

Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
September 22, 2009

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 Sherer.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

The minutes of the previous regular meeting and closed session were approved.

Commissioner Hill reported Sergeant Brewer had applied for and received a grant to help with the replacement of in-car video cameras in the amount of \$7,200.00.

Commissioner Hill informed the Council that she attended a training session with the Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Department and found it very informative. She also reported on a recent meeting with Montgomery County Animal Control concerning the impounding of animals at their new facility. Their pricing, at this time, looks to be very favorable as compared to current costs. They will have a veterinarian on staff and volunteers helping to find homes for strays. Commissioner Hill noted there will be a field trip for the high school criminal justice class on October the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Sherer asked if in the future the County could take over animal control in the City as Sam will be retiring soon.

Commissioner Sherer reported that contracting out the mowing Sam currently does has been looked into and has not been met very receptively by area contractors. Commissioner Sherer next discussed the need to begin a rotation of replacing mowing equipment as one of the mowers is eleven years old. Sherer also informed everyone that the "haunted forest" is tentatively scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Work is progressing at the Challacombe House with exterior work and outside landscaping. Commissioner Sherer next discussed the possibility of stocking fish in Glenn Shoals at a price of \$2.00 per fish within the next few weeks. There was also a brief discussion on the City possibly stocking the brood pond next spring with fingerlings to be released in the early fall.

Commissioner Trost thanked all the City departments and Commissioners for their assistance in removing the inventory from the dollar store to be sold later to recoup part of the revolving fund loan. The loan defaulted in the amount of around \$9,600.00. The sale of the inventory will probably not pay off the amount owed.

Commissioner McCammack announced that smoke testing of East Hillsboro had been completed and of the ten problem areas found five which have been corrected.

Commissioner McCammack next introduced US Army Sergeant First Class John B. Adams, a former resident of Hillsboro and grandson of Jerry and Marilyn Stewart of Hillsboro. Recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor for actions in Iraq, John is one of only 9 designated “real heroes” by the U.S. Army and has his own action figure. Adams was present to bestow two of these to the City of Hillsboro and Mayor Baran.

City Attorney Jarman, at the request of Commissioner Sherer, will be sending out draft copies of a video gaming ordinance for the Council’s consideration.

City Engineer Hunt requested the Council get together and discuss how to best use the \$189,000 in stimulus money coming from the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The water agreement proposal has been sent to the “coal company” with the recommended changes, but a response has not been received as yet. Therefore, any action on the agreement was tabled.

The “Chances” building was again discussed. Commissioner Sherer discussed a possible method of getting the building secured and structurally sound. The plan would allow the City to make repairs and place a lien on the building for the repairs. This would remove responsibility from the City but shift the repair expenses to the City. According to City Attorney Jarman administration could cost anywhere from three to four thousand dollars and no one knows what the cost of repairs be.

Mayor Baran asked City Attorney Jarman to contact the bank holding the lien on the property and see if any arrangements could be made to get the building sold.

Commissioner Sherer and Engineer Hunt were also to meet and discuss the extent to which the City would like to have a study done to determine the condition of the building.

There was a discussion held on the sale of surrendered property from the Sandy’s Dollar Store and setting of prices.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Trost** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the sale of surrendered property from the dollar store at a rate of 50% off with the times and dates to be set by the City Hall staff as they will be working the sale. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran stated four bids had been received for the construction of the new rail spur.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the awarding of the bid for construction of a rail spur to Oberkramer in the amount of \$788,972,57 as this was the low bid.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve a homecoming parade request from Hillsboro High School for October 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Roy Hertel was introduced to speak on behalf of the Lincoln Statue Committee. Mr. Hertel discussed the need to place protective posts at the Lincoln Plaza to guard against damage to the new statue. The committee is willing to purchase the protective devices at a cost of \$349.00 each but asked if the City could do the installation.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer** and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to have City personnel install protective posts at the Lincoln Plaza to be purchased by the Lincoln Statue Committee. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Hertel asked if the City would consider moving the “no left turn” sign that is currently located in front of the courthouse to the southeast corner of the square. Commissioner Hill stated she would review the request with her personnel.

Commissioner Sherer presented the Council with a draft ordinance concerning bow hunting on City owned property. The ordinance would only allow bow hunting in permitted areas and a fee would be imposed.

After a brief discussion on the proposed ordinance Clerk Booher was instructed to contact the City’s insurance carrier for their input. Until a decision can be made there will be no bow hunting on City property.

Police Chief Gary Satterlee reported attending a “hazard mitigation committee” meeting. The meeting asked various entities to create a list of projects they would like to see completed if funding were to become available with a 75/25 grant. A couple of items the City is looking at are warning sirens and drainage issues. A list should be compiled by the end of October.

Upcoming agenda items would be the water contract with the coal company, discussion on “Chances” building, bow hunting, replacement of mowers and purchase of fish.

**Motion to adjourn was made at 8:15 pm by Commissioner Hill** and seconded by Commissioner Trost. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dave Booher, City Clerk