

HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March, 17, 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, Law Director Randalyn Worley and Safety & Service Director Brianne Abbott.

ROLL CALL

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

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

MINUTES

There were no corrections to the February 17, 2022 regular minutes and February 28, 2022 Special Council minutes. They were approved as submitted.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The February 2022 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, Code Enforcement and Auditor.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDITOR (Alex Butler, Auditor)

City auditor Alex Butler – Auditor Butler advised that the city was nearing the end of 1st quarter, with income tax payments being received.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: – None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS-

Business owner Brandon Adkins addressed council saying that he operated in over 20 counties in the state of Ohio, and I've operated in them for 30 years, with no other fees that's associated that I have to pay. Mr. Adkins stated he was not saying that they are not on the records or part of an ordinance somewhere, but that it has never been enforced, and he does not have to pay anything anywhere. Mr. Adkins said he did not have a problem with paying the current fees in the city of Hillsboro, but stated that voting to double the fees after he had asked for a reprieve is what he felt was a retaliation at its best. Mr. Adkins finished by stating he was going to be very blunt and thought council needs to reconsider this and look at it for what it is. If they do not, he is prepared to take the next step that he needs to against the city.

Representatives from Hillsboro Against Racism and Discrimination (HARD) addressed City Council in regard to the proposal for the seat wall, relocation of the Marching Mother's Bench and Unknown Soldier monument and the city's employment of Evans Landscaping. Mr. Patrick Shanahan, Ms. Marva Captain, Ms. Jaymara Captain and Laura Orebaugh each spoke, expressing their concerns and disapproval of the relocation of the bench and monument, using Evans Landscaping and the feeling of a lack of communication with representatives of HARD. President Tom Eichinger advised the representatives that the bench and monument are not on city property, but are on county property. That council does not make the decisions of hiring for projects, and assured the group that better communication will take place in the future and council will take into consideration their comments and concerns. SSD Brianne Abbott and Mayor Justin Harsha reiterated the same sentiments.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Justin Harsha, Mayor)

Mayor Justin Harsha gave an update on how the new green space on West Main Street is progressing. Stating the 2022 Festival of the Bells, scheduled for July 7-9, is set to be held at the green space, with the middle buildings coming down by March 18, 2022. Preparing to have that spot ready for the festival, dirt will be brought in to go on top of the dredgings from the creek, for preparation to sow some grass. Mayor Harsha said the next steps will be figuring out the electrical components to the amphitheater planned for the site. Mayor Harsha finished by stating that there is a lot to work on, and we're excited to have that ready for the festival.

SAFETY AND SERVICE DIRECTOR/PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT (Brianne Abbott)

SSD Brianne Abbott: Stated on the economic and community development front, Mimi's Kitchen on East Main St. has passed inspections with plans to open their doors within the next month. Fenner Ridge Apartments, Marshalls Department Store and the Patriot Public House are all currently under construction. The Marriott Hotel project is still awaiting word from the state on the final funding piece. There we 10 commercial and 8 Residential building permits for the month of February.

As far as city updates go, we are working on the West Main Greenspace clean up, gearing up for the Festival of the Bells. The electric vehicle charging stations are operational in the colony parking lot. On the Roberts Lane extension project, we are continuing to seek out funding opportunities and finalizing the purchase agreement, surveys, title search and environmental for the purchase of the property. I'd like to congratulate Officer Dan Hopkins for being awarded the Highland County Prosecutor's Officer of the Quarter. Also, the City is sponsoring our 3rd annual scholarship program. We are again asking for donors within the community to help contribute to the cause. Last year we were able to award (2) \$1000 scholarships and (1) \$500 scholarship. For more information, please contact the city administration office.

For the report of planning commission, the commission approved a temporary use permit for a construction trailer for the Fenner Ridge development as well as a certificate of appropriateness for Colony Park at their February meeting.

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.
 - President Tom Eichinger placed Ordinance 2021-12 back into committee.
- No meeting.

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):

Resolution 22-01 A Resolution to amend the zoning map of the city.

MOTION: Greg Maurer moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-01, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-01 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: SSD Brienne Abbott advised this legislation zones the Highland County Christian Academy as Business and Residential D, as it was not officially zoned when originally annexed.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 22-07 A Resolution to transfer the premises at 301 East South Street to the Community Improvement Corporation. Third Reading April 14, 2022.

Resolution 22-12 A Resolution to amend Sections 50.03 and 51.023 of the City code to provide limitations on extra-territorial water and sewer service. Third Reading April 14, 2022.

Ordinance 2021-12 An Ordinance to amend the license fee associated with amusement devices in the city of Hillsboro. Third Reading April 14, 2022. President Tom Eichinger placed this back into Finance Committee.

DISCUSSION Jason Brown, stated that he is against imposing any kind of fee on amusement machines. Stating he sees no logical reason to do that on machines, if a kid plays Pac-Man or pinball. When you come to the business, they're already paying building permit fees, sign fees and they pay income tax.

This is kind of like the equivalent of charging a restaurant fee per table that they have, a car dealer a fee per vehicle they have on the lot, a bank a fee per teller window, etc.

Mr. Brown stated that he wouldn't mind a \$50 fee on skills game machines, but not on a game a kid plays for amusement. With information provided to Mr. Brown from Auditor Butler it showed roughly 88 of the machines in the city are amusement games, and 110 of them are skills games, currently coming in \$7,450 a year.

If the gambling machines are increased to \$50 from \$25, and completely waive the fees on amusement games, you're still going to come up with \$10,500, so if the city must look at this as revenue, you can still increase your revenue by 25 percent and not charge for amusement games.

Council member Patty Day said she agreed with Mr. Brown 100 percent.

Mary Stanforth, chair of the finance committee, asked how are you going to just decide between the businesses that have skill games and have amusement games? Doesn't it all fall under one umbrella?"

Mr. Brown answered that he would think that any machine that gives a monetary reward for playing it would be considered a skill game. The difference between -we'd have to discuss. Mr. Brown said he talked to Mr. Adkins before the meeting, and Mr. Adkins said that he actually has to pay into the state a gaming fee. They have a record of what kind of games he has, the serial numbers, how many, how much money he spends on them, how much money he gets out of them. He may be somebody who can actually help us out with this. He would know more about that than we would.

Ms. Stanforth pointed out that the proposal is to implement the \$50 fee each year. It's not a monthly fee that they have to pay.

Council member Don Storer added that he too was opposed to the ordinance.

Mr. Brown told Stanforth he was sorry for just now bringing this up.

"Yeah, I would have appreciated not to be blindsided," Stanforth said.

Council president Tom Eichinger asked if the other municipalities Stanforth had researched distinguished fees between the two different types of game machines. Ms. Stanforth said that as an example, one city has a mechanical device license fee, and a game room license fee.

President Tom Eichinger placed the ordinance back into the finance committee to reconsider before the April Council meeting.

Ordinance 2022-03 An Ordinance vacating an unnamed alley between O'Connell Street and Auditor's parcel 25-25-001-078.00. Second Reading April 14, 2022.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 22-16 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an annexation agreement between the City of Hillsboro, Liberty Township board of Trustees, and Janet Fenner Benson, ET AL, and declaring an emergency

MOTION: Greg Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Patty Day. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-16 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Adam Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-16, seconded by Don Storer. Vote all yeas. Resolution approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott advised this resolution will allow the city to enter into an annexation agreement with Liberty Township and property owner, Janet Benson. This county property is currently an island within the city and annexation is necessary to not only do away with this particular island but to also aid in development of real property. We are requesting suspension of the 3-reading rule and passage by emergency as the parties are ready to act immediately on annexation.

Resolution 22-17 A Resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2021

MOTION: Greg Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Dan Baucher. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-17 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mary Stanforth moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-17, seconded by Patty Day. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-17 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott advised this resolution allows the city to participate in the Ohio Dept of Transportation's Road Salt contracts. This is an annual resolution that we pass to participate in the program. We are requesting suspension of the 3-reading rule as the legislation must be submitted to ODOT by April 30th.

Resolution 22-18 A Resolution authorizing the Safety and Service Director of the City of Hillsboro to prepare and submit an application for the FY2022 Community Development Program Formula Allocation Fund Program

MOTION: Adam Wilkin moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 22-18, seconded by Greg Maurer. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-18 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Greg Maurer moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-18. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-18 Approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott advised the city wishes to apply for the community development program formula allocation grant to gain additional funding for the ADA accessible playground for the Liberty Park / Harmony Lake area. As you'll recall, we were awarded a natureworks grant for this project a few months back. If awarded this grant, it would help the project come to fruition. We would like to request suspension of the 3-reading rule as applications are due April 29th.

Resolution 22-19 A Resolution authorizing the City of Hillsboro to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation's Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) allocation funds and to execute contracts as required, and declaring an emergency

MOTION: Patty Day moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 22-19, seconded by Dan Baucher. Vote all yeas. Three-reading rule suspended for Resolution 22-19.

MOTION: Greg Maurer moved to approve and adopt Resolution 22-19, seconded by Patty Day. Vote all yeas. Resolution 22-19 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott advised the city wishes to apply for the ODOT surface transportation grant to pay for the engineering costs associated with the Hillsboro Rails to Trails project in which we are applying for TAP funds. We would like to request suspension of 3 reading and passage by emergency, as this is a new grant program that was released late February with a due date of March 25, 2022.

Ordinance 2022-05 An Ordinance making supplemental appropriations for the City of Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio

MOTION: Adam Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2022-05, seconded by Don Storer. Vote all yeas. Ordinance 2022-05 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Auditor Alex Butler advised this is for the Police Department.

Ordinance 2022-06 An Ordinance making supplemental appropriations for the City of Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio

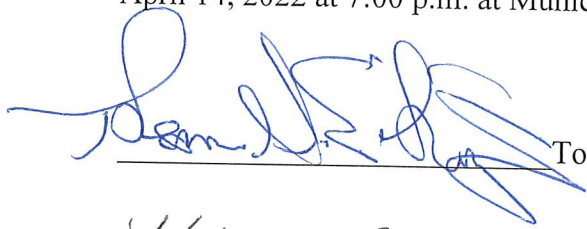
MOTION: Don Storer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2022-06, seconded by Greg Maurer. Vote all yeas. Ordinance 2022-06 approved and adopted.

DISCUSSION: Auditor Alex Butler advised this is for the street construction fund.

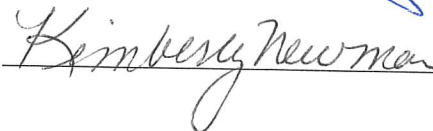
NEW BUSINESS: Public Works Superintendent Shawn Adkins gave an update on the North High Street shopping center culvert/driveway construction, advising that the High Street Culvert will be fixed and paid for by Walgreens. Engineering plans are complete and they will complete the project.

Council member Patty Day reminded Council that the 50th Ernie Blankenship Telethon will take place on March 30, 2022. Ms. Day is the executive secretary for the Highland County Society for Children and Adults and reminded council and the community that the Ernie Blankenship Memorial-Telethon will be held Wednesday, March 30 from 7-9 p.m. This is the 50th anniversary of the annual event to raise money for the HCSCA. Day said all donations are appreciate and they help people that with purchasing medical equipment, prescriptions, eyeglasses, transportation, etc.

ADJOURN: Adam Wilkin moved, seconded by Greg Maurer to adjourn at 8:00 pm. Vote all yeas. The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Thursday April 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at Municipal Courtroom 130 Homestead Avenue.



Tom Eichinger, President



Kimberly Newman, Clerk