

Hillsboro, Kansas
August 7, 2018

1. The city council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in council chambers with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members David Loewen, Byron McCarty, Jonah Gehring, and Brent Driggers present.
2. Others Present: Anthony Roy, Economic Development Director; Phyllis Zorn, Hillsboro Star Journal; Patty Decker, Hillsboro Free Press; Josh Boehm, City Attorney; Joe Aker, Washburn University Graduate who will be working with Josh; Larry Paine, City Administrator; and, Jan Meisinger, City Clerk.
- 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – City Attorney Josh Boehm introduced Joe Aker, a recent Washburn University Graduate who will be joining the Cottonwood Law Group and working in Abilene. He grew up south of Abilene.

Council member Loewen said he had been asked if the water we are selling to the wind farm is causing the water level to go down at the reservoir. City Administrator Paine said it was more from the drought. According to Morgan Marler, more water evaporates from the reservoir every day than what the city takes out of it. The conservation pool at the reservoir is 74% full.

4. MINUTES – Motion was made by Council member Driggers and seconded by Council member McCarty to approve the minutes of the 7-17-18 regular meeting and the 7-31-18 special meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. VOUCHERS – Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$373,699.10. Motion carried unanimously.

6. 2019 BUDGET HEARING – At 4:10 p.m., council recessed into a public hearing for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. City Administrator Paine said sales tax revenues were down. Of the past eight years, the highest was 2013 at \$675,187.33. The lowest year was 2011 at \$610,238.60. This year, we are just slightly above the 2011 half year revenue mark. He said he has challenged Anthony to fill the Alco and Lumberyard buildings with sales tax generating businesses. City Administrator Paine said the transfers from the utilities to the General Fund have not changed in the past 11 years. He did not believe we should fix our budget woes on the back of the utilities. All that does is push the problem to the next year(s). Council reviewed the list of City Administrator Paine's recommended budget cuts to get the mill levy down almost to this year's level. He did not expect council to make a decision today, and asked them to think about it and get back to him with their suggestions. The budget will need to be adopted at the next meeting (August 21st) as the deadline is August 25th. He felt the cuts will be difficult for staff, but we can make it work. No public comments were received. The public hearing adjourned at 4:40 p.m. and the regular council meeting resumed. No action was taken.

7. RESUMPTION OF WARREN DECKERT HEARING – 311 EISENHOWER – Ben Steketee inspected the property yesterday and reported that the work on the list (second coat of paint on new siding; install porch light; and install house number) has been completed. Motion was made by Council member Gehring and seconded by Council member McCarty that the work has been completed on the exterior envelope of 311 Eisenhower in compliance with city code and requirements of Resolution 2017-06.

Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing closed at 4:45 p.m. and the regular council meeting resumed.

8. PUBLIC BUILDING COMMISSION MEETING TO APPROVE INVOICE – At 4:45 p.m., council recessed into a PBC meeting to approve Invoice 132866 to Triplett, Woolf, Garretson, LLC regarding the property split for the old hospital in the amount of \$787.50. The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m. and the regular council meeting resumed.

9. ELCON INVOICE – The city received Invoice #10929 from Elcon Services, Inc for bulbs and repair parts for the sewer and pool in the amount of \$236.95. Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve payment of this invoice. Vote: Council member Loewen, yes; McCarty, yes; Driggers, yes; Gehring, abstained. Motion carried.

10. MAJOR STREET ORDINANCE – TEMPORARY FINANCING OF STREET PROJECTS – Adoption of Ordinance 1289 starts the process of interim financing for “B” Street (reimbursement); “D” Street (current contract), and construction of East Grand. It will also allow us to pay back the \$400,000.00 borrowed from the utilities. Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve Ordinance 1289 – (*AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, KANSAS, AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO MAKE MAIN TRAFFICWAY IMPROVEMENTS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN AN APPROXIMATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$2,400,000.00 TO PAY THE COSTS OF THE MAIN TRAFFICWAY IMPROVEMENTS*). Council was polled with the following vote: Council member Loewen, yes; McCarty, yes; Gehring, yes; Driggers, yes. Motion carried unanimously. The next step is to do the necessary paperwork to take bonds to market. City Administrator Paine asked council if they could meet in special session on Tuesday, September 11 for bond closing. Council will look at their schedules and get back to City Administrator Paine.

11. KMEA WITHDRAWAL – The City of Hillsboro is currently members of two joint action agencies that provide electric power to their member cities – KPP (Kansas Power Pool) and KMEA (Kansas Municipal Energy Agency). Ordinance 1290 authorizes the withdrawal of membership. City Administrator Paine felt the agency that we receive the greatest benefit is, and has been, KPP and it makes sense that we should be members of only one agency. Motion was made by Council member Driggers and seconded by Council member McCarty to approve Ordinance 1290 – (*AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, KANSAS AUTHORIZING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE CITY FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE KANSAS MUNICIPAL ENERGY AGENCY*). Council was polled with the following vote: Council member Loewen, yes; McCarty, yes; Gehring, yes; Driggers, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

12. BOARD APPOINTMENTS – none

13. CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Work is progressing on the valley gutters along “D” Street. The north side of Adams is open and the south side has been torn out. There are two more to be done – Washington Street and the entry to the apartments east of Zeiner Funeral Home. The mill & overlay on “D” Street will not take place until late August. Tabor students crossing “D” Street will be a problem. The intersection work at Ash & “D” for the water line replacement is nearly complete.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Council meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

/s/
LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

/s/
JANICE K. MEISINGER, CITY CLERK