

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 McCreight commended the mayor, safety-service director and the safety and service forces for their efforts during the inclement weather the last week of December, 2004.

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

ROLL CALL: Present: Mr. Chambers, Mr. Dodds, Mr. Donley, Mrs. McClellan, Mr. Pence,
Mr. Shoemaker, Mr. Walker
Absent: None

Mr. Ron Hennison, Sr. prayed for the assembly followed by Mayor Zink leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS OF THE MONTH-

Mr. Donley made the presentation to the Collins family (June Thompson, Terry Collins and William Collins) for their work in the community on numerous occasions. Mrs. Thompson and Terry Collins and spouses represented the family as they were honored for opening the Senior Citizen's center at Thanksgiving and serving meals to anyone who comes in. They have turkey and all the trimmings and make them available for delivery or takeout. In response, Mrs. Thompson said that she thought there were so many other people who were more worthy but she wanted to thank everyone very much.

Minutes of the regular meeting of December 6, 2004 were approved as presented.

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

Mayor Zink said that on the fire and squad report, if you would add them up they had 83 fire calls and 171 squads for 254. He said that if you would divide that by 31 days that would be 8.19 calls per day. He said if anyone had seen the firemen and rescue squads; you would know why about the last of the month they were walking zombies. He said that there were a couple of them present and he thought that all of them deserved a round of applause.

PUBLIC REQUESTS-Marc Bayless stepped forward and said, "Most of you know me, Marc Bayless; I live here in Hillsboro on West Main Street; I'm also with the fire department. First of all I apologize; I'm used to talking to six to twelve year olds about fire safety and not mainly older adults; so sorry.

The reason I come to talk to you tonight as you know, Sunday, December 26 at 6:52 a.m. our department responded to a structure fire on North Union Road. 9920 is the address; I'm unsure who the owner of the residence was. We already had units out on a structure fire and we were shorthanded on this fire and some things happened that put us in severe situations. What I've come to you to ask; I know you guys control the money, but we need the two firefighters that we're missing. I come an 'ace' of not being here tonight because of the safety issues that we've got. As you can see, I've still got some burns. I was trapped, I was out of air and the guys that come in a got me were on about 55 hours of continuous work cause we don't have the two positions that are empty; filled.

I know money is tight, but how much is a life worth? John [Shaw] will back me up on this that we are short handed. And it is to the point now where we can't fill runs; we're getting back to back runs; three runs at a time. We're relying on the smaller communities to do it and we're out there taking their runs also; so we cannot do what we need to do with what we've got currently. And I think it's coming down to; it's starting to affect how we do it on the job, our safety and just as a citizen I would expect more firefighters. But, I know money is tight, I know everything is got to be drawn down tight, but we've got two empty positions right now. And it's been empty for quite some time; of course you all know that, but I can't emphasize enough, how we need to fill those positions.

My first day back to work was Saturday; we had ten runs Saturday. And we were shorthanded; I

had to call somebody in from another shift to work because we don't have the guys to fill the position. But it is very important that we fill these two positions and you find the monies to fill these spots. After an event like that a man could really look at the 'want ads' and look for another job because I was scared to go back to work Saturday. Thank you."

President McCreight asked the Safety Committee and the Finance Committee to work with the mayor and safety-service director on this problem.

COMMUNICATIONS –None

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS –None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Zink said, "I'm going to read this because there's too much here to remember. I didn't list the meetings for this month because there's other important issues I think we ought to discuss. On behalf of the city administration; I want to thank all of our city employees for a job well done during our emergency that started December 22-23, 2004. The street department, water and sewer maintenance, police, fire and emergency personnel, water treatment and wastewater treatment employees, all pitched in and did everything possible to help during the crises. I personally witnessed the dedication and teamwork demonstrated by all of the above. The citizens of Hillsboro should be very proud of the actions taken by these employees. There were times when some have pulled forty, fifty straight hours performing their duties with no complaints, just a tired look.

I don't like to single out people, but I did read in the Times Gazette where Jim Lyle said that he apologized for not sending in some papers or something, but I saw Jim probably three times a day for four days and he was very busy. I don't think he owes anybody an apology. But what I would really like is for council members and any citizen in the community; when you see any of these city employees out; just say 'thank you'. It doesn't cost anything and I know it would mean a lot to them. Again I want to thank everybody for his or her help and understanding during the crises.

Now, for another problem. The city employees did a very good job in controlling expenses during 2004; however, our expenses are increasing faster than revenues are increasing, costs of supplies, utilities, etc. The thing we all need to understand is in order to keep our city from falling apart, there has to be an increase in revenue from some source. Right now our streets and alleys are falling apart, there's no money to make a proper upgrade. To make a long story short; I'm asking council to make some serious decisions on increasing revenues in order for our employees to be equipped with necessities to complete their jobs. I don't believe this can wait. We have kicked this thing around for a year and like Marc says; they have been shorthanded, the police have been shorthanded and the whole thing is; if they hadn't been shorthanded we would not have been able to make payroll. I believe Rose will vouch for that.

So we're going to have to take a good hard serious look in how we're going to get monies in the General Fund. I think you guys and gals have done a great job on the water and sewer end of it because we have a lot of replacements to do there. But without some help in that General Fund, we can't get these people what they need. I know they need some equipment, we've got some things I think Johnny, you brought over a list of things you need to get in to automobiles. Well, you know in the case of a crash; where's the money going to come from? It's got to come out of the General Fund. The leaf machine is shot! We've got one pick-up truck in the street department; when you start it up it looks like somebody's trying to kill mosquitoes. You can't see the truck for the smoke. So we've got to come up with a way to give these folks what they need to do their job and be fair with them. I thank you for listening to that speech, but I really feel strongly about that. Any questions?"

Mrs. McClellan said that she knew Kirby was well versed in grant writing and she knew at one time there was some money set aside for fire department equipment and things of that nature. Mayor Zink said that that was the first time that he had heard of it. Mr. Holt asked if this was information that she had obtained from the internet and she answered in the affirmative. Mayor Zink said that they also needed a new building; it might not be tasteful for some, but it would have to be done. Mrs. McClellan said that some of those grants had changed over to include infrastructure. President McCreight said that he would like to put that in the Finance Committee but he wanted all of the committees working on it. Mr. Pence said that he commended Mayor Zink for his speech and he thought they should get behind the various committees and get to work on it. He said the mayor and Mr. Holt have done a whale of a job.

SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

He said, "I want to tell you right now that the mayor and I spent a lot of time up there, but without these people out here busting their butt for us and holding back expense; we couldn't have done what we've done. It wouldn't have been possible. All we did was ask them to do that; they did it for us.

Now on with my report. We began 2004 with a balance in the General Fund of \$553,798.10. Our year end receipts for 2004 were \$4,639,726.40. Our yearend expense and encumbrances was \$4,572,150.35. That leaves a reserve of this year's receipts of \$67,576.05. When you add that to the beginning balance of the General Fund we've started 2005 with a figure of \$621,374.15 to start 2005 with. With all of the departments' hard work we were able to use our receipts and not touch the original balance of the General Fund. Each department ended the year in budget. The following is a breakdown. I'm going to give you a breakdown for the budget for each department, but Rose told me today we still have a week's pay for each department out of this.

The police ended up with a 98.9% of their budget used. Fire- 96.1%; Squad- 96.4%; Public Access- 91.2%, Administration- 81.1%; Tax Bureau- 98.7%; Street Department- 92.1%; City Park- 97%; Water office- 89.2%; Water Plant- 91.1%; Water Maintenance- 94.4%; Sewer office- 93.6% and the Sewer Plant was 97.1%. These people out here in the field that you see everyday on the street, at the fire department, at the police department; they're the people that made this work. They all pulled together, they made this thing work. They didn't overspend, they tried to reduce overtime, they did everything possible. What Dick said earlier, I'm going to ----- and say, 'We did this this year. We came within budget.' I don't know if we can do this again next year because with the cost of all our day-to-day operations, gasoline, tires, brakes, everything; with the expense of those going up, I don't know if we can pull this off again. I really don't. But it won't be the fault of our city workers because they have done everything they can do.

For an estimate of cost overtime for the storm control from December 22, 2004 through December 29, 2004; I thought this was pretty impressive. The Police Department overtime- \$3,018; Water & Sewer Maintenance- \$1,421; Street Department- \$2,005; Water Plant- \$1,673; Sewer Plant- \$1,136; Fire & EMS- \$21,000. They were there all the time. This tells us they were there all the time. In order for us, and this is an estimate; to do the clean-up that we're going to have to do in Hillsboro with the limbs that are everywhere; these aren't leaves; we can't go around with a piece of equipment and suck it up, we're going to have to go with crews, we're going to have to cut it up, we're going to have to load it up, we're going to have to unload it. We're figuring around \$300,000 to get rid of all this stuff; to take it either to the South Lift Station or Liberty Park. Tree removal...we figure we have around fifty trees in Hillsboro that will have to be removed at \$40,000. We're looking at a cost of around \$364,000 to take care of what we've got right now laying either in alleys or on property still hanging in the trees. This is a cost that we're going to have to ----- soon and we're going to have to get started. We're going to get started January 10 picking this stuff up and taking it either to Liberty Park or the South Lift Station. That ends my report."

President McCreight said that everyone could hear this was an impressive report. He said the clean-up on the situation would be extremely difficult and again they would have to work together to come up with some solution for the problem. He referred to their [mayor & SSD] reports and said that they had made it through last year but starting with \$600,000 doesn't give you much of a jump to get caught up for this year.

Mrs. McClellan asked about emergency assistance from the state and Mr. Holt said that he had sent four e-mails and the mayor called the governor's office. They had met last Thursday with the county commissioners and the director of the EMA. Apparently on the way back to Columbus they called back and said that there would be some assistance. He said that from what he had read that day; he didn't see any assistance for the city. He saw assistance for low-income but nothing for the city. Mayor Zink said that they did want everybody's estimate of damages in by the 7th which would be this Friday. He said that if there was twelve to thirteen million statewide; they could go to the federal government and ask for some help from the federal government. He said that they did not know where they stood there yet.

Mr. Dodds asked if they had considered renting a chipper for the brush and trees. Mr. Holt said that he did not know how to pay for it. He said that it would take several chippers and he didn't know how to pay for it. He said he had been told of getting a tub-grinder and someone to run it but he said the issue was that the South Lift Station is a mess; the ground is saturated. He said that they couldn't get a tub-grinder in there. He said that if the ground were to freeze, they could

use a tub-grinder there. He said that they do have a chipper but it is a 1965 chipper and he didn't think that it would pull the weight because it would not be able to handle the size of limbs and the amount of limbs they have.

President McCreight said that this was another one of those situations where we have to come up with some solutions. He said that that would be a quick one because they are laying there now. He said that a lot of the people have carried the limbs to the curbs; they have done their job.

AUDITOR'S REPORT:

Mrs. Ryan said that Mr. Holt had pretty much given her report. She said that she was grateful that they had ended the year with a better balance than they started. She said when they encumber the pay for the last six days of the year, the numbers won't be quite so good but there will still be a favorable report. She said that she would give them a reconciled report for the end of year at the meeting.

She said that she had three pieces of transfer legislation to come up later in the meeting and they are nearly identical to the ones that get passed at the first part of every year and she would like those to be passed. She said that she would not be able to pay bills in the Water Improvement Fund and make debt payments in the coming month if they are not passed.

HILLSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

Hillsboro city planning commission met December 21, 2004. Request for a review of preliminary subdivision plat for property on Pea Ridge Road. Safety-Service Director to review plat further and take further action after a more finalized plat comes in. Item number two was a request for review of a lot split on US 62 south; that lot split was approved. Item number three; request to reopen discussion on placing a condo on Northview subdivision and that condo was approved. That completes the report of the Hillsboro Planning Commission.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES-

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Donley, Chairman

The Finance Committee did not hold a committee meeting during the month of December, however; the items that are listed as far as the Finance Committee on the municipal court costs; they are still being investigated. There have been some proposals between the county and the city; they're still being looked in to. Central dispatch- still on hold; nothing was done on that. Assistance with the new unions; that's just going to happen when it happens and take time to address that. Investigation of prisoners being outside of Highland County; I think there is some legislation later on the contract with Clinton County on that also.

Speaking for the Finance Committee reference some of the comments that were made earlier about the finances of the city; I do appreciate as the mayor said, everybody working together and holding the costs where it's at. We're very appreciative but as Mr. Holt said the costs and expenses continue to rise. It looks good on paper right now but come next year with the increase and everything; it's probably not going to be that inviting. The Finance Committee has entertained things throughout the year as far as increasing some revenue through the fire and life squads. I feel like those need to be entertained again and discussed for some revenue and I welcome the opportunity to work with council and the city and see if we can't find some avenues to where we can increase the revenue for the city.

It's a challenge; we're not the only city that's being challenged. We just have to do the best we can do. We can't invent money. Sometimes we just have to bite the bullet. I appreciate what Mr. Bayless has come to us this afternoon and mentioned as far as the employees. We will take a serious look in to that and see if we can't come up with some kind of an effective way to do that. It is a challenge but if you read the newspapers and talk to some of the other cities around; everybody's challenged right now. Thank you Mr. President.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION COMMITTEE-Mr. Pence, Chairman Mr. Pence requested that the pylon signs remain in committee.

STREET & SAFETY COMMITTEE-Mr. Walker, Chairman

We did have a meeting December 20. Those council members present were John Dodds, Paul Pence, Dave Shoemaker, Dick Donley, Kevin Chambers and myself. Also present were Mayor Dick Zink, Safety-Service Director Ralph Holt, Council President Bill McCreight, also Doug Henry and Wayne Cannon.

The first thing on the agenda was a liquor license for Royal Family Billiards at 1230 North High

Street. The committee recommended that it be denied and it was for a beer license on the premises for consumption and in sealed containers for carry-out until 1:00 a.m. We decided that we would deny it but we won't fight it because there isn't any use.

The second thing is we were looking in to State Route 73 as it runs through the city of Hillsboro. The next thing we met with Doug Henry and Wayne Cannon on the proposed Hillsboro Entertainment Center and Bowling Alley. They are to meet with us again at a later date. The cat problems were not discussed at this time. That concludes my report.

A motion to accept the report was made by Mr. Dodds and seconded by Mr. Pence. Mayor Zink asked what council thought about State Route 73 and said that also State Route 138 was mentioned. He said that ODOT was coming in on Wednesday and he wanted to know what council wants to do with the routing on those two routes. After some discussion President McCreight said they had a motion on the floor and everyone voted yea.

Mr. Donley made a motion that the rerouting of State Route 138 and State Route 73 through the city of Hillsboro be changed to allow State Route 73 eastbound to continue to West Main Street, West Main Street to South High Street, South High Street to Muntz Street and out on State Route 73. The motion for State Route 138 in both directions to utilize northbound South High Street through the city of Hillsboro. Mr. Walker seconded the motion and all members present voted yea.

Mr. Donley then asked Law Director Beery if there was anything that the city had to do with the rerouting of these state routes. Mr. Beery said, "There may be an issue of we get a little funding to repair those streets and it's a tradeoff in a way; they get pounded pretty good with through traffic. We won't get that funding probably to make repairs to them any more." Mayor Zink said that was what they were going to discuss on Wednesday. Mr. Beery said, "So it's probably something that this routing; I think those are excellent suggestions, and if they throw us a curve ball or something like that; you may want to come back to council.

Mayor Zink said that it was already platted on their map to go up through town with 73 and it's also platted to go across High Street and go down to Collins Avenue to 138. They [ODOT] say they don't care how the city does it as long as the markings are there.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORD. 2004-25 – AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AMUSEMENT DEVICES – The clerk read this ordinance by title only for a third reading. A motion to accept the ordinance was made by Mr. Dodds and seconded by Mr. Pence. All members present voted yea. Ordinance adopted.
ORD. 2204-26 – AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE PLACES OF LODGING – The clerk read this ordinance by title only for a third reading. A motion to accept the ordinance was made by Mr. Chambers and seconded by Mr. Shoemaker. All members present voted yea. Ordinance adopted.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORD. 2004-30 – AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY UTILITIES CHARGE – This ordinance was amended at the first reading. The clerk read this ordinance by title only for a second reading.
ORD. 2004-31 – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR HOUSING PRISONERS WITH THE CLINTON COUNTY SHERIFF – The clerk read this ordinance by title only for a second reading.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

RES. 05-1 – A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO FUND ACCOUNTS WITHIN THE CITY- The clerk read this resolution in full for a first reading. Mrs. Ryan said the legislation was very much the same as it was last year with the exception of the transfer to the Life Squad Improvement Fund. She said that would reflect a good percentage of what was collected last year and part of what will be collected this coming year and the amount can be adjusted later to reflect the wishes of council. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mrs. McClellan. Mrs. McClellan asked about the \$85,000 for Recreation and Mrs. Ryan said that was for Liberty Park and the Ball Park and was similar to what was transferred last year. All members present voted yea.

Mr. Donley asked if they needed to be passed immediately and Mrs. Ryan answered in the affirmative. Mr. Pence made a motion to suspend the three-reading rule and Mrs. McClellan seconded the motion. All members present voted yea. Law Director Beery said that they had things in reverse order so Mr. Donley asked that it be accepted as it was presented to the council.

Mr. Walker made a motion to accept as presented and Mr. Chambers seconded the motion with all members present voting yea. Resolution adopted.

RES. 05-2 – 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. Donley and seconded by Mr. Walker. All members present voted yea. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mr. Donley and seconded by Mr. Pence. All members present voted yea.

Resolution adopted.

RES. 05-3 – 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. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Shoemaker and seconded by Mr. Walker. All members present voted yea. A motion to accept the resolution was made by Mr. Dodds and seconded by Mr. Chambers with all members present voting yea.

Resolution adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. McClellan asked about reporting a line down on East Walnut and Trenton and Mr. Holt said that the person who sees it should report it to AEP.

Mr. Walker said that he needed to be excused next month as he was going to be out of the country. A motion to excuse was made by Mr. Pence and seconded by Mrs. McClellan with all members present voting yea.

Mr. Shawn Adkins asked about the \$85,000 transfer to the Recreation Fund and whether or not there were any monies generated by Recreation. Mrs. Ryan said that it generally does not bring in much money. She said that there are donations on occasion and some rental money from the farmland. He then asked why it couldn't make some money when people in the county and outside the county used the park. He wanted to know why \$85,000 was taken out of General Fund. Mrs. Ryan said that she does not make those decisions; the council makes the decision to maintain and fund the park. There was lengthy discussion on who uses the park. Mrs. Ryan said that charging for use would mean putting someone out there to collect fees. She said that now there are 2-3 employees at Liberty Park that keep up with the mowing and cleaning the restrooms, taking care of the trash. You also have employees at the Ball Park and we have to pay for equipment that they use such a mowers and gasoline to run them. The biggest part of it is labor but usually every year there is a small piece of equipment or some small project that gets taken care of out there. Mr. Adkins said that he wasn't asking for the park to be shut down, but he thought there should be some way to generate revenue to help offset the expense.

Mayor Zink asked if there was something that they couldn't charge and Mr. Beery said that the problem is; if they start charging; then it becomes a business enterprise run by the city and the tax exempt status is gone. Mrs. Ryan said that the tax exempt status for the land is already gone because of renting out the farm ground. Mr. Beery said that should just be on the farm ground; not the rest of it and Mrs. Ryan said that it hasn't been surveyed off separately so we have to pay property taxes on all of it. Mr. Beery said that there was a savings right there; get a survey done on the parts that aren't rented. Mayor Zink said that they could handle that.

With no further business to come before the 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