

Hillsboro, Kansas  
November 17, 2020

1. The City Council met in regular session via Zoom, due to the Corona virus pandemic, on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members Renee Gehring, Brent Driggers, Byron McCarty and David Loewen participating.

2. Others Participating: Matt Stiles, City Administrator; Josh Boehm, City Attorney; Laura Paulus, Hillsboro Free Press; Phyllis Zorn, Hillsboro Star Journal; and, Jan Meisinger, City Clerk. Those listening, offering comments or chat text: Mark Rooker; Kevin Suderman; Jonah Gehring, Marion Co. Commissioner; Kiley Olephant; Deanne Duerksen; Megan Duggan; Sue Wadkins; Diedre Serene, Marion Co. Health Dept; Max Heinrichs; Tom & Glenda Stoppel; Darren Rempel; Bill Rudd; Dave Baker; Carla Hamm; Cait Hall; Terry Hagen; Coleen Koop; Chris Glanzer; Erin Hein; Carla Koslowsky; Jayson Hanschu; Sheryl Richert; Blake Beye; Brad Bartel; and, Shelby Wiens.

**3. CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Thurston called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Mayor Thurston asked that comments be limited to two minutes and asked that those comments be civil. City Administrator Stiles will act as moderator. If comments become uncivil, their microphone will be muted. Comments were received from County Commissioner Jonah Gehring, Max Heinrichs, Diedre Serene, Bill Rudd, and Mark Rooker – both for and against the mask mandate. The public comments portion of the meeting closed at 6:20 p.m. Chat comments have been printed and will be attached to these minutes. The video of the meeting will be available in the City's YouTube channel.

**5. MINUTES** – Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve the minutes of the 11-3-2020 regular meeting as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. VOUCHERS** – Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Loewen to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$138,725.83. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. MASK ORDINANCE** – Ordinance 1322 creates requirements pertaining to requiring the wearing of masks or other face coverings in the city of Hillsboro. It also contains fines for non-compliance and would be in effect until January 26, 2021. The ordinance would become effective after adoption and publication in the City's official newspaper. Much discussion followed. Council member Gehring felt Section 4 regarding fines should be removed from the ordinance. Mayor Thurston disagreed and felt the ordinance with no penalties would be useless. He personally felt it was time to step up and do something to hopefully slow down the virus. He felt this was a public health issue, not a political issue. Council member Driggers said he was uncomfortable with Section 3, 2b pertaining to employees who are working in any space where food is prepared or packaged for sale or distribution to others. The food industry already has strict guidelines that have to be followed. It was also decided that a FAQ would be helpful. After further discussion, the final decision was to have the city attorney make some revisions to the ordinance and table this item until next Tuesday, 11-24-2020 for a special council meeting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

**8. PBC MEETING TO APPROVE INVOICE** – At 7:41 p.m., Council recessed into a Public Building Commission meeting to approve an invoice to Flaming's Inc, for labor and thermostat for the old hospital, in the amount of \$345.00. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. and the regular council meeting resumed.

**9. SCHEDULE 3<sup>RD</sup> COUNCIL MEETING FOR 12-29-2020** – Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Loewen to schedule a special city council meeting on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. to conclude year-end business. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. BOARD APPOINTMENTS** – none

**11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – City Administrator Stiles said a rapid test COVID machine has been ordered to test employees with symptoms and for testing Water Department employees since there are only two people who can run the water plant. The museum has been closed to outside visitors and we have cancelled the City's Christmas party.

City Administrator Stiles, on behalf of the City Employees, thanked Council for the Veteran's Day holiday.

City Administrator Stiles said Katie Eaves is our newest volunteer firefighter and will be a great addition to the department.

**12. ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

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/s/  
LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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/s/  
JANICE K. MEISINGER, CITY CLERK