

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

President William G McCreight called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mr. Kevin Chambers, Mr. John Dodds, Mr. Richard Donley, Mrs. Peggy McClellan, Mr. R. Paul Pence, Mr. David Shoemaker and Mr. Charles Walker.

Absent: None

Mr. Ron Hennison, Sr. offered prayer for the meeting followed by Mayor Zink leading those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the regular meeting of March 7, 2005 were approved as presented.

The clerk read the following monthly reports by title only: Water Meter Department, Income Tax Bureau, Water/Sewer Maintenance, Water Treatment Plant, Police Department, Street Department, Fire Department, Life Squad and Auditor's Office.

PUBLIC REQUESTS-

The Hillsboro Lions Club requested permission to have the July 4th fireworks display at Liberty Park again this year. Chairman McCreight placed this in the Community Enhancement Committee, Mr. Shoemaker, chairman.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS –

Bill Christman who works with the JOG (Jobs for Ohio's Graduates) program. He said that he had brought students to the March council meeting and he had brought some more so they could see how the city does its business in a professional manner. He thanked the council for allowing them to observe.

Sarah Ryan, the president and co-founder of "Support Our Troops of Highland County" explained the non-profit organization that has sent monthly care packages to forty troops from the county. She said there are over 190 troops from Highland County who are now serving. She came to ask the council for permission to have Armed Forces Day to recognize the troops that have come home and the veterans that have served so proudly over the years.

Mr. Donley said that he had spoken to Miss Ryan and had been advised that they thought there would be fifteen to twenty-five units in the parade. This had been placed in Mr. Chambers committee at the March meeting and a date of May 21, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. had been decided. Miss Ryan and her committee had gone around the community and had received help to cover some of the expenses.

Mr. Chambers asked Law Director Beery what they could do to get this moving and Mr. Beery said that there were a number of city services who typically provide people to put on parades and they would want to work through the safety-service director to see that those were lined-up. He said that they might check with the chiefs and see if they have vehicles they would want to commit to the parade. Mr. Chambers then asked if there was something they could do to give their approval or consent for the parade. Mr. Beery said that they could do a resolution of approval to promote this worthwhile activity and make a request for legislation. He said if they would adopt one that evening since it's a ceremonial resolution; he could draft it and it could be published before the next meeting.

Mayor Zink said, "I would like to thank your group, number one for recognizing the troops in Highland County, but there is one thing I would like to clear up. The rumor seems to have got started some place that the administration wasn't in favor of this and we do have ordinances we have to follow. We just want you to know that, Ralph and I; hey, it's fine; we appreciate what you are doing for the community; we'll do everything to back you. I just wanted to make sure you knew we weren't against you."

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Meetings I attended this month:

March 2 - Board of Health

March 9 - Department Head Meeting

March 10 – Employee Safety Meeting

Finance Committee

Community Enhancement

Public Hearing

March 14 – Wedding

March 17 – CIC Meeting

March 21 – Brush Bid Opening

March 22 – Wedding

March 23 – Accepted \$2000 Donation from VFW

I told them we just had the transmission go out in the street sweeper.

It cost \$2000 and that's where the money would go; to repair the street sweeper.

March 28 – FEMA Meeting

March 31 – Met with Dave Parry on sediment issues

Revolving Loan Fund Meeting

As you all probably know, our community is in danger of losing WSRW FM to Chillicothe. I believe this would be a great lose to our city, county and some surrounding areas. I've had legislation prepared to be presented later in the meeting to protest the move by Clear Channel. Without FM capabilities, we will be without local sports broadcasts, emergency bulletins, and public services such as the Highland County Children and Adults fund raiser getting attention we now enjoy. I would also urge the citizens of Hillsboro, Highland County and surrounding areas to write to Clear Channel in Chillicothe and San Antonio, Texas as well as the FCC to show our displeasure with this decision. I do have those addresses and I'll furnish the press with them after the meeting and I really would like to see a lot of people show how we depend on our FM station for a lot of things in this community.

Also this past week there was a "Letter to the Editor" in a recent issue of the Times Gazette addressing clean-up day in the city and also on brush pick-up. I appreciate the concerns of local citizens regarding these issues, however; if anyone has questions regarding issues in the city; feel free to call our office; 393-5219 and we'll be glad to listen to their concerns and answer any questions they might have. By using this procedure we can give our citizens straight answers as well as being made aware of their concerns.

The other issue of grave concern is still our financial situation. Hopefully this can be explained to everyone's satisfaction at the public forum scheduled for April 11th. This will be held at the Hillsboro High School cafeteria. I urge all citizens that are concerned about Hillsboro's present and future; to attend this meeting. We as elected officials are here to serve the citizens; however, the constant increases in expenses with a very minimal increase in revenues makes it a must to address these issues with the support of our residents in an urgent manner. Again I would please ask everyone to comment on the FM station and attend the meeting on April 11th. That will be at the high school cafeteria at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman McCreight urged everyone with anything to say at all about the FM station; to write expressing their concerns. He said that it was a necessity in the community. Mayor Zink related that the morning they had the ice storm he was on the air at the station at 4:00 a.m. explaining to the residents what was going on. He said that if you had an AM station that doesn't go on until daylight; it's tough to handle that situation.

SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

We received three bids for the debris removal in the City of Hillsboro and Danny Evans received the bid for \$120,000. He began the work today starting on Highland Drive off of West Main Street and he will continue until the job is completed. We are in union negotiations with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. We will continue until that's negotiated and we have a contract. We are beginning the bidding process and later there will be a resolution presented to council for the construction of enlarging the sewage lines from south of the five-way light on Belfast Pike to the South Lift Station. We will also be constructing a 650,000 gallon holding tank at the South Lift Station to contain overflows from the sewer system during heavy accumulations of water. Construction should begin in early to mid-May.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

I need to report to you that I made several transfers during the month of March for the General Fund. I have transferred \$160,000 to Police Pension Fund, \$185,000 to the Fire Pension Fund and \$85,000 to the Recreation Fund. Also from the Water Revenue Fund to the Water Debt Retirement Fund; there's a transfer of \$245,000. That of course has made a major hit on the Water Revenue Fund but their revenues this month should be more than enough to cover expenses and their balance will gradually build back up, however; there will probably be a need for another transfer in the fall to the Debt Fund and perhaps one to the Water Improvement Fund. Those amounts are unknown at this particular time. I'd also like to call your attention and forestall any questions regarding a couple of negative balances in the fund balance column. As I have explained before; the reports that you normally get at the council meeting are not the reconciled reports and there is money in transit. I know that there is definitely money that's been put in to the Water Improvement Fund by the federal government, but until I get the transfer slips; I do not make the entries. So you will see a different beginning balance when you get your report next month.

And then I want to discuss one thing that's only indirectly related to this council meeting. We have a cat problem in Hillsboro and that problem is in committee. Sometime around Christmas time someone dumped a litter of kittens at my property and I've given them a warm box in the garage and I have fed them and tried mightily to find homes for them and I am asthmatic and extremely allergic and can barely breathe around them. I still have to find homes for two more kittens; so if the cat lovers out there who came to the meeting several months back; if they would be willing to take on two kittens; I would appreciate it because that would solve my problem. Otherwise they are going to have to go to one of the animal shelters. The "no kill" facility will not take them if they are full-up and I would be forced to choose the other animal shelter. So, if anyone out there could use a kitten; please contact me. Office phone, 393-5791 or home phone 393-2033.

HILLSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

Hillsboro City Planning Commission met March 15, 2005. One item on the agenda was a request for a plat review of Lowe's at the corner of Careytown Road, Harry Sauner Road and 73. Commission member Terry Seipelt asked to see a traffic impact statement and an economic impact statement. Also safety-service director Holt had concerns with a curb cut on to State Route 73. That request was tabled. Item number two was a request for a replat of lots in the Land South subdivision; that request was approved. That's all the city planning commission has at this time.

Someone in the audience asked for an explanation of a curb cut and Mr. Shoemaker explained that it was where they enter and exit; ingress and egress in to the highway. Mr. Walker wanted to know if there was going to be another traffic light and Mr. Holt said that wasn't his plan, but the planning commission would have to look at it.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES-

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Donley, Chairman

The Finance Committee met on March 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Present at the meeting was myself, Mr. Dodds, Shoemaker, McCreight, Pence, McClellan, Chambers; Mr. Walker was absent due to a family illness. Also attending the meeting was Mayor Zink, Safety-Service Director Mr. Holt and employees from the city of Hillsboro and also the media were in attendance that evening. City auditor Rose Ryan was on vacation and was not at the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the projected three-year budgets and the need for an income tax increase. The issue of a special election for the tax increase was discussed and concerns for the lack of money and the street repair and maintenance and for building repair and upkeep. A lively discussion followed and several at the meeting expressed their opinions. The committee took the special elections for tax increase under advisement pending another committee meeting and set a public hearing on the matter for April 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. At that time, location had not been determined and that committee report is respectfully submitted, Mr. President.

Also, another Finance Committee meeting was held on April 1 at the council chambers. Meeting was attended by Finance Committee members; Dodds, Walker and myself. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Zink, Safety-Service Director Holt, Auditor Rose Ryan, council members present were Mr. Shoemaker, Pence and Chambers. News media and city employees were also in attendance. The meeting focused at this time on the present finances of the city and the city

auditor provided information to the committee of our current income and anticipated expenditures. She stated that we should have enough funds to cover the present budget, however; any unforeseen or unexpected emergencies; funding could be problematic. Discussion followed with the committee members that a tax increase by special election would not be necessary at this time. The committee recommends that no special election occur and the administration, council and others would continue to search for other funding, measures and resources.

Also to follow-up on the mayor's comment, the public meeting on this issue will be held at the Hillsboro High School cafeteria on April 11 at 7:00 p.m. for resident's concerns and businesses to address the finance committee and council as a whole. That's the recommendation of the committee, Mr. President and as the mayor stated, we encourage everybody to attend.

Mr. Donley requested that the other items remain in the committee. He said that there would be a meeting set very shortly on the justice center costs. He said that the union was being handled by administration and at their last meeting there had been information from Mrs. Ryan about filling a couple positions with fire and police. The meeting on April 11 would fit in with generating funds for the city.

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the committee report and Mrs. McClellan seconded the motion. Mrs. McClellan then asked if anything had been specifically discussed regarding filling the police and fire positions and Mr. Donley stated that there had been no specific meeting set for that purpose but there had been discussion with the auditor that there was a possibility for that in the current budget. Mr. Holt said that Mrs. Ryan had stated she felt there were finances to hire one police officer and one fireman and they had already started to move forward to do that. Mayor Zink said that during the past month in the police department with absenteeism due to vacations, sick leave and personal days; they were short not only the two that were laid off last year; those positions are still vacant, not filled; but they were 3.25 bodies off all month. One person would help but he said it was like sticking your finger in the dike to stop a flood.

Mrs. Ryan said that one of the officers that was due to retire has since withdrawn his retirement. Since the city is still paying him; there would not be funding for that position until he is retired. Mayor Zink said this officer had had five bypasses on Friday. Vote as follows: Mr. Chambers, yea; Mr. Dodds, yea; Mr. Donley, yea; Mrs. McClellan, yea; Mr. Pence, no; Mr. Shoemaker, yea; Mr. Walker, yea.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE-Mr. Pence, Chairman
We have two sign requests tonight. One of them from the Greene Chiropractic Center located on South High Street. They sent an application in, but in the committee's viewing of the place out there; they have already put their signs up before we got the application. They have two signs there and the ordinance states that there should be only one sign per residence. We're going to request that they put these signs on one post and this will probably remain in committee until this is taken effect. That's the recommendation that we have for Greene Chiropractic.

The second one is CVS who has asked to take out the bottom four signs on their big sign and put what they call "reader" signs in. Actually it's going to be a smaller sign than what's there now and the committee is recommending that this be approved. Mr. Dodds made a motion to approve the committee report and Mr. Chambers seconded the motion. Mrs. McClellan requested clarification on exactly what was being approved for CVS. With no further discussion; all members present vote yea. Report approved.

Mr. Pence asked if anything had been settled with the sign problem at Boone Realty. Chief Thompson said that he had stopped out there and talked with a woman and they were to come in and talk with safety-service director Holt; but so far no one has come in to see him. Mr. Pence asked that this be put back in to his committee.

STREET & SAFETY COMMITTEE, MR. WALKER, CHAIR

We did not meet this month. I think the thing with Jack Hope needs to be put on hold for a while. The lady who wrote the letter is not good at all in the hospital and has been for a while. We're waiting to hear from Doug Henry and Cannon on the entertainment center. Handicap sign; I overlooked that one. I apologize, I will get on that this month. I've talked to Nathan Burke and I've asked the committee to go look at the alley.

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COM. – MR. CHAMBERS, CHAIR

Hopefully we'll have a resolution coming up shortly that will show our support for the Armed Forces Day parade. That's all I have.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COM.- Mr. Shoemaker, CHAIR

The thing I had in committee; review of the Festival of the Bells; that will be coming up probably in the next month or so. We haven't had anything working on it this last month. So I wish that to remain in committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 05-09 – A RESOLUTION TO PROTEST MOVING WSRW RADIO FACILITIES FROM THE CITY OF HILLSBORO. The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. A motion to waive the three-reading rule was made by Mrs. McClellan and seconded by Mr. Chambers. All members present voted yea. A motion to approve the resolution was made Mr. Pence and seconded by Mrs. McClellan. All members present voted yea. Resolution adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 05-10 – A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF HILLSBORO TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO OF HIGHLAND COUNTY, OHIO FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTE WATER FACILITIES; AND DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN – The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. A motion to waive the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Chambers and Mr. Pence seconded the motion with all members present voting yea. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mrs. McClellan and seconded by Mr. Chambers. Motion adopted with all members present voting yea.

RESOLUTION 05-11- A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A CONTRACT FOR TREE CLEANUP IN THE CITY PURSUANT TO BID – The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. A motion to waive the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Pence. Mr. Chambers asked if there was a time limit on getting the work done and asked about the payment schedule. Mr. Holt said they would probably pay them when they were completed and he said with the way they were working; he thought it was going to go quickly. He said that they were basically on a time schedule because they had other work that they had to perform so they will want to get in, get this completed and get out. Mrs. Ryan asked if this amount covered removing the waste from Liberty Park and Mr. Holt answered in the affirmative. He said that they were going to mulch the chippings and then the city would take the mulch and do what they do every year; give it to the citizens of Hillsboro. He said that they do have one individual who is interested in buying some mulch.

Mr. Donley asked if all of the paperwork has been filed with FEMA, etc. Mr. Holt said that they had met with FEMA Monday and they gave the okay to start. They checked the pricing of \$120,000 to make sure it was within the realm of picking up the debris and they got back and said it was. Mr. Donley then asked if there was something that had to be submitted to the state and Mr. Holt said that FEMA sends the money to the state. Then the municipality works through the state to get their funds. FEMA will pay 75% of it and the way it was explained; the state may or may not pay 12 ½% of the last 25%; so the city will either be responsible for \$40,000 or they will be responsible for \$20,000. Mr. Donley then asked if that was something that the state would look at with the FEMA request or was that something that had to be submitted separately. Mr. Holt said that he was sure it would be separate. He said that the state was aware because the state would be receiving the money from FEMA for Hillsboro, Ohio. But he was sure there would be paperwork and hoops to jump through for the state. Mayor Zink said that there were several pages to fill out for FEMA.

Mrs. Ryan asked if the payment to the contractor included the grinding and chipping and Mr. Holt answered in the affirmative. He said the only extra charge was for chipping the limbs that were already there before he bid the job. That charge is also being submitted to FEMA. Mr. Donley wanted to make sure the community knew that once the street is cleaned; that's it. They will not go back a second time. Mr. Holt said that he thought he and the mayor had learned a very valuable lesson; that in trying to help the citizens of Hillsboro by doing this they found there are a lot of citizens in Hillsboro who take advantage of anything you try to do. Mr. Steve Pence asked if Mr. Evans was also responsible for all of the "hangers" and Mr. Holt answered in

the affirmative. This refers to the ones that are in the city right-of-way. Mrs. McClellan seconded the motion and all of the members voted yea. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mrs. McClellan and seconded by Mr. Dodds. All members present voted yea. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION 05-12 – A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION – The clerk read this resolution in full for the first reading. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mr. Shoemaker and seconded by Mr. Dodds. All members present voted yea. Resolution adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Shoemaker made a motion to go in to executive session to discuss special assessments and property. Mr. Beery asked if this were to discuss legal questions and get advice and President McCreight answered in the affirmative. Mr. Donley seconded the motion and executive session began at 7:54 p.m. Executive session ended at 8:25 p.m. This item was placed in the Community Enhancement Committee.

With no further business to come before council; a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Pence and seconded by Mrs. McClellan. Meeting adjourned.

Bill McCreight, President

Beverly Brown, Clerk of Council