

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS
HILLSBORO CITY HALL
Minutes of the Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 5, 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
Deputy Police Chief Tim Hopper

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. **Public Comment:** Eric Bradley addressed the council regarding a potential ordinance to be passed regulating wind turbines. He expressed his gratitude to the council members for their willingness to proceed with regulating the turbines. He stated he was disappointed the council did not have an item on this evening's agenda regarding the issue, though he understood it is not a quick process. He encouraged the City to continue to have a dialogue with residents about the matter.

Ryan Bruntjen also addressed the council regarding wind turbines. He said he travels around the county seeing where each village stands, and he is present to gather information.

Trisha Cashera also addressed the council regarding wind turbines. She stated sometimes people in the country want to live a peaceful life, and these wind turbines can affect that. She expressed concerns about Pattern Energy's transparency, and also said she has a soft spot for those of elder age, and doesn't wish for them to be taken advantage of. She stated humming noises, lights, and diminishing nutrients for crops will be a result of these turbines being constructed.

Jonathan Fleet addressed the council regarding solar at the Water Treatment Facility. He said Ameren's energy prices are expected to increase 30 percent, and renewable energy should be what people are looking towards.

5. Minutes of the April 21st, 2026 regular meeting were approved as presented.

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

Mayor Downs stated he traveled to an area near Girard to listen to some of the wind turbines, but the wind that day made it difficult to hear them very well. He stated the council has been working with the attorney on getting legislation passed regulating these turbines. He said the City is going to push for some kind of regulation. He also addressed a successful end-of-season flag football tournament that concluded over the weekend, adding it was very well-attended. He also reported he signed an agreement with Direct Energy for the City's municipal aggregation for 12 months at 12 cents per kilowatt hour. Residents who do not wish to participate may choose to opt-out.

Written reports from the Streets and Public Properties Departments were submitted. Commissioner Butler reported the Street Department jetted quite a few culverts and continued working on the sidewalk along Corporate Drive. He reminded residents the time to cut grass has come and encouraged them not to blow grass into the roadways. Regarding Public Properties, he reported the Lake Glenn Shoals cleanup is May 18th through the 22nd. He also expressed his opposition to wind turbines, but stressed he is in favor of solar. He also reminded citizens to have packets ready for the upcoming elections as the current council's term will conclude April 30, 2027.

A written report from the Police Department was submitted. Commissioner Justison reported two building permits for solar arrays have been submitted, which will bring a total of \$97,000 in permitting fees. He reported the police responded to 475 calls in the month of April. He stated the council will later address Lake Patrol and the Code Enforcement within the City.

Written reports for the Water and Sewer Departments were submitted. Commissioner Wright reported the lake is very high and continues to rise as a result of ongoing precipitation. She stated the Water Plant hired a new operator, who began last week. She also encouraged residents to keep culverts clean of leaves and gumballs.

7. **Economic Development & Community Planner Report:** A written report from the Economic Development and Community Planner was submitted. Smith reported there will be several TIF and Façade grant applications on the next meeting's agenda. She stated she continues to work on sponsorships for the America 250 celebration.
8. **City Engineer Report:** No report was given.
9. **Discussion / Action – Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget:** Ward reported there was a \$23,000 surplus in the budget, which the council previously agreed to put back into the reserves once the marina was paid off. He also stated the budget includes funds for a new police vehicle and equipment for the fire department. **Motion by Ward and second by Justison to adopt the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget as presented. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
10. **Discussion / Action – Ordinance No. 1862 the Annual Appropriation Ordinance of the City of Hillsboro, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027:** Motion by Butler and second by Wright to adopt Ordinance No. 1862 the Annual

Appropriation Ordinance of the City of Hillsboro, Illinois for the Fiscal Year Ending April 30, 2027. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.

- 11. Discussion / Action – Map for the Courthouse Lighting and America 250 Anniversary Celebration on May 29, 2026:** Smith presented a map to the council members of the potential layout for the America 250 celebration to be hosted by the City on May 29, 2026. It will feature a stage for music, kids’ areas, food tents, and restrooms and handwashing stations. This would require most of the Courthouse Square to be closed along with Seward Street from the Square to Broad Street and Main Street from Water Street to the Square. Leetham stated the City would be better off closing down the entire Courthouse Square. **Motion by Justison and second by Wright to approve the Map for the Courthouse Lighting and America 250 Anniversary Celebration on May 29, 2026, including closing the Courthouse Square, Seward Street from the Square to Broad Street and Main Street from Water Street to the Square. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 12. Discussion / Action – Resolution No. 2026-15 a Resolution Authorizing and Approving an Agreement Between the City of Hillsboro and Alverson Sound Inc. for Mobile Stage Rental for the City’s Courthouse Lighting and 250th Anniversary Celebration:** The City has a proposal from Alverson Sound Inc. to provide a stage for the 250th Anniversary Celebration. The cost to rent the stage is \$2,000. **Motion by Butler and second by Ward to adopt Resolution No. 2026-15 a Resolution Authorizing and Approving an Agreement Between the City of Hillsboro and Alverson Sound Inc. for Mobile Stage Rental for the City’s Courthouse Lighting and 250th Anniversary Celebration. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 13. Discussion / Action – Resolution No. 2026-16 a Resolution Regarding the Closure of Illinois Route 16 and Illinois Route 127 for the Old Settlers Parade:** In order for the annual Old Settlers parade to take place along the state thoroughfares, the City must adopt a resolution requesting the street closures and send a copy to the Illinois Department of Transportation. **Motion by Butler and second by Justison to adopt Resolution No. 2026-16 a Resolution Regarding the Closure of Illinois Route 16 and Illinois Route 127 for the Old Settlers Parade. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 14. Discussion / Action – Reimbursement to AEJE Holdings (White & Associates) in Accordance with the Business District Redevelopment Agreement for Work Completed at 624 S. Main St.:** In October, the council adopted a resolution awarding a Business District grant to AEJE Holdings (White and Associates) for work on the building at 624 South Main Street. The agreement awards the company up to \$100,000 for the building’s roof repair. AEJE Holdings submitted invoices totaling \$202,165.09 for the cost of roof replacement and exterior work. This item was tabled during the previous meeting. **Motion by Ward and second by Wright to approve the Business District Grant reimbursement to AEJE Holdings in the amount of \$100,000 for work completed at 624 S. Main St. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**

- 15. Discussion / Action – Pay Application #10 to Plocher Construction for Work Completed on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project:** This item was pulled from the agenda. **No action was taken.**
- 16. Discussion / Action – Change Order #4 to the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Construction Agreement with Plocher Construction:** Change Order #4 contains changes to the Main Pump Station scope, including gutters and downspouts, along with flow meter manhole modifications, driveway relocation and bridge debris removal. It also includes credits for special foundations work and centrate piping that are no longer required. The total adjustment results in an increase of \$839,045.46, but no added time. **Motion by Wright and second by Ward to approve Change Order #4 to the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Construction Agreement with Plocher Construction. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 17. Discussion / Action – Amendment #4 to the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Design/Engineering Agreement with Woodard and Curran:** Amendment #4 to the Owner-Engineer Agreement with Woodard and Curran for the Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade includes SCADA integration services for the Main Pump Station, which brings an increase of \$40,000. Butler asked why the City is paying 20 percent on the main pump station. Wright said the City is not. She said Woodard and Curran could do the SCADA integration cheaper in-house as opposed to hiring a new company. **Motion by Ward and second by Wright to approve Amendment #4 to the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Design/Engineering Agreement with Woodard and Curran. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 18. Discussion / Action – Proposal from Keystone Holdings LLC to Install Solar Panels at City of Hillsboro Water Treatment Plant:** Wright reported she has looked into the City being able to afford solar panels. She said the approval tonight means the City will move towards the next step by entering into contract negotiations. She said the escalator is 1.25 percent per year, which protects the City from increases over the next 30 years. She stated the system is installed, maintained, and mowed within the fence. Justison asked for clarification regarding the setbacks of the panels to the neighboring residential properties. Wright said it looks tiny on the map, but there is a space of about 35-feet from the property lines. Wright stated this company has been around since 2012, and they've been doing projects in Illinois since 2018. **Motion by Ward and second by Wright to approve moving forward with negotiations with Keystone Holdings LLC to install Solar Panels at the City of Hillsboro Water Treatment Plant. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 19. Discussion / Action – Bid for Phase 3 of the Lead Service Line Replacement Project:** The City hosted a bid opening on April 29th for Phase 3 of the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. Two companies submitted proposals: MB Construction at \$42,238, and 3D Excavating at \$64,624. It is the recommendation of Woodard and Curran to accept the low bid from MB Construction. **Motion by Wright and second by Justison to accept the bid from MB Construction for Phase 3 of the Lead Service Line Replacement Project at a cost of \$42,238. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**

- 20. Discussion / Action – Repair of the City of Hillsboro Raw Water Pump Station:** The City received an estimate from Evapar for the repair of the raw water pump station for a total cost of \$3,918.04, which includes parts and labor. **Motion by Justison and second by Ward to approve the estimate from Evapar for the repair of the raw water pump station for a total cost of \$3,918.04. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 21. Discussion / Action – Repair of Lake Glenn Shoals South Marina Fuel System:** The fuel system at the south marina was damaged as a result of severe weather, and needs repaired. This has been turned in to insurance, but the City’s deductible is \$5,000. The City received an estimate from United Petroleum Service to repair the equipment at a cost of \$36,772.71. This item was tabled during the previous meeting. **Motion by Wright and second by Butler to approve paying for the repairs to the Lake Glenn Shoals South Marina fuel system up to the City’s insurance deductible amount of \$5,000. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 22. Discussion / Action – Hiring Campground Manager for the 2026 Season:** The City previously hired Bill and Lindy Armstrong as managers of Sherwood Forest Campground for the 2026 season. They notified Public Properties Superintendent Jim May last week that they will be unable to continue serving as hosts. Former managers Bill and Barb Sloop have agreed to serve as hosts for the remainder of the season. **Motion by Butler and second by Justison to approve hiring Bill and Barb Sloop as Sherwood Forest Campground Managers for the remainder of the 2026 season. Motion carried with a 5-0 vote in favor.**
- 23. Discussion – Business/Establishment Compliance with Hillsboro City Code Regarding Grease Interceptor Requests:** Wright reported the City changed the code a couple years ago saying businesses had to send grease trap interceptor information to the City on an annual basis. She said there are a couple businesses in town that refuse to submit their information, and she said there is currently no recourse for the City to force the businesses to comply. She said the City could shut businesses’ water off that do not comply, but she believes that may be a bit extreme.
- 24. Discussion / Action – Lake Patrol for the 2026 Summer Season:** Downs stated each of the council members have a list of holidays and holiday weekends that should be considered for Lake Patrol. Justison stated he spoke with a local conservation officer, adding many municipalities in the region do civilian patrol. Leetham stated most of the calls on the lake have been stranded boaters. He stated he cannot recall any major criminal issues occurring at the lake in recent years. Leetham said he is currently down two officers, stating one employee is on special assignment and the other has been told to utilize their time. Justison stated he is not trying to be obtuse about the issue, but he believes there are other ways the City could look at patrolling the lake. Hopper asked if the City could look into giving the Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Officer more responsibilities. Downs said the City has some options to consider. **No action was taken.**

- 25. Discussion – Code Enforcement for City of Hillsboro:** Downs stated this item is a continuation of the previous conversation. Leetham said Zoning Administrator Matt Lentz has been operating as a “clerk” of the code enforcement position. Downs stated he had concerns about Lentz being gone during the month of June and needing code enforcement to still take place. Leetham stated his department could take complaints, but response to said issues would be a challenge with the staffing issues discussed previously.
- 26. 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 8:19 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Jenkins, City Clerk