

Hillsboro City Council Meeting
September 8, 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.

Minutes of the August 25th meeting were approved.

Commissioner Sherer reported the Fenton's will have the marina open for a few more weeks and they would like to lease it again next year.

Commissioner McCammack informed everyone that there will be an "open house" held September 20th from 2 to 4 pm at both the new water plant and Challacombe House. McCammack also mentioned that the Street Department has been picking up brush from the recent storm. Commissioner McCammack next informed everyone that people have been illegally dumping items other than yard waste at the Street Department and this will not be tolerated. McCammack added that cameras will be in place to catch offenders. Commissioner McCammack stated that smoke testing of sewers in East Hillsboro will begin on Wednesday and those homes found to be putting storm water into the sanitary sewers will be notified to take corrective actions.

Mayor Baran updated everyone on a program being hosted by Montgomery County Recycling to dispose of electronic equipment. The program will be on September 17th and 18th and take place at the recycling center. Mayor Baran next reminded everyone of an upcoming bid opening on September 11th for the new rail spur.

City Engineer Cody Greenwood informed everyone that Plocher Construction is at the water plant working on the final punch list and the grading and seeding of the property. Greenwood stated the Operations and Maintenance agreement for providing water to the Coal Company has been completed and ready for Council approval. Greenwood also noted the land application sludge permit has been received and awaiting approval of the NPDS permit.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to pay this month's bills in the amount of \$ 212,625.73. Motion carried 5-0.

A presentation to the Mayor was tabled until the next meeting.

Kyle Putnam of Patton and Company presented this year's audit to the Council. Putnam first thanked the City Hall office staff for their cooperation and assistance in compiling this year's audit. The Council was informed that, like other cities, keeping a balanced budget is a struggle with revenues falling and interest rates on reserves also falling. There has also been a decrease in grant funding and available grants. Expenses continue to rise and we need to limit purchases to needed items, not, wanted items. There has been a small increase in sales tax which is a good sign. Also, the City is fortunate to have a good recreational income but it's not known if this can be sustained in the future economy. Putman noted the present retirement policy should help but each

department needs to reassess itself before replacing any retirees. New employees should be able to be cross trained to get the most for the dollar. It was also noted that all departments need to implement a five year capital expenditure policy to be able to forecast upcoming expenses. Putnam also recommended the Police and Fire pension funds be diversified and try to make as much money as possible. If not, additional taxes would be levied and taken away from other levied items. Her last recommendation was for everyone to work together to face the challenges ahead.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to accept this year's audit by Patton and Company. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran recommended the Council accept the resignations of Paul Tomazzoli and Jim Moore from the Police and Fire Board. Mayor Baran went on to thank these individuals for their service to the City.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to accept the resignations of Jim Moore and Paul Tomazzoli from the Police and Fire Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to approve **Ordinance #1503** providing for the issue of \$2,440,000 in general obligation refunding bonds (alternate revenue source), series 2009, of the City of Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois and for the levy of a direct annual tax sufficient to the principal and interest on said bonds. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran read to the Council an ordinance he had prepared concerning residency requirements of Council appointed boards and committees. In the proposal members of the Zoning Board of Appeals would have to live within one and one-half miles of the corporate City limits. The City currently had zoning jurisdiction within one and one-half miles of the corporate limits. All other boards and committees are required to live within 6 miles of the corporate City limits. This matches that of any City employees.

Commissioner Sherer stated he had a problem with embracing a policy allowing board or committee members voting on issues concerning the City while residing outside the City.

Commissioner Trost reminded everyone that the Police and Fire Departments cover a larger area than just the corporate limits with fire subscription fees and police coverage fees.

Commissioner Hill echoed the thoughts of Commissioner Trost and also stated how difficult it is to find residents willing to serve on committees.

Commissioner Sherer stated these were valid points and he would agree to the changes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve Ordinance #1504 allowing for a change in residency requirements for City appointed Boards and Committees. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran presented the Council with a list of three citizens that had expressed interest in serving on the Police and Fire Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to appoint Richard Hewitt to the Police and Fire Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Trost to appoint Gene Markos to the Police and Fire Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner Sherer to appoint David Hough to the Police and Fire Board. Motion carried 5-0.

A drawing for terms of office was held and David Hough's would be for one year, Richard Hewitt's for two years and Gene Markos would serve a three year term.

Mayor Baran next recommended the appointment of Jim O'Neil to the Fire Pension Board to replace the position held by Ed Delaney.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill to appoint Jim O'Neil to the Fire Pension Board. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to approve a temporary water connection for the Coal Company to Montgomery County Rural Water and instructed City Attorney Jarman to prepare an agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

City Engineer Greenwood informed the Council that the bids for this year's Motor Fuel Tax program have been reviewed and approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to approve the recommendations of the City Engineers and award MFT contracts to Louis Marsh in the amount of \$27,350.00 for bituminous premix and seal coat and Litchfield Bituminous in the amount of \$62,870.00 for seal coating of the streets and seal coat aggregate. Motion carried 5-0.

There was a Council discussion on the proposed amendments to the water contract with the Coal Company.

Commissioner Hill voiced opposition to the minimum usage and billing in the current document as it lends itself to paying less than the contracted amount for no usage.

This was the only item in the agreement that needed addressed at this time.

Attorney Jarman would address this item with the Coal Company and hoped to have a revised contract for the next meeting.

Commissioner Sherer began a discussion on the "Chances" building that has been safety issue for several years. Commissioner Sherer proposed initiating litigation and having the property placed in a receivership by the courts. The City could then go in and make structural repairs to preserve

the building. These costs could then be used to place a lien on the building and hopefully be recouped when sold.

The Council agreed that the process had gone on too long and it's time to move forward.

Motion was made by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve Hurst & Rosche's proposal to do this year's dam inspections at a fee of \$3,750.00. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner McCammack and seconded by Commissioner Hill to approve the lease assignment of cottage #2 from Cheryl Jyawook to Russell Queener. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to approve a financial agreement with Leible and Bullington guaranteeing the payments of repairs to their respective ponds. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Hill and seconded by Commissioner McCammack to approve the hiring of Jeff Parks as an employee in the Street Department to be used primarily as a mechanic. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran stated there is pending litigation that the Council needs to discuss.

Motion was made at 8:04 by Commissioner Sherer and seconded by Commissioner Trost to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Baran reconvened the regular meeting at 8:50 pm with roll call.

Those present were Mayor Baran and Commissioners Trost, Hill, McCammack and Sherer.

As there was no action taken on the closed session Mayor Baran asked the meeting be adjourned.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:52 pm by Commissioner Trost and seconded by Commissioner Sherer. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dave Booher, City Clerk