Hillsboro, Kansas
May 26, 2020

1.  The city council met in special session via Zoom, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members David Loewen, Byron McCarty, Renee Gehring, and, Brent Driggers participating.

2.  Others Participating:  Marci Cain, Pool Manager; Doug Sisk, Recreation Director; Anthony Roy, Economic Development Director; Josh Boehm, City Attorney; Matt Stiles, Future City Administrator; Phyllis Zorn, Hillsboro Star Journal; Jonah Gehring, County Commissioner; Laura Paulus, Hillsboro Free Press; Kyle Roberts, Manager of McPherson Aquatic Center; Larry Paine, City Administrator; and, Jan Meisinger, City Clerk.

3.  **CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Thurston called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

4.  **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING CDBG-CV APPLICATION** – Anthony Roy, Economic Development Director, said he learned of a new CDBG Community Development Block Grant – CV two or three weeks ago.  These are federal funds that are administered by the KS Department of Commerce.  The federally mandated criteria is:  Benefits low and moderate income individuals; Removes or prevents slum or blight conditions; or, Eliminates an urgent need created by a disaster.  Hillsboro has a LMI of 37.5%.  Most CDBG programs need an LMI of 51% or more.  The CDBG-CV program has $9,000.000.00 available state-wide.  The Economic Development Grant can be used for working capital and purchases of inventory on for-profit businesses only with less than 50 employees.  Five or fewer employees is $25,000.00 per full-time employee, maximum amount per business is $30,000.00.  Six or more employees - $30,000.00 per full-time employee, maximum amount per business is $50,000.00.  The low to moderate income is the total household income, not just the wage of the employee.  Anthony said he has 10-12 businesses that he thinks would qualify.  This represents 30-40 jobs that should be LMI.  The City is asking for the full $300,000.00 (maximum award amount allowed).  If council approves the application, it will be submitted tomorrow.  The City will be notified within 15 days if we are approved, or denied.  Once we are approved, we will have to qualify the businesses that are interested in the program.  The City will receive the money in 10-14 days after the business is qualified for the program.  The City will then disburse the money to the businesses.  This would be on a first-come first-serve basis.  After further discussion, motion was made by Council member Loewen and seconded by Council member McCarty to authorize staff to submit the CDBG-CV application.  Council was polled with the following vote:  Council member McCarty, yes; Loewen, yes; Driggers, yes; Gehring, yes.  Motion carried unanimously.

5.  **SWIMMING POOL DISCUSSION** – City Administrator Paine said there were a number of things in play for opening the pool for the 2020 season.  He also had a list from the city clerk's list serve of cities who had made a decision to open or not.  Some are opening, some are closing; and, some are opening later in June. Mayor Thurston, Council member Driggers, Marci Cain, Doug Sisk, and City Administrator Paine had another discussion this morning about what it would take to open the pool.  All swimmers would have to have an annual pool pass.  (This could be a problem because not everyone can afford an annual pool pass).  Pool passes would only be sold to Marion County residents.  All deck furniture would be removed and patrons would have to bring their own chairs.  Social distancing would be required.  Guards would not enforce social distancing, their job is to monitor swimmers.  There would be two swimming sessions per day, swimmers in one cannot attend the other session.  CDC cleaning protocols would be employed.  Cleaning of all handrails and facilities, including restrooms, would be required after

each touch. Breaks would be extended during each session so more cleaning can be accomplished. Guards would rotate more frequently so cleaning activity could be accomplished. No additional swimming activity would be scheduled (lap swim, swim meets, swim parties, etc). Concessions would only be sold as prepackaged snacks. Guards would wear masks when not on duty. Marci Cain said if the pool opened, the guards would have to be constantly cleaning. Patrons can come at their own risk, but pool employees would be at risk too without a choice if they wanted the job.

Kyle Roberts said he was the manager at McPherson's Aquatic Center, which is professionally run year-round. After the research he has done, he felt it would be safe to open the pool in Hillsboro; and, people wanted the pool open. Marci Cain said she had been in public education for 31 years. School was stopped on a dime and they are still discussing what school will look like in fall. She said her heart wants to open the pool, but her head doesn't feel it's ok. Council member Gehring said she wanted to keep everyone safe. Mayor Thurston said he knew this was a difficult decision to make and the governing body will get a lot of pushback from the public. He said his heart hurt bad to take the pool away from the kids, but he didn't see how the rewards took away the risk. This is also a budget issue. Council member Driggers felt the list was very daunting and he didn't know how it could happen (as far as the cleaning) to keep people safe. Council member Loewen also expressed concern about the safety of swimmers and staff. Council member McCarty said he had received more comments from people who wanted the pool to open, but he too had concerns about everyone's safety.

After further discussion, motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to not open the municipal swimming pool for the 2020 summer season. Vote: Council member McCarty, yes; Council member Gehring, yes; Council member Loewen, yes; Council member Driggers, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. BOARD APPOINTMENTS** – none

**7. ADJOURNMENT** – Council meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.


_____/s/_____
LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:


_____/s/_____
JANICE K. MEISINGER, CITY CLERK