

HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 12, 2024

At 7:00 p.m. Council President Tom Eichinger called the Hillsboro City Council meeting to order. The following were present for the meeting: Mayor Justin Harsha, Safety and Service Director Brianne Abbott, Public Works Superintendent Shawn Adkins, Auditor Dawson Barreras, Law Director Randalyn Worley, Clerk Whitney Aliff and Pro Tem Clerk Lauren Walker.

ROLL CALL

Dan Baucher, Jason Brown, Jo Sanborn, Mary Stanforth, Don Storer and Adam Wilkin were present. Greg Maurer was absent. Mr. Storer moved to excuse Greg Maurer's absence, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Ms. Stanforth –yes, Mr. Storer –yes, Mr. Wilkin –yes
Mr. Maurer is excused.

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

MINUTES

There were no corrections to the August 15, 2024 regular council minutes. They were approved as presented.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The August 2024 monthly reports were read by title only: Income Tax Bureau, Police Department, Public Utilities (includes Street Department, Water and Sewer Maintenance), Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant and Code Enforcement.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

James Elliot #1

James Elliot #2 – Council President Tom Eichinger explained the letters were a concern about a denied site plan review for solar panels and is being looked at by the city.

Kela Hodson – Council President explained that this letter is for waste disposal program and will be forwarded to Mr. Maurer for his committee meeting.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR (Justin Harsha)

Mayor Harsha introduced two people to council. Hannah Koogler was an intern for the city and prepared a presentation for council. Hannah Koogler addressed council and explained in detail various tasks during her time with the city. Tasks including; helping with parks and recreation, organizing records closet, basic government standards, organizing letters, organized papers for city events, attended a council meeting, attended and understood roles of city council and elected officials, put together bags for senior week, learned about senior scholarship and senior week, handed out trees at the elementary school with the mayor and learned it is hard work for the city but thankful for the opportunity. Mayor Harsha thanked Hannah Koogler. Mayor Harsha introduced Parks

and Recreation Director Caleb Gregory to report on happenings of the parks this year and what's to come. Caleb Gregory gave a quick update on his first year at Shaffer Park. Caleb Gregory first thanked everyone who was involved in making this year such a success. The parks crew, ground crew 3 high school boys, 4 interns at the concession stand, local businesses, organizations, coaches, umpires, parents, and of course the kids. Caleb Gregory stated they ran a full 10 weeks of games with only a half-day rainout, which is pretty remarkable. We were able to generate \$32,000 in revenue through player registration, sponsorships, donations, and our concession stand. All of the funds will go right back into Shaffer Park. We hosted 43 teams this year at Shaffer Park, and we're excited to continue growing that number each year as the word spreads and our community expands. Our goal is to provide even more opportunities for players, families, and spectators to enjoy everything the park has to offer. The first big project we are investing in is new fencing for all several fields. We've already started making small improvements, and we're excited about what's to come. In other updates, Caleb Gregory shared that the pickleball courts have been a huge success. Caleb stated if you've been by in the morning or evenings, you'll know they're always packed and parking lot full. We're excited to announce our first major pickleball tournament, the Bell City Open, which will take place on September 21st-22nd. For anyone interested in joining, contact the Hillsboro Ohio Pickleball Association. The restrooms are also being improved and should be ready soon. Caleb Gregory then went into detail about the upcoming construction of the Ninja Course at Railroad Street Park. The parking lot may be coned off on certain days, please be patient. Caleb Gregory gave a brief update of Harmony Lake / Liberty Park explaining the new playground, archery range, landscaping, and upcoming events. Caleb Gregory gave a special thanks to Good News Gathering and Hillsboro Sophomore class for landscaping and trash pick-up. Caleb stated he is looking at a couple events like a training and safety session, nature trail-walk, and even a flag football tournament for adults. Caleb Gregory thanked council for their time and support and that he looks forward to continued improvements across our parks.

REPORT OF THE SAFETY&SERVICE DIRECTOR/HILLSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION

Brianne Abbott shared, "As you may know, the City issued a Phase II Water Emergency on September 10, 2024. According to records, this was the 11th driest August on record in 130 years and much of Hillsboro is currently at a D3 extreme drought level on the US drought monitor. Highland County was declared a primary natural disaster area due to drought, according to the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. City officials have been monitoring the drought and our water levels over the last several weeks. Our reservoirs are much lower than we've seen. Maybe you've caught a glimpse of the reservoir visible from US 62 South, or maybe you've just noticed the dying lawns and lack of precipitation lately. All of these and more brought us to the conclusion that water conservation is a necessity at this point in the drought. We most definitely want to get ahead of extreme disaster and conserve now to help extend our water supply. At this point in time, the city has about 80 days of water supply left. If and when we hit the 30-day mark of supply, the City will then issue a level 3 emergency, which will have more strict guidelines for conservation. Currently, at a level 2 emergency, the following are prohibited as outlined in Ordinance 51.064: watering lawns, flowers, trees, shrubs, or gardens; washing parking lots, driveways, or sidewalks; cleaning of motor vehicles except in a high-pressure pay care wash facility; filling

swimming pools or fountains; or any other non-essential use. We appreciate your cooperation while we continue to conserve water in a time of extreme drought.” Brianne Abbott asked council if there were any questions regarding the water emergency. No comments or questions. Brianne Abbott made a request for an executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(4) Preparing for, conducting or reviewing the negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms or conditions of their employment. Moved by Mr. Wilkin to enter executive session, seconded by Ms. Stanforth. Mr. Bacher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes. Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes
Executive session was entered at 7:14pm. 7:25pm, Council President announced council was back into regular session.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Mary Stanforth, Chair)

- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for Elected Officials
- Treasury Investment Board Review
- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for employees
 - Meeting held 7/29/24 at 3:00pm.

Chair Mary Stanforth read meeting minutes but made correction to new positions under law director. The correction is the new positions under law director are the paralegal under municipal court and assistant law director. No questions, no comments.

PARKS

(Don Storer Chair)

- Amendments to City Code 100.01

No meeting. No questions, no comments

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

No meeting. No questions, no comments

STREET AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (Adam Wilkin, Chair)

- Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)
- 2 Hour Parking

No meeting. Chair Adam Wilkin stated a meeting has been scheduled for September 30, 2024 regarding the DORA days/hours of service.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE (Greg Maurer, Chair)

- Waste Collection

No questions. Council President Tom Eichinger stated the letter of communication will be transfer to Greg Maurer so it can be included in his next meeting.

ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE (Jason Brown, Chair)

- Zoning Code Standards for Auto Service and Repair Stations

No Meeting. No questions, no comments

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (Jo Sanborn, Chair)

- Regulations for amusement devices

○ Meeting held 9/9/2024 at 6:30PM
Chair Jo Sanborn read minutes. No questions, no comments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS (THIRD READING) –**

Ordinance 2024-38 An Ordinance amending section 100.01 of the codified ordinances of the City of Hillsboro pertaining to the regulations for city parks

DISCUSSION: No discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Storer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-38, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2024-38 approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2024-40 An Ordinance to adjust the salary of council members and the council president

DISCUSSION: No discussion

MOTION: Adam Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-40, seconded by Ms. Stanforth. Vote: Mr. Brown-no, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes. Ordinance 2024-40 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-17 A Resolution to adopt the 2024 version of the City of Hillsboro treasury investment board policy

DISCUSSION: No discussion

MOTION: Ms. Stanforth moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-17, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Storer-yes. Resolution 24-17 approved and adopted.

- **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS –**

Ordinance 2024-41 An Ordinance vacating an unnamed alley between Trenton Street and Adams Street

DISCUSSION: Seconding reading. No questions, no comments. Ordinance 2024-41 will move to third reading at the October 17th, 2024 meeting.

Ordinance 2024-46 An Ordinance amending section 155.073(M) of the codified ordinances of the City of Hillsboro pertaining to auto service station/auto repair shop standards

DISCUSSION: Second reading. No questions, no comments. Ordinance 2024-46 will move to third reading at the October 17th, 2024 meeting.

Ordinance 2024-47 An Ordinance modifying the zoning classification of certain parcels

DISCUSSION: Second reading. No questions, no comments. Ordinance 2024-47 will move to third reading at the October 17th, 2024 meeting.

- **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS –**

Resolution 24-27 A Resolution of intent to fund the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Hillsboro, Ohio, and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Inc. waiving ORC 4117.14(G)(11), and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott shared this legislation will allow the city to waive guidelines set forth in ORC 4117.14 (G)(11) and will allow for retroactive pay for union employees if negotiations are not complete by January 1, 2025. Suspension of three reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to complete the FOP negotiations in a timely manner.

MOTION: Mr. Wilkin moved to suspend three reading rule for Resolution 24-27, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Brown-yes. Resolution 24-27 three reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Ms. Stanforth moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-27, seconded by Ms. Sanborn. Vote: Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Resolution 24-27 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-28 A Resolution naming the City of Hillsboro appointment to the District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott shared this legislation will allow the city to appoint Shawn Adkins, Public Works Superintendent to the District 15 Public Works Integrating Committee. Suspension of three reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to execute the appointment in a timely manner.

MOTION: Mr. Storer moved to suspend three reading rule for Resolution 24-28, seconded by Ms. Sanborn. Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes. Resolution 24-28 three reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-28, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Storer-yes. Resolution 24-28 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-29 A Resolution authorizing the Safety and Service Director to enter into an easement agreement with AEP on real property owned by the City of Hillsboro

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott shared this legislation will give AEP an easement to supply electricity to the new Roberts Lane development. Suspension of three reading rule is requested to complete the infrastructure in a timely manner.

MOTION: Mr. Wilkin moved to suspend three reading rule for Resolution 24-29, seconded by Ms. Sanborn. Vote: Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes. Resolution 24-29 three reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Storer moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-29, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Mr. Storer-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes. Resolution 24-29 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-30 A Resolution certifying delinquent water and sewer bills to the Auditor of Highland County, State of Ohio, for placement on the Highland County Tax Duplicate, and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott shared this legislation will allow the city to certify to the County Auditor the unpaid water and sewer bills for the year to be added to the tax duplicate of delinquent property owner. Suspension of three reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to comply with County Auditor timelines for assessments. Ms. Stanforth asked if the assessments were done once a year. Brianne Abbott responded, yes.

MOTION: Ms. Stanforth moved to suspend three reading rule for Resolution 24-30, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote: Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Resolution 24-30 three reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-30, seconded by Ms. Stanforth. Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes. Resolution 24-30 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-31 A Resolution certifying nuisance abatement invoices to the Auditor of Highland County, State of Ohio, for placement on the Highland County Tax Duplicate, and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott shared this legislation will allow the city to certify to the County Auditor the nuisance abatement invoices on the property owners tax duplicate. Suspension of three reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to comply with County Auditor timelines for assessments.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to suspend three reading rule for Resolution 24-31, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Ms. Stanforth-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-31, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Resolution 24-31 approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2024-50 An Ordinance amending and renumbering section 110 of the codified ordinances of the City of Hillsboro pertaining to the licensing requirements for electronic gaming parlors operated within the City of Hillsboro.

DISCUSSION: First reading. No questions, no comments. Ordinance 2024-50 will move to second reading at the October 17th, 2024 council meeting.

Ordinance 2024-51 An Ordinance to adjust compensation for certain city employees and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: Mary Stanforth shared this legislation will add certain non-union employees to the city's pay ordinance and add additional personnel and adjust the salaries. Suspension of three reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to help Randalynn with upcoming trials and duties, she needs the extra help. The sooner we can get that for her, the better.

MOTION: Ms. Stanforth moved to suspend three reading rule for Ordinance 2024-51, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes.

MOTION: Ms. Sanborn moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-51, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Mr. Storer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Ms. Sanborn-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2024-51 approved and adopted.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURN: Don Storer moved to adjourn, seconded by Jo Sanborn. Vote all yeas. Council adjourned at 7:44 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Thursday October 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 130 North High Street.

_____ Tom Eichinger, President

_____ Lauren Walker, Pro Tem clerk