

Hillsboro, Kansas
October 3, 2023

1. The City Council met in regular session via Zoom and in person on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 6:30pm with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members Blake Beye, Brent Driggers, David Loewen and Byron McCarty participating.

Members Absent: None.

2. **Others Participating:** JT Klaus representing Triplett, Woolf & Garretson; Matt Stiles, City Administrator; Danielle Bartel, City Clerk; Eric Meyer, Hillsboro Star Journal; Ronald Wilkins, 606 S Lincoln; Jane Brotemarkle, 103 N Cedar.

3. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Lou Thurston called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

VOUCHERS in the amount of \$74,366.96.

MINUTES for the regular meeting dated September 19, 2023.

Council member Beye motioned to approve the consent agenda. Council member Loewen seconded. Motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Eric Meyer of the Hillsboro Star Journal spoke against designating the city website for official publications. Meyer referenced his letter to council and shared various reasons he does not believe the city website to be a viable option for legal publications.

6. **ANNUAL DEPARTMENT REPORT, DANIELLE BARTEL, CITY CLERK:** City Clerk Danielle Bartel provided an overview of office staff, continuing education, and highlights including process improvement and challenges faced in the last year. Bartel shared her goals for the upcoming year and described the proposed custodial position.

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

RESOLUTION 2023-10 – DESIGNATING THE CITY WEBSITE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS: Mayor Thurston referenced Meyer's comments and threat regarding legal action and asked for additional insight from JT Klaus of Triplett, Woolf & Garretson. Klaus provided an overview of the process to this point including the Attorney General's opinion. Council inquired if there are any current or pending lawsuits. Klaus stated he is not aware of any. He reiterated that the AG responded to the legislator on the city's request.

Administrator Stiles noted corrections to his staff report regarding the Star Journal's paywall and provided the path to access legal notices on their website. Stiles shared additional analytic information and stated that no additional comments have been received at City Hall regarding this topic.

Mayor Thurston reiterated that the Council has been charged with doing what's in the best interest of the City of Hillsboro and the citizens served in each council members' respective areas. He doesn't feel the Council should operate based on one's threats.

Council member Driggers motioned to approve Resolution 2023-10 designating the city website for official publications. Council member Beye seconded. Motion carried 3-1.

ORDINANCE 1378 – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR 205 N LINCOLN: Administrator Stiles reviewed the request and shared insight from the Planning Commission meeting. Since 2020, the City has issued seven similar conditional use permits. Stiles shared the Planning Commission's discussion about housing needs and noted a condition of this permit is that it expires in one year, at which point the owner would need to reapply.

Council member McCarty motioned to approve Ordinance 1378 allowing a conditional use permit at 205 N Lincoln. Council member Loewen seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR CUSTODIAN: Administrator Stiles reviewed the part-time position. He noted this position will be responsible for maintaining several city-owned facilities.

Council member Beye motioned to approve the custodian position description as presented. Council member McCarty seconded. Motion carried.

HILLSBORO FORD INVOICES: Administrator Stiles reviewed the Hillsboro Ford invoices. Council member McCarty motioned to approve payment to Hillsboro Ford in the amount of \$823.05. Council member Loewen seconded. Council member Beye abstained. Motion carried.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

HOUSING ASSESSMENT: Administrator Stiles presented the findings of the Hillsboro Housing Needs Assessment as prepared by Wichita State University. He noted the city’s strategic plan identifies childcare, housing and workforce development as the three top priorities. Stiles shared how Hillsboro compares to the state and national averages in several areas. He stated the assessment identifies the problem but does not solve the problem. Council discussion regarding vacant housing units, housing development options, and possible funding for housing.

9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Administrator Stiles reported on the following:

- Job Fair with CORE Communities
- Financial Report
- Conferences
- Peabody Water Issues
- Pool Report
- Fire Department Drone
- Public Power Week
- Mural Project

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ronald Wilkins of 606 S Lincoln inquired how an individual would access legal notices if they did not have access to the city website. Administrator Stiles shared that anyone could come to City Hall to view or obtain copies of legal notices.

Jane Brotemarkle of 103 N Cedar spoke of her intentional move to Hillsboro and research into this community. She also responded to the housing needs assessment and the struggle to find housing that fits one’s needs.

11. COUNCIL COMMENTS: Council member Beye inquired about the splash pad hours. Administrator Stiles noted it closed on October 1, 2023. Council member Loewen mentioned public power week.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Council meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

ATTEST:


LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR


DANIELLE BARTEL, CITY CLERK