

Hillsboro, Kansas  
December 27, 2018

1. The city council met in special session on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in council chambers with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members David Loewen, Byron McCarty, and Brent Driggers present. Council member Jonah Gehring was present via phone. City Attorney Josh Boehm was also present via phone.

2. Others Present: Patty Decker and Laura Paulus, Hillsboro Free Press; Phyllis Zorn, Hillsboro Star Journal; Anthony Roy, Hillsboro Economic Development Director; Ben Schmidt; Kevin Suderman; Larry Paine, City Administrator; and, Jan Meisinger, City Clerk.

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** – none

5. **HILLSBORO COMMUNITY HOSPITAL UTILITY BILL** – City Administrator Paine said the check for the hospital's October utility bill (\$10,247.96) was returned to the city due to non-sufficient funds. The November bill is delinquent (\$8,286.70 + \$828.67 penalty = \$9,115.37). Shut-off day is 1-4-19. The December utility bill will be mailed next week, and it is \$9,280.98. This makes a total of \$28,644.31 that the hospital owes the city for utilities. On 12-21-18, City Attorney Josh Boehm sent a demand letter for payment by 12-27-18 at 4:00 p.m. It was sent by UPS and by the post office. We do not know if the letter was delivered or not because UPS is reporting that the Health Acquisition Company is no longer at the address it was sent to. City Administrator Paine said he had tried unsuccessfully all day to reach someone by phone. He delivered the same packet of information that was handed out to council to staff at the hospital here in Hillsboro. The packet was also e-mailed to Michael Christensen, Acting CEO of HCMC. City Administrator Paine recommended that we monitor the account until January 4<sup>th</sup> and see where we are at and not turn utilities off today. City Attorney Boehm concurred since we do not know who has the notice. Mayor Thurston said he wasn't comfortable taking any action until next week. Council member McCarty said he agreed to wait until January 4<sup>th</sup>, but then we needed to do something because the bill was going to continue to get higher. After further discussion, motion was made by Council member Gehring and seconded by Council member Driggers to table this item until next week. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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/s/  
LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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/s/  
JANICE K. MEISINGER, CITY CLERK