

HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2022

At 7:00 p.m. Council President Tom Eichinger called the Hillsboro City Council meeting to order. The following were present for the meeting: Clerk Kimberly Newman, Public Works Superintendent Shawn Adkins, Police Chief Eric Daniels, Auditor Alex Butler, Treasurer Steve Conrad, Mayor Justin Harsha and Law Director Fred Beery and Safety & Service Director Brianne Abbott.

ROLL CALL

Mary Stanforth, Patty Day, Dan Baucher, Jason Brown and Adam Wilkin were present. Greg Maurer and Don Storer were absent and excused.

MOTION: Mary Stanforth moved to excuse Greg Maurer, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Vote all yeas. Greg Maurer excused.

MOTION: Patty Day moved to excuse Don Storer, seconded by Dan Baucher. Vote all yeas. Don Storer excused.

President Tom Eichinger welcomed new council members Dan Baucher and Jason Brown.

Mr. Eichinger led the Council in prayer and Mayor Harsha led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

There were no corrections to the December 13, 2021 minutes. They were approved as submitted.

ELECTION OF PRO TEM PRESIDENT

Council President Tom Eichinger opened to Council to make nominations for 2022 Pro Tem for President nominations. Patty Day nominated Mary Stanforth. Mss. Day stated Mary Stanforth had the seniority and the leadership for this position. Ms. Stanforth thanked Ms. Day for her affirmation and nomination. Council President asked if there were any other nominations, being none, there was a motion to nominate Mary Stanforth as Pro Tem. Vote all yeas. Mary Stanforth will be Pro Tem in 2022 for Hillsboro City Council.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The December 2021 monthly reports were read by title only: Income Tax Bureau, Police Department, Public Utilities (includes Street Department, Water and Sewer Maintenance), Treasurer's (includes Expense and Revenue), Water Meter Department, Water Office (includes Water/Sewer Sales), Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, and Auditor. Code Enforcement did not have a report for December.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDITOR (Alex Butler, Auditor)

City Auditor City auditor Alex Butler also gave council an overview of 2021 finances, although he said they were still in the process of closing out the year. Auditor Butler said that things will shift just a little bit, but for the most part, this is where we're going to be. Mr. Butler noted several positives, including the city's 2021 revenues (\$12,815,000) coming in \$588,000 higher than the estimated revenue (\$12,227,000).

Mr. Butler stated that for 2021, things were quite uncertain and unpredictable, so the decision was made to not only be conservative on expenses, but have a more conservative approach on what we anticipated in revenue. That is why we have that difference of revenue being more than we anticipated. And that's a good thing, because to me, that indicates that economic activity was not as slow as we thought it would be.

Unemployment was not as devastating as we thought it would be or could be. So, we're sitting in a positive position of where things could have been or expected to be with the COVID situation. Also, income tax revenues (\$4,365,000) were \$865,000 higher than the anticipated income tax estimate (\$3.5 million), as well as being \$498,000 higher than the 2020 total. The anticipated unencumbered carryover for 2021 was \$2,125,000, while the 2020 carryover was \$1,634,000, Butler stated.

Mr. Butler continued to say challenges faced by the city in 2021 included rising operating costs, which he said will likely continue to be a factor in 2022, is not unique to the city. The average citizen experienced the same thing. For the city, and again, you know, we can say it's because of the supply chain crisis, COVID-19, inflation, whatever was the driver of that, or the various drivers of that, the costs were higher than originally anticipated. For us, that looked like fuel costs; the cost of repairs of city equipment that broke down and parts and supplies and things of that nature; salt; gravel; chemicals for our utility plants. But that is one of the variables that is out of our control, so we do the best we can with what we have, but that was one of the main challenges of 2021 and will likely be a challenge in 2022. Highlights for 2021, the city received the first of two American Rescue Plan Act payments in the amount of \$343,269.22; reduced debt service payments as a result of the refinancing the city worked on in 2020; slight increases in water, sewer and storm sewer revenues; and donations throughout the year, particularly for the Hillsboro Police Department, the Veterans Park at Liberty Park and the Hillsboro High School scholarship project started by the city in 2020. There have been some challenges, some opportunities, some successes, and we made it through another year, so 2022 will, again, have opportunities and challenges as well. We will make it.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: – None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Justin Harsha, Mayor)

Mayor. Harsha also welcomed all council members at the start of his State of the City report.

I'd like to welcome our new and returning council members tonight. We all appreciate your service and look forward to working together on all the exciting things coming for city. I'd like to express my sympathy to all the families who have lost loved ones over the past year. Our world has changed in so many ways, and losing a family member makes it even more difficult to navigate these changes. Despite everything we have faced, we push forward and try to find a sense of normality. 2021 was a very busy year, and I anticipate nothing less for 2022, bringing new challenges and obstacles to overcome.

Infrastructure improvements included the widening of Springlake Avenue, with new pavement, curbs and sidewalks; the phase three paving project on North East Street from

Collins Avenue to state Route 138; and resurfacing of Northview Drive from U.S. 62 to Northwoods Drive.

Through the Ohio Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program, new sidewalks have also been installed on both sides of Route 50: from Oak Street to Elm Street on West Main Street, and then from North East Street to Greystone and Key Street on East Main Street.

Also, a new pedestrian bridge was installed between Shaffer Park and Liberty Park and now connects to pedestrians from our downtown to Liberty and Harmony Lake, this will continue to promote the walkability within our city.

For an overview of grants awarded to the city, I will begin by discussing the \$3.2 million grant announced by the State of Ohio in December for the city's phase three storm sewer improvements. The city was also awarded a \$29,985 NatureWorks grant to install a playground at Harmony Lake at Liberty Park, and a \$150,000 grant for car charging stations at the Colony Park.

We're extremely thankful for every dollar awarded to keep projects moving within our city, and we'll continue to apply and search for grant opportunities.

The city has multiple new projects to work on, beginning in 2022, including a proposed extension of Fenner Avenue and Roberts Lane and additional plans to improve the city's park system. There's a huge need for commercial property and to encourage future development. With this expansion, we not only solve this problem, but also create another thoroughfare to ease the burden of traffic congestion.

We're also working on the possibility of changing Routes 62 and 73 into one-way streets. Step one is moving forward on a traffic and safety study. Roberts Lane and Springlake [Avenue] improvements will be key components of this project, making traffic between the one-ways much easier. Along with needing more commercial space, the city also wants to promote industrial development in the Hobart/Carl Smith Drive area.

We'll work with the property owners to see what can be done to encourage industrial development to choose Hillsboro for their needs.,” Harsha said.

Walking and bike paths on the railroad beds, which have already been cleared, we'd like to see those paved and install new lighting and benches, multiple trailheads and picnic areas, to continue tying our parks and neighborhoods together. On West Main Street, at the former Union Stockyards/Highland Enterprise properties, we have plans to create a green space for our community, something that we hope our citizens will be proud of and can enjoy for years to come.

We hope to present our vision and some of the possibilities of this project soon, and we'll be eager to get feedback from the community.

We are continuing to explore any and all opportunities which will help bring these projects to fruition.

It's very encouraging, and we are thankful for those willing to invest in our city, bringing new and exciting things for citizens to enjoy. We want Hillsboro to be the place your business calls home and continue in our efforts to help them in any way possible. We strive to be business-friendly. No matter if you're already established or thinking about building, don't hesitate to reach out. Our team is here for you.

Some of the businesses that opened in the past year include, Maplecrest Meats on South High Street; Hill City Endurance on Dunlap Road; White's Bakery has a new location on West Main Street; Magic Tunnel Carwash, Burkes Outlet and Dunham Sports on North High Street; The Porch on North West Street; and Goodwill on Harry Sauner Road.

Looking forward to 2022, there are many things coming. We're continuing to work with

developers on the Marriott Hotel project on Harry Sauner. Right now, they're working on state funding, and we hope to hear soon what the next steps might be to help them in their endeavors.

Other new businesses being developed in 2022 include Fenner Ridge Apartments, Marshall's, Mimi's Kitchen, The Patriot Public House restaurant and the new Buckeye Family Eye Clinic location.

Driving through town, seeing all the improvements and developments that have happened over the last year, remind me that the state of our city is stronger than ever. We will continue working hard to promote our city and make Hillsboro the place where families want to live, work and play.

Lastly, I want to extend my appreciation to every city employee that works day-in and day-out making sure the city's the best that it can be. All the positive feedback and the good things happening are a direct reflection of this amazing job they do.

SAFETY AND SERVICE DIRECTOR/PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT
(Brianne Abbott) See attachment #1.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Mary Stanforth, Chair)

- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for City employees, joint with Civil Service – Employee Relations
 - Ordinance 2021-12 An Ordinance to repeal the license fee associated with amusement devices in the City of Hillsboro.
- No meeting. No questions asked.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION (Don Storer Chair)
No meeting. No questions asked.

CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Dan Baucher, Chair)

- Update Civil Service Manual
 - Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for City employees, joint with Finance
- No meeting. No questions asked.

STREET AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (Adam Wilkin, Chair)
No meeting. No questions asked.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE (Greg Maurer, Chair)
No meeting. No questions asked.

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE (Jason Brown, Chair)
No meeting. No questions asked.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (Patty Day, Chair)
No meeting. No questions asked.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS (THIRD READING):

Ordinance 2021-19 An Ordinance to amend Section 153.05 (B) of the City Code to clarify registration fee amounts.

MOTION: Adam Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2021-19, seconded by Mary Stanforth. Vote all yeas. Ordinance 2021-19 Approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Safety & Service Director Brianna Abbott explained that this legislation corrects a mathematical / clerical error for the registration fees for vacant commercial and industrial properties.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS- None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2022-01 An Ordinance to amend the rules of Council to provide for a later monthly regular meeting date and time.

MOTION: Patty Day moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2022-01, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Vote all yeas. Ordinance 2022-01, three reading rule suspended. Mary Stanforth moved to approve and adopt 2022-01, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Vote all yeas. Ordinance 2022-01 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: President Tom Eichinger explained that this Ordinance would allow for a change in Council meeting date to a later day in the month that would allow for more time for council, administration to gather documents and prepare for council.

Ordinance 2022-02 An Ordinance to authorize and direct the Safety and Service Director to enter into an agreement with the Highland County Commissioners to provide for Indigent Defendant Counsel in the Courts.

MOTION: Mary Stanforth moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2022-02, seconded by Patty Day. Vote all yeas. Three-reading rule suspended for Ordinance 2022-02. Patty Day moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2022-02, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Vote all yeas. Ordinance 2022-02 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Safety & Service Director explained this legislation is necessary annually for representation of Public Defenders to indigent defendants & supports the agreements signed by the city and county. This legislation requires suspension of the 3-reading rule and passage as an emergency to ensure that there are no indigent appointments that are not reimbursed.

Resolution 22-01 A Resolution to amend the zoning map of the city. Second reading at February 17, 2022 Council.

DISCUSSION: Safety & Service Director Brianne Abbott stated the Hillsboro Planning Commission has recommended that the Hillsboro Christian Academy at 849 S. High St. be officially zoned Business and Residential "D." This location was not given a zone when annexed into the city several years ago. No suspension or emergency passage is required with this resolution.

Resolution 22-02 A Resolution to authorize the Mayor of the City of Hillsboro to enter into an agreement with the State of Ohio, Ohio Development Services Agency (ODSA), for the administration of the city's Housing Revolving Loan Fund for CDBG and Home activities.

MOTION: Adam Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-02, seconded by Patty Day. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-02 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: This is a standard 3-year agreement with ODSA that gives the city authority to utilize program income for activities approved with CDBG and home income from previous CHIP programs with written approval from ODSA from 1-1-2022 to 12-31-2024. No suspension or emergency passage is required with this resolution.

Resolution 22-03 A Resolution naming the city of Hillsboro appointment to the District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee.

MOTION: Mary Stanforth moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-03, seconded by Patty Day. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-03 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Safety & Service Director Brianne Abbott explained this is a standard 3-year agreement for appointment of the Public Works Superintendent, Shawn Adkins to the Public Works Integrating Committee. No suspension or emergency passage is required with this resolution.

Resolution 22-04 A Resolution to transfer appropriations within the General Fund of the city

MOTION: Adam Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-04, seconded by Mary Stanforth. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-04 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Patty Day asked the reason for the need for transfer of funds. Auditor Alex Butler explained that Mr. Beery retired as law director. President Tom Eichinger added that Mr. Beery continues to be on a contract with the city.

Resolution 22-05 A Resolution authorizing the city of Hillsboro to participate in the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Natureworks Grant Program and to execute contracts as required.

MOTION: Patty Day moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-05, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-05 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Safety & Service Director Brianne Abbott explained this legislation is necessary to accept the Nature Works grant award in the amount of \$29,985.00 for an ADA accessible playground located at Harmony Lake. The city will be looking into additional grant funding and donations to complete the project. The project completion date for this grant is December 31, 2023. No suspension or emergency passage is required with this resolution.

(When funds are ready to be obligated and project is ready for bid this will come back to council for approval) Ms. Stanforth asked the location of this playground. Ms. Abbott told Council the projected location for the playground by Harmony Lake and that it would be an ADA playground, which is much needed in the park.


Resolution 22-06 A Resolution to authorize and direct the Safety and Service Director to provide for application and submission of grants and other funding opportunities during the FY 2022 calendar year.

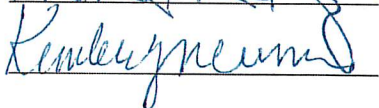
MOTION: Mary Stanforth moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-06, seconded by Dan Baucher. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-06 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Safety & Service Director Brianne Abbott explained this is a resolution that she touched on at the council workshop. This legislation allows the city to apply for routine grant applications for the 2022 calendar year, which are listed in the exhibit provided. No suspension or emergency passage is required with this resolution.

ADJOURN Motion: Adam Wilkin moved to adjourn, seconded by Mary Stanforth. Vote all yeas. Council adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Thursday February 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Courtroom 130 Homestead Drive.

 Tom Eichinger, President

 Kimberly Newman, Clerk