

HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 14, 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: Mayor Justin Harsha, acting Safety and Service Director Shawn Adkins, City Law Director Randalyn Worley, Clerk Lauren Walker and Officer Hopkins.

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 Mayor led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

There were no corrections to the July 17, 2025 regular council minutes. They were approved as presented.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The July monthly reports were read by title only: Income Tax Bureau, Police Department, Public Utilities (includes street, water/sewer maintenance), Water Meter Department, Water Office (Water/Sewer Sales), Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Code Enforcement. No questions, no comments.

PUBLIC REQUESTS

COMMUNICATIONS

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Michael Flowers, 436 S Elm Street - Mr. Flowers stated he received a notice of violation for a building he owns on 110 S High Street and he was at council to have a conversation with the mayor. Mr. Flowers at length asked questions regarding the qualifications of the code enforcement officer. Mr. Harsha responded to Mr. Flowers with questions and also addressed Mr. Flowers as to why he did not respond back to his email, and stated that he was advised from the city law director to not respond back since he is threatening to sue the city. Mr. Harsha stated that the code official did not write a citation but a notice requesting more information on an issue he thought may be a problem, after a request was received from a tenant when the ceiling fell through on the pool tables, and witnessed a brick from the back of the building fall and almost hit someone. Mr. Flowers continued his viewpoint on whether or not it should be his or the city's responsibility on hiring a structural engineer to prove his building is safe. Mr. Eichinger stepped in and reminded Mr. Flowers that his letter he received had provisions to appeal the notice to the board of zoning appeals. Mr. Flowers continued to make comments and reminded council that if this moves forward, he will absolutely sue the city.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

No report

REPORT OF THE SAFETY & SERVICE DIRECTOR/HILLSBORO PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Adkins reported the city received 30 building permits, 11 commercial and 19 residential, for the month of July. On going city project included; Crossroads Park, Beech Street & Railroad Construction; which is almost complete and a punch list, walk through will be conducted, parking lot construction, Harry Sauner Rd paving which is still scheduled for September, and Rails to Trails which is a 2026 project. Mr. Adkins listed the private developments as Aldi's, Amazon, Marriot Hotel and Glo Fiber. Mr. Adkins shared that the Movies under the Stars had their last movie last Friday. Planning Commission approved one variance and one site plan. No comments, no questions.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE

Mary

Stanforth, Chair

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

Meeting 7-21-2025 at 5:00pm – Ms. Stanforth read minutes as follows, “The Finance Committee met on July 21, 2025 at 5 pm to discuss the wage study the city had done. Those attending the meeting were Adam Wilkin, Mary Stanforth, Bree Abbott and Sherry Davis. The study compared the city's current pay ranges to 17 comparable municipalities and counties. The Consultant recommended adopting a proposed wage scale including 8 pay grades. The committee decided that further discussion was needed as a couple of positions were missing. The committee will meet at a future date. Adam made a motion to adjourn at 5:45. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Stanforth Finance Chair

No questions, no comments.

PARKS

Don Storer, Chair

No meeting – no questions, no comments

CIVIL SERVICE-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Dan Baucher, Chair

- Personal / Vacation Handbook

No meeting – no questions, no comments

STREET AND SAFETY

Adam Wilkin, Chair

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

No meeting – no questions, no comments

UTILITIES

Greg Maurer, Chair

- Waste Collection

- Water Rates (annual review)

No meeting – no questions, no comments

ZONING & ANNEXATION

Jason Brown, Chair

No meeting – no questions, no comments

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Kathryn Hapner, Chair

- National Fitness Campaign

No meeting – no questions, no comments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- VETO of ORDINANCE 2025-20

Council President Mr. Eichinger stated there was a request received from Ms. Stanforth to revisit Ordinance 2025-20 that was vetoed by the mayor.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stanforth shared that the finance committee reviewed the ordinance and were in agreement and passed it and then it was later vetoed. Ms. Stanforth said, “I really think we need to have that back to have all positions because they had added code enforcement and meter reader and also the paralegal and those position’s I feel are very needed and they need to be taken care of, so I would like for us to reconsider it.”

Mr. Eichinger asked if there was any other comments or questions. Mr. Maurer asked how the process works in revisiting the ordinance. Mr. Eichinger explained the process.

MOTION: Ms. Stanforth moved to override the veto, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote: Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-no, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Maurer-no. The veto has been overturned.

Ms. Walker asked if Ms. Hapner needed to abstain from the vote. Mr. Adkins asked Mr. Eichinger if Ms. Hapner needed to abstain from the vote. Ms. Hapner replied that she did not have an outstanding citation but had a letter and does not feel she needed to abstain from the vote.

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

- **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

- **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

Ordinance 2025-25 An Ordinance authorizing the city’s participation in financing public improvements in cooperation with the Port Authority and authorizing the execution of documents to effectuate such financing, and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: Mr. Eichinger introduced Mr. Spoor to speak on behalf of the legislation. Mr. Spoor first introduced himself as Dick Spoor with Keating Muething & Klekamp in Cincinnati. Mr. Spoor further explained the deal with the TIF bond issue that will be issued and the proceeds of that will be used for the infrastructure for the hotel, retail and the restaurant that is going to it on Harry Sauner Road. Mr. Spoor explained the recent positive development and involvement of the Mt. Orab Port Authority. The Mt. Orab Port

Authority offered to participate in the bond issue if passed. Mr. Spoor explain that the port authority would issue the bonds instead of the city and explained in further detail the positives for the city allowing the port authority to do that and the role the city plays into the cooperative agreement. A question was asked, if this change affects the revenue the City is going to get Mr. Spoor responded, no and explained that the revenue of the TIF money is pledged for the bonds and added that whether the City issues bonds or the Port Authority, those monies are reserved to pay off the bonds. Mr. Spoor also explained the term of how long the port authority is involved and the term of the TIF.

Mr. Eichinger summarized the legislation as that is eases some of the pressure off the city for various tasks that normally would be involved and removes it from the books. Mr. Spoor included, that is no reporting requirements, and the debt or non-debt is not on the city's books. Mr. Spoor also responded to a question and explained the reason for the port authority now and the benefit/reason of a port authority in a community.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-25, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes. Ordinance 2025-25 three-reading rule is suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-25 as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes. Ordinance 2025-25 is approved and adopted as an emergency.

Ordinance 2025-26 An Ordinance making supplemental appropriations for the City of Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barreras explained this ordinance will appropriate funds from the reimbursement of the resource officer back into the appropriate fund. Mr. Brown asked if the school paid for the officer. Mr. Barreras stated, yes.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-26, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2025-26 is approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2025-27 An Ordinance making supplemental appropriations for the City of Hillsboro, Highland County, Ohio

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barreras stated this ordinance will appropriate funds from an insurance claim for a damaged police cruiser.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-27, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote: Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes. Ordinance 2025-27 is approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2025-28 An Ordinance to amend appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Hillsboro, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025

DISCUSSION: Mr. Barreras explained this ordinance corrects a typo from last months legislation to fixed a fund account that over budgeted on the transfer line.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-28, seconded by

Mr. Brown. Vote: Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2025-28 is approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2025-29 An Ordinance to approve the supplier for the City of Hillsboro Electric Aggregation Program and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: Mr. Eichinger introduced Mr. John Theibert from Aspen Energy. Mr. Theibert passed out a presentation that explained the results from the last term of the aggregation program offered in the city, comparable rates with the other provider, new rates, current and future market trends, and his recommendation of the provider and term based off their RFP. Mr. Theibert explained what the eligible customers will receive in the mail and the three options for opting-out of the program.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2025-29, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote: Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Ordinance 2025-29 three-reading rule is suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-29 as an emergency, 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 2025-29 is approved and adopted as an emergency.

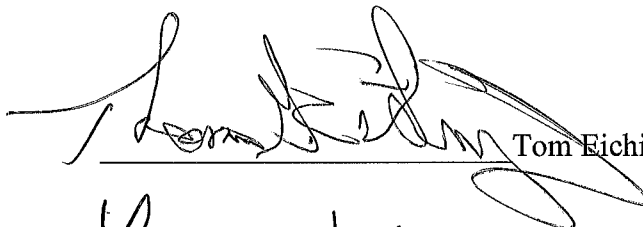
NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Adkins requested reports from the municipal court that shows the cases per month that are city/county cases and for the Law Director or Judge to apply for the VOCA grant to help pay for the Victim Rights salary. A request will be drafted.

Mr. Barreras mentioned that they are working on proposed changes in the handbook and once complete it will be given to that appropriate committee this month.

ADJOURN

Council adjourned at 7:43pm. The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Thursday September 11, 2025 at 7:00p.m. at City Hall, 130 N High Street, 2nd floor.


Tom Eichinger, President


Lauren Walker, Clerk