

Council met in regular session with the following persons present: Mayor Richard Zink, Safety-Service Director Ralph Holt, Law Director Fred Beery, Auditor Gary Lewis and Clerk Beverly Brown.

President Richard Donley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Kevin Chambers, Mr. Koogler, Mr. Levo, Mrs. Parr, Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Walker, Mr. Young

Absent: None

Council President Donley offered prayer for the meeting followed by Mayor Zink leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

TEEN OF THE MONTH- President Donley presented the award to Lauren Williams for her work with 4-H as well as serving as president of the Highland County Junior Fairboard and the 22-member 4-H Family and Consumer Science Board. She's also been active in the 4-H Junior Leadership Club and served as a camp counselor for Teen "Genes" and Junior High camps. Lauren is also active with the basketball program, serves FFA as an officer and works with the Festival of the Bells.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH- Mr. Chambers presented the award to Rose Fisher Merkwitz for her work as the Family & Consumer Science and Community Development Educator from the Ohio State University Extension, Highland County. She serves on the Leadership Highland and Highland County Community Action boards and also provides the community with cutting edge researched-based information in her weekly news column on money management workshops, parenting and leadership.

Minutes of the December 5, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

MONTHLY REPORTS- Monthly reports had been received from the Water Meter Department, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Street Department, Income Tax Bureau, Water/Sewer Maintenance Department, Police Department, Water Treatment Plant, Fire Department, Life Squad and Auditor's office.

PUBLIC REQUESTS- None

COMMUNICATIONS – The clerk read a letter from Woda Development of Ohio LLC. Frank Fugate was present to explain what they would like to accomplish in the city of Hillsboro. He explained that the only thing that Woda did was tax credit housing. He said that he felt pretty comfortable that they did have a site in the city of Hillsboro that they could develop between forty and forty-two units.

He passed out copies of a resolution and pictures of some of their projects. He said they were currently working on projects in Waverly, Peebles and Washington CH. He said the pictures showed projects in eastern Ohio and they own and manage over 3,000 units in Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky. These are income based units but are not subsidized. He said the income base in Highland County would be \$21,000 to \$31,000. If someone is below that they are not eligible and if they are above that they are not eligible.

Mr. Koogler asked if they were catering them specifically to anybody within that price range or were they more toward senior housing. Mr. Fugate said their marketing people said they should look more toward family housing. There would also be a community room to be utilized by the tenants. Mr. Holt said he thought the income range was up to \$40,000 and Mr. Fugate said that some counties do go up that high, but Highland County falls in to the \$31,000. Mr. Holt then asked what the salary base was for the Waverly project and Mr. Fugate said he didn't have the numbers but he could get them for Mr. Holt. Mr. Holt said he would like to see the difference between the product for the Waverly project and the one proposed for Hillsboro. Mr. Fugate said that it would be the same product.

Mr. Chambers asked if Mr. Fugate could disclose the general area that was being considered for the site and was told it was north-central. Mr. Walker asked where the funding was coming from and Mr. Fugate said that Doug Henry was interested in talking to them. He said that much of

their funding comes from syndication and banks and they get the tax credit. Mr. Holt asked if they needed to partner with a non-profit organization and Mr. Fugate answered in the affirmative. He said that they had talked with Highland County Community Action. President Donley asked if they were listed with the Better Business Bureau and Mr. Fugate indicated that he didn't know. President Donley then asked if they had projects in the Columbus area and Mr. Fugate said that most of their projects are in smaller communities in the county seats. He said that they had not made contact with the Hillsboro Planning Commission at this point.

Mr. Koogler asked if Mr. Fugate knew what the pricing point was going to be per unit in terms of the 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom. Mr. Fugate said he would get back with him on that. He said it was very reasonable but he didn't want to misquote a number. Maybe \$450 to \$600. Mr. Shoemaker asked if the Washington CH project was on the east side and Mr. Fugate said it was more toward the northwest and was single-family homes.

Mr. Holt said that he would like to visit one of the projects like that proposed for Hillsboro. Mr. Fugate said that he would get all the information to him. President Donley said that he was going to put this in the Finance Committee and the Zoning & Annexation Committee. Mr. Fugate said that they would use local labor; they will buy local materials and they will probably hire someone from the local community to manage the units if they get the tax credits. He said that his application due date was March 16th and he felt comfortable that they would have the site secured and that they could meet all of the city requirements or questions that they might have for the February meeting.

Mr. Koogler said that Monday, January 16, 2006; he wanted to hold a Finance Committee meeting and they could get the ball rolling at that time. He told Mr. Fugate that any information he could have to them, as complete and thorough as possible at that time would be helpful.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

In December the meetings I attended was

December 1 – Civil Service handbook meeting

December 2 – Wedding

December 5 – Wedding

Council meeting

December 8 – CIC meeting

December 13 – Swearing-in of John Levo, Bonnie Parr and Tim Young

December 14 – Property & Maintenance Committee meeting

December 19 – Met with Jennifer Taylor from Congressman Turner's office. In that meeting

she did supply us with some information that we may be able to go after a

Homeland Security grant to help us with a safety building. Right now Kirby is in contact with the person whose name we were given.

December 20 – Wedding

December 22 – Two Weddings

December 23 – Wedding

December 28 – Wedding

December 30 – CIC meeting

First I would like to welcome the new members of city council and I would like to remind them that if they have any questions concerning any operations of the city of Hillsboro; they're welcome to stop by my office at any time. I'm looking forward to sharing information and working with city council to make the necessary decisions for the betterment of our city.

In December we saw the completion of the new sewer located at Belfast Pike. I know this was an inconvenience to many people using State Route 73 during the construction period, however; we had no choice in closing the road and trying to have it done in a safe and timely manner.

I would like to thank the citizens also for their understanding in regard to leaf pick-up this year. To start with, we have a small crew on the street department and then the leaves came down late and then the snow fell and the temperatures turned bad; froze on us and the leaves were hard to pick up. So then the holidays hit and therefore we didn't get a whole lot done. But now they are working on them and getting along pretty well and hope to finish them up very soon; weather permitting.

Most of the initial work has been completed in December on repaving Harry Sauner Road. The base layer and temporary striping was completed, but due to the weather changing; the finish layer and permanent striping will be completed as soon as the weather breaks in the spring.

Also due to the election of Mr. Koogler and Mr. Young to city council, the need to replace these gentlemen on the Civil Service Commission came into play. Therefore, I have appointed Anneka Bettker and R Paul Pence to fill the vacancies and I'm asking council for a vote of approval on these two appointments.

To my knowledge, the unencumbered balance in General Fund at the end of 2005 will exceed our goal of \$800,000. This is according to the preliminary reports that Gary has been working on in his office. I know that he has worked very hard on this to get it out for us. In order for this goal to be reached, it took a lot of effort and cooperation from our department heads and employees. I would like to sincerely thank them for their efforts. We have been able to maintain services; however, the need for capital improvements is still there. We will address the Finance Committee with explanations and approximate costs in the very near future to see if we can get some of these improvements that still hang out there; worked on.

So with that, if anyone has any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

Mr. Levo made a motion to approve the appointments to the Civil Service Commission and Mr. Walker seconded the motion with all members voting yea.

SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-

Eric Daniels has been a busy man the last four or five weeks. First of all we're kind of proud that the Life Squad now has access by laptop to our network which allows them to fill out all necessary paperwork for billing and provide the hospital with a printout of the information that they desire. This is all done while they are on the run and at the hospital. This will reduce our incomplete reports for billing purposes.

Also the auditor's computer system has now been updated and they now share the city's network with us. Our citizens will now have the opportunity to pay their utility bills on-line tentatively the first of February.

Cindy Sellman contacted my office and is requesting a street light at 118 Somers Street or in that area. It's dark in that area and there was a break-in in that area. I called the Police Department and they were not aware of anything so I'm giving the information to council.

We requested qualifications from engineering firms for the upgrade to the city's sewer plant. We have received two requests back. Administration and the sewer plant have reviewed them. I've given each member of the Utilities Committee a copy of those qualifications. I would ask them if they would review those qualifications so that we may discuss them at the January 17th meeting. Administration needs to make a decision on what engineering firm the city uses. We would appreciate the Utilities Committee's input.

The mayor and I met with Susan Zurface Daniels this morning. She came to ask for the city's help. In June of this year, Team Columbus in conjunction with the Hillsboro Grand Prix organizing community are expecting approximately 3,000 bicyclists in Hillsboro. She would like to meet with the appropriate committee in an effort to explain what is necessary to make this work. I talked with Mr. Walker shortly about this today to see what we can do for this lady.

Mayor Zink said that they were to camp out at the fairgrounds. They already have permission. Mr. Levo said that they would be coming in to town on Monday night and leaving on Wednesday morning. He said that it is part of "The Great Ohio Bicycle Adventure" which was in Hillsboro probably eight years ago. President Donley asked if Mr. Walker would take this in to his committee.

I would like to request the cost of family insurance for non-union to be increased to \$95 and single coverage to be increased to \$35. Any non-union employees not wishing to take part in the city's insurance program will be imburshed for \$95 a month. I've had four of the non-union employees contact me requesting that they receive two additional personal days that the AFSCME union received in their contract. That concludes my report.

AUDITOR'S REPORT-

Thank you very much Mr. President. As the mayor previously indicated, if you pay attention to the fund report for the year ending; you can see last year we started with the beginning balance of \$690,000. We ended this year with almost \$860,000 which is very good and as Mr. Zink has indicated, that took some very strong efforts on the part of our department heads to stay within their budgets. That's much healthier than what we were a year ago. We're not out of the woods yet, we're maybe at the edge of the woods; if something extraordinary would happen we'd fall back on ourselves in financial difficulty again. With diligent effort on the part of our department heads and all parties concerned and good graces there; we'll end up next year even on a better footing than we are this year. That's what we'd all love to see then we can start addressing some of the capital issues that we all know exist within the community.

Also, there is legislation later on; and believe me it pains me to give legislation to you at a late date. I will try to make every effort possible not to do that from this point in time. There are a few things that we do need to do to tie up 2005. That would be in Resolution 06-4. That kind of ties up a few loose ends remaining in 2005. We're still in the process of working on closing out everything for 2005 and balancing our books. The remainder of the transfer legislation that you have on hand is standard procedure for the continuation of business. In reviewing previous years' minutes, this has been performed on a fairly regular basis throughout the year and it just so happens that a lot of that occurs at the first in January of each year. I would be appreciative if you see your way to waive the three-reading rule and pass that legislation. That's all I have.

Mr. Koogler asked about the cost overruns in the Police Department and Mr. Lewis explained that they had known they were going to be over in the salary area. Mayor Zink explained that they had put on an additional dispatcher when one was off on six weeks leave. They had hired a temporary dispatcher and later there was an opening on the force at the time the regular dispatcher came back and the temporary dispatcher was put on as a provisional officer.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES-

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Koogler, Chairman

Mr. Koogler said that they were going to have a standing meeting every third Monday at 6 PM for the Finance Committee. Any additional Finance Committee meetings that are necessary will be designated as they come.

President Donley said that they did have legislation being brought before council later in the meeting that had come through the Finance Committee.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & RESTORATION COMMITTEE- Mr. Chambers, Chairman
None

CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COM, MR. Levo, Chairman
None

STREET & SAFETY COMMITTEE, MR. WALKER, Chairman

We didn't have a meeting either. Everything is pretty well on hold. I didn't realize this county map we were supposed to go ahead and check it. Also could you guys be here at 5:30 on Monday? We'll just have the Street & Safety. It shouldn't take too long. I'll just go ahead and set it up for 5:30 on Monday. What we've got shouldn't last very long.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE; Mr. Shoemaker, Chairman

We're having a meeting the 17th right here. That is to go over the material we just got tonight and Mr. Dodds will be in to give us some guidance at 6:00 p.m.

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COM.-Mr. Young, Chairman
None

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COM.- Mrs. Parr, Chairman
None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: None

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RES. 05-40 – A RESOLUTION TO REPEAL LONGEVITY PAY IN THE CITY OF HILLSBORO – The clerk read this resolution by title only for a second reading.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS-

1. ORD. 2006-1 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH SALARIES AND WAGES- The clerk read this ordinance in full for a first reading. A motion to amend Section Four to read “Retroactive to January 1, 2006” was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mr. Koogler. There was some discussion that the salary for the administrative assistant had not taken into consideration a step raise that should have been given. It was determined that they would vote on the legislation with the amendment as proposed and then amend it later to reflect the correction to the administrative assistant’s salary. All members voted yea. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mr. Levo with all members voting yea. A motion to adopt the ordinance was made by Mr. Koogler and seconded by Mrs. Parr. All members voted yea; ordinance adopted.

2. RES. 06-1 – A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO OTHER FUND ACCOUNTS WITHIN THE CITY- The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. A motion to waive the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Young with all members voting yea. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Koogler and seconded by Mr. Chambers. All members voted yea; resolution adopted.

3. RES. 06-2 – A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE SEWER REVENUE FUND TO OTHER SEWER FUNDS WITHIN THE CITY- The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Chambers with all members voting yea. A motion to pass the resolution was made by Mr. Koogler and seconded by Mrs. Parr. All members voted yea and the resolution passed.

4. RES. 06-3 – A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE WATER REVENUE FUND TO OTHER WATER FUND ACCOUNTS- The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. Mr. Walker made a motion to waive the three-reading rule and Mr. Young seconded the motion with all members voting yea. A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mrs. Parr and seconded by Mr. Walker with all members voting yea. Resolution adopted.

5. RES. 06-4 – A RESOLUTION TO AMEND APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND- The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. Mr. Levo made a motion to suspend the three-reading rule and Mr. Chambers seconded the motion. All members of council voted yea. Mr. Levo made a motion to adopt the resolution and Mrs. Parr seconded the motion with all members voting yea. Resolution adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Donley said that the council needed to elect two members to serve on the board for the Volunteer Fire Fighters’ Dependents Fund. Mr. Shoemaker made a motion for President Donley and Mr. Walker to remain on the board and Mr. Chambers seconded the motion. All members voted yea.

A motion to adopt the council rules as written except for changing the meeting dates from the first Monday of the month to the second Monday of the month starting in February, 2006; was made by Mr. Koogler and seconded by Mr. Shoemaker. All council members voted yea. Rules adopted.

A motion to elect Mr. Walker as President pro tem was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mr. Shoemaker. All members voted yea except Mr. Walker who voted nay. Mr. Walker will be President pro tem.

With no further business to come before the council; a motion to adjourn was made by

Richard Donley, President

Beverly Brown, Clerk of Council