

In attendance were President Richard Donley, Mayor Richard Zink, Safety-Service Director Ralph Holt, Auditor Gary Lewis, Law Director Fred Beery and Clerk Beverly Brown

President Donley opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Lee Koogler, Mr. John Levo, Mr. David Shoemaker, Mr. Charles Walker, Mr. Brian Waller and Mr. Tim Young

ABSENT: Mrs. Bonnie Parr

Mr. Shoemaker made a motion to excuse Mrs. Parr and Mr. Levo seconded the motion with all members voting yea.

Mr. Levo led the assembly in prayer followed by Mayor Zink leading in the "Pledge of Allegiance".

The minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting and special meeting of December 18, 2007 were accepted as presented.

MONTHLY REPORTS: Hillsboro Public Utilities, Income Tax Bureau, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water-Sewer Maintenance Department, Water Treatment Plant, Street Department, Police Department, Auditor's Office, Fire Department & Life Squad.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: John Hern of the Hillsboro Uptown Business Association came to petition the Hillsboro City Council to allow the Hillsboro Uptown Business Association to assume full responsibility for the Christmas Parade. He said in researching the history of the parade, he found out that the Hillsboro Retail Merchants originally sponsored the parade when it began in 1968. They continued to sponsor the parade until 1994 at which time no parade was held because of the disbanding of the Retail Merchants' Association. In 1995 Carol Robinson assumed the leadership role for the parade and continued until her death in 2007.

He said that he thought this was an opportune time for the Hillsboro Uptown Business Association to once again accept responsibility for the parade. He said that they would solicit the entries, publicize the event, organize the event and most important keep separate financial records which would be made available to the public. They are presently in the process of incorporating the organization.

Mr. Levo said that the Hillsboro Bicentennial Committee worked hand-in-hand with the Hillsboro Uptown Business Association in the past year and he said that he believed that Mr. Hern and his crew were very dedicated and wanted to see things done. He said that he would be in favor going ahead and giving them approval because their predecessors before they disbanded, did start the parade. Mr. Levo made that into a motion and Mr. Walker seconded the motion with all members present voting yea.

COMMUNICATIONS: Time Warner Cable had sent notice of some changes in their programming.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

December 3 - Wedding

Special Council Meeting

December 6 - Finance Committee

December 10 - Wedding

Zoning & Annexation Committee Meeting

Council Meeting

December 13 - Met with CH2M Hill regarding Wastewater Treatment Plant

December 18 – Special Council Meeting  
Bid Opening for Health Insurance  
December 20 – Closing for Washington School Property  
Bicentennial Meeting  
December 21 – Wedding  
December 27 – Meeting with CH2M Hill on Wastewater Treatment Plant  
December 31 – Drawings for Uptown Merchants' Monopoly Winners

I'll be getting a State of the City report prepared as soon as all the 2007 reports are in. Now, they are in as of this evening so I'll be working on that and then I should have it later this month or the beginning of February.

As you all know we have a lot of very important issues to address in the next few weeks. I would like to make an effort to re-establish a good working relationship with all elected officials in order to move forward in serving the citizens of Hillsboro. I know you were all in attendance at the December council meeting when I passed out some numbers relating to reducing overtime in the Fire and EMS Department. At no time did I make a proposal or recommend the hiring of additional employees. This was just some data that I had gathered for your information. They were not exact numbers.

I took the salary off the contract and added a third for benefits which is a ballpark number given to me from the Auditor's office. In no way did I state or suggest these numbers were exact. I'm glad to see the City Auditor checked his files and corrected my numbers showing somewhat larger totals. Example; I had added as twelve EMT Intermediate employees with a total cost of \$576,055.44. And Mr. Lewis has calculated the twelve additional employees would cost \$784,149.84.

With the total overtime dollars spent in 2007 being \$348,399.83; taken from a report that I received from the Auditor's Office; the cost for increased manning would be \$435,750.01 over what the City paid in overtime for Fire and EMS in 2007. As you can see, adding to the employee base would more than double what we now pay in overtime costs. I guess that the comment that I read; it's not true since I absolutely made no formal proposal to City Council; in the future; and I will let you all know at Council meetings; if I have any formal proposals in regards to anything with any magnitude concerning city business. Are there any questions?

#### SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

We've been working with CH2M Hill Engineers on the Sewer Plant Upgrade as you all know. When we started this process, we were looking at equipment upgrades, storage upgrades and building upgrades. The original estimate for the upgrade to the sewer plant was \$15,000,000 when we were informed that ODNR was going to require us to build an elevated road, dikes surrounding the plant and storm sewers within the plant area. We were also informed that we needed more electricity at the plant site for additional pumps and electrical requirements.

The engineer came back to us with an increase of \$6,000,000 which brought the total construction costs to \$21,000,000 which was unacceptable. We met with the engineers on several occasions going back through the costs; reviewing the equipment, reviewing the building requirements and the storage tank requirements until we found a solution that the engineers and Brandon Leeth, the superintendent, felt would be satisfactory. With these changes we have reduced the construction costs to \$17,224,882 and provided the requirements that ODNR have required.

The South Lift Station Sanitary Sewer System; in 2007 the EPA required Hillsboro to televise inspections of the sewer system tributaries to the South Lift Station. Twenty percent of the pipe segments show evidence of structural damage. Sixty-seven percent were determined to be in deteriorating condition. The South Lift Station Sewer Replacement Project currently under design will replace sixty-five hundred lineal feet of sewers that are structurally damaged or deteriorated. In addition, approximately seven hundred linear feet of structurally damaged sewer along Walnut and Main Streets, are

recommended for replacement as part of the future phase of the work in this area. The estimated cost of this project is \$1.5 million dollars.

Mr. Reiber contacted me last week to inform the city that the school is in the process of moving the buses and school equipment out of our building on Railroad Street and into their new facility. He advised that they will be out of the building by the end of January. We have an appraisal of that property of \$92,000 for approximately 1.42 acres provided by Rittenhouse Associates, Inc. I'm asking Council this evening if they would like me to move forward on advertising the property and taking bids from interested buyers.

On a final note, if the city is planning to adjust the cost of the fire protection to the townships; this needs to be acted upon and provided to Bill Fawley by April 2008. That concludes by report.

Mr. Koogler asked that the matter be placed into the Finance Committee for discussion.

Mr. Holt responded to a request regarding a letter from Tim Walker about the soccer fields. He said, "They wanted to build an additional building there for storage for equipment or whatever they want to put in it. And basically I talked with him and told him that Council had to approve a building on city property. So basically I sent it to Beverly saying that Council needed to approve the additional building at Liberty Park. There will need to be state approved drawings for the building and a permit through the city. But Council has to approve that building to be built."

Mr. Walker said that it wouldn't cost the city anything and they have equipment setting out there that sets out all winter and they would like to have a place to store it. They have several dollars tied up in equipment out there in those soccer fields. There was a question about insurance and Mr. Beery said that it would be through the city and Mr. Holt said it would be part of our liability insurance. Mr. Beery said that the building would be covered by the city insurance and Mr. Holt said the association might have insurance on what's inside the building though there was some question on whether or not this was true.

Mr. Koogler made a motion that the soccer association be allowed to pursue the building as long as the city has the ability to review any structures that are intended to be erected and give final approval. Mr. Shoemaker seconded the motion and all members present voted yea except Mr. Walker who abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Shoemaker said that the Property Maintenance and Restoration Committee would be addressing the bus garage property at their next meeting.

#### AUDITOR'S REPORT:

You have my reports in your packets this evening, ladies and gentlemen. I trust you've had an opportunity to review those. I have no legislation for you this evening. Next month we'll have our transfer legislation prepared for you.

Two items I will mention briefly. First, last month we had a visit from BWC. I received some communication prior to that that we would probably be receiving a rate increase in two forms. Number one; with our incidences and number two; BWC is going to decrease the amount of discounts that will be available to us. Not only us; but that's everybody across the board. It looks like our Workmans' Comp rates will be increasing.

This morning I received a call from the State Auditor. They will be bidding out our audit for 2007 to an IPA firm. The advantage of that would be a quicker turnaround time. The past two years we haven't received the prior year's audit up until a year later. In fact, the first of 2008 we received our formal copy of the 2006 audit. Hopefully, with an IPA firm doing the work; especially if they're the same ones that do our financial statement; we'll be able to turn that around and possibly have that probably six months earlier. So it should be completed somewhere around June or July rather than December as it has been in the last two years.

That's all I have this evening, if no one has any questions with regard to the reports; I would entertain a motion to accept those reports.

Mr. Walker made a motion to accept the reports and Mr. Koogler seconded the motion with all members present voting yea. Reports approved.

**HILLSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION- Mr. Young**

No meeting.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES-**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Koogler, Chairman**

Finance decided to get an early jump on the year and we did meet on January 9<sup>th</sup> in regards to the city's lodging excise tax. After discussion with all committee members present, it was recommended that the 2005 legislation be amended; in particular, paragraph two. It would be a reduction of the four percent to a one percent with half a percent being allocated to the Visitors' Bureau and the other half being allocated to fire inspection as the current amount allocated for fire inspection seems to be disproportionate with the amount of revenue coming in for the actual service provided. Therefore, it was by unanimous vote we have 2008-1 which is the ordinance presented for its initial reading this evening.

Also Finance will be meeting here in the next week or so to begin our delving into the 2008 appropriations and I believe that's it at this time.

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE & RESTORATION-Mrs. Parr, Chairman**

**CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS- Mr. Levo, Chairman**

You will notice in your packets this month, a new report. At my request the Safety Committee of the employees of Hillsboro will be each month submitting the minutes of their meetings to full council. This is something that has not been done in the past and based upon my meeting with them early this week, I feel it is information that council needs to be aware of at times, that that committee is active and meeting. That's all I have.

**STREET & SAFETY COMMITTEE- Mr. Walker, Chairman**

No meeting.

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE- Mr. Shoemaker, Chairman**

We had no meeting. We are waiting for confirmation from Kirby Ellison that RCAP has got their figures all in and once they have that, we will be meeting promptly.

**ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE- Mr. Young, Chairman**

No meeting.

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE- Mr. Young, Chairman**

No meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-**

**PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS-**

1. ORD. 2007-23 – AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE CITY OF HILLSBORO AND DESIGNATING A HOUSING OFFICER TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM AND CREATING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT HOUSING COUNCIL AND A TAX INCENTIVES REVIEW COUNCIL- The clerk read the ordinance by title only for a third reading. Mr. Walker made a motion to adopt the ordinance and all members present voted yea. Ordinance passed.

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS-**

1. RES. 08-1 - A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HIGHLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT- The clerk read the resolution in full for a first reading.

2. RES. 08-2 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CHANGE ORDER TO THE CONTRACT WITH ROSE CONSTRUCTION AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY- The clerk read the resolution in full for a first reading.

3. RES. 08-3 – A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A CHANGE ORDER TO THE CONTRACT WITH CH2M HILL AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY- The clerk read the resolution in full for a first reading.

4. ORD. 2008-1 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE LODGING TAX IN THE CITY OF HILLSBORO- The clerk read the ordinance in full for a first reading.

Mr. Koogler asked, “Mr. Beery, in terms of the legislation, Section Three; I’m making reference to January 1, 2006, 12:01 a.m.; obviously that was the effective date of the initial lodging tax that was put in place. By amending this through this supplemental legislation; will that in any way affect any sort of retroactive allocation to the taxes that have already been paid or will this be effective with the passage of this as the new rate?”

Mr. Beery replied, “It will be effective following publication; by law the new percentage rate. That means that everything remains the same until that effective date. Which means it’s actually the day after “thirty days following publication”.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Shoemaker said, “As a point of order here; to ease the Mayor’s mind that this Resolution 08-3; we will be talking about that at the next Utilities meeting in the committee. So I invite all council members to bring their questions to the next meeting and Mr. Holt will probably provide the information that everybody’s looking for. That way we’ll get this thing settled and be ready to vote on it possibly at the February meeting.”

President Donley said that they needed to elect a couple Council members to the Volunteer Firefighters’ Dependents Fund. He asked for volunteers and Mr. Koogler nominated himself with the understanding that President Donley would also be on the committee. Mr. Walker seconded the motion and all members present voted yea.

President Donley then presented the Council calendar for 2008 and it was determined that the October meeting would fall on the Columbus Day holiday. It was suggested that the Council meeting would be moved to Tuesday, October 14, 2008. Mr. Levo made a motion to accept the amended calendar and Mr. Koogler seconded the motion with all members voting yea.

Mr. Walker asked where they stood on the “Stockyards” property and Mr. Holt said that they hadn’t received a response from the appraisal.

With no further business to come before the Council, Mr. Shoemaker made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Koogler seconded the motion with all members approving. Meeting adjourned.

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Richard Donley, Council President

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Beverly Brown, Clerk of Council