

**Hillsboro City Council Meeting
September 28, 2021**

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

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

The "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Commissioners' reports:

Commissioner Robbins read his reports and they will be included in the minutes. Robbins said he received a phone call from a woman complaining that there was no stop sign at Laundry St. & Rountree St. and said there has never been one there.

Commissioner Murphy thanked Shawn Ballant for talking with him on the radio. Murphy said the display of profanity around town needs to stop and the City will not allow it but also will not limit free speech so the profanity needs to be edited. Murphy said the citizens need to do better and take them down and put up an American flag and maybe volunteer around town to help out instead of making that type of statement. Murphy reminded everyone that the public dumpsters are not for personal use and they need to mow their grass all the way to the street. Murphy said Coach Stewart had a birthday and said everyone needs to be respectful of each other with the turmoil going on in the school district.

Commissioner Duncan was absent.

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

Mayor Downs said there is going to be a price increase on sewer rates and with the latest lift station issue it just keeps costing the City more and can't absorb the costs anymore. Downs reminded everyone to take their yard sale signs down and do not attach them to street signs, traffic posts, etc. and again to take them down. Downs asked about the corner block building, World Harvest Church and the burnt out building on Main St. and Mike Lee said the initial hearing is set for October on the corner block building and Lee said it was on his list to speak to the owners of the burnt out building. Shawn Huber spoke on the church and said the church has had the building looked at and they are speaking with another brick layer and they are going to start support on the building soon and then start work on repairing the building. Huber said he hopes to have the work completed by winter. Downs reminded everyone of the Harvest Market on Main St. coming up on Saturday.

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

City Engineer was not present.

There were no public comments.

Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve closing Main St. for the trick-or-treat trail on October 29th from 12p – 4p. After discussion and concern for businesses with the road being closed **motion was made by Commissioner Murphy** and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to table the approval until business owners could give their opinion. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve the annual \$26,400 dock lease payment to Glenn Shoals Lake Club. Motion carried 4-0.

Agenda item No. 11 was pulled from the agenda by Mayor Downs.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve allowing the City Attorney Hantla to draft an ordinance amending section 38-2-1(7)(8) of the city code. After discussions it was decided to draft an ordinance to increase the late fee to 15%, remove the \$100 past due, and increase fees to \$40 per shut off and on if delinquent and \$25 dollars for owners. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve a \$11,000 payment to Dunham Independent, Inc. for work administration work done for the housing grant. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Wright to approve purchasing a culvert from Metal Culverts, Inc. for a cost of \$9,974.40. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve purchasing a radio and phone recorder for the police dept., fire dept., and city hall radios and phone from GTSI for a cost of \$8,525. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve purchasing radios for the auxiliary police dept. and city hall. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Robbins and seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve trick-or-treating hours for the city of October 30th and 31st from 6p – 8p. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve hiring Angela Holcomb as the water clerk and she is to receive full pay during her 6-month probation. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright and seconded by Commissioner Robbins to approve developing a city employee handbook. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion to Adjourn was made at 8:13 pm by Commissioner Robbins 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-September 28, 2021

- **Mowing in parks, lakes, and public properties**, emptying trash cans, servicing the dog park, spraying weeds, trimming limbs, weed eating, etc.
- Released 3,333 6-8" largemouth bass into Glenn Shoals Lake from Herman Brothers Fisheries
- Trenched in fiber optic cable from St. Shed to Parks office for CTI phone and internet
- Trim work on garage door and retaining wall work at the shop
- Ordered materials for Fireman's Clubhouse
- Repaired leak at City Hall
- Met with lake adjacent landowner for dock installation approval
- Planted grass seed at newly graded slopes at Central Park
- Cleaned up hickory tree at the Fireman's Clubhouse
- Made multiple electrical repairs in the campground
- Repair and service work on mowers

STREE DEPARTMENT STUFF

1. Picked up brush
2. Finished oiling the streets
3. Ran street sweeper
4. Patched potholes
5. Ran dura-patcher
6. cleaned storm grates
7. Poured more sidewalk on E. Summer St.
8. Mowed right-of-ways
9. Repaired water leak on Ash St.
10. Picked up dead raccoon on E. Water St.
11. Straightened STOP sign on E. Brailey St. at East St.

Public Utility Report Sept. 28, 2021

Water:

Water quality from Glenn Shoals has returned to normal. No issues with manganese or ammonia at this time.

Hydrant Flushing started the week of the 20th. Seeing a few hydrants that are running a little dirtier than last year but that is good since the phosphate program is working to remove unwanted build up in the mains.

Got word on another price increase on one of the chemicals at the water plant. Most of the reasoning seems to be lack of raw materials and delivery drivers.

We are working with CTI on getting the VOIP system setup at the treatment plant. This will tie us into the City's phone system to be able to transfer calls and such.

Midwest Meter provided training for water department staff on the new handheld reading unit. This looks to be a straightforward piece of equipment. The first time out with it will be later this week.

Sewer:

Called back out to Hickory Street lift station again due to pump failures. We pulled the pumps and lodged in pump were three socks (1 Adidas, 1 Nike, 1 Reebok) along with other fabric and materials. They were smaller socks, likely from a child. The socks were still white and in good condition meaning they had not been in the sewer very long ago. We have spoke with several homeowners on the street and informed them of the issues we are having.

We are in the process of performing a study on the pump station at Hickory St. to verify the station is sized appropriately for the elevation and flow. Once confirmed, the sewer department will bring a plan of action to the City for what work needs to be completed. This station was at the top of the list for rehabilitation and there are dollars in the budget for such.

Tim Ferguson has visited several sewer treatment plants in the STL area looking at technology for the new plant being designed. There should be a progress update in the next month or two as to where the City is in the project. A Geotechnical firm is onsite performing soil boring and analysis for the area. Survey boundaries and topographical analysis are set to be completed later next month.

Ameren and AECOM have wrapped up the first part of remediation at the old water plant site. This first section was on Ameren owned property. There was minimal ground water collected on this effort. A sample from the treatment vessel was collected (and observed by Tim) on the morning of Sept 27th. Results will be 10 days out and will determine if the City will allow for a discharge of the treated groundwater.

**The new water bill/payment system is online, if you experience any problems please call City Hall. Anyone that was already on auto debit doesn't need to do anything. I urge everyone else to sign up for auto debit to avoid late payment fees & future interruptions in service.

Community and Economic Planner Report 09/28/2021

-The Mental Health Summit is being planned for November 8th. It will include area leaders, at least for this first go around. We're hoping to expand it at future events. Again, this is in our Strategic Plan for the city and will start the conversation of how we can work together to meet the needs of those struggling with mental health issues.

-The Safe Ways to School grant is almost finished and will be submitted well before the deadline of September 30th. Next Tuesday, we will start looking at the downtown grant announced by the governor and the steps we need to take in order to complete it. It will be an extensive grant that will take every bit of the three months we will be working on it. More updates as we get a clear picture of how this will move forward.

-Lincoln Land Advisory committee update. Lincoln Land is looking to expand its services to the whole area and are seeing to increase their community update.

-The Center on Rural Innovation study is proceeding and we're working hard to meet their information requirements. It's a very extensive process as they are really going under the hood of our digital economy and where we stand right now.

-Mayor Downs extended an invitation to Dr. David Lett, who is leading the South Central Illinois Innovation and Job Center, to speak to the council on October 12th about the effort and how Hillsboro can be further involved. 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.

-Kaitlyn Fath and I are working on some training opportunities for our local restaurants. Stay tuned.

-The Growth Management Plan is on track for a December rough draft to be presented to the Planning Commission and the Council. The committee is submitting their reports to me so that I can start writing it up.

-The Economic Development plan is finished and is now posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Weyer
Community and Economic Planner.