

**Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
January 25, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll call was taken and those present were Mayor Downs and Commissioners, Murphy, Wright and Butler. Commissioner Duncan was absent.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Commissioners' reports:

Commissioner Butler read from his reports for the street department and public property department and they will be included in the minutes. Butler reported he met with Commissioner Wright and non-union staff to discuss the handbook and started getting their views on the handbook and possible letters. Butler said something will be brought back to the board shortly to discuss.

Commissioner Murphy said he spoke with Stewart and the City needs to get him a mower so he can mow this summer. Murphy said he has been working with Mike Lee and City Attorney Hantla and he will be discussing the fence ordinance and fireworks ordinance with them in the future. Murphy said he know there are some rough properties around town and they are working on it the solution doesn't happen overnight and there are procedures the City has to follow. Murphy said he will be meeting with Chief Leetham, Chief Lyerla and Clerk Davidson about starting an EOP Friday. Murphy reminded everyone to lock their cars and houses and make sure you don't leave valuables in your car. Murphy said downtown businesses are complaining about engines being revved up and squealing of tires so stop.

Commissioner Duncan was absent.

Commissioner Wright read her report and it will be included in the minutes.

Mayor Downs said the Bill Christian has been working hard to get the new meters installed. Downs read a letter from Mike Watson resigning his position on the Police and Fire Board. Downs said good things are happening downtown.

Community Planner Jonathan Weyer gave his report and it will be included in the minutes.

City Engineer Jeremy Conner reported the Seward St. Bridge PDR was submitted on the 24<sup>th</sup> and he will be submitting to get comments on the Huber Dr. water line soon. Conner said the 2021 MFT is complete and the 2022 MFT approval was on the agenda.

Public Comments:

Ray Luebbert asked the Council about the Façade Improvement Grants and where the money came from for the grants. Mayor Downs said the public comment section was not a question and answer and he would be glad to talk to him personally after the meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to adopt Resolution No. 2022-01, a resolution for maintenance under the Illinois Highway Code for the 2022 MFT program. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to adopt Ordinance No. 1723, an ordinance increasing the road bond for brick streets to \$2,000. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve rebuilding the pump, motor and chlorination equipment for central park pool by Illinois Electric Works for a cost of \$5,074.40. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve returning 50% of total proceeds from the sale of raw water to the coal mine to the lake restoration fund. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve getting a proposal from Hurst & Rosche to design and provide bid specs for piping to lower Lake Hillsboro for spillway repairs. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the trade-in of a John Deere 2016 X738 and purchase of a 2022 John Deere X758 with a 60" deck for \$8,600. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve placing the Youth Sports Administrator under Commissioner Butler and for Commissioner Butler to start working on the job description. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve an emergency purchase of an HVAC system for City Hall. There were 3 bids from Hillers for \$14,159, Agers Heating & Cooling for \$26,400 - \$28,400 and GRP Wegman for \$24,890. Council decided to go with the low bidder who was donating labor Hillers. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda item No. 17 was pulled from the agenda by Mayor Downs.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve emergency repair on a 36" sewer main in Challacombe Park by Petersburg Plumbing for a cost of \$55,785. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve an emergency lift station replacement on Hickory St. by Vandevanter Engineering for a cost of \$63,106. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve spending the remainder of the budgeted money for water meter replacement on water meters. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve purchasing a EOS Arrow Plus 100 GIS hardware device for \$4,217 and along with software for a year at a cost of \$1,400. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to adopt Resolution No. 2022-02, a resolution authorizing an agreement between the City of Hillsboro and IBE Coffee, Inc. utilizing business district funds. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve a Façade Improvement Grant to St. James Investments for work to be done at 104 S. Main St. A, B, C and D for a total of up to \$8,000. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda item No. 24 was pulled from the agenda by Mayor Downs.

Agenda item No. 25 was pulled from the agenda by Mayor Downs.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve a \$4,000 Façade Improvement Grant Reimbursement to Ryan & Lesley Hamby for work done at 305 & 307 S. Main St. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve a \$4,000 Façade Improvement Grant Reimbursement to John & Kendra Wright for work done at 121 N. Broad St. and 123 E. Seward St. Motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Wright abstaining. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Downs asked the Council what they thought about raising the fee for video game terminals around town from \$25 to \$250. Downs said the state has changed the law to increase the fees and the cost is now split between the operator and the owner. Downs asked everyone to think about it and they would discuss it at a future meeting.

Commissioner Butler asked fellow Council members what their opinion was on the Forest of Terror activities. Butler said Jim May has sent a letter out to the people that run the activities and they are waiting to hear from the others before they give an answer. Butler said there is a lot of things in disrepair out there and would need to be fixed or removed. Butler said there are some rules and regulations that would need to be followed if they have it. Butler said if they don't continue the activities the City will need to work with them to get the items removed.

Commissioner Butler asked fellow Council members what their opinion was on fogging for mosquitos. Butler said he would like to stop fogging so much and treating the water ways more than fogging. Butler said they would continue to fog for special events but treat the eggs more than they would fog. Mayor Downs agreed and thought it was a good idea. Commissioner Wright asked about Bat Houses in the parks and lakes and everyone thought that was another idea.

**Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:13 pm by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory M. Davidson, City Clerk

# Parks & Public Properties Dept. Work Summary

## Council Meeting Report-January 25, 2022

- Emptying trash cans, picking up trash, checking public buildings, servicing the dog park, etc.
- Removed holiday decorations downtown
- Disassembled a storage building at the Sports Complex
- Continued work on Glenn Shoals Lake adjacent land sales and lake lot revisions
- Mondin Electric continues work on the electrical panel replacement at Sherwood Forest Campground.
- Continued tree cleanup at the campground
- Executed controlled burns at the Sports Complex and Glenn Shoals north access area
- Met with individuals at USDA and NRCS about plans, funding, and options for mitigation of siltation and nutrient runoff in the watersheds of Glenn Shoals Lake and Hillsboro Lake.
- Replaced storm window glass and repaired a doorknob at the Harkey rental
- Continued work on restrooms in the building at Central Park
- Advertised for Pool Manager and Campground Host positions
- Continued service and repairs to mowers in preparation for the upcoming mowing season
- Working on upcoming budget

## STREET DEPT.

1. SALTED ROADS AFTER 2 SNOWFALLS
2. REPAIRED WATER MAIN BREAK ON RAILROAD ST
3. REPAIRED WATER MAIN BREAK ON E. TREMONT ST.
4. DID MORE EXPLORATORY POT HOLING FOR SEWER BEHIND HALF TIME BAR.
5. TRYING TO LOCATE A WATER LEAK ON HELSTON PL.
6. DID LOTS OF OTHER STREET DEPT THINGS.

YOURS TRULY,

JUSTIN CHAPPELEAR

## Public Utility Report January 25, 2022

### Water:

Demand at the water plant has picked up slightly with the colder weather. We have began to run at extend hours to compensate for the extra flow needed and the colder temperature of the water that is harder to push through the filters and requires us to slow the plant down.

Had a few water line breaks in the past couple weeks.

Hillsboro Electric replaced all the outside lights surrounding the treatment plant. Looked at converting to LED wall-packs, but the cost was very high. All outside lights should be functioning now.

### Sewer:

Ammonia levels leaving the sewer plant have been creeping higher for the last few weeks with colder weather. This week, we finally were over the NPDES Permit limit. The nitrifying bacteria activity begins to shut down in cold water (5 degrees Centigrade) and make it challenging to remove Ammonia. This is a common occurrence for a trickling filter plant and something seen every winter. This is one of the reasons the new treatment plant is being built, to go along with Phosphorous removal, as well as additional capacity. Ammonia removal in an activated sludge plant is not dependent on temperatures and should not be a burden with the new plant.

We pulled the storm water pump that was not operating correctly after the last big rain. The unit was checked out and determined it was likely air locked. The pump was set back in place and test ran and it is functioning now.

Dealt with electrical issue at Hillcrest Lift Station. A blown capacitor was the culprit and was replaced.

Hickory Street lift station had a pump continuing to trip out on high amps. No debris this time but some electrical issues in the control box. Replacement is up for discussion on the Agenda.

Flow at the WWTP had been elevated for some time after the last big rain. We checked the normal areas of concern and found nothing. A tire was pulled from a concrete overflow structure in the creek just south of School Street. This was allowing the water to back up in the creek and was seeping into an adjacent manhole. When better weather arrives, we will investigate this and determine what kind of repairs can be made to prevent future leaks into the sewer system.

### Statement for newspaper:

If you receive a call or a door tag regarding the replacement of your water meter, please call City Hall as soon as possible so we can get that work scheduled. Water meter replacement when necessary is in everyone's best interests to alleviate anyone being estimated and is free to consumers.

A reminder that all delinquent accounts not paid by close of business on the first Monday of the following month (4:00 on February 7th) will be shut off the following morning February 8th. Accounts will be charged turn off/turn on fees. Hardships must be brought to the attention of myself, the City Clerk, or the Water Clerk prior to these events. If you fail to initiate contact and produce a valid reason why the account has not been paid, services will be discontinued.

## **Community and Economic Planner Report 1/11/22**

-Our strategic plan requires that the Community Planner give a yearly report on the “state of the plan.” I’m working on this and I will have it to the council for the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. I think everyone is going to be pleasantly surprised by how much progress we’ve made in only a year.

-VISTA, the owner of the power plant, held a conference call last Friday for area leaders. Mayor Downs and I have the presentation for anyone on the council who wishes to see it. From all indications, if they follow through, it will be a very positive development for area. However, we need to temper expectations. The jobs provided will be a certain skill level, and will not replace the plant jobs, inherently. However, there will be some, and it will certainly be an economic driver to the area.

-A delegation of people from Hillsboro will be traveling to Collinsville January 27<sup>th</sup> for the Rivers and Routes Tourism Summit. Kaitlyn Fath, Mayor Downs, and myself will be leading this group and the Red Rooster will be featured in a presentation of things to look forward to in 2022.

-The Institute for Rural Affairs will be having their Spring Conference on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. I’m working on securing scholarships for any community leaders who would like to attend. Depending on the COVID numbers, we will be shooting for a Conference watch party at The Coop.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Weyer  
Community and Economic Planner.