

Hillsboro, Kansas

July 1, 2021

1. The City Council met in regular session via Zoom and in person, on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 4:00pm with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members Brent Driggers, Byron McCarty, David Loewen and Renee Gehring participating.

2. **Others Participating:** Kimberlyn Gilchrist, City Attorney; Zach Collet, EBH & Associates; Laura Paulus, Hillsboro Free Press; Phyllis Zorn, Hillsboro Star Journal; Matt Stiles, City Administrator; and Danielle Bartel, City Clerk.

3. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Lou Thurston called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

4. **MINUTES:** Council member Loewen motioned to approve the minutes of the 6/17/2021 regular meeting as submitted. Council member McCarty seconded, motion carried unanimously.

5. **VOUCHERS:** Motion was made by Council member McCarty and seconded by Council member Driggers to approve vouchers in the amount of \$257,644.91. Council member Gehring abstained as Elcon Services invoices were included in the vouchers. Motion approved.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Zach Collett of EBH & Associates provided an update on the project at Industrial and Highway 56. Mayor Thurston thanked Zach for his report.

7. **ELECTRICAL SYSTEM ASSESMENT PRESENTATION:** James Ging and Brooke Carroll of Kansas Power Pool (KPP) reported on the refresh distribution study, noting they system is very good shape. Staff should continue to replace copper conductors as needed with assistance from KPP. While meeting with staff for the study, electric department staff were interested in attending training available. A few tree issues could be addressed during the next tree trimming and one pole needs to be replaced. KPP highlighted that the Council should be very proud of this report.

## 8. BUSINESS

**ORDINANCE 1329 – ZONING CHANGE:** Administrator Stiles reviewed the zoning change noting the Planning Commission approved the change unanimously. Council member Driggers motioned to approve Ordinance 1329 and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council member McCarty seconded. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

Elcon invoices were addressed previously during the approval of vouchers.

**CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT FOR COUNTY EMS BUILDING:** Administrator Stiles reviewed the process to approve such agreement, noting the City Attorney was involved in drafting it. Council member McCarty moved to approve the proposed development agreement and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council member Loewen seconded. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

City Council recessed into a Land Bank meeting, then a Public Building Commission meeting. City Council meeting resumed at 4:30pm.

Administrator Stiles noted the Budget and Revenue Neutral Rate hearings will need to be rescheduled to September 7. Motion by Council member Gehring and second by Council member McCarty to move the Budget and RNR hearings to September 7, 2021 at 4pm. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **BOARD APPOINTMENTS:** None.

10. **CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** City Administrator Stiles reported on the following:

**Water Quality:** The water treatment plant has been dealing with issues treating the incoming reservoir water. There has been an ongoing problem with high levels of Iron and Manganese and blue green algae blooms. Both problems are related and feed off of one another. The water is completely safe and within all parameters from KDHE and the EPA. Water has been tested daily by KDHE and the results will be released to the public as soon as we have access. The water production team has added a second carbon injection system that removes the unpleasant smell. As of the afternoon of Monday, June 28 the water towers were filled with non-smelly water. Crews were flushing hydrants to circulate the new water into the system. It has been a challenge but there is an end in sight.

**Trailgate Party:** The trailgate party to dedicate the new hospital walking trail will be on Friday, July 2 at Noon at the Main Street trail head between Central National Bank and Hillsboro State Bank. The dedication will include a Chamber ribbon cutting, comments from Mayor Lou, information about Hillsboro Hospital's Walk with a Doc program and healthy snacks from local restaurants. The event is sponsored by the Hillsboro CVB, TCW, Hillsboro Hospital and the Chamber.

**Bomgaars Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting:** Bomgaars officially opened its doors the second week of June. Administrator Stiles attended the Chamber ribbon cutting and official grand opening on Thursday, June 24. The store carries a variety of items that previously couldn't be found in Hillsboro. Administrator Stiles has observed several out of town customers while in the store. We're excited to have Bomgaars in town and look forward to seeing their impact on the community.

**Fiber Project:** The project continues to move forward despite weather delays and more utility line hits. There was a large main hit on D and Floral on June 21, temporarily causing a service outage in the area including the pool and sports complex. The line was unmarked because it was not on the water system maps. Despite that setback, the fiber project continues to march forward. More areas of town are going to be turned on in the next few weeks. The target date of July completion for the install appears to be on target.

**Sales Tax:** Sales tax collections is included in the packet. Year to date the city has collected \$397,125.08 in sales tax for 2021. That represents an increase of 19.5% from 2020 and an increase of 32% from 2019. The surge in sales tax is likely linked to the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the federal stimulus. Staff will continue to monitor the receipts to see if the upward trend continues.

**KPP Bill:** The KPP bill for the month ending June 14 is included in the packet. The City purchased 1,752,486 kWh resulting in an electric surcharge of \$17,524.86. To date the City has paid \$70,080.56 in surcharges. The pass-through surcharge to our customers started in June and Administrator Stiles will begin providing tracking data to show how much is taken in compared to how much is paid to KPP.

**Vacation:** Administrator Stiles will be out of town on Tuesday, July 6 to Friday, July 9.

City offices will be closed on Monday, July 5. Administrator Stiles shared the City is having trouble receiving calls from US Cellular customers. Staff is working to address and resolve the issue.

Mayor Thurston thanked car dealerships for helping to support the community.

**11. COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Council member Loewen invited the public to join Mayor Thurston and Administrator Stiles on July 3 at the Igloo. Council member McCarty is pleased that the electric department is doing so well. Mayor Thurston noted his appreciation for all city staff and the work they do.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** Council meeting adjourned at 4:44pm.

ATTEST:

  
LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR

  
DANIELLE BARTEL, CITY CLERK