

## **HILLSBORO CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**December 23, 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: Safety and Service Director Brianne Abbott, Mayor Justin Harsha, City Auditor Dawson Barreras, City Law Director Randalyn Worley, and Clerk Lauren Walker.

### **ROLL CALL**

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

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

### **MINUTES**

There were no corrections to the November 14, 2024 regular council minutes or November 18, 2024 Public Hearing Minutes. They were approved as presented.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

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

### **PUBLIC REQUESTS**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Ohio Division of Liquor Control – Maplecrest Meats & More LLC

DISCUSSION: Mr. Eichinger asked if there were any objections to the notice sent from Division of Liquor Control. No objections. Clerk will sign and file appropriately.

### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

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

Mayor Harsha wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mayor Harsha said it has been an exciting year thus far and he looks forward to next year. He thanked council members for all they have done for the City of Hillsboro.

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

Brianne Abbott shared,

“Thank you, Mr. President. Good evening, City Council.

For the month of November, there were 3 commercial and 6 residential building permits. The Roberts Lane extension project is nearing completion, with the intersection widening and electrical work finishing up. The city is working with the design firm on the Crossroads Park, Appalachian Community Grant Project. Preliminary Plans are being completed for the rails to trails project. The Beech and Railroad St, road construction is underway. The contractor will be off site for the holiday but will resume a few weeks into the new year. The roads will be open during the break in work. This year’s

Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade were successful and well attended. The Planning Commission approved three commercial site plans, a conditional use permit and a temporary use permit at their November and December meetings. Lastly, the city in collaboration with the Highland County Health Department will present the National Fitness Campaign to city council at its February meeting. There has been some literature shared with council in regards to this initiative and I would like to request that the same be placed into the appropriate committee for review prior to presentation. Thank you.”

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for Elected Officials
- Wage & Pay Scale review/recommendations for employees
  - Meeting held November 25, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Mary Stanforth read minutes. 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
  - Meeting held November 18, 2024 at 5:30pm

Adam Wilkin read meeting minutes. Adam Wilkin added that he wishes the parking stay in his committee to include some details that need to be finalized with Randalyn. Jason Brown asked if affected property owners will be receiving a notice. Adam stated the legislation will go through three readings which will be published and that he would like to see the city make every effort to make everyone aware. Mr. Brown stated there may be 2-3 residential homes that may be affected and wanted to make sure it will be public so they know and can come and speak up if they wanted.

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

- Waste Collection
- Water Rates

No meeting. No questions, no comments

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

No meeting. No questions, no comments

#### **COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT (Jo Sanborn, Chair)**

No meeting. Mr. Eichinger added that the National Fitness Campaign will be added to the committee.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Ordinance 2024-52 An Ordinance vacating an unnamed alley between 134 East Pleasant Street and 126 East Pleasant Street

DISCUSSION: No discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-52, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2024-52 approved and adopted.

- **SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

- **FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS**

Ordinance 2024-58 An Ordinance creating the fairground road tax increment financing plan pursuant to R.C. 5709.40(C) and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: Mr. Eichinger explained the first three Ordinances are TIF Ordinances. Mr. Spoor has been present previous meetings including a public hearing for the TIF District, to answer questions regarding tax increment financing. Mr. Eichinger asked if anyone had questions prior to beginning the reading of each Ordinance individually. No questions or comments.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-58, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes. Ordinance 2024-58 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-58, seconded by Ms. Hapner. Vote: Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2024-58 approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2024-59 An Ordinance declaring improvements to parcels of real property located in Hillsboro, Ohio to be a public purpose under section 5709.40(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, exempting such improvements from real property taxation, declaring certain public improvements to be necessary for the further development of those parcels, establishing a tax increment equivalent fund, and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: No discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Wilkin moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-59, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Ordinance 2024-59 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-59, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes. Ordinance 2024-59 approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2024-60 An Ordinance declaring improvements to parcels of real property located in Hillsboro, Ohio to be a public purpose under section 5709.40(B) of the Ohio Revised Code, exempting such improvements from real property taxation, declaring certain public improvements to be necessary for the further development of those parcels, establishing a tax increment equivalent fund, and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: No discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-60, 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. Ordinance 2024-60 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Storer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-60, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote: Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes. Ordinance 2024-60 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-36 A Resolution to allow the Mayor, Safety and Service Director, and Economic Development Coordinator to execute documents for the Appalachian Community Grant on behalf of the City of Hillsboro

DISCUSSION: SSD Brienne Abbott stated this legislation will allow the city to execute documents associated with the ACGP – Crossroads Park project. Suspension of the three-reading rule is requested to allow the city to execute those documents in a timely manner. Mr. Eichinger asked if this covers the whole project. Ms. Abbott responded yes, grant agreement, CMR agreement, contractor agreements, everything that is necessary to follow through with the grant.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 24-36, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Brown-yes. Resolution 24-36 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Storer moved to approve and adopt Ordinance Resolution 24-36, seconded by Ms. Stanforth. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Resolution 24-36 approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2024-61 An Ordinance authorizing the lease of real estate owned by the City of Hillsboro

DISCUSSION: SSD Brienne Abbott stated that this legislation will allow the city to put out for bid the lease of tillable ground at Liberty Park. The legislation will also allow for the city to accept the highest bidder. The contract for the lease is for three years.

Suspension of the three-reading rule is requested to allow the city the necessary amount of time to solicit bids and enter in contract prior to the 2025 farming season. Ms. Stanforth asked how many acres. SSD Brienne Abbott thought it was roughly 69 acres but didn't have that information in front of her. Ms. Stanforth confirmed the location and SSD Brienne Abbott stated it is being farmed now with a contract in place, but the lease is up.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance 2024-61, seconded by Ms. Stanforth. Vote: Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes. Ordinance 2024-61 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-61, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote: Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes. Ordinance 2024-61 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-37 A Resolution approving the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the City of Hillsboro, State of Ohio, and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, INC., representing dispatchers, patrol officers, and sergeants in the City of Hillsboro Police Department SERB case #2024-MED-07-0738 (patrol officers); #2024-MED-07-0739 (dispatchers); and #2024-MED-07-0740 (sergeants) and declaring an emergency

DISCUSSION: SSD Brianne Abbott stated this legislation will allow the city to enter into the collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police effective through December 31, 2027. Suspension of the three-reading rule and passage by emergency is requested to immediately enter into the agreement that will be effective January 1, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Wilkin moved to suspend the three-reading rule, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote: Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes. Resolution 24-37 three-reading rule suspended.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-37, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote: Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Resolution 24-37 approved and adopted.

Ordinance 2024-62 An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Hillsboro, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025

DISCUSSION: City Auditor Dawson Barreras stated this legislation was for the 2025 budget. Mr. Barreras explained the process of coming up with the budget, and stated he felt the city was in a very good spot for 2025. There is a 1.2 million-dollar carryover. Ms. Stanforth asked if there were any changes from the budget presented to the finance committee. Mr. Barreras stated there were changes, but very minimal and mostly due to health insurance. Mr. Barreras also mentioned there was approximately 2 million less in asks this year.

MOTION: Ms. Stanforth moved to approve and adopt Ordinance 2024-62, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote: Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Ordinance 2024-62 approved and adopted.

Resolution 24-38 A Resolution for the transfer of various funds for fiscal year 2025

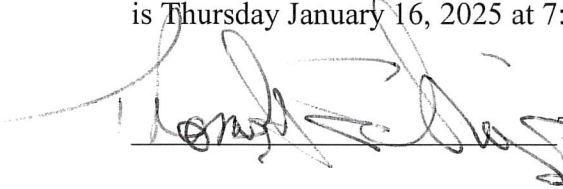
DISCUSSION: Mr. Barreras stated this legislation is passed every year with the budget to allow him to move funds from the general fund to other funds that may be lacking, without having to come to council each time. Mr. Eichinger stated again that these funds are from the general fund.

MOTION: Mr. Maurer moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 24-38, seconded by Mr. Storer. Vote: Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes, Mr. Brown-yes. Resolution 24-38 three-reading rule suspended.

**MOTION:** Mr. Wilkin moved to approve and adopt Resolution 24-38, seconded by Mr. Maurer. Vote: Mr. Brown-yes, Mr. Maurer-yes, Mr. Storer-yes, Mr. Wilkin-yes, Ms. Stanforth-yes, Ms. Hapner-yes, Mr. Baucher-yes. Resolution 24-38 approved and adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURN:** Mr. Storer moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wilkin. Vote all yeas. Council adjourned at 7:28 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Hillsboro City Council is Thursday January 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 130 North High Street.

  
Tom Eichinger, President

  
Lauren Walker, Clerk