

## **HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 13, 2025**

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

### **ROLL CALL**

Dan Baucher, Jason Brown, Kathryn Hapner, Greg Maurer, Mary Stanforth, Don Storer, Adam Wilkin, were all present.

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

### **MINUTES**

There were no corrections to the January 16, 2025 regular council minutes. They were approved as presented.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

The January monthly reports were read by title only: Income Tax Bureau, Police Department, Public Utilities (includes street, water/sewer maintenance), Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Code Enforcement.

### **PUBLIC REQUESTS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

National Fitness Campaign – Mr. Eichinger reported that the National Fitness Campaign is an effort that has started, and Mr. Warner from Highland County Health Department was present to speak about the project. Mr. Eichinger stated it is currently in the Community Enhancement Committee. Mr. Warner had handouts for council members and at length spoke about health statistics for the county, physical activity, and an opportunity to bring a project to Hillsboro. Mr. Warner stated that 33% of Highland County residents engage in zero fitness activity, the adult obesity rate for the county is at 44%, and access to fitness activities is a hurdle the county faces. Mr. Warner explained the efforts of the NFC nationwide, details of the footprint of the fitness area, costs associated with the construction, and grant opportunity to cover a portion of the cost. Mr. Warner explained the partnering efforts and needed support of the city in order to assist with cost and planning efforts. Mr. Eichinger asked if there is a timeline in which the window may close for the funding available. Mr. Warner stated there is room for 4-5 new projects in 2025 for Ohio, so if council is interested, we would need to put our name on the list. Mr. Warner was not aware of further opportunities past 2025.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR (Justin Harsha)**

### **REPORT OF THE SAFETY & SERVICE DIRECTOR/HILLSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION**

Brianne Abbott shared,

Thank you, Mr. President. For the month of January there were 4 commercial and 6 residential building permits. The electrical work is complete for the Roberts Lane Extension project. The list station has been installed and pavement markings will be complete when weather permits. The construction manager has been selected for the Crossroad Park & Amphitheater project and design meetings continue. The downtown pedestrian safety project is slated for April this year. Beech and Railroad reconstruction is underway. Monthly calls for the Marriot Hotel project continue and they indicate they are still waiting for private financing. The Shentel Fiber to Home is slated to begin construction in March. Planning Commission granted a variance for 126 W Walnut Street this month. No questions or comments.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **FINANCE COMMITTEE (Mary Stanforth, Chair)**

- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for Elected Officials
- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for employees

No meeting. No questions, no comments.

##### **PARKS (Don Storer Chair)**

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. Mr. Wilkin stated he plans to meet in the next couple weeks.

##### **UTILITIES COMMITTEE (Greg Maurer, Chair)**

- Waste Collection
- Water Rates

No meeting. Mr. Maurer stated he plans to meet prior to the next meeting.

##### **ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE (Jason Brown, Chair)**

No meeting. No questions, no comments

##### **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (Kathryn Hapner, Chair)**

- National Fitness Campaign

Ms. Hapner stated in the next couple weeks she plans to meet to discuss the National Fitness Campaign.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

## • FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 25-01 A Resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT road salt contracts awarded in 2025 and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: Ms. Abbott stated the legislation will allow the city to participate in the ODOT Salt Contract for 2025. Suspension of the three-reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to allow the city sufficient time to meet the ODOT contract deadlines.

MOTION: Mr. Storer moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote- Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Three-reading rule is suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Hapner moved to approve and adopt Resolution 25-01, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote- Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Resolution 25-01 is approved and adopted as an emergency.

Ordinance 2025-01 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 and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: Ms. Abbott stated the legislation is necessary annually for representation by public defenders to indigent defendants. Suspension of the three-reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to ensure there are no indigent appointments but the courts that are not reimbursement. Ms. Stanforth said she has a lot people ask her about declaring things by emergency and asked if there was a timeframe on these or if can be brought to council before. Ms. Abbott responded that in this case, the county gives us the legislation to pass and sometimes it is outside of our control as to when we can present it. Ms. Abbott stated it was presented last month but there were not enough council members present to put it through, that is why it is being asked to be passed by emergency. Ms. Hapner also explained the reimbursement process with this particular legislation. Ms. Stanforth said if it is an annual thing, then we should know a couple months ahead of time. Ms. Hapner responded that it would depend on when the county would give the contract to us to take to council. Mr. Eichinger explained that is very similar to the state with grants and we don't have control over when they send us paperwork that needs to be acted on.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote- Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Three-reading rule is suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-01, seconded by Ms. Stanforth. Vote- Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-abstain, Mr. Baucher-yes. Ordinance 2025-01 is approved and adopted as an emergency.

Resolution 25-03 A Resolution authorizing the Safety and Service Director to apply for, accept, and enter into an agreement to participate in the 2025 Small Business Recycling Program

DISCUSSION: Ms. Abbott stated the legislation will authorize the city to enter into an agreement with the Solid Waste District to administer a financial assistance program for solid waste, recycling, and litter management through the 2025 Small Business Recycling Program. This is the program the city utilizes annually in order to host the dumpster events. Suspension of the three-reading rule is requested to meet the 2025 program deadlines. Mr. Brown asked if this was a grant or a contract to pay for the dumpsters. Ms. Abbott replied it is a grant.

MOTION: Mr. Storer moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote- Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes. Three-reading rule is suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Resolution 25-03, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote- Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Resolution 25-03 is approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2025-03 An Ordinance amending section 39.20 of the codified ordinances of the City of Hillsboro pertaining to the City's Records Request Policy

DISCUSSION: Chief Daniels explained his request to the Safety and Service Director in regards to the newly signed H.B. 315, which allows police departments to charge for body cam video. Maximum fee allowed by statute is \$75.00 / hr. with a total of \$750 per request. The legislation goes into effect April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and council will need to consider this change for the records request policy. Mr. Wilkin asked if there is a lot of requests for body cam videos. Chief Daniels responded that yes there is a lot of online requests from YouTube and other website entities and seems to get requests on a quarterly basis. The requests are usually blanket requests asking for certain types of offenses, those reports are given to them but then later they ask for body cam videos. Some requests do come from the public. Further explanation of why the requests can be a lengthy process and the review process was discussed. Mr. Eichinger stated he would like to put this in to the Street and Safety Committee for review and the legislation will move on to its second reading next month.

Resolution 25-04 A Resolution approving a 'Then and Now' certification by the City Auditor, pursuant to R.C. 5705.41 (D)(1), for the payment to Ohio Water Development Authority and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barreras explained this legislation is to make the payment to the new OWDA loan. The invoice came in at the end of the year and no purchase order was open. Since the invoice is dated for 2024, a PO opened in 2025 makes it a then and now.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote- Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes. Three-reading rule is suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Resolution 25-04, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote- Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Resolution 25-04 is approved and adopted by emergency.

Ordinance 2025-04 An Ordinance amending section 51.076 of the codified ordinances of the City of Hillsboro to increase the rates charged for water service for the City of Hillsboro

DISCUSSION: Ms. Abbott stated the city has been carefully working with Water Worth to establish the following rate increases for water. 2025-2026-8%, 2027-2028-7%, 2029-2031-5%, and then 3% increases annual beginning 2032 to cover inflation. The proposal is currently in utility committee for review and consideration.

Ordinance 2025-05 An Ordinance expanding a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wilkin stated this legislation will extend the hours and boundary of the DORA district per written request to city council and review and recommendation of the Street and Safety Committee. Ordinance 2025-05 will move on to its second reading next month.

Ordinance 2025-06 An Ordinance making supplemental appropriations for the City of Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barreras stated this Ordinance will fix line items, two lines after transferring came over as a negative. It is a software issue and doesn't change the budget that was passed. No questions.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-06, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote- Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2025-06 is approved and adopted.

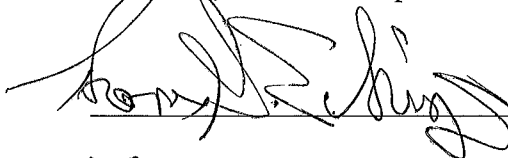
Ordinance 2025-07 An Ordinance making supplemental appropriations for the City of Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio

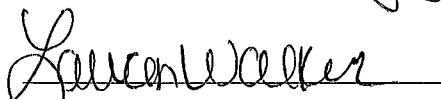
DISCUSSION: Mr. Barreras stated this Ordinance will allocate the funds for the contract with Warren County Building Department that will do all of our building inspections for the city.

MOTION: Mr. Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-07, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote- Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Ordinance 2025-07 is approved and adopted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Storer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Council adjourned at 7:23 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Thursday March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 130 North High Street.

 Tom Eichinger, President

 Lauren Walker, Clerk