

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS**  
**HILLSBORO CITY HALL**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

1. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Don Downs at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call was taken:

Present: Mayor Don Downs  
Commissioners Fred Butler, Tommy Justison, Patrick Ward and Kendra Wright

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Clerk David Jenkins  
City Attorney Chris Sherer  
Econ. Dev. & Community Planner Melissa Smith  
Police Chief Randy Leetham

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. **Public Comment:** Nancy Slepicka addressed the council regarding the quality of sound at the previous meeting, stating it was difficult to hear most of the meeting. She asked that new microphones be looked into so it would be better for those in attendance to hear. She also spoke about the naming of the pool. She noted the council passed an ordinance in February regarding sponsorship for public property. She read a section of the ordinance, specifically in reference to commercial advertising. She said she was encouraged about that section being present in the agreement.

Doug Donaldson addressed the council regarding the appointment of a member to the Natural Resources Committee. He said the NRC has recommended appointing him to the committee, but he is aware the mayor wants to appoint a different candidate. He stated he will not speak negatively about the other candidate. He also referenced a voicemail that was left by the mayor about the recommendation.

Dan Mulch addressed the council about wind energy conversion systems in Montgomery County. He stated there is a proposal from Pattern Energy to put a wind turbine system in the northern part of the county. He said he is reaching out to city councils, notifying these municipalities about their ability to enforce restrictions a mile and a half outside of their corporate limits. He added he would welcome the opportunity to speak with council members in the future about these projects.

5. Minutes of the March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026 regular meeting were approved as presented.

6. **Mayor and Commissioners' Departmental Reports:**

Mayor Downs addressed the Natural Resources Committee issue. He read a post that was issued on social media by a few community members, including Mr. Donaldson. He said some of the comments made on the post were untrue. He also stated the Natural Resources Committee wants Lake Patrol to be provided, and it will be done this year.

Written reports for the Streets and Public Properties Departments were submitted. Commissioner Butler reported the Street Department cleared a fallen tree on City Lake Road, and also picked up bagged lawn waste from residents' yards. Regarding Public Properties, he announced the City has been awarded the 319 Grant, which is much appreciated and needed. He thanked Jeff Boechler and Jim May for their work on securing the grant.

A written report for the Police Department was submitted. Commissioner Justison reported the Fire Department had 11 calls last month. Regarding Police, he stated he has spoken to the Natural Resources Committee Chair many times, and the request for Lake Patrol has never been brought up. Leetham stated staffing is going to be an issue this year as they will be down two officers this summer. Justison stated he is open to collaborating about what needs to get done, but it is inappropriate for other council members to dictate what other departments will do.

Commissioner Wright reported the Sewer Plant is still out of compliance, which is why the new plant is being built.

**7. Economic Development & Community Planner Report:**

A written report from the Economic Development and Community Planner was submitted. Smith reported they've met about the Rebuilding Downtown grant, and will have another meeting this Friday with Ameren included to discuss lighting. She reported she has over \$6,000 committed for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and the council will discuss a band for the event later in the meeting.

**8. City Engineer Report:**

Butler reported Broad Street will be bid out.

**9. Discussion / Action – Closing Water Street from Broad Street to King Street on May 9<sup>th</sup> for Montgomery County Historical Society Yard Sale:** The Montgomery County Historical Society, which is located at 305 South Broad Street, is seeking to close Water Street from Broad to their neighbor's driveway in order to accommodate a yard sale at the museum. The event will be held Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Linda Zimmer from the Historical Society addressed the council. Downs stated he had concerns about the neighbors ability to get in and out of their driveway, even if the yard sale does not block it. Zimmer said they could talk with the neighbors as well as the Police Department about some of the details. **Motion by Butler and second by Ward to table this item. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**

- 10. Discussion / Action – Replacing Steps at the Corner of Water and Broad Street with Ramp and Wood Street Sidewalk Replacement:** The Historical Society has requested the steps at the corner of Water and Broad Streets be replaced with a ramp. They have also indicated the sidewalk along from the brick portion to Wood Street needs replaced. Ward stated the City can see where this falls on the City’s list of sidewalks to repair. **No action was taken.**
- 11. Discussion / Action – Ordinance No. 1859 an Ordinance Approving Certain Amendments to the City of Hillsboro Zoning Map:** At the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the council adopted a resolution petitioning the Zoning Board to make recommendations for zoning classifications for the parcels that were annexed into the City recently. The recommendation is for two parcels to be reclassified from R-1 to R-2, and a third to be reclassified from R-1 to I-1. This ordinance approves those reclassifications. **Motion by Butler and second by Ward to adopt Ordinance No. 1859 an Ordinance Approving Certain Amendments to the City of Hillsboro Zoning Map. Wright abstained. Motion carried with a 4-0-1 vote in favor.**
- 12. Discussion / Action – Ordinance No. 1860 an Ordinance Authorizing a Redevelopment with Tony Dragoo Utilizing Tax Increment Financing for Renovations to 439 S. Main St.:** On March 3, the council voted to award a TIF Grant to Tony Dragoo for an amount not to exceed \$21,900 for half of the roof and half of the HVAC repair. **Motion by Ward and second by Butler to adopt Ordinance No. 1860 an Ordinance Authorizing a Redevelopment with Tony Dragoo Utilizing Tax Increment Financing for Renovations to 439 S. Main St. Justison and Wright abstained. Motion carried with a 3-0-2 vote in favor.**
- 13. Discussion / Action – Resolution No. 2026-10 a Resolution Approving a Sponsorship Agreement and Recognition:** The proposed resolution approves an agreement with Constitution Bank for \$100,000 in exchange for the naming of the new aquatic center to be called “Constitution Bank Community Aquatic Center” for a period of 25 years. The council discussed whether or not the name was too wordy. A suggestion was made to name it “Constitution Bank Community Pool,” however Ward and Wright both felt the facility was more than a pool with the incorporation of the splash pad and lazy river. The council agreed and moved forward with “Constitution Bank Community Aquatic Center.” **Motion by Wright and second by Butler to adopt Resolution No. 2026-10 a Resolution Approving a Sponsorship Agreement and Recognition. Justison and Ward abstained. Motion carried with a 3-0-2 vote in favor.**
- 14. Discussion / Action – Resolution No. 2026-14 a Resolution Authorizing and Approving an Entertainment Engagement Agreement Between the City of Hillsboro and La De Da Entertainment and Events, Inc. for Entertainment for the City’s Courthouse Lighting and 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** The City has a proposed agreement for entertainment to be provided at the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in the form of the band “Shotgun Creek.” The total cost associated with the agreement is \$3,400. The band will perform from 9 to 11 p.m. on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. **Motion by Wright and second by Ward to adopt Resolution No. 2026-14 a Resolution**

**Authorizing and Approving an Entertainment Engagement Agreement Between the City of Hillsboro and La De Da Entertainment and Events, Inc. for Entertainment for the City's Courthouse Lighting and 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**

- 15. Discussion / Action – TIF Redevelopment Grant Reimbursement to Breanna Spinner for Work Completed at 434 S. Main St.:** The council previously approved awarding a TIF Redevelopment Grant to Breanna Spinner for an amount not to exceed \$16,413.75. The grant covers 75 percent of the roof and guttering work on the building at 434 South Main Street. The total project cost was \$21,438.71, so the City's reimbursement amount is \$16,079.03. **Motion by Ward and second by Butler to approve the TIF Redevelopment Grant reimbursement to Breanna Spinner in the amount of \$16,079.03 for work completed at 434 S. Main St. Justison and Ward abstained. Motion carried with a 3-0-2 vote in favor.**
- 16. Discussion / Action – Reimbursement #2 to Jardogs.AI, Inc. in Accordance with the Business District Redevelopment Agreement:** This is the second reimbursement request submitted by Jardogs.AI. The requested amount is \$29,310 for HVAC, bathroom flooring, bathroom ceilings, and exterior doors. Under the agreement, the City will reimburse Jardogs for 100 percent of the work on the windows, masonry work, concrete work and parking lot improvements, while also reimbursing 50 percent of the plumbing work and 50 percent of the HVAC work. The maximum reimbursement amount is \$200,000, and the City has approved one reimbursement so far in the amount of \$116,410. Ward recommended tabling this item since most of the requested reimbursement amount covers items that were not covered under the original agreement. **Motion by Ward and second by Butler to table this item. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 17. Discussion / Action – Renewing the Line of Credit for the City of Hillsboro:** For several years, the City has maintained a line of credit with a local bank, with Constitution Bank (formerly Bank of Hillsboro) holding it the last few years. It is around this time each year the council votes to renew that line of credit, which is in the amount of \$300,000. **Motion by Wright and second by Butler to approve renewing the line of credit with Constitution Bank in the amount of \$300,000. Ward abstained. Motion carried with a 4-0-1 vote in favor.**
- 18. Discussion / Action – Pay Application #9 to Plocher Construction for Work Completed on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project:** This item was removed from the agenda. No action was taken.
- 19. Discussion / Action – Appointing/Reappointing Members to the Natural Resources Committee:** The Natural Resources Committee has a vacancy on their board that needs filled. They interviewed candidates Doug Donaldson and Isaac Law to fill the vacancy, and their recommendation is to move forward with Donaldson. The council tabled this item during their previous meeting after questions were raised about a potential conflict of interest with Mr. Donaldson also being the Montgomery County Board Chairman.

Downs stated his recommendation is to appoint Isaac Law to the committee. **Motion by Wright and second by Ward to approve appointing Isaac Law to a two-year term on the Natural Resource Committee, expiring March 2028. Butler and Justison voted no. Motion carried with a 3-2 vote in favor.**

20. **Discussion / Action – Purchasing Equipment for Live-streaming Meetings:** During the last meeting, the council discussed the possibility of live-streaming meetings in an effort to make them more accessible to the general public. If the council is to move forward with this, additional equipment will need to be purchased. Justison stated he asked the City of Litchfield what they do for live-streaming meetings, and they indicated they use YouTube. He said he also put a poll out on social media asking their opinions on live-streaming meetings, he said 175 people had responded favorably. Wright stated she believes streaming the meetings are fine, and it could be as simple as a phone or a tablet. Butler said he did not have a problem with streaming the meetings either. Downs stated he remained opposed. **No action was taken.**
21. **Discussion – Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget:** Ward stated he hopes to have this at the next meeting. He said revenues are up, but expenses are as well.
22. **Discussion / Action – Purchasing Property for the City of Hillsboro Police Department:** **Motion by Justison and second by Ward to approve a closed session in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(C)(5) the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor. The council entered into closed session at 7:49 p.m. Motion by Wright and second by Butler to return to open session. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor. The council returned to open session at 8:21 p.m. No action was taken.**
23. **Discussion / Action – Adjourn:** **Motion by Justison and second by Ward to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
David Jenkins, City Clerk