



# Clerkin' with David

February 20, 2025

## **Welcome!**

I'm thrilled with the response to the first printed 'Clerkin,' and I'm excited to bring you more information about what is happening in Hillsboro! The latest City Council meeting attracted a group of community members interested in learning the facts about what's going on with youth sports in the City. Here's what happened on Tuesday, February 18, 2025:

## **Rules for Baseball & Softball Field Usage at the Sports Complex**

The council approved rules for baseball and softball field usage at the Hillsboro Sports Complex. Prior to contracts being made available for the City's upcoming baseball and softball season, some City officials began discussing the possibility of collecting fees in exchange for use of the fields by teams that are not affiliated with the City's youth sports program. With its passage on Tuesday, those rules are now in effect.

These essentially amount to field rental fees. Recreational teams (otherwise known as teams that are organized as part of the City's youth baseball and softball program) do NOT have to pay any fees in order to use the fields. Additionally, travel teams (teams not part of the City's program) whose roster is constructed of no less than 100 percent of players participating in the City's recreational baseball program are exempt from paying field usage fees. There is no charge to use the field for practices.

For travel teams that do not have 100 percent participation in rec baseball, the fees are as follows: \$250 to host a two-day tournament; \$40 to host a doubleheader; and \$25 to host a single game. Spectators who attend tournaments will also be charged an admission fee of \$3.00 per adult (individuals 18 and older) and \$1.00 per child (individuals 17 and under). The City will be responsible for collecting admission fees and will keep said funds.

By adopting this kind of fee structure, the City hopes to accomplish a couple of goals. First, by not charging teams whose rosters are constructed entirely of players participating in recreational baseball, the City hopes it will maintain the integrity of the City-sponsored youth sports program and keep participation high. Second, it will increase revenue that will be put towards the maintenance of the Hillsboro Sports Complex.

## **New Lake Lot License Agreements**

Another topic of interest during the meeting surrounded usage of the City's lake lots. The council approved new license agreements for recreational use of the lots, which will replace the previously-named lake lot leases.

Currently, the lots (even though they are divided and numbered by the City) are actually one single piece of land. Rather than go through the process of dividing them all into separate parcels, the City is moving towards a license model, which will allow the City to continue maintaining the property as one piece.

One of the biggest changes, as mentioned during the meeting by Public Properties Supervisor Jim May, is requiring license-holders to remove certain items at the end of each season (October 31). Items that may remain in the offseason are defined in the agreements. In addition to approving the new licenses, the Council adopted an ordinance (no. 1817) amending the City Code to reflect the changes.

## **Questions?**

If you have any questions about what's going on with the City, you can contact the City Clerk's office by calling (217) 532-5566 ext. 2, or by emailing [cityhall@hillsboroillinois.net](mailto:cityhall@hillsboroillinois.net). Thanks for reading!

David Jenkins  
Hillsboro City Clerk