

HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Hillsboro Municipal Court – 130 Homestead Drive

February 9, 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; Todd Wilkin, Safety and Service Director; Gary Lewis, Auditor; Fred Beery, Law Director, and Debbie Sansone, Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Bill Alexander, Tracy Aranyos, Dick Donley, Justin Harsha, Claudia Klein, Ann Morris, and Becki Wilkin were present.

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

MINUTES

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes from the Regular Meeting on January 12, 2015. The minutes were approved.

MONTHLY REPORTS

There were no questions about the January 2015 monthly 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

The Clerk received correspondence from Mike Morgan asking to address Council regarding a code violation citation he received. President Koogler will address Mr. Morgan and Mr. Adray during “New Business.”

CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

No comments

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Drew Hastings, Mayor)

Mr. Hastings did not give a report in order to give more time to the issues being heard by Council later in the meeting. He wanted Council to learn from FRS (Joe Adray) about what is going on behind the drug problem.

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

Mr. Wilkin apologized for missing the January meeting. He addressed projects that are scheduled for 2015. The Glenn Street Water Loop Project will encompass Glenn Street from West Main to Danville Pike and will provide a new eight-inch water line and new pavement on Glenn Street. The project will last sixty days. The city must move water

and sewer lines in preparation for the Hobart-Carl Smith Drive project which will start in the spring. Negotiations are taking place for the right-of-way from Pizza Hut to build a right turn lane on High Street at Harry Sauner Road. The project is scheduled to start in April and will take six weeks to complete. The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) awarded the city \$302,000 to improve North East Street from Main to North Street. The city will contribute \$102,000 to the project for new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, a new storm sewer system, and new pavement. The funds are available on July 1, 2015 and the project will begin shortly after that date and will last approximately ninety days. ODOT awarded the city funds to synchronize all the traffic lights in town. If repairs are needed, the grant will cover the repairs. The study will also review intersections where there is no traffic light to determine if a light is warranted or if a current light should be removed. Part of the study will include the light at Fenner and West Street and Pea Ridge and West Street. If a light is needed at Pea Ridge, ODOT will provide the needed funds through a safety grant.

The legislation presented by Administration asks for the authorization to apply for two grants: Small City's Grant to widen Harry Sauner from Kibler's to Speedway and would include a center lane and new curbs, gutters, and sidewalks and an ODNR grant for improvements to Liberty Park. The 2015 budget also includes improvements to Shaffer Park. A fishing derby paid for from an ODNR grant will be held on April 11, 2015 from 10 am to 4 pm at Harmony Lake in Liberty Park. The grant pays for stocking the lake with trout and provides educational opportunities for children.

The Water Office will soon be accepting ACH payments for water bills. The Planning Commission is working to develop a sidewalk program to improve sidewalks in the city.

Mr. Harsha asked if a traffic light is installed at Pea Ridge, is it possible to make it a flashing light. Mr. Wilkin said that study will determine the safety issues, line of sight, etc.

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 \$6,044,097.09 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 Ms. Klein moved, seconded by Ms. Morris, to accept the Auditor's report. Vote: all yeas. The report was accepted.

Mr. Lewis explained the legislation presented to Council:

- A resolution to increase appropriations in the 509 Wastewater Treatment fund due to arbitration dealing with the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- A resolution to authorize lease of equipment is for standard equipment replacement with trade-in of old equipment.

There were no questions for Mr. Lewis.

PLANNING COMMISSION (Mayor Hastings, Chair)

The Hillsboro Planning Commission met for the annual organizational meeting at 5:30 p.m. on January 20, 2015 in the Hillsboro Firehouse Community Room. There was a unanimous vote to keep the current officers: Buck Wilkin, Chair, and Kevin Barreras, Vice Chair. The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

The Planning Commission held a special meeting at 5:40 p.m. following the organizational meeting.

Mr. Eichinger reported to the Commission the information he researched regarding a sidewalk program. Some of the items he shared concerned specifications for sidewalks, ADA access, how to deal with trees that damage the sidewalks, and the best place to start the sidewalk program.

Mr. Barreras reported his finding concerning map platting which is outlined in the Ohio Revised Code under Access Management.

Ms. Robbins related her research on Park Districts which can include not only parks but cultural centers and other recreation centers.

Stephen Crouch, University of Cincinnati Intern, and Sage Buchanan, senior at Hillsboro High School, attended the meeting.

Mr. Wilkin explained how Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts are structured and how a TIF district could help to fund the extension of Roberts Road from Kroger to Fenner Road.

Mr. Beery talked to the Planning Commission about the commission's duties and responsibilities.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

There were no questions for Mayor Hastings.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Dick Donley, Chair)

The Finance Committee met on February 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Courtroom to discuss the City's lodging tax and the portion that goes to the Visitor's Bureau. Bob Lambert, Executive Director of the Highland County Visitor's Bureau, addressed the committee. Present for the meeting were Dick Donley, Tracy Aranyos, Ann Morris, Bill Alexander, Todd Wilkin, Claudia Klein, and <inaudible>. In the audience were Bob Lambert, Joe Mahan, and <inaudible>. Mr. Lambert asked for more contribution from the city for the Visitor's Bureau. There was a lot of discussion. There were questions about the legality of the tax and the committee will check with the Law Director for advice. There was discussion about the Visitor's Bureau, HUBA, and the

Chamber of Commerce being organized under one umbrella. Mr. Donley recommended to President Koogler that the matter remain in committee for more research and discussion.

Mr. Donley told President Koogler that a meeting on Wi-Fi Feasibility would be held soon. There were no questions for Mr. Donley.

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 Street and Safety Committee met on January 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Hillsboro Firehouse Community Room. The following were in attendance: Becki Wilkin, Robyn Coomer, Frank Schoolcraft, Luke McKellar Pamela Limes, Gary Abernathy, Bill Siddons, Michael Brown, Mark Wilson, Terry Collins, Tricia Collins, Denny Ridel, Rusty Fite and a number of other people.

The committee met to discuss the ordinance proposed by 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 a discussion of the ordinance by the committee then heard comments from the public.

Topics discussed were, but not limited to:

- Meth Minder product, similar to smoke alarms, that detects production of Meth
- Landlord's responsibility of a property
- Lack of power landlords have over a property once occupied
- Pin-pointing habitual drug properties
- Holding the criminals accountable
- Background checks
- Rehab programs or lack thereof
- Local listing of properties where labs have been
- More specifics in ordinance

In general, everyone agreed there is a problem with drugs in the community and want to help find a solution. An ordinance that tackles the problem and does not burden responsible property owners will be better received. Safety is a legitimate concern when dealing with a clandestine lab (meth lab). It needs to be addressed.

Tracy Aranyos made a motion to keep the matter in committee and work toward a new ordinance. The motion was seconded by Ann Morris. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Mr. Harsha said his committee will meet again soon. He feels it is important to take time and do research to find something that works. There were no 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. 15-04 A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 509 WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT FUND** *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 Ms. Aranyos, to approve and adopt the resolution. Vote: all yeas. The resolution was approved and adopted.

- **Resolution No. 15-05 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE LEASE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT** *Introduced by the Auditor* The resolution is appropriations in nature and does not require the suspension of the Three Reading Rule. President Koogler confirmed with Mr. Lewis that the funds are appropriated for the purchase of the equipment.

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

- **Resolution No. 15-06 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES' 2015 NATURE WORKS GRANT PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED** *Introduced by the Safety and Service Director*

Mr. Alexander asked if there is a deadline for the grant and Mr. Wilkin said he believed it was the end of the month.

MOTION Mr. Alexander moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to suspend the Three Reading Rule. Vote: all yeas. The Three Reading Rule was suspended.

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

- **Resolution No. 15-07 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO DOT'S 2015 SMALL CITY PROGRAM AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED**
Introduced by the Safety and Service Director.

Mr. Wilkin informed President Koogler that the grant submission deadline is prior to the next Council meeting and asked for the Three Reading Rule to be suspended.

MOTION Ms. Aranyos moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to suspend the Three Reading Rule. Vote: all yeas. The Three Reading Rule was suspended.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Morgan, owner of M&M Swap Shop, addressed Council regarding a citation for a violation of the property maintenance ordinance and a citation for a barking dog. Mr. Morgan asked that Ms. Morris refrain from voting on any issue concerning his appeal because she was part of the complaint. Mr. Morgan cited multiple examples of the city contacting him with different violations that have slowed his progress and cost him money. Mr. Morgan presented a notebook of pictures to Council of properties that are in much worse condition than his uptown properties. Mr. Morgan told Council that he just wants to be left alone.

President Koogler summarized Mr. Morgan's case by saying that Mr. Morgan feels the letter he received was not justified and there are other properties that are worse than any issue on Mr. Morgan's property. President Koogler asked Mr. Wilkin if the nuisances cited in the letter from the city had been abated. Mr. Wilkin said the trash nuisances were remedied. The only issue remaining is the barking dog. Mr. Wilkin said the letter served its purpose and he thanked Mr. Morgan for cleaning-up his property. He also stated that 75% of the pictures in Mr. Morgan's portfolio are properties the city is currently dealing with. In 2014 the city dealt with 112 properties for various nuisances.

President Koogler said the only violation remaining is the barking dog. He explained that Council legislates but seldom enforces the legislation. It is the job of the Administration to enforce the ordinances. President Koogler gave Mr. Wilkin a chance to speak. Mr.

Wilkin said many of the ordinances for property maintenance were passed in 1965 and Administration is simply trying to enforce the ordinances. It is important to keep properties looking nice in order to attract new business into the vacant uptown buildings. Regarding the uptown sidewalk ordinance, the Administration likes flowers, benches and attractive items on the sidewalk to entice customers but appliances are not attractive. Mr. Wilkin explained that when Mr. Morgan requested a list of people who complain, there is not a list because many complaints are made in person when Mr. Wilkin is out in the community. Again, Mr. Wilkin thanked Mr. Morgan for cleaning the nuisance issues at his property. Mr. Wilkin said he wants businesses to succeed.

Mayor Hastings said he is tasked with how the city looks. He wants the city to look better in order to attract new business. He assured Mr. Morgan that the city is not picking on him. Mayor Hastings said that he does not want a prospective business to see trash nuisances. He wants the city cleaned up and he will not apologize for trying to make the city look as neat and acceptable as it can be. There is no malevolent action against Mr. Morgan; the city is trying to improve all the properties. And although "Live and Let Live" sounds good, when someone throws buckets of feces out their back door two blocks from the City Building and throw mattresses in the yard, the rest of the community must deal with it. Mr. Morgan is simply caught in the attempts by the city to improve the community.

President Koogler allowed Mr. Morgan a rebuttal stating that all issues have been abated except for the dog. Mr. Morgan repeated earlier statements. He said he did not understand why the dog is an issue. President Koogler asked the Street and Safety Committee to do some investigation about the dog complaints and hold a meeting where additional information can be taken from any interested party and bring it back to Council by the next meeting.

There were no questions from Council.

Joe Adray, Director of FRS Counseling, addressed Council to explain what FRS does and their plans for the future. He explained how prescription drug addiction led to a heroin epidemic. He explained what happens to the brain with drug use. FRS has been operating a counseling center since 1982 and offers outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, five-day-per-week treatments, and medication assistance treatment for opiate addiction. It is very difficult to stop the addiction. FRS would like to start a residential treatment program. Currently FRS operates three facilities in Hillsboro: FRS Counseling on Chillicothe Avenue, Connections Program working with the Hillsboro City Schools, and the main offices behind Frisch's. He may come back to Council asking for approval to place a residential treatment center in the city.

Mayor Hastings asked Mr. Adray to talk about the residential treatment program and the efforts to regionalize the treatment, specifically suboxone. Mr. Adray said there is no residential treatment center in Highland County and the regional aspect relates to a taskforce that plans for the region. Suboxone helps treat the addiction and would most likely be used for the rest of the addict's life, trading an illegal drug for a legal drug (a

partial opiate). The suboxone has also become a valuable street drug. Currently FRS treats eleven addicts with suboxone. FRS prescribes one week at a time. FRS is applying for federal licensure as an opiate treatment program (OTP) where addicts can get suboxone on a one –to-two day basis for Medication Assisted Therapy.

Mayor Hastings said his concern that attracting/servicing more addicts in the city will compound an already epidemic drug problem in the city. Mr. Adray said it will not attract the addicts, the addicts are already here. President Koogler asked that if there was an in-patient facility in Highland County, would it only serve Highland County residents. Mr. Adray said it would be designed primarily for county residents but there could be people from other counties. A residential facility could house sixteen people and it would not be a lock-down facility.

Ms Aranyos asked if Mr. Adray had a ball-park idea of how many treatment houses FRS wants in Highland County. He would like to see a female facility that housed 8 – 16 clients and the same for males, a total of 16-32 beds in Highland County. Medicaid is the primary funding. Ms. Aranyos asked what the percentage of success is with the program. Mr. Adray said FRS is seeing a fifty percent success rate with suboxone treatment compared to 25-30 percent success rate without treatment.

Mr. Harsha had concerns about a suboxone facility in a residential area. Mr. Adray said the treatment would take place at the Chillicothe facility and the residential facility will not necessarily be in a residential neighborhood and will be a combination of court-ordered clients and voluntary walk-in clients. There are a lot of controls for suboxone testing and monitoring. Mr. Adray offered to discuss the issues with anyone at any time. Mayor Hastings thanked Mr. Adray for talking to Council and suggested another discussion perhaps with council members.

ADJOURN

At 9:04 p.m., Ms. Morris moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to adjourn. Vote: all yeas.

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

Lee Koogler, President

Debbie Sansone, Clerk