

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
September 23, 2008

Mayor Baran opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting were approved.

Mayor and Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Hill reported the resurfacing of Main Street has been rescheduled to September 29th and 30th. Main Street will probably be closed at around 4:00 pm.

A fall cleanup will be tentatively scheduled for November 20th 21st and 22nd from 7am to 3 pm. Commissioner Hill next reported there will be a "Haunted Forest" on October 11th and 12th at Sherwood Forest. There will be hot dogs and hayrides on Saturday night and hayrides again on Sunday night. As in years past Henry McDonald is in charge of the program.

Commissioner Hill next discussed the possible upcoming sale of City owned properties and asked that Commissioner Trost, along with John Booher, handle all future transactions.

Commissioner Hill next informed everyone that repairs on the Challacombe House have begun and the roof work should be completed this week.

Commissioner Sherer informed the Council that draft copies of his Emergency Operations Plan have been presented to the Chief and Deputy Police Chief, Fire Chief, Hillsboro Ambulance Service, School District, Montgomery County Health Department and Sheriffs Department for their feedback.

Chief Satterlee took this time to recognize Officer Davidson, Auxiliary Police and Chief Deputy Stretch for their assistance during the recent heavy rains.

Commissioner McCammack also thanked Officer Davidson for keeping him informed on conditions at the lakes and water plant.

Commissioner Trost stated he is reviewing some of the suggestions from Monday's meeting concerning the present budget.

Commissioner Sherer took this time to let everyone know that the memorandum of budget saving ideas he had compiled and distributed were not all his ideas, but a compilation of suggestions from various sources.

Commissioner McCammack informed everyone that he is gathering information for a buyout of Waste Water Superintendent Merriman if economically feasible.

Mayor Baran informed everyone that through the hard work of many people including Senator Demuzio, Illinois Commerce Commission Toby Grover and Ron Pate of Ameren the demand meter has been removed from the Sports Complex. This will be a huge savings in the power bill. Ameren will also in the near future be donating \$1,000 to the Sports Complex. Mayor Baran mentioned that he, Commissioner Hill and Morris Dodd had met with representatives from the IEPA and US EPA to discuss remediation of the Eagle Zinc property. They will first address securing the property and the removal of the buildings.

City Engineer Hunt reported Rural Development had approved change order # 6 concerning the new water treatment plant. Hurst & Rosche is also preparing the sludge application and NPDS permit for the new water treatment plant. Hunt also stated they would begin the 2008 dam inspections in November.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to approve the High School's request for a homecoming parade on October 9th at around 2:40 pm. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to set dates and times of "trick or treating" from 6 pm to 9 pm on October 30th and 31st. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to approve *Ordinance # 1483* concerning the opening of mail and privacy of documents. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve *Ordinance # 1484* allowing for the sale of 8 acres of City owned surplus property to Rick Vogel for the appraised value of \$20,000.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve an agreement with the village of Butler to accept their waste water. Motion carried 5-0.

The Council was presented with a draft truck route ordinance for their consideration. Officer Tim Sheldon explained to the Council and audience the reasoning for implementing such an ordinance and its benefits.

The Council took the suggestion under review and would address it at the next meeting. Any decisions on annexation and zoning of Coal Company property was tabled until the next meeting.

Mayor Baran introduced Leland Storm and asked him to explain his report to the Council and audience.

Mr. Storm stated that he had been contacted by Mayor Baran to do an analysis of the Hillsboro Police Department and determine why the Officers had taken a vote of "no confidence" towards the Police Chief.

Mayor Baran read the report to the audience and stated copies would be available the next day for those interested. In the report Mr. Storm stated he had interviewed the Chief, Deputy-Chief and all the Officers on a one-on-one basis beginning with the least senior members of the Department. A meeting was then scheduled with the entire Department and Administration for a question and answer session to clarify issues. Mayor Baran stated copies of the report would be available to the public on Wednesday morning.

Based on Mr. Storm's interviews he was recommending Commissioner Sherer no longer serve as the Commissioner over the Police Department and Chief Satterlee is given 90 days to show improvement in his running of the Department. If after 90 days improvement has been achieved Chief Satterlee should attend classes for Police Chiefs. If improvement is not met then he should be removed as Chief.

Mr. Storm felt that Commissioners have been too involved with running of the Department and this has eroded the Chief's authority.

Commissioner Sherer had an opportunity to question Mr. Storm as to why he was hired and by whom and what his goals were and his methods for reaching his conclusion.

Commissioner Sherer added that at the time of the group question and answer session his time was cut short due to a previous engagement involving his work.

There was a brief discussion of the "no confidence" vote as to who was responsible for making it public and who initiated the suspension of the officers.

Later learning the F.O.P. attorney is the one who gave the statement to the press, the City felt like they needed to reinstate the officers with back pay.

Joe Darnell asked Mr. Storm how much he was being compensated and was informed the rate was \$100 per hour with no cap.

Mayor Baran stated he was authorized to approve an expenditure of up to \$1,000 per month.

Mr. Darnell asked what the suspension cost the City and was told approximately \$6,000 in wages.

Former Commissioner Richmond stated an issue had come up 8 months after the Chief's appointment that gave him cause to recommend not reappointing him. Commissioner McCammack talked him out of not reappointing him. It was for this reason some of the control was taken away from the Chief.

Mr. Darnell asked if Chief Satterlee had ever been sent to administrative training.

Chief Satterlee stated he has attended classes for various aspects of police work.

After about an hour and a half of discussion concerning the report Mayor Baran asked the Council how they would like to proceed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Hill to table any decision on the report until the next regular meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 pm by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk