

Hillsboro City Council Special Meeting
September 17, 2007

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

Roll call was taken and those present were Mayor Baran and Commissioners Trost, McCammack and Hill.

Commissioner Hill led everyone in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Baran introduced Peter Berrini of HDR Engineering who was present to explain the results of their raw water yield analysis to the Council.

Mr. Berrini explained the analysis was to determine the amount of water available for water customers and the coal mine. The request from the coal mine was for 3.2 million gallons of raw water per day and 800 thousand gallons of treated waste water per day.

Mr. Berrini explained they used both Hillsboro lakes in the study with 500 thousand gallons per day coming from Old Lake Hillsboro. The study found that historically the lake is below the spillway July through December. Mr. Berrini also informed everyone that to do this type of study you need an accurate history of lake levels and this history was found to be very lacking. The study also showed that Glenn Shoals would have sufficient capacity for giving up an extra 1.5 mgd in the event of a drought. The effect would put the level 3 ft below overflow as opposed to 2 ft below overflow under normal usage. Mr. Berrini also stated that you are trying to please at least three groups in an attempt to sell raw water. One group is the present and future consumers of treated water, the second being recreational users of the lake and third being the coal company.

Mayor Baran emphasized Glenn Shoals was built for flood control and as a water source and any other usage was secondary.

Mr. Berrini stated the study was only a guideline and the City would need to find a balance in their goals. More water would be available to the coal company from January to June that they might consider stockpiling to offset the other 6 months of the year. Mr. Berrini did state that for every foot of drop below the overflow you would see an increase in 6ft of visible shoreline. If there was a severe drought for two years and the water dropped 6 ft below the overflow you would see 36 feet of shoreline north of the bridge. Much of the sediment above the bridge would be exposed. Some of these effects could be minimized through sediment removal north of the bridge and efficient use of structure 14 (the silt pond at the north end of the lake).

Commissioner Hill stated the Council needs to come up with a magic number that would be the tolerance level. There would need to be a watch level calculated and then a maximum tolerance level set where pumpage to the coal company must be curtailed.

Richard Slepicka asked at what level it would be approaching danger as a water supply.

Mr. Berrini said this would never be a problem, but you would see pressure from lakeside residents.

Roger McFarlin asked if an environmental impact statement would need to be addressed.

Mr. Berrini stated many lakes do seasonal drawdown for different reasons and it would have no harm on the lake. There are actually some benefits to be had from periodic drawdown, but he would never recommend one for a water supply.

Mayor Baran asked Mr. Dennison of Hillsboro Energy if they had a potential storage area for water. Mr. Dennison stated it depends on what the studies show is needed.

There was a brief discussion on the using of structure #5 as a storage area for the coal company and how to make it more efficient.

Mayor Baran next asked Mr. Dennison if he needed the water source amounts locked in before he could proceed with his permitting process. The answer was no and there still needs to be more study.

Mayor Baran asked for Commissioner Hill, the Resource Committee and Mr. Dennison to come up with some numbers that everyone could live with and report back to the Council.

The next item on the agenda was a report from the Airport Board after their Friday meeting with Mr. Dennison of Hillsboro Energy LLC.

Mayor Baran asked EJ Ullman, Airport Board Chairman to give the report from the Hillsboro Airport Board.

Mr. Ullman first reported that because Hillsboro Energy LLC has not purchased any of the adjacent properties and that this parcel would not be needed in his permitting process their recommendation was to not sell the property. The Board did include an alternative option for the city's consideration. They recommended that if the property was to be sold a provision should be in place to relocate the airport to a suitable site. The coal company would be responsible for developing a grass runway and constructing hangars.

Mr. Dennison of Hillsboro Energy LLC stated he had a great meeting last week with the Airport Board and Mr. Ullman's report was very accurate. Mr. Dennison told the Council they would like to purchase an option on the site at \$150/acre for four one-year periods. This would amount to about \$5,500 per year with a total price to be \$250,000.00 which is about \$6,700/acre. Mr. Dennison did say that \$5000 of this was a donation to the Airport Board.

Commissioner Sherer arrived at 8:34 p.m.

Commissioner Hill asked if the airport property was needed to obtain a permit to construct the mine. Mr. Dennison stated no, it was not a necessity.

Motion was made at 8: 55 p.m. by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to go into closed session to discuss the setting of a price for the sale of city-owned real estate known as the airport property. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran reconvened the regular Council meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Roll call was taken and those present were Mayor Baran and Commissioners Trost, Hill, McCammack and Sherer.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to not sell the airport at this time. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran stated the Council decision to not sell the airport does not mean that if the time comes where the property is needed by the coal company that their offer won't be reconsidered.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:20 pm by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk