

HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Hillsboro Municipal Court – 130 Homestead Drive

January 12, 2015

At 7:00 p.m., Council President Lee Koogler called the Hillsboro City Council meeting to order. The following were present for the meeting: Drew Hastings, Mayor; Gary Lewis, Auditor; and Debbie Sansone, Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Bill Alexander, Tracy Aranyos, Dick Donley, Justin Harsha, and Ann Morris were present.

MOTION Mr. Harsha moved, seconded by Mr. Donley, to excuse the absence of Claudia Klein and Becki Wilkin due to illness. Vote: all yeas. Ms. Klein and Ms. Wilkin were excused from the meeting.

President Koogler led the Council in prayer and Mayor Hastings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was followed with the call-out of “O-H” followed by “I-O” to support the Ohio State Buckeyes. President Koogler said he would keep the meeting as brief as possible so everyone could watch the Ohio State vs. Oregon football game for the national championship later in the evening.

MINUTES

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 8, 2014. The minutes were approved.

MONTHLY REPORTS

There were no questions about the December 2014 monthly reports and 2014 Annual reports and the Clerk read the reports by title only: Auditor, Income Tax Bureau, Police, Public Utilities, Street, Wastewater Treatment, Water Meter, Water/Sewer Maintenance, and Water Treatment.

PUBLIC REQUESTS

No requests

COMMUNICATIONS

President Koogler received a communication and will address it as New Business later in the meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

No comments

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Drew Hastings, Mayor)

The first project completed by Kim Abbott, Economic Development Coordinator, was the Uptown Residential Tour to encourage people to develop, rent, and buy Uptown living space. It was very successful.

Mayor Hastings asked if President Koogler would place the feasibility of obtaining Wi-Fi in the Uptown Area into committee. He would eventually like to have Wi-Fi offered to the entire city. The city needs to take advantage of the fiber optic hub in the city (one of the only hubs in southern Ohio) if there is a way to economically use it.

Mayor Hastings said he is trying to get young people interested in local government and was pleased that Sage Buchanan, Hillsboro High School student, was in attendance at the council meeting. Ms. Buchanan is a senior at Hillsboro High School and is in the Honor Society and serves on Student Council. He asked Council to consider using Ms. Buchanan on a committee.

The meth lab legislation does not solve the drug problem in Hillsboro but Mayor Hastings encouraged council to pass some form of legislation to help fight the drug scourge in the city. The legislation is only one tool in combating the drug problem and other methods will be considered to help combat the problem.

Lastly, the City of Hillsboro, Oregon, challenged the City of Hillsboro, Ohio that Oregon would beat Ohio State for the National Championship. Mayor Hastings said he would conclude his report so everyone can go watch the Ohio State Buckeyes “kick some butt!”

SAFETY AND SERVICE DIRECTOR’S REPORT (Todd Wilkin, SSD)

Mr. Wilkin was not present.

AUDITOR’S REPORT (Gary Lewis, Auditor)

Mr. Lewis presented the year-to-date fund report and year-to-date bank report with a balance of \$6,329,283.06 in various bank accounts and in investments and cash-on-hand for operational purposes. Mr. Lewis asked for a motion from Council to accept the report. There were no questions for Mr. Lewis.

MOTION Mr. Donley moved, seconded by Ms. Aranyos, to accept the Auditor’s report. Vote: all yeas. The report was accepted.

Mr. Lewis explained the legislation presented to Council:

- A resolution to disburse \$216,245 from the TIF funds to Highland County for the Hobart-Carl Smith Drive project and associated improvements on Harry Sauner Road. The funds are appropriated.
- A resolution to increase appropriations in the Life Squad Improvement fund. Paint Creek Fire District has made improvements to equipment in the Hillsboro station and the Administration believes it is a good use of the money.
- A resolution for the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Recreation Fund. It was an oversight on the part of the Auditor when he prepared the Annual

Transfer resolution passed in December 2014. He prepared the resolution once he was aware the transfer was omitted.

Mr. Harsha asked if Paint Creek Fire District is responsible for the City vehicles. Mr. Lewis said that Paint Creek is responsible but the city has funds set up for the improvement of the life squad. The money being transferred has been in the fund for quite some time. The District needs to upgrade equipment in the life squads and the City offered the funds to the District. President Koogler said that some of the equipment at the time the City contracted with the District had issues that needed attention. Mr. Alexander asked if the funds were from the inside millage. Mr. Lewis said it was not inside millage but was transfers made by previous councils. The last transfer was probably in 2010. Mr. Alexander asked what choices the City had to use the money and could it be appropriated for something else in the General Fund. Mr. Lewis said it was Council's decision. Mr. Alexander commented that the Finance Committee has not had an opportunity to look into the matter. President Koogler asked Mr. Lewis that if Finance Committee wanted to look into the issue was there time to do so. Mr. Lewis said that it was not a necessity.

Mr. Alexander said that the resolution should have a first reading but the Finance Committee should have an opportunity to review it. President Koogler said that a resolution for appropriations does not require three readings and he will place it into committee if so desired. Mr. Donley said he didn't know what the committee would look at because the money can be transferred however Council wants to do it. He believes it would be a good will gesture on the part of Hillsboro to give the money to the District to improve the life squad. The City has renewed a contract with the District for three years with no increase in cost from the previous contract. The General Fund is fairly healthy at this time but Mr. Donley told Mr. Alexander that his committee will look at it if that is Mr. Alexander's wish. Mr. Harsha asked if it was a one-time transfer and the answer was affirmative. President Koogler said he would let the resolution be read and see what motions are made at that time. There was no further discussion or debate and no questions for Mr. Lewis.

PLANNING COMMISSION (Mayor Hastings, Chair)

The Planning Commission met at 5:30 p.m. on December 16, 2014 at the Hillsboro Firehouse Community Room. Each Commission member was asked to rate their priorities for projects or improvements that were discussed in previous meetings. The top three priorities were sidewalks and how to fund and determine the highest priorities for repair or replacement; map platting, which is needed for an overall city plan; and parks.

Tom Eichinger was appointed to research a sidewalk program and there will be a meeting on January 13 to discuss his findings. Kevin Barreras was appointed to prepare a plan to outline how to move forward with map platting. Ruth Robbins was appointed to research park districts. The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

There were no questions for Mayor Hastings.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Dick Donley, Chair)

Mr. Donley said his committee did not meet to discuss the lodging tax because of holiday commitments but the committee will meet before the next council meeting. President Koogler placed the Uptown Wi-Fi feasibility study in the Finance Committee.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION (Ann Morris, Chair)

No report

CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (William Alexander, Chair)

No report

STREET AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (Justin Harsha, Chair)

The committee met on December 10, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Administration Building conference room. In attendance were Committee members Tracy Aranyos, Ann Morris, and Justin Harsha; Marilyn Hiestand, Robyn Coomer, Frank Schoolcraft, Luke McKellar, Todd Wilkin, Safety and Service Director, Gary Abernathy, Mayor Drew Hastings, and Dick Donley.

The committee met to discuss the ordinance proposed by the Administration to establish a lien in favor of the City for abating the effects of meth and other similar drug production on property within city limits. The meeting started with Mr. Harsha's opinion and then was opened for discussion. Mr. Wilkin explained the reasoning behind the ordinance. He had watched a program about the ill effects on a family that had moved into a house where Meth production had occurred. Mayor Hastings stated that out of 833 rental properties in the city, more than 500 have out-of-town owners. He believes many landlords do not screen their renters and that low rental rates and quick turnovers often lead to the harboring of drug production.

Everyone at the meeting had a chance to voice their opinions. Most views were in opposition to current ordinance but in favor of helping to find a solution. A few of the topics discussed were: owners being responsible for criminal activity on their property, clearly written ordinances, quality of landlords, cleanup time limit, water shut off until property is cleaned up and property to be registered as having been exposed to Meth.

A motion was made by Ms. Aranyos, seconded by Ms. Morris, to conduct more research and to schedule another meeting. Vote: all yeas. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m. (End of report)

Mr. Harsha said that after the Committee meeting, he talked to Chief Whited, Mayor Hastings, insurance companies, and Jeff Burnett regarding clean up. Mr. Harsha said there is no legislation or guidelines for cleanup at the federal level. The State had legislation Bill Sub 22 but it died in committee. It was similar to Hillsboro's proposed legislation. He believes the real problem is not going after the drug dealers and

offenders. It is not the City's responsibility to pay for cleanup and he does not believe the landlord should be responsible either. The real problem is the drug dealers but how do you go after them and make them pay for the cleanup? He cited an example of a property owner not being aware of a meth lab but being responsible to pay for cleanup. There will be more meetings and more input.

Ms. Morris said she thinks it is very important to continue addressing the legislation because she feels the landlords are responsible for cleanup. She is a landlord and thinks the responsibility needs to start somewhere. She thinks the legislation could be reworded to make it work. Mr. Harsha feels the present proposed ordinance will not have much impact on the problem and that safety is the greatest issue but there are no state guidelines for cleanup.

Mayor Hastings urged anyone with an interest in the problem to attend the committee meetings and hear the discussion and arguments. At the last committee meeting there were many realtors and landlords who opposed the legislation. Mayor Hastings made the analogy that if there was a murder in a rental home, the property owner would have the responsibility to clean it up and make it inhabitable. The same would be true for bed bugs or drug production. It is ultimately the landlords' responsibility. The legislation is only a tool to be used with many other tools. The drug problem cannot be "legislated away." President Koogler said there is a need for a lot more discussion on this issue.

There were no further questions for Mr. Harsha.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE (Becki Wilkin, Chair)

No report

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE (Tracy Aranyos, Chair)

No report.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (Claudia Klein, Chair)

No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS (THIRD READING)

None

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

- ***Resolution No. 15-01* A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE CITY AUDITOR TO DISBURSE TIF FUNDS TO HIGHLAND COUNTY FOR**

CONSTRUCTION OF HOBART ROAD EXTENSION WITHIN THE TIF DISTRICT *Introduced by the Auditor* The resolution is appropriations in nature and does not require the suspension of the Three Reading Rule.

MOTION Mr. Donley moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to approve and adopt the resolution. Vote: all yeas. The resolution was approved and adopted.

- **Resolution No. 15-02 A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 201 LIFE SQUAD IMPROVEMENT FUND** *Introduced by the Auditor* The resolution is appropriations in nature and does not require the suspension of the Three Reading Rule.

MOTION Mr. Alexander moved to place the matter into committee before voting on the resolution. There was no second and the motion died.

Mr. Donley stated that he also works with the Coroner's office as an investigator and has been on quite a few calls in the city. The Paint Creek Fire District has performed beyond "their call" and they are doing an excellent job for the city. The transfer of funds would not be a hardship on the city and demonstrates on the part of the Council and the City that Paint Creek's service is appreciated. He also stated that the money was being used to serve the citizens of Hillsboro.

MOTION Mr. Donley moved, seconded by Ms. Aranyos, to approve and adopt the resolution. Vote: all yeas. The resolution was approved and adopted.

- **Resolution No. 15-03 A RESOLUTION FOR THE TRANSFER OF VARIOUS FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015** *Introduced by the Auditor* The Resolution is appropriations in nature and does not require the suspension of the Three Reading Rule.

MOTION Ms. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to approve and adopt the resolution. Vote: all yeas. The resolution was approved and adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

The Highland County Local Corrections Planning Board and Reentry Coalition meets every three months and requires a City of Hillsboro representative on the board. Mr. Harsha volunteered to serve on the Board for the City of Hillsboro.

MOTION Mr. Harsha moved, seconded by Mr. Donley, to appoint Mr. Harsha to represent Hillsboro on the Highland County Local Corrections Planning Board and Reentry Coalition. Vote: all yeas. Mr. Harsha will represent the City on the Highland County Local Corrections Planning Board and Reentry Coalition.

President Koogler asked Council if they would like Mr. Donley to continue as President Pro-Tem for 2015.

MOTION Ms. Aranyos moved, seconded by Ms. Morris, to re-elect Mr. Donley as President Pro-Tem of Council for 2015. Vote: all yeas. President Koogler asked that the record reflect that Mr. Donley voted “yes” with reluctance.

ADJOURN

At 7:37 p.m., Ms. Aranyos moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to adjourn. Vote: all yeas.

The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Court.

Lee Koogler, President

Debbie Sansone, Clerk