

**Hillsboro City Council Meeting**  
**August 24, 2021**

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

Roll call was taken and those present were Mayor Downs and Commissioners Murphy and Wright. Commissioner Duncan was absent because of a school event and Commissioner Robbins was absent because of illness.

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Commissioners' reports:

Commissioner Robbins was absent and Mayor Downs read his reports and they will be included in the minutes.

Commissioner Murphy reported Mike Lee has been doing several things around town and Lee to speak. Lee said a tree had been cut down on School St. that was deemed dangerous and he has been working on tall grass and vacant properties. Lee said some building permits for fences have been issued, along with on stop order because it was in the neighbor's yard. Lee said some of the biggest problems are tall grass in ditches and boulevards because Coach Stewart isn't around as much. Commissioner Murphy asked Mayor Downs if that issue could be worked on and they agreed it could be. Lee said the Marley house is being purchased by a neighbor and will be torn down in the near future. Murphy said there are some citations coming due and Hantla said they have been continued to September 21<sup>st</sup>. Murphy reminded everyone that the boulevards are the homeowners responsibility according to the City Code. Murphy said he spoke with Chief Leetham and Chief Lyerla and they will be getting together with the Police & Fire Board to do advertisements for hiring both police officers and firefighters. Murphy again reminded everyone to call the police if they have a problem or see something wrong, do not put it on Facebook.

Commissioner Duncan was absent.

Commissioner Wright read her report for the water and sewer departments and they will be included in the minutes.

Mayor Downs let everyone know the street department received their new truck and it has nice new lettering on it and other trucks in the department were also done or will be done soon by Jorns Sign Company. Downs said he spoke with IDOT on the traffic signal project and they will begin working on the project the week after Labor Day and should be complete by the end of October. Downs said work has started on S. Main St. by the new library and when it being done the road will be closed from Bre's Bee Hive to Napa and the Hamby's put a new water line in their building. Downs said the backside

of the Corner Block Building is getting worse and needs to be addressed along with the West wall at the World Harvest Church. Lee said they are not taking down the top half of the back building and will be replacing the wall with volunteer work. Lee said the wall should be done by winter. Downs said he met with local law enforcement leaders at LLCC in Litchfield to discuss issues facing law enforcement and how to work with the issues. Downs gave his condolences to the family of John Gusick.

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

City Engineer was not present.

Public Comments:

Dave Stromatt addressed the Council and said the workers fixing the water leak in front of his building did a good job working to fix it but then complained about the noise caused by making the repairs. Stromatt asked if he would appreciate a warning next time so he can adjust his work. Stromatt also addressed the Council as a member of the Glenn Shoals Lake Club and wanted to know if and when the City will be placing money back into the lake that was taken away years before. Stromatt said the Lake Club has put a lot of money into the lake and the City needs to return some of the money to the lake. Stromatt said the Lake Club bought buoys to put on the lake and that hasn't been done yet and he know they were delivered to the City so they need to be placed in proper spots around the lake. Mayor Downs thanked Stromatt for addressing the Council with his concerns.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve paying bills for the month of August in the amount of \$379,762.79. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the development of a bike trail and mixed use space on public property located east of Sherwood Forest Campground. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve an agreement with Tony Marcolini to place swag lights over Wood St. between S. Main St. and Gunning St. using his building and Sullivan Drugs to hang them. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve accepting ownership of the improvements for The Hills project and Kennedy Court project. After discussion on the City waiting to approve the acceptance pending the results of a final test on a water line from the EPA there was no action taken.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve a proposal from Hurst & Rosche to inspect Glenn Shoals Dam and Shoal

Creek Structure No. 5. **Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to amend the original motion to include the maintenance statement for Lake Hillsboro. Amended motion carried 3-0. **Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the original motion as amended. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve an amended water purchase agreement with Schram City. The amendment was for the length of the agreement to extend 35 years. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Wright** and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve repairs to a pump at the water treatment facility by Illinois Electric Works for a cost of \$6,657.50. Motion carried 3-0.

Agenda item No. 16 a motion to approve remodeling the exterior of the Fireman's Clubhouse was pulled by Mayor Downs.

Agenda Item No. 17 a motion to approve replacing a main electrical panel in Sherwood Forest Campground by Mondin Electric 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 for Chris Casey for property located at 421 & 423 S. Main St. in Hillsboro. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve a \$4,000 Façade Improvement Grant for Ryan & Lesley Hamby for property located at 305 & 307 S. Main St. in Hillsboro. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve a \$2,000 Façade Improvement Grant for Ben & Amanda Cunningham for property located at 130 E. Seward St. in Hillsboro. Motion carried 3-0.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve a \$2,000 Façade Improvement Grant for Jacob Fleming for property located at 218 S. Main St. in Hillsboro. Motion carried 3-0.

Agenda item No. 22 a motion to approve paying Bills Home Improvement for work done using the housing rehabilitation grant was pulled from the agenda by Mayor Downs.

**Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:09 pm by Commissioner Wright** 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-August 24, 2021

- **Mowing in parks, lakes, and public properties**, emptying trash cans, servicing dog park, spraying weeds, trimming limbs, weed eating, etc.
- Detention pit at Sports Complex has been completely dug out and is ready for material dug from decant pond
- Hauled some dirt to 617 Lakeview Dr. and Glenn Shoals emergency spillway area
- Completed repairs at Harkey Rental
- Working on OSLAD Grant application, gathering materials, etc.
- Chased down water leak at the pool
- Ordered F-350
- Ordered mower

## STREET DEPT.

1. INSTALLED NEW FIRE HYDRANT ON MAIN ST.
2. RAN DURA PATCHER
3. RAN STREET SWEEPER
4. CONTINUED CONCRETE WORK ON SUMMER ST.
5. REPAIRED WATER LEAK ON CHASE ST.
6. PICKED UP BRUSH AND LEAVES
7. HELPED SEWER PLANT LOCATE A SEWER ON FAIRGROUND
8. DID STREET DEPARTMENT THINGS

## Public Utility Report August 24, 2021

### Water:

- Worked with the construction crew for the new O'Reilly's Auto Parts store to get connected to water and sewer. They were able to hook to both utilities in the rear of the property.
- Collected boil order samples for the two areas that experienced water main breaks (S. Main by Courthouse and Chase St). Both samples were satisfactory and the boil orders were lifted last week.
- Suffered an electrical issue on August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Water Plant while Ameren was replacing a fused disconnect on the incoming power feed. A control breaker which feeds the entire low voltage system at the plant tripped out and would not reset. After troubleshooting the matter, it was determined this piece of equipment had a "cool down" period before it would reset, and needed all electrical load taken off the circuit. The water plant was able to return to service after an approximate 2 hours downtime. Plant personnel now have a SOP on how to reset this equipment. Also, it provided insight on a potential critical equipment failure. If this breaker or transformer were to become damaged, it would cripple the plant. We are currently looking into creating an action plan on how to supply backup power to this part of the plant.
- Water quality from Glenn Shoals has been fluctuating greatly in pH and ammonia levels over the last few weeks. We have not seen any adverse affects at this time, but we are monitoring it closely.
- Received word on a further price increase regarding one of our treatment chemicals. Reaching out to other vendors and utilities but these price hikes seem to be industry wide. At this time, we have no issues with receiving product though.
- Tim Ferguson has been assisting Schram City on various regulatory paperwork for their water supply. The contract operator the City retained retired the end of June and they have been without since. They have an individual already hired that is in the process of taking over that responsibility.

### Sewer:

- Retrieved a section of ruptured jetter hose from the Chase Street sewer. When staff pulled it out, there was a large amount of grease accumulated on it. There are two possible food establishments that tie into the that area of sewer. Reaching out to both and requesting inspection and cleaning records on their grease traps.
- Delivered pictures of a sewer tap with severe root growth to a property owner on Fairgrounds. We have had several residences with backups but all have been attributed to private matters concerning roots in their laterals.
- One of the floating mixers in the excess flow lagoons burned up. We have had issues with this unit before and are working with the equipment manufacturer to see if warranty is applicable again. Two of these were installed last year to help with odor and water quality issues during rain events.

\*\*The new water bill/payment system will be online 9/1, the web address will be on your next statement but you can also access it at [hillsboroillinois.net](http://hillsboroillinois.net). With this new system, debit/credit card payments will have a \$3 processing fee. There will also no longer be "reminder" phone calls before shut-offs or late fees. I urge all citizens to set-up autopay to avoid late fees, shut-off fees, or processing fees. If you do mail payments, be sure to send these payments early as the USPS service is lacking at this point. Payments are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> each month.

\*\* Remember please do not flush wipes or feminine hygiene of any kind. Even if it says "flushable" as our sewer was not designed to handle those items. We are currently working on installing equipment to isolate the culprits of this violation.

## **Community and Economic Planner Report 08-24-21**

There's a lot to report on this week...

-We will be having a gigantic announcement on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M at The Orpheum and then an after party at Opera House. The Council knows about this announcement and we want everyone to come celebrate with us!

-The Center on Rural Innovation study has kicked off. Valerie and I are leading this effort. This is a vital study MCEDC is doing, with Hillsboro as a main center, which will help us and the county plan for a digital future. We just passed our economic development plan that's committed to working on a Regional economy. Here's why that's important. We can only do so much in Hillsboro and we need all our regional partners to make a digital economy fly.

-Along those lines, the South Central Illinois Innovation of Job Center will be sending The Council an invitation for the official announcement in the coming weeks. This is an effort led by Dr. David Lett to come up with a center that's focused on job training and helping people find different futures. It is a vital part of our region's future. Their vision is Dr. David Lett, who is leading the effort to form the South Central Illinois Regional Workforce Training and Innovation Center. The vision is to be the regional workforce training and innovation hub for agriculture, manufacturing, trades, technical and entrepreneurial initiatives. It will serve Macoupin and Montgomery Counties with the main location being in Litchfield, as the geographical center of these regions. Hillsboro will play a vital role in its development and future. It is a vital piece for our region and for our town. I've been asked to be on the oversight board which will be official towards the end of September and the beginning of October. This center will serve Macoupin and Montgomery County. I'm working with the Mayor and David on a date when he can address the Council.

-Myself and Kaitlyn Fath are working on some training opportunities for our local restaurants. I hope to have more information at the next council meeting.

-The Growth Management Plan is on track for a December rough draft to be presented to the Planning Commission and the Council. The committee has done a fantastic amount of work and I'm grateful for everything they've done so far.

-OSLAD Grant is about 75 percent done and we are on track for the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

-The Coop is still going to open, but due to building ownership transition, it will be in October.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Weyer  
Community and Economic Planner.