

## **HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 15, 2026**

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 Shawn Adkins, City Auditor Dawson Barreras, City Law Director Hannah Bivens, Chief Eric Daniels, and Clerk Megan Blackburn.

### **ROLL CALL**

Cody Mathews, Logan Kelly, Heith Brown, Gary Lewis, Mary Stanforth, Dan Baucher and Adam Wilkin were all present.

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

### **MINUTES**

There were no corrections to the December 11, 2025 regular council meeting minutes and December 18, 2025 special meeting minutes. They were approved as presented.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

The December monthly reports were read by title only: Income Tax, Police Department, Public Utilities (includes Streets, Water/Sewer Maintenance), Treasurers (Includes Expense Report and Revenue Report), Water Meter Department, Water Office (Water/Sewer Sales), Water Treatment Plant, Code Enforcement, Auditor, and Parks.

Shawn Adkins requested executive session due to an issue raised with a citizen that involves imminent litigation per ORC 121.22(G)(2) and would request the Auditor to also be in executive session.

Mr. Wilkin moved to enter executive session, seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Mathews-yes.

Executive session was entered into at 7:03 pm.

Regular Session was entered into at 7:12 pm.

### **PUBLIC REQUEST**

### **COMMUNICATION**

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Michael Flower 436 South Elm Street addressed council with an electrical permit. Mr. Flowers explained that an electric permit does not take long to get and that the building department is holding the permit up because the city is mad at him. Mr. Flowers asked Mrs. Bivens what city code would hold up a permit over personal taxes? Mrs. Blevins explained that unfortunately due to Mr. Flowers having legal representation, she cannot speak to him regarding that. Mr. Flowers then addressed the chambers asking if anyone in here would know the code that would hold up a permit because of personal taxes. Mr. Eichinger spoke and said since this is becoming a legal issue, they will not comment and let it be handled separately. Mr. Flowers responded with you

can't give me a Revised Code or a City Code? Not one person? Mrs. Bivens did advise council that the permit has been forwarded on last week to start the process at Warren County Building Department. Mr. Flowers stated that it was held up for almost 3 weeks in Hillsboro over taxes that he may or may not owe. Mr. Flowers said if there is a code that states that it needs to be removed and the codes are outdated and ridiculous. Mr. Flowers asked council to do their job, go back through the books and get rid of the old ones and start fresh. Mr. Eichinger advised that it is a constant practice with Administration. Last year there were numerous corrections, additions and changes to code. Mr. Flowers asked when the last time was that one was changed. Mr. Eichinger advised, last year, which was a month ago. Mr. Eichinger addressed Mr. Flowers and said we appreciate Mr. Flowers input, we understand his concern and the city is looking into all of the code that we have in a regular basis and where corrections are needed, they will be made. Mr. Flowers responded with all I need to know is if anyone can give me the code that would hold up a permit. Mr. Eichinger stated that council does not have that memorized anymore than anyone else, but all of our code is online.

#### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR**

Mr. Adkins addressed Mr. Eichinger stating he had a couple of items from Mayor Harsha. Mr. Adkins read that the Mayor is appointing Logan Kelly to the Paint Creek Fire Board to replace Jason Brown and Gary Lewis will be appointed on the Planning Commission board.

Mr. Eichinger stated we needed an election of President Pro-Tem and asked for any nominations. Adam Wilkin nominated Mary Stanforth to be Council President Pro-Tem, seconded by Dan Baucher. No other nominations. Vote: All yeas.

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

Mr. Adkins reported there were 11 building permits for the month of December, 3 commercial and 8 residential. Crossroads Park is finished moving dirt and they are installing waterlines. The underground infrastructure is almost complete. The Rails to Trails Project has the city crews clearing & grubbing this month. ODOT is still working on the Clear Creek Bridge. He stated that Amazon is nearing completion and they are planning on opening the first of February. Marriott Hotel bonds have been put out for sale and he has a meeting tomorrow with ODOD, the County & Mr. Spoor on this matter. Glo Fiber is still installing drops. There were no events & Planning Commission did not have a December meeting. Mr. Adkins did want to remind the Street & Safety Committee as well as the Finance Committee about the 73/Fenner Reconstruction being in their committees to be discussed. Ms. Stanforth asked what ODOT is doing to Clear Creek Bridge and Mr. Adkins stated they are repairing concrete and structure items under the bridge. Mr. Mathews wants to make language accessible to voters, when Mr. Adkins states that bonds have been put out for sale, what does that mean? Mr. Adkins advised that this is a TIFF that went through the school and companies will buy the bonds to fund the construction and this is to bond part of the infrastructure for the hotel. Mr. Mathews asked if this is how the developers are going to fund part of the project and Mr. Adkins responded with yes. Mr. Mathews stated and they have to be purchased in order to proceed? Mr. Adkins said yes.

## **REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

### **FINANCE**

- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for Elected Officials (annual review)
- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for employees (annual review)
- 73/Fenner Intersection Reconstruction

Gary read, "The Finance Committee of Hillsboro City Council met on 1/9/2026 at 5:00 PM. Those present were committee members Gary Lewis, Adam Wilkin and Mary Stanforth. Also present were Council President Tom Eichinger, SSD Shawn Adkins and several new members of Council. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the wage study prepared by Clemens-Nelson and Associates and decide whether or not to approve and send to full Council for adoption. Primary debate centered around the omission of wage step increases from the study and if they should be included. Mr. Adkins explained that step increases have not been a part of wage legislation for over 20 years. In lieu of step increases, Management has received a range in wages to be used in evaluating employees based on merit. Historically Management has not increased an employee to the maximum of the ranges. After discussion, committee member Adam Wilkin made a motion to adopt the proposed legislation as an emergency and to make it effect the first full pay period after passage. The motion was seconded by committee member Mary Stanforth. Committee members Lewis, Wilkin and Stanforth voted in favor of adoption. A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Stanforth, seconded by Adam Wilkin and all three members voted to adjourn at 5:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Lewis

Finance Chair"

No questions, no comments.

### **PARKS**

### **CIVIL SERVICE-EMPLOYEE RELATIONS**

### **STREET AND SAFETY**

- Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)
- 3 Hour Parking
- 73/Fenner Intersection Reconstruction

Mr. Wilkin requested a meeting for Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

### **UTILITIES**

- Waste Collection
- Water Rates (annual review)
- Ordinance review; 51.076 (G), 51.078, 51.079
- Teresa Covert – Water Bill
- Timothy Palmer – Water/Sewer bill
- 117 Elizabeth Drive – Water bill

Ms. Stanforth stated a meeting will be held in a week or so.

## **ZONING & ANNEXATION**

- Maple Run Drive re-zone
- Wellston Street re-zone
- East Main Street re-zone

No question, no comment.

## **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT**

- National Fitness Campaign

Mr. Mathews stated there is a meeting scheduled for 1-16-2026.

No question, no comment.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **• PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS (THIRD READING)**

Ordinance 2025-37 An Ordinance expanding a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA)

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Brown asked if this is basically just expanding DORA to include Crossroads Park, The Porch & the pickleball court area. Mr. Eichinger said that's correct and that was planned to include all of that once all the work on the roads, sewers and sidewalks down there were complete.

**MOTION:** Mr. Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2025-37, seconded by Ms. Stanforth. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Mathews-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes. Ordinance 2025-37 is approved and adopted.

### **• SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

Ordinance 2025-40 An Ordinance to change the zoning classification of certain parcels and modify the zoning map

No questions, no comment.

Ordinance 2025-41 An Ordinance to change the zoning classification of certain parcel and modify the zoning map

Mr. Eichinger stated that the previous Zoning and Annexation Committee had recommended this be passed as an emergency this evening.

**MOTION:** Ms. Stanforth moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Vote: Mr. Mathews-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes, Mr. Baucher. The three-reading rule was suspended.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mathews moved to Approve and Adopt Ordinance 2025-41 as an Emergency, seconded by Mr. Brown. Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Mathews-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes. Ordinance 2025-41 is approved and adopted as an emergency.

Ordinance 2025-42 An Ordinance to change the zoning classification of certain parcels and modify the zoning map.

Mr. Brown asked where the Maple Run Drive is located. Mr. Adkins stated it is out State Route 124 just past Moore Road, right beside Seal Tite. Mr. Brown asked who currently owns these parcels. Mr. Eichinger stated they are all individually owned parcels. Mr. Brown asked if there are buildings on these parcels. Mr. Eichinger responded yes, there are residence on these parcels,

but it is zoned Business C and it is all Residential. There are two empty lots that want homes on them, but cannot build there unless its zoned A.

No questions, no comments.

- **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

Ordinance 2026-01 An Ordinance to Adjust Compensation for Non-Union City Employees, and Declaring an Emergency

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Lewis stated this is the result of the study by Clemans Nelson and Associates and the pay ranges will just be adjusted to have city employees' wages more competitive. The reason for the emergency essentially was this legislation was brought forth last year and essentially this would be the fourth-reading so this could make the legislation go into effect as soon as possible. The approved budget was predicated on the recommendation of Clemans Nelson and Associates.

**MOTION:** Mr. Wilkin moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Lewis. Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes, Mr. Mathews-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Brown- No, Mr. Baucher- yes, Mr. Kelly-yes. The three-reading rule was suspended.

**MOTION:** Mr. Lewis moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2026-01 as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Mr. Lewis-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Mathews- yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Brown- yes. Ordinance 2026-01 is approved and adopted as an emergency.

Resolution 26-01 A Resolution authorizing the Safety and Service Director to apply for, accept and enter into an agreement to participate in the 2026 Community Clean-up Grant Program

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Adkins stated this legislation will authorize city to enter into agreement with the Solid Waste District to administer a financial assistance program for solid waste, recycling, and litter management through the 2026 Small Business Recycling Program. This is the program the city utilizes in order to host our annual 'dumpster days' events. Mr. Adkins request we suspend the three-reading rule to meet the 2026 program deadlines. Mr. Mathews asked if this is an annual renewal and Mr. Adkins said yes. Mr. Brown asked when the deadline is and Mr. Adkins stated March 1, 2026.

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown made a motion to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Mathews. Vote: Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Mathews-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Lewis- yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. The three-reading rule is suspended.

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution 26-01, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Vote: Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Mathews-yes. Resolution 26-01 is approved and adopted.

Resolution 26-02 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and/or City Auditor to enter into an Investment Management Agreement for Municipal Investment Services with RedTree Investment Group

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Barreras spoke that this resolution is to make major adjustments to the investment portfolio for the City of Hillsboro. Currently we have \$2 million investment with Fifth-Third Investments. This has not yielded the city anywhere near what it should had. In addition, our pledge agreement with Merchants Bank starting this year will only allow \$9 million to be fully insured. This is why I would like to have the ability to invest up to \$10 million, to make sure our money is insured, and to yield the tax payers as much money as possible through

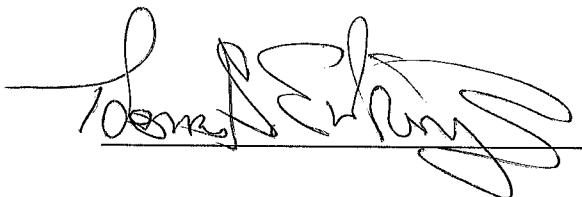
smart investing. The Treasury Investment Board voted for this resolution to take to council. Mr. Barreras would like to request this be passed as an emergency. Mr. Lewis asked how much interest in total we received. Mr. Barreras stated \$1,000.00 on \$2 million dollars invested. Ms. Stanforth asked who all makes up the Treasury Investment Board. Mr. Barreras responded with, the mayor, the law director, the auditor, the treasurer and a member of the community who has investment background. Mr. Mathews asked if the alternate investment are reliable yields. Mr. Barreras stated yes. Mr. Mathews asked how long are the funds wrapped up and can they be drawn on when we need to? Mr. Barreras stated absolutely, liquid would be on hand within roughly two business days if needed. Mr. Brown asked if we have \$9 million insured at Merchants. Mr. Barreras said the new pledge is we can only have \$9 million in their bank that they will insure, so the additional \$6 million that we would have would not be insured, so it needs to be invested and insured. Ms. Stanforth asked if putting the money in the bank a better option than going with an investment company and having stocks and bonds? Mr. Barreras responded we don't have many stocks, there are ties that goes to investment for city money. It would definitely be a better investment strategy to have them invested instead of the bank.

**MOTION:** Mr. Lewis moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes, Mr. Mathews-yes. The three-reading rule for Resolution 26-02 is suspended.

**MOTION:** Mr. Brown moved to approve and adopt Resolution 26-02 as an emergency, seconded by Mr. Mathews. Vote: Mr. Mathews-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Lewis-yes. Resolution 26-02 is approved and adopted as an emergency.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Eichinger adjourned the council at 7:40 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 130 North High Street.



Tom Eichinger, President



Megan Blackburn, Clerk