

**Hillsboro City Council Meeting**  
**February 7, 2023**

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

Roll call was taken and those present were Mayor Downs and Commissioners Wright, Butler and Ward. Commissioner Gregory was absent because of illness.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Commissioners' reports:

Commissioner Butler read his report for public properties and streets and they will be included in the minutes.

Commissioner Gregory was absent.

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

Commissioner Ward said he has started looking at the budget for next year and would like to set up a special meeting to discuss the budget.

Mayor Downs gave a shout out to the fire department and everyone involved in the prison ordeal. Downs also thanked Wayne Rosenthal for his work after the prison ordeal.

Community Planner Sarah McConnell read her report and it will be included in the minutes.

The City Engineer Jeremy Connor said they are working on the Helston Pl. and Mechanic St. easements and the 2023 MFT has been approved. Connor said IDOT has some requests for the Seward St. bridge project.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Butler introduced some of the future City leaders and it included Kyle Butler, Emily Romelin and Allie Kunz.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Butler to adopt Resolution No. 2023-01 a resolution approving the release of certain closed session minutes. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve a \$3,000 Façade Improvement Grant for Sullivan Properties for work to be done at 311 Berry St. in Hillsboro. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Butler to approve the recommendation by Mayor Downs to appoint Thomas Reynolds to the Natural Resources Committee. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve purchasing a 2022 Dodge Ram from Victory Lane for a cost of \$41,006.00. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda item No. 14 to approve repairs to engine 604 in the fire department was pulled by Mayor Downs.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Ward** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve an agreement for technical services and assistance with Moran Economic Development for the development of a capital improvement plan for a cost of \$18,500.00. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve a proposal from Tree Brothers Tree Service to cut down trees for the parks department for a cost of \$2,300.00. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve purchasing Sherwin Williams Paint for a cost of \$5,571.80 for Central Park Pool. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve the dates of May 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for spring cleanup. After discussion **Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded Commissioner Wright to amend the dates to May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> for spring cleanup. Amended motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve a proposal from Northwater Company for \$25,000 for a water shed study on Hillsboro Old Lake. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve a RFQ for the Fairground Ave. construction project. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Ward to approve a proposal from Hurst & Rosche to do an environmental assessment from the Dog Park through Central park for the OSLAD Grant for a cost of \$2,500.00. This was only for discussion so no action was taken.

Commissioner Butler started discussions on reinstating the dog ordinances for the City. Butler said he took a walk around town and some issues with dogs and thinks something needs to be reinstated and maybe reopen talks with the County reference to

the dog pound and Mayor Downs said talks are ongoing. Butler said he will bring this topic back for the next meeting.

Commissioner Butler started discussion on the sidewalks around the Courthouse Square. Butler said meetings had been held with the County to look at the sidewalks. Butler said the City hopes to do some sidewalks in the area and he thinks it looks bad and the City probably needs to help since it is the focus of Main St. and some of the sidewalks are the City's responsibilities.

Commissioner Butler started discussion on the purchase of a barge for the City. Butler said the barge is needed to work on the lake if the City is going to get serious. Butler said they looked at a barge in Taylorville and it is the same barge Litchfield purchased for their lake. Butler said the barge is large enough to put equipment and riprap on to property fix the lake. Butler said the cost is around \$150,000 so he will be discussing it for the next budget. Butler said there is money left in the ARPA funds if he can use it.

**Motion to Adjourn was made at 7:53 pm by Commissioner Butler** and seconded by Commissioner Ward. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory M. Davidson, City Clerk

# Parks & Public Properties Dept. Work Summary

## Council Meeting Report-February 7, 2023

- Checking buildings/heat, servicing dog park, emptying trash cans, picking up trash, etc.
- Met with and received bids from three tree services for tree removal in parks
- Worked with City treasurer streamlining budget for upcoming fiscal year and working to prepare budget proposal
- Demolition of plaster and lathe at the former rent house at the Harkey House is complete. We are now working on structural stabilization and updating the wiring. Replacement windows have been ordered, as well.
- NRCS has approved full funding for an in depth dam assessment for Glenn Shoals dam
- Continued work with CTI for wifi equipment replacement at Sherwood Forest Campground
- Met with Fred, Jeremy, and Sarah about 2023 OSLAD grant application objectives
- Went to B&R Construction with Fred & Sarah to learn more about a barge for Glenn Shoals Lake
- Met with Fred and McFarlins finalizing land swap
- Made repairs to some of the downtown holiday decorations
- Servicing and repairing lawn equipment for spring readiness
- Hiller's Sheet Metal replaced the furnace at the office/shop
- Terry Richmond made repairs to the ceiling and repainted walls and ceiling in the men's restroom at the Challacombe House
- City Hall created online payment portal for seasonal camper and boat permit fees
- Continued work with David McCormack designing disc golf course
- Continued work on setting up guidelines for adjacent landowner land sale
- Spread ice melt on downtown sidewalks after freezing rain and snow
- Conducted controlled burn at the Sports Complex prairie restoration area with Ken Schaal and Don Krefft

# STREET DEPT. REPORT

1. REPAIRED WATER LEAK AT SEWER PLANT
2. PLOWED SNOW AND SPREAD SAND
3. INSTALLED "DO NOT ENTER" SIGN ON WAIT ST.
4. LOOKED OVER VEHICLES AND HAD THEM STATE INSPECTED
5. LEVELED OFF BRUSH PILE
6. LOCATED AND DISCONNECTED 2 SERVICE LINES FOR HOUSES TO BE TORN DOWN
7. CONTINUED WORK ON POLE BARN
8. CONTINUED WORKING ON DRAW DOWN SYSTEM FOR THE OLD LAKE

SINCERELY,  
JUSTIN

## Water:

So far the Filter media that was replaced is still settling in. We do not have a good indication yet on performance improvements but it is starting so signs its heading that way.

The two windows on the front of the Water Plant were replaced by St Jacob's glass. You can not tell the difference from the others.

The Raw Water Generator suffered an error in the Automatic Exercise function. The batteries in the unit are getting aged and required a jump. A trickle charger was purchased as a backup in case it happens again, but we will have Cummins replaced them this spring when they come to service it.

We will be collecting a new sample next week for PFAS and submitting for analysis. This new sample requirement is paid for by US EPA, as of now, and will be monitored quarterly.

## Sewer:

We suffered an issue with the South Trickling Filter. The unit looks to have blown a seal on the rotating distributor. We have reached out to Walker Process (the Manufacturer) for the parts to repair. More to follow on this.

A check valve on #1 trickling filter had a mechanical issue and caused a sewer leak. The valve vault has a drain that goes to the creek and not the head of the sewer plant. We have another one that is having issues so we will need to order two. The hut that was constructed over top of them will be removed as its now rotten.

Two floats at the beach house were replaced as were floats at the Main Pump station.

**Tim Ferguson**

Project Manager | Associate Principal

Economic Development and Community Planner Report 2/7/2023

Continue to work on web design and social media campaigns and tourism efforts.

Met with Imagine Hillsboro for the Shop Hillsboro efforts going on for Mardi Gras and for April/Easter events.

Met with Nancy Slepika Monday about the Looking for Lincoln application.

Jeremy and I continue to work on plans for the OSLAD grant.

Traveled with Fred and Jim to Taylorville last week to meet with B&R Marine to get some quotes and information on a barge for lake improvements.

There was a Smithsonian meeting at the library meeting Monday night for the committee to get the lay of the land in the basement.

I've been attending County meetings in order to stay in tune with what is happening at the county level and communicate pertinent information to the council and to Cory, City Clerk.

There are a few of us going on Thursday to a Great Rivers & Routes Event in Collinsville.

Feb 21-23 I will be in Springfield attending the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference bring put on by the Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs. I will also be a presenter along side Valerie Belusko to discuss the CORI study that MCEDC has been conducting.