. These were taking no City vehicles home, allowing cell phones in the Police Department only, using City personnel for most vehicle repairs, and keeping overtime to a minimum. The City might also want to research increasing the sales tax by a half percent and also amend the current building permit rates.

Mayor Baran reminded the Council that a plan needs to be put in place to allow for the sale of surplus City owned land.

City Attorney Jarman stated the land plat for annexation of the airport has been received and could be addressed at the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jarman also noted that the renewal of the Airport lease to the Airport Board needs to be placed on the next agenda along with reappointment of the Airport Board.

Commissioner Sherer asked Attorney Jarman if the Council had the right to tour the “Chances” building and check the status of its deterioration. Jarman stated this would be allowed.

City Engineer Hunt reported site work is continuing at the new water treatment plant. Discussions with the site superintendent and water supervisor Fath are in progress involving startup plans for the facility. Hunt estimated the plant is 95% complete.

Mayor Baran took this time to mention that only water plant construction workers and City employees are to be on the new water plant site. Anyone not affiliated with the City will need permission of the Mayor or Public Works Commissioner.

Waste Water Superintendent Ron Merriman addressed the Council and asked them to consider adopting a resolution permitting early retirement through IMRF.

Mandy Beedie, a representative from IMRF, was present to explain the program and the costs associated with implementing such a plan. Estimates of the City costs were given to the Council for their review. These estimates were based on a worst case scenario where everyone eligible would take advantage of the offer.

Commissioner McCammack thought it was a plan worth looking into and asked Clerk Booher to survey the employees to see how many would be likely to take advantage of such a program. The survey would not limit anyone from changing their minds within the year the program would be open.

The next item on the agenda concerned a sewer claim from Jan Draper. Her claim for damages had been denied by the City’s Risk Insurance carrier. City Attorney Jarman explained that it was deemed there was no negligence on the City’s part. Therefore, the claim was denied. Jarman also mentioned that the City would have had to have been aware of an existing problem to be liable.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the minutes of the Zoning Board concerning the variance request of Mr. Devore. Motion carried 5-0.

There was a discussion concerning the variance request by Larry Ackerman who was spokesman for the residents along Hiltop Drive opposing the variance request. They were opposed to any zoning change that would allow multi-family dwellings being built along Hiltop Drive.

Mr. Devore, who had requested the variance, was not in attendance.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to abide by the recommendations of the Zoning Board and deny the variance request. Motion carried with 4 yes votes and Commissioner McCammack voting present.

There was a request to discuss the Knisley property on Jefferson Lane, but the person asking to agenda the item was not present. Code Enforcement Officer Booher stated this property is a work in progress.

Commissioner Trost recommended the approval of a revolving fund loan to Mary Brown in the amount of \$15,000.00; the request had been reviewed by the loan committee.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve a revolving fund loan request from Mary Brown in the amount of \$15,000.00 at 4% interest, with the City holding a mortgage on the property.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to close Pleasant Street from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm to allow a Veteran's Day event at the Memorial Park. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Sherer asked for an ordinance change allowing the Parks Commissioner to set rates, operating dates and hours at the campground.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to adopt Ordinance # 1486 allowing the Commissioner over Parks to set the operating times and fees of the campground. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion to compensate a winter campground host was made and after discussion rescinded by Commissioners Sherer and McCammack until it is decided if it feasible to keep the campground open during the winter months.

Commissioner Sherer began a discussion as to the feasibility of using City personnel or hiring an outside contractor to complete repairs on the Challacombe building. Commissioner Sherer stated he is open to proposals from anyone else on the Council as to which direction to proceed in.

Commissioner Hill stated that originally it was decided to use City personnel during the slower times in winter rather than use up all the Challacombe funds by hiring an outside contractor to complete the repairs. Another concern was that the oil & gas lease fees that went into the Challacombe account would be used up and we may never see any more money from the lease agreements. If this happens the general fund would again have to support the Challacombe property.

Commissioner Hill asked City union steward Randy Keiser to check with the union into the possibility of hiring seasonal employees to help with the completion of the Challacombe House repairs.

Mayor Baran voiced concerns over whether the City would have to pay prevailing wage for these part-time workers.

After further discussion the item was tabled and options would be taken into consideration and addressed at future meeting.

It was also noted that anyone hired to make the needed repairs could be paid from the Challacombe fund, which Commissioner Trost had budgeted around \$200,000.00.

The next agenda item concerned information technologies services for the City, which Commissioner Sherer asked that it be tabled until the next meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve the closing of Main Street for a Halloween Parade to be held October 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Upcoming agenda items would be renewal of the airport board and lease agreement, pay application for the water treatment plant, annexation of the coal company properties, zoning of the coal company properties. Also on the agenda would be approval of payment for resurfacing of Main Street and a decision on looking for CDAP grants to upgrade the Waste Water Plant.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 8:37 by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Trost. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Booher, City Clerk