

**HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Hillsboro Municipal Court – 130 Homestead Drive**

**March 9, 2015**

At 7:00 p.m., Council President Pro-Tem, Richard Donley, called the Hillsboro City Council meeting to order. The following were present for the meeting: Todd Wilkin, Safety and Service Director; Gary Lewis, Auditor, and Debbie Sansone, Clerk.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**MOTION** Ms. Aranyos moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to excuse the absence of President Koogler. There was no discussion. Vote: all yeas.

Mr. Donley led the Council in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

There were no additions or corrections to the minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 9, 2015. The minutes were approved.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

There were no questions about the February 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 NCJC Housing and Development Foundation who is seeking a grant for improvements to Hi-Land Terrace Apartments and Golden Manor Apartments.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Bill Bowman, Co-Pastor New Life Ministries, 6101 SR 247, Hillsboro, explained to Council that the Food Bank Operation his church conducts. It touches approximately 30,000 people each week with at least one food product. In 2008, the church started the annual food outreach at the church location and in 2009 began using the facilities at Liberty Park. Local business people and politicians were invited to help with the food give-away. There has never been an incident requiring the police in the 5 years the event was held in Liberty Park. He explained that Liberty Park is ideal for their event because they use the amphitheater for the program and the shelter house is used for the water station and handicap seating.

In 2014, an event permit was required and, after submitting it to the City, the permit was declined on the basis that the infrastructure was not conducive to serving 5,000 people. There was no other location for the event so it was not held in 2014. He asked Council for permission to hold the event in Liberty Park for 2015. Mr. Donley placed the matter in the Community Enhancement Committee to review.

Rhonda Fannin, representing the Highland County Continuum of Care, presented the Highland County Housing Response Plan to Council. Highland County belongs to Region 16 which includes Clinton, Fayette, Pickaway, and Ross Counties. Funding is channeled through the region and because Highland County has only one homeless shelter, they often receive less funding than other counties. The housing plan strategically places the Continuum of Care in a better position to receive funding. The plan found many inadequacies in housing and no transitional housing, showing the need for different housing options. The report outlines the mission, need, and best practices of the Housing Response Plan. Ms. Fannin asked Council for the last signature needed showing support for the program.

**MOTION** Mr. Alexander moved, seconded by Ms. Aranyos, to support the Highland County Housing Response Plan. There was no discussion. Vote: all yeas.

Richard Stiffler, citizen, wanted to direct a question to Administration. Mr. Donley reminded him that he was addressing Council. Mr. Stiffler said he was not opposed to the Uptown park but asked if there would be a "\$300 fee" for residents to congregate in the park. He asked if a group wanted to hold an event there, would there be a fee. Mr. Donley said the park will be for the community and is still in the planning stages. Mr. Donley referred to Mr. Wilkin who said there was no "\$300 fee." The size of the event determines the fee and the plaza is for the public. The plaza is still in the planning stages.

Rhonda Smalley, Fair Housing Coordinator for Highland County, explained the program and how she works as a mediator between the landlord and tenant.

Pete Pence, Grow! Highland County Enterprise Facilitator, told council that Grow! Highland County is an organization dedicated to the development of entrepreneurship in the county. His goal is to form a working relationship with the Economic Development Coordinator and City Council for the betterment of the city through the creation of new businesses. Mr. Donley offered Council's assistance in any way they could help.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Drew Hastings, Mayor)**

The Mayor was not present and Mr. Wilkin read the Mayor's report.

I'm sorry I could not be in attendance this evening. Tonight's report is essentially a progress update of items we've been working on.

I attended the Plaza Committee meeting that Judge Coss chairs. The Plaza design is progressing and the committee says they should have a recommendation by next month. There is a public meeting for citizen input scheduled for March 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building.

To get more people out to Liberty Park and create more community activities, the city's Economic Development Coordinator has started a "Movies Under the Stars" series to show movies at the amphitheater every Friday beginning in June. Improvements are being made to the amphitheater, including restrooms, for this program.

The city's web site is being updated and will be more user friendly and provide more useful information for citizens. Any council members that have ideas on what they would like to see included in the new city web site, please get with Heather Collins to have the ideas included.

On the economic development front, I have spent a lot of time talking to individuals and some smaller companies about either locating here in town or starting up in Hillsboro. Most of these talks involve putting people together with property owners, or advising them of financing possibilities. We are also continuing to explore what the City can do to entice new business and job opportunities to the area.

I also want to say "Thanks" to the city Street, Water, and Sewer Departments for tackling all the snow and sub-zero temperature issues they had to deal with. Not an enviable task – so thank you!

As always, if Council members have any questions or want to give input into any projects or activities that the Administration is involved with, please feel free to call my office, day or night. That concludes tonight's Mayoral Report. Thank you.

## **SAFETY AND SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Wilkin said the city almost made it through the winter without using a lot of salt and overtime, but the month of February had a different agenda: 90 man hours for a water main break. He thanked Shawn Adkins and Steve Pence and the employees of the Streets and Water and Sewer Departments for their hard work and hours of snow removal. He also thanked County Engineer Dean Otworth for his relentless work to make the Hobart-Carl Smith Drive a reality. The bid for the project was thirteen percent under budget. A preconstruction meeting is planned and at that time the city will know more about traffic interruptions and project schedule. Phase I and Phase II are scheduled for completion by the end of the year, which include the portion from US 62 to SR 73. Mr. Wilkin also thanked Debbie Sansone for her work in applying for many grants and helping to secure necessary funding for the project.

A fishing derby is scheduled for April 11 at Liberty Park. It will be an educational and fun day for children and their parents. On May 27 the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall will be on display at Liberty Park. Special events are planned from May 28 to May 31.

Bids will be opened on March 11 for the pedestrian bridge project. The North East Street project will be offered for bids on June 15 with funds becoming available on July 1. The right-turn lane project at Pizza Hut will be offered for bids on April 15. The Street Paving project will be offered for bids in the next few weeks and the roads are scheduled for completion by the end of August.

The Administration withdraws the meth clean-up legislation previously proposed. Meth residue is a contamination and there are ordinances in place that deal with unhealthy, unsanitary living conditions that the city will enforce. The Law Director provided a legal opinion supporting the enforcement of the ordinances for meth clean-up.

Mr. Wilkin thanked Tom Eichinger, member of the Planning Commission, who has been working hard on a city-wide sidewalk plan. A public meeting is scheduled for March 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Firehouse Community Room to discuss the pilot project and gain input from local citizens.

#### **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 \$6,266,452.04 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. Aranyos moved, seconded by Ms. Klein, to accept the Auditor's report. There was no discussion. Vote: all yeas. The report was accepted.

Mr. Lewis explained the legislation presented to Council:

- A resolution to correct the lease amount in Resolution 15-05 passed 02-09-15
- A resolution to increase appropriations in the TIF fund for the intersection at Harry Sauner Road and North High Street for the right-turn lane project

Mr. Lewis said that there will be 700 trout stocked in Harmony Lake for the fishing tournament and encouraged everyone to attend.

There were no questions for Mr. Lewis.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION (Mayor Hastings, Chair)**

Mr. Wilkin read the Planning Commission report for Mayor Hastings.

The Planning Commission met at 5:30 p.m. on February 17, 2015 in the Hillsboro Firehouse Community Room. Tom Eichinger suggested that a public meeting be scheduled for March 17, 2015 to hear citizen comments on the proposed sidewalk

program. The public meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Hillsboro Firehouse Community Room at 204 North East Street. Representatives from the Highland County Fair Board met with the Commission to present their plan to install a fence along fairground property at Chariss Avenue. The Fair Board asked and received a variance from the Planning Commission several years ago and the Commission asked for time to locate the record. The matter will be addressed as unfinished business at the March meeting. The Commission discussed the need for better recording of variances and zoning updates. Todd Wilkin asked that a working session be scheduled to discuss map platting. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

There were no questions for Mr. Wilkin.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE (Dick Donley, Chair)**

There was no report but a Wi-Fi meeting is scheduled at the City Building and Council is invited to attend. 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 committee met on March 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hillsboro Firehouse Community Room. The following were present for the meeting: Tracy Aranyos, Ann Morris, and Justin Harsha. Also in attendance were Mike Morgan, Mike Morgan, Sr., Police Chief Todd Whited, Reed and Jenna Harsha, Jason Grove, Drew Hastings, Frank Schoolcraft, Travis and Kerri Moots, Robin Morris, Gary Stevens, Dick Donley, and Gary Abernathy.

The committee met to discuss a complaint and appeal of a barking dog issue and also to discuss an ordinance brought forward 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 the city limits. Ann Morris abstained from the first part of the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

The meeting started with the dog issue. Mr. Harsha explained to both parties that in his investigation of the issue, he found the dog not in violation of a nuisance. He also said that by not living or doing business at the location on a daily basis that he could not discount the complaint. Robin Morris talked about the problems with the dog barking during the day and night. He said that the dog barks often and for long periods of time. He does not want Mr. Morgan to get rid of the dog, just stop it from barking. Mr. Morgan talked about how the dog is in place to guard his property. He feels that the dog

protects his building, letting him know when unauthorized people are at the rear of the building.

Upon investigation of the complaint by Ms. Aranyos and Mr. Harsha, they found the best solution was approving the appeal and having both parties work together on the issue. Hopefully this would open up productive communication and help solve the problem. Ms. Aranyos moved, seconded by Mr. Harsha, to recommend the acceptance of the appeal by Mike Morgan and recommend communication between both parties. Vote: all yeas.

The committee then addressed the meth legislation at 6:24 p.m. Mr. Wilkin explained to the committee that after a recent meth bust, he was able to place a condemnation notice on the property. After contact was made with the property owner, they were given so many days to remove contamination or prove no contamination existed. The property owner hired a contractor who tested the property to prove there was no contamination and the condemnation was lifted. Mr. Harsha stated that because the situation was handled with current ordinances that put the liability on the property owner or the contractor, there was no need to pass another ordinance. Mr. Harsha recommended that the ordinance be tabled and the city continues using the method used by Mr. Wilkin. Mr. Harsha also asked that the committee continue to explore possible solutions to the drug problem in the city.

Ms. Aranyos asked Mr. Harsha to mention that the Safety and Service Director had the authority to disconnect water and sewer services from condemned properties if the owner did not comply with the ordinance.

Chief Whited spoke of the safety involved in a meth bust. He also spoke about the recent surge in drug offenses. In 2014 there were 191 total drug busts and for the months of January and February 2015 there were already 113 busts.

Mayor Hastings spoke of his concerns of the drug problem and related a recent landlord issue. A landlord called the police about a drug problem in one of his rentals, wanting help to remove the tenant. Hillsboro Police investigated, built a case, and were able to bust the property. The landlord then did not take any action to evict the tenant. There were then two more busts during the next three months at the same address.

Ms. Aranyos moved, seconded by Ms. Morris, to recommend tabling the meth ordinance and continue to use an existing ordinance on the matter. Vote: all yeas.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Lewis and some council members had questions about meth clean-up. Mr. Donley said that Chief Whited scheduled a public meeting that will address all the questions and inform the public how they can help solve the problem. The date and time will be announced.

Mr. Harsha asked Mr. Donley for the opportunity for his committee to research drug problems and try to find solutions. Mr. Donley removed the meth legislation and barking dog issue from the committee and agreed to the drug problem research.

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE (Becki Wilkin, Chair)**

No report

**ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE (Tracy Aranyos, Chair)**

No report.

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (Claudia Klein, Chair)**

Ms. Klein had no report but informed Council that she had been in contact with Mr. Pearce from the Elks regarding grant funds available for improvements at Liberty Park. She requested that Mr. Donley place the Liberty Park Improvements into her committee. Mr. Donley placed Elks – Liberty Park Improvements into Ms. Klein’s committee.

**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. 15-08 A RESOLUTION TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE 401 TAX INCREMENT 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. Klein, to approve and adopt the resolution. Vote: all yeas. The resolution was approved and adopted.

- **Resolution No. 15-09 A RESOLUTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 15-05 PASSED ON 02-09-15** *Introduced by the Auditor* The resolution is appropriations in nature and does not require the suspension of the Three Reading Rule.

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

- **Ordinance No. 2015-01 AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF LAND NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE** *Introduced by the Safety and Service Director*

Mr. Donley asked Mr. Wilkin if he wanted Council to suspend the Three Reading Rule. The bidding process is lengthy and Mr. Wilkin said if Council was agreeable, he would like it expedited. There was no discussion.

**MOTION** Ms. Morris moved, seconded by Ms. Klein, to suspend the Three Reading Rule. Vote: all yeas. The Three Reading Rule was suspended.

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

**ADJOURN**

At 9:04 p.m., Ms. Aranyos moved, seconded by Ms. Wilkin, to adjourn. Vote: all yeas.

The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is April 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Court.

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Richard Donley, President Pro-Tem

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Debbie Sansone, Clerk