

**HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Hillsboro Municipal Court – 130 Homestead Drive**

November 12, 2019

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 Heather Collins, Dick Donley; Safety and Service Director and Mayor Drew Hastings.

**ROLL CALL**

Adam Wilkin, Patty Day, Ann Morris, Claudia Klein, Mary Stanforth, and Justin Harsha were present. Brandon Leeth was excused.

**MOTION:** Mr. Harsha moved to excuse Mr. Brandon Leeth, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Vote all yeas.

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

**MINUTES**

Due to technical difficulties with the recording of the October 15, 2019 Council meeting, the minutes will be presented at next month's meeting. There were no corrections to the Special October 28, 2019 minutes and they were approved as submitted.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

The October 2019 monthly reports were read by title only: Auditor, Income Tax Bureau, Police, Public Utilities (includes Street Department, Water and Sewer Maintenance), Treasurer's (includes Expense and Revenue), Water Meter, Water Office (includes Water/Sewer Sales), Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment. Patty Day had a question about the Water meter report and the sixteen meters that were shut off, questioning if it was due to non-payment, breakage or if anyone knew. SSD Richard Donley stated he would get back to Mrs. Day with an answer.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Ms. Collins explained that Council had received a letter from Highland County Water Company appealing the Storm Sewer Fee. She received it in her mail tray that afternoon. Mr. Eichinger had already seen the letter and placed the matter into the Utilities Committee.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** None

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR (Drew Hastings, Mayor)**

Mayor Hastings reported that he had attended a Veteran's Day event the previous day to honor Veterans on Veteran's Day it was called Ramp it up. It is a program for disabled Veterans to receive help. He wanted a shout out for that program, it was a great event. Mayor Hastings reported that he visited Hobart and it is stable and growing. Shaefer Heating and Cooling had their grand opening and he was in attendance, great to have them in the corporation on West Main. Rural King had a formal press release announcement and will be opening in Spring of 2020, another good addition and he doesn't feel the other farm stores have anything to worry about. The City received an



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estimate from Evans Construction on Gross Fiebel demolition for \$135,000.00. This is a doable figure and will be put into the 2020 budget.

## **SAFETY AND SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dick Donley, Safety and Service Director also stated the Gross Fiebel demolition would include removal to the ground with reseeded and this will be nice for potential new development coming in. He is currently working on the City budget, finances are running well and are in good shape. Also commenting on Veteran's Day, Mr. Donley wanted to thank all Veteran's from the past, present and in the future for their service. Mr. Donley stated the day to day operations are running smoothly. The Storm sewer replacement Program will begin in early 2020, which may bring traffic issues, all efforts will be made to keep them at a minimum. Steve Rivera, the Chief Building Official and staff from the Building Department hosted a meet and greet at Hillsboro Lowes over the weekend, just letting the public know that we are here to help in the permit process, we are accessible and why it is important to be enforcing building codes. He also stated the demolition of the buildings on West Main Street is completed, a job well done by Evans construction, with new sidewalks yet to be completed at these properties. The Street department was out overnight and early that morning and Mr. Donley thanked them for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Donley wanted to thank and recognize each and every employee in the City of Hillsboro's employment, stating the City has a good crew and need recognition. Mr. Donley wanted to welcome new employees -Bobby Brown hired at the Tax Department and Charlie Duff hired at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Bob Creamer will be retiring from Waste Water treatment plant on November 30, 2019 all are invited to his retirement party being held at the Waste water treatment plant. Wages for some departments need reviewed and to be looked at so pay scales can be competitive. Mr. Donley ended with stating the Leaf pickup is still going on. Mrs. Patty Day asked if someone can check the schedule as it appeared the schedule was not being followed as set on the City website. It was explained by Dick Donley; Safety Service Director and Shawn Adkins; Public Works Superintendent that this is a ballpark schedule, the City can't pin it down due to weather and other circumstances, but there will be two pickups before completion of leaf pick up of 2019.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION (Mayor Hastings)**

Mayor Hastings reported that Planning Commission met on October 21, 2019. Those in attendance were Rob Holt, Chair, Charlie Guarino Vice Chair, Mayor Drew Hastings, Dick Donley Safety and Service Director, Joe Mahan, Paul Worley. Dane Allard was absent. A quorum was met. Also present were Kimberly Newman, Council Member Patty Day, Rusty Fite, Theresa Raisch, Elvis Smith and Chad Abbot of Abbot Signs. Planning Commission covered routine matters, discussion on variances and alley vacations were had, but no action was taken, a conditional use permit was also discussed. The Master Plan is in final draft stages. Mayor Hastings also stated that annexation has been cumbersome, but one was approved for the annexation of Jason Brown property on West Street, his motorcycle shop. The next Planning Commission meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. at the County Administration building Conference Room on November 18, 2019.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE (Justin Harsha, Chair)**

No Meeting, but one will be scheduled before the end of the year for the review of the 2020 budget. There were no questions of Mr. Harsha. President Tom Eichinger put the 2020 budget and wage and pay scale in Mr. Harsha's committee, and wage and pay scale into Mary Stanforth's Civil Service and Employee Relations committee.

### **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION (Ann Morris, Chair)**

Committee met on November 6, 2019 at the City Conference room. See attached addendum 1. Mrs. Morris asked President Tom Eichinger to change the Firehouse Property to the Sale of the Firehouse Property instead of possible uses of Firehouse Property in her committee, also change the Jack Hope acquisition to disposition of ownership. Mary Stanforth asked a question if the funding for the \$135,000.00 demo of Gross Fiebel and the \$97,000.00 for Parker House would be funded by Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). SSD Dick Donley explained that only \$50,000.00 could possibly be used for one or the other, but most likely Gross Fiebel. Mayor Hastings stated that is all that is effectively in there, money comes in monthly from loan proceeds that takes a while to build up, currently the balance is about \$50,000.00. Mrs. Stanforth further asked about the current loans that are not being payed on and had defaulted, asking if the RLF is doing anything to collect on those. Mayor Hastings advised that the RLF has retained a law firm out of Wilmington that is known for collections of this type, the attorney has had a couple of meetings with RLF, looked into a couple loans that had gone bad that had been written years ago and there was nothing that could be done about those, attorney verified that. RLF did do a loan about three years ago and they subsequently filed bankruptcy RLF tried to pursue restitution of that money and that is tied up in bankruptcy proceedings. RLF has definitely tried to collect on those funds. Mayor Hastings further stated as Chair of RLF he wanted to strengthen loans and change our policy about what RLF took for collateral. This has been changed, gaining mortgages and not doing loans against inventory anymore.

### **CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Mary Stanforth, Chair)**

Met on November 7, 2019 see addendum 2. There were no questions asked for Ms. Stanforth. Mrs. Stanforth stated the committee felt you could buy a new computer for less than a \$1,000.00, that is why the amount was changed to \$500.00 on resolution 19-32. President Tom Eichinger placed the wage and pay scale into Mrs. Stanforth committee.

### **STREET AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (Adam Wilkin, Chair)**

No meeting. Mr. Wilkin mentioned that they did have an upcoming meeting on November 19, 2019 regarding electric car chargers. Mr. Wilkin stated there is a gentleman coming down from Columbus to put on a small display of what he can do for the City, explaining how it all works and the cost, so it should be pretty informative. He invited everyone to attend. There were no questions of Mr. Wilkin, but Mayor Hastings wanted to mention while talking to Street and Safety Committee that he commended Chief Eric Daniels and the police department. Noting there has been a lot more attention to writing speeding tickets and with the attention of the uptown crosswalks signs it seems the driving is safer. President Tom Eichinger added he would like to see more action on

red light running, particularly on High Street by the post office. Suggesting a car sitting there, probably seeing one or two cars a day running red lights.

**UTILITIES COMMITTEE (Brandon Leeth, Chair)**

Mr. Leeth was excused from meeting so there were no reports on the Utilities committee. President Tom Eichinger formally added the Highland County Water Company Appeal to Utility Committee, asking Clerk Collins to verify that Mr. Leeth has a copy of appeal letter. Mayor Hastings asked to mention to that Committee that it may start posing a problem for new storm water bills when you get bills for properties that people own without anything on it, meter or tap, and you are issued a storm water bill. Mayor Hastings asked if this can go into committee to be looked at to create a way to pay those types of bills annually, creating revenue for the City with the prepaid larger payment, also making it easier for the property owners. There is a lot of processing work done by the water department issuing every small bill, it would be helpful. President Tom Eichinger asked Mayor Drew Hastings to email him those thought so he can forward them to Mr. Leeth.

**ZONING AND ANNEXATION COMMITTEE (Patty Day, Chair)**

No meeting. There were no questions asked of Ms. Day. President Tom Eichinger said with the annexation paperwork from Law Director Fred Beery, which shows the commissioners have granted that the City can annex that piece of property (Jason Brown property), he was placing it in Ms. Day's committee for review and bring it forward to December Council for action.

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (Claudia Klein, Chair)**

No meeting. There were no questions asked.

**2020 CENSUS COMMITTEE (Patty Day, Chair)**

No meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PASSAGE OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS (THIRD READING):** None

**SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:** **Resolution 19-32**, due to modification made it is dropped back to first reading of revised resolution

**FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 19-38** A Resolution authorizing the safety & service director of the city of Hillsboro to prepare and submit an application for the FY19 Community Development Critical Infrastructure Program CIP. President Tom Eichinger asked SSD Dick Donley to inform council on this. Mr. Donley stated it needed to passed this evening as it is an agreement that needs to be submitted as soon as possible to be able to receive up to \$ 500,000.00 dollars in funding.

Motion: Claudia Klein moved, seconded by Ann Morris to suspend the three reading rule. All yeas.

Motion: Justin Harsha moved, seconded by Mary Stanforth to approve and adopt the legislation. The legislation was approved and adopted. All yeas.

**Resolution 19-39** A Resolution to adopt the 2019 updated policy and procedures manual. President Tom Eichinger asked Mary Stanforth if she and committee had fully reviewed, they had not. It was tabled and placed back into committee for review.

**Ordinance 2019-10** An ordinance to vacate an alley and declare an emergency. President Tom Eichinger stated this was tabled last month for more information, the alley does not exist, it is on a map of possible future actions, only property owners that are affected by this is the person asking for the alley vacation. Law Director Fred Beery says we can move forward on this and dispense with any further action, a three reading rule suspension and passage as an emergency is needed this evening.

Motion: Adams Wilkin moved, seconded by Patty Day to suspend the three reading rule. Vote yeas.

Motion: Claudia Klein moved, seconded by Justin Harsha to approve and adopt as an emergency. The legislation was approved and adopted. Vote yeas.

**Ordinance 2019-11** An ordinance to update Chapter 98 of the Hillsboro Code of Ordinances to reflect current technology regarding automatic alarm systems.

Mr. Wilkin explained this was to update the system from 1982. This will replace the old one Chapter 98. Mrs. Day asked for an overview of 98 before the upgrade, asking about the alarm system and the charging of false alarms. 98% of the alarms are identified as false, she asked for identification of ages. Mrs. Day would like more data on this. Mayor Hastings asked if a lot of the false alarms were commercial business. Chief Daniels said yes, stating in reading the ordinance as presented it eludes to commercial alarm activations, a lot of them are false, he thought Mrs. Day was trying to touch upon medical alarm, stating this ordinance addresses medical alarm. Mr. Wilkin agreed more data is needed. Placed back into Street & Safety Committee for more information. First reading only.

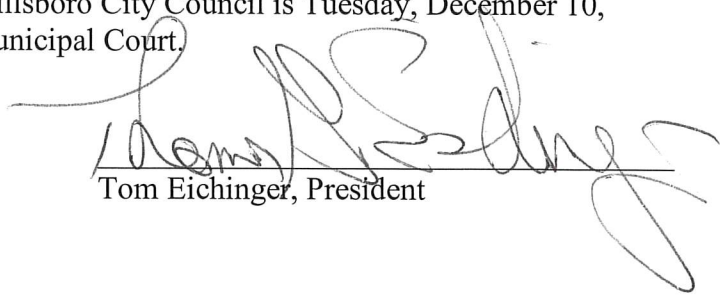
**Ordinance 2019-12** An Ordinance to authorize sale of the City interest in the old Firehouse on North High Street. First reading only.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

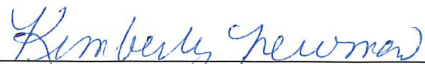
Justin Harsha extended his congratulations to President Tom Eichinger.

**ADJOURN** Motion: Justin Harsha moved, seconded by Adam Wilkin. Council adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hillsboro Municipal Court.



Tom Eichinger, President



~~Heather Collins~~, Clerk  
Acting Clerk  
Heather Collins Resigned