

Hillsboro, Kansas
September 15, 2020

1. The City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the City Hall East Meeting Room with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members Byron McCarty, Renee Gehring, Brent Driggers, and David Loewen present.

2. Others Present: Phyllis Zorn, Hillsboro Star Journal; Laura Paulus, Hillsboro Free Press; Brent Unruh & Brandi Barney, Fair Board; Kakim Kunantaev, The Insurance Center; Matt Stiles, City Administrator; and, Jan Meisinger, City Clerk. Absent: City Attorney Josh Boehm.

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS – none

5. MINUTES – Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Loewen to approve the minutes of the 9-1-2020 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. VOUCHERS – Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$84,954.46. Motion carried unanimously.

7. CDBG-CV CONTRACT FOR ADMINISTRATION – We met with Rosemary Saunders last week to discuss the CDBG-CV. The fee for administrative services will be \$10,000.00, which will come from CDBG-CV funds. One advantage to having Ranson Financial do the administrative work is that they will meet with businesses individually and confidentially to discuss eligibility. We feel the business will be much more likely to speak with Ranson than with the City when it comes to business financial information. Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve the contract for Ranson Financial to provide administrative services for the CDBG-CV funds. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ELCON INVOICES – Motion was made by Council member Driggers and seconded by Council member Loewen to approve Invoice 12317 to Elcon Services, Inc., in the amount of \$604.56, for repairs at the welding school; and Invoice 12312 to Elcon Services, Inc., in the amount of \$281.07, for various items for Sports Complex, Street & Sewer Departments. Vote: Council members McCarty, Driggers, & Loewen, yes; Council member Gehring, abstained. Motion carried.

9. LEAGUE VOTING DELEGATES – The annual League of Kansas Municipalities Conference will be virtual this year on October 13-16. The cost is \$100.00 per person, which will be covered by the City for those wanting to participate. If we want to participate in the business meeting, we are entitled to two voting delegates and two alternate voting delegates. Motion was made by Council member Driggers and seconded by Council member McCarty to select Mayor Thurston and City Administrator Stiles as voting delegates for the League meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

10. KPP VOTING DELEGATES – The annual KPP meeting will also be a virtual meeting this year in December. Motion was made by Council member Gehring and seconded by Council member Driggers to select Mayor Thurston as the voting delegate, and Council member Loewen and City Administrator Stiles as alternates. Motion carried unanimously.

11. PUBLIC POWER WEEK PROCLAMATION – Motion was made by Council member Loewen and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve a proclamation recognizing Public Power Week, October 4th-10th. Motion carried unanimously. KPP will be here in the morning on October 5th with their electric vehicle if anyone wants to test drive it.

12. GLANZER PRO AUDIO COUNCIL ROOM PROPOSAL – A bid was received from Glanzer Pro Audio to configure the council room to allow for remote citizen participation and broadcasting of meetings. This installation would provide more COVID-19 protection for the public and improve transparency. The package price is \$23,237.00. The project will also require some electrical work and we will need to paint the paneling to improve picture signal. We would submit the project to the Direct Aid portion of the SPARKS program. Currently, we have approximately \$40,000.00 allocated to Hillsboro. After further discussion, motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Gehring to approve the proposal from Glanzer Pro Audio. Motion carried unanimously.

13. FAIR BOARD – ALCOHOL USE IN 4-H BUILDING – Brent Unruh and Brandi Barney, representing the Marion County Fair Board, met with Council to discuss the possible use of alcohol in the 4-H building if they end up allowing the rental of this building for wedding receptions, etc. Kakim Kunantaev was also present to answer insurance questions. There was a lot of discussion on how that would work and if security would be required. This is one of the first steps needed in pursuing the use of the 4-H building as a community center with rental options. Mayor Thurston felt this would create more opportunities to bring people to Hillsboro and Marion County. After further discussion, motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Gehring to direct the city attorney to draft an ordinance (or resolution) to allow alcohol use on fairgrounds property (in buildings) and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fair Board and City on how alcohol is handled. Vote: Council members McCarty, Gehring, and Driggers, yes: Loewen, no. Motion carried.

14. SUNDAY LIQUOR SALES – Mayor Thurston said the owner of the liquor store, Don Vinduska, asked about allowing Sunday liquor sales in Hillsboro. Since Hillsboro doesn't allow Sunday liquor sales, they can't sell alcohol on Monday holidays either. Harvey County and City of Marion allow Sunday liquor sales beginning at noon. This would also allow Sunday beer sales at Dollar General and Casey's. Mayor Thurston said he felt this was more of an economic issue than a moral issue. Item deferred until the next city council meeting.

15. BOARD APPOINTMENTS – none

16. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT –

Fiber Project – The preconstruction conference for TCW's fiber project occurred on Wednesday, September 9th. The project is scheduled for 157 days, weather permitting, starting on September 21st. The marketing blitz will begin next week as TCW staff will be in town signing up business customers. Since the project is a partnership with the City, we will also be including a utility bill insert in an upcoming billing. This build will make Hillsboro one of a handful of Kansas communities with a Gigabyte Smart Community designation. That is a huge deal when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses and workers. The install will be done in 6 phases starting with the downtown area and the connection to the loop on US-56. City Hall, water plant, and electric/street shop will be in the first phase.

Hillsboro Healthcare Clinic – The Hillsboro Healthcare Clinic is currently working on an expansion of their downtown location. They have purchased the two adjacent buildings and begun demolition. We are in the process of approving their final plans for the facility. The Hillsboro Healthcare Clinic is part of the Herington Hospital system, not affiliated with the Hillsboro Community Hospital.

Old Hospital/Salem Home – The sprinkler work at the hospital is now complete. Salem Home’s sprinklers are now up and running, requiring no further fire watch. The issue about splitting the fire sprinkler systems was to have been done back before Salem Hospital left the facility. We are working to get that situation taken care of too. Since it wasn’t done correctly the first time, we feel that it should be the company that completed that work should do it free of charge. Tabor is now able to house students in the facility, though thankfully they have not needed to up to this point.

Community Plaza – Four companies submitted proposals for the design of the Community Plaza. The group that has been working on raising money for the project will be reviewing the proposals in the next few weeks.

Website Design – City Staff met with Baker Brothers on Friday, September 11th and saw the preliminary layout design for the City’s new webpage. They are going to take our feedback and begin tweaking the design elements. It’s a back and forth process, but we have a good start to the project.

KPP – Public Power Week is starting on October 5th, and we will have an electric vehicle demonstration that day from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at City Hall. The shirts that we ordered will also be coming in. We’ll want to try and get a picture with everyone in their shirts at some point during Public Power Week.

New Firefighter – David Lockwood has completed his prospecting period with the Fire Department and the members have voted to approve him being added to the department. David is a city employee who operates the trash truck. David is one of a half dozen prospecting firefighters that the department is currently considering.

SPARKS Funding – The State approved the Marion County Plan for the reimbursement stage of the SPARKS funding. The County Commission will need to approve the distribution of that money at their next meeting. Hillsboro is set to receive over \$16,000.00 in reimbursement as part of that package. The additional items that have been spent at the hospital for Tabor students will be placed into the next round of Direct Aid funding. The updates to the council room to allow teleconferencing will also be placed in that round.

17. ADJOURNMENT – Council meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

/s/
LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/
JANICE K. MEISINGER, CITY CLERK