

**Hillsboro City Council Meeting  
November 10, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Roll call was taken and those present were Acting Mayor Duncan and Commissioners Downs, Murphy and Robbins. Acting Mayor Duncan and Commissioner Murphy joined remotely.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Commissioners' reports:

Commissioner Robbins read his report from the parks department and reminded everyone to please pick up their political signs.

Commissioner Murphy offered Stewart to help pick up brush and leaves around town if the street department needed help. Murphy also asked everyone to pick up their political signs and don't blow leaves in the street. Murphy thanked the Council and everyone at large for the condolences for the loss of his grandmother. Murphy also thanked Chief Leetham and Ofc. Satterlee for the escort and blocking traffic for the route to the cemetery.

Commissioner Downs discussed the Park St. waterline that was replaced by the homeowner and the City's line from the curb stop to the main was copper so it didn't need to be replaced. Downs said there are some trees that need to be removed behind Paris Frozen Foods near the lift station. Downs thanked Imagine Hillsboro, the hospital junior board and the Presbyterian you group for the rake and run and gave his condolences to Commissioner Murphy.

Acting Mayor Duncan said work will begin on the tax levy for approval.

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

City Engineer was not present.

Public Comment:

kaitlyn Voyles addressed the Council on the reverse Christmas Parade and the Council seemed to be interested in allowing the parade which kaitlyn said would involve floats being parked people driving by to view the floats.

Eric Bradley addressed the Council on the Summer St. sewer line issue and said he is just asking for a resolution to the issue that's why he asked to be on the agenda. Bradley was told it is on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the 10 year strategic plan for the City of Hillsboro. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to adopt Ordinance No. 1708 an Ordinance rezoning property located along Industrial Dr, and Smith Rd. from R1-residential to I1-industrial. Pin #'s for the property are 16-01-476-002 and 16-12-201-001. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Downs** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve paying bills for the month of November in the amount of \$456,647.84. Motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Robbins abstaining because of a family conflict.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins** and seconded by Commissioner Downs to approve the 2021 property, liability and work comp insurance with ICRMT for a cost of \$169,886. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins** and seconded by Commissioner Downs to approve a lease with Sumnerone for a new copy machine. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Downs** and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve advertising for the water clerk position. Motion carried 4-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Downs** and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to make a decision on the Summer St. sewer and storm sewer issue. Downs said the City has discussed the issue for the last several meetings and both lines have been located and are under the two houses to the west and two residents want to build garages. Downs said something needs to be done and a Hurst & Rosche said the lines could be moved and Downs said he would like to work with all three home owners and see what could take place to help the homeowners because the City can't take on all the expenses. Eric Bradley asked where the City would like to move onto and the Downs said he doesn't know but would like to get all the homeowners together to come up with a resolution. Downs said the lines were there before the two west houses were built. Downs said that was the Bell Addition and there are no records anywhere. Attorney Hantla said his concern is the City probably has this all over town and no one knows who did and he thinks the City needs to keep in mind no matter what they decide to do it will set a precedent and may cause problems down the road. Hantla said the City just needs to proceed with caution and a policy needs to be in place on how to deal with this issue all over town. Bradley asked how the City can make a decision on the issue if they don't know how much it would cost and City Clerk Davidson said the ballpark figure is \$75,000. Bradley asked whose responsibility is it if there is damage under the houses in the future and Hantla said it should have been looked into by the homeowners. Tim Ferguson said Bradley's property has no safety concern because it is not under his house and Bradley said it diminishes the value of his property. Ferguson said Bradley knew the sanitary sewer line ran out the back of his house when he went to purchase the house. Bradley said if the City is not taking responsibility then they don't own the lines and can't fix the lines and Hantla said they can if there is a safety issue by eminent domain if necessary. Talks continued from Bradley trying to say it was a safety issue now and Hantla said there needs to be a workable solution if this is going to work. Bradley said he would have to speak with real-estate attorney after Hantla told him he doesn't know if the City is responsible for the line and telling Bradley that it he couldn't answer the question. Bradley said it is causing issues already and Ferguson said there are multiple sewers all over town that run 1,000's of feet and could cause problems. Ferguson said the sewer was there before the houses and Bradley agreed with that. Downs said he would like to get everyone in a room and discuss the issue. Downs said he would set up a time with everyone to meet and discuss the issue.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins** and seconded by Commissioner Downs to approve a closed session on 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(1) "personnel" at 8:04 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Roll call to back into regular session at 8:52 pm with all Acting Mayor Duncan and all Commissioners present.

There was no action taken on personnel.

**Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:52 pm by Commissioner Robbins** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cory M. Davidson, City Clerk

# **Parks &Public Properties Dept. Work Summary**

## **Council Meeting Report-November 10, 2020**

- Mulching and mowing in parks and public properties
- Began end of season maintenance and repairs of mowing equipment
- Replaced tires on Dodge Dakota
- Gathered information, prints, utilities maps, etc. and sent off to Burbach Aquatics
- Built bridge over ditch and continued clearing bush honeysuckle and establishing trail at Challacombe and Williams Park
- Worked with street departmentpouring concrete under Meisenheimer Bridge
- Began end of season procedure and maintenance at Sherwood Forest Campground
- Winterized 4<sup>th</sup> of July Point restrooms, Little John, and campground shower house
- Poured two sections of new sidewalk at Sports Complex
- Burned prairie grass area at Sports Complex

Community and Economic Planner Report, 11/10/2020

-The Strategic Plan is done and ready for your approval. I will say more about that when we get to the agenda item, but with your approval, we are ready to produce 50 copies of the plan. It will also go up on the website for anyone wanting digital copies. We strongly encourage everyone to use the PDF, but if you want a printed copy, we will have them available at city hall when we open back up.

-Also, I'm pleased to announce that as of this meeting, the Hillsboro marketing website has gone live. Please check out [www.headtohillsboro.com](http://www.headtohillsboro.com) for a full view of the site and I'm going to point out some features. Keep in mind this is a "living" project, one that we will be constantly adjusting according to community events, needs and constructive criticism. It will be a vital corner stone for Hillsboro as we reach out to the world and tell them we are here. In fact, the Chamber of Commerce will be discussing how to move forward with marketing the town at their Thursday meeting, which Mayor Duncan and I will be attending.

I'm really grateful to my team who helped me put this together; Kaitlyn Fath, the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, Dustin Jones, the president of Imagine Hillsboro, Quincy Egert, head of marketing for Atlas 46, Bethany Martin and Tori O'Dell, writers/editors for The Journal-News. Plus, we had a number of people from the community give their insight, critiques, and suggestions. I keep saying it over and over, but it's the community that makes this town move forward. I was talking to the state economic development office last week and they were highly impressed with how Hillsboro has navigated the COVID-19 crisis that is slamming our small towns in Illinois. I told them it was a team effort that involved everyone and it's just excellent to see how everyone has banded together. The website became a personification of this fact, and I'm really grateful to be a part of the team that's making it all work.

-Tomorrow afternoon at 2:30, another company is going to announce they are coming to Hillsboro. Everyone is invited, but social distancing will be observed and enforced. The event will be held at the Atlas 46 manufacturing plant with a social event afterwards. Further, the state economic development people will be in town, and they will be using the event to promote Hillsboro to a wider audience, using our new marketing website!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Weyer

Community and Economic Planner