

Hillsboro, Kansas  
June 7, 2022

1. The City Council met in regular session via Zoom and in person on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 6:30pm with Mayor Lou Thurston and Council members Blake Beye, Brent Driggers, David Loewen and Byron McCarty participating.

Members Absent: None.

2. **Others Participating:** J.T. Klaus representing Triplett Woolf & Garretson LLC; Matt Stiles, City Administrator; Danielle Bartel, City Clerk; Brendan Giesick & Chris Conrade of Conrade Insurance Group.

3. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Lou Thurston called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

**MINUTES** dated May 17, 2022.

**VOUCHERS** in the amount of \$464,218.43.

**BOARD APPOINTMENT:** Appointment of Nate Duell to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Council member Driggers motioned to approve the consent agenda. Council member Loewen seconded. Motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

6. **MIDWEST PUBLIC RISK:** Brendan Giesick presented a proposal for coverage through Midwest Public Risk, noting it is pooled risk not traditional insurance. Mayor Thurston stated a conflict of interest and exited the meeting. Council President Brent Driggers led discussion and clarified no action was needed at this time. Administrator Stiles shared that staff is fully vetting this option and inquired if the Council would like to explore it further. Council members expressed interest in doing so. Mayor Thurston returned to the meeting.

#### 7. BUSINESS ITEMS:

**ORDINANCE 1351:** Administrator Stiles reviewed the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the B&B at 107 West B Street. Council member McCarty motioned to adopt Ordinance 1351 and authorize the Mayor to sign. Council member Beye seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**RESOLUTION 2022-01:** Administrator Stiles reviewed the GAAP Resolution Waiver. J.T. Klaus pointed out a clerical error in the statutory reference. Council member Driggers motioned to approve the resolution subject to using the statutory reference of 75-1120a(a) as identified by Klaus. Council member Loewen seconded. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE:** Administrator Stiles highlighted the performance of the employee health insurance plan through Freedom Claims Management Inc (FCMI). He noted the recommended change within Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) to a level-funded plan for health coverage. Staff also recommended cancelling the BCBS dental plan in favor of a self-funded option through FCMI. Administrator Stiles suggested employee rates remain the same for the 2022-2023 plan year, and staff review employee premiums over the next several years.

Council member Beye motioned to approve the renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield for a level-funded health insurance plan at a cost of \$186,213.48 and to approve the employee rate structure as presented for the 2022-2023 plan year. Council member Driggers seconded. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY PLAZA CONCRETE:** Administrator Stiles shared an update on the Community Plaza and requested approval for concrete expenditures of up to \$60,000 from CIP. He noted funds of approximately \$63,000 would come from the Hillsboro Community Foundation for the project. Council requested clarity on the total cost of the project at a future meeting.

Council member Driggers motioned to authorize staff to purchase concrete and associated materials for the Community Plaza of up to \$60,000. Council member Loewen seconded. Motion carried.

**HILLSBORO FORD INVOICES:** Administrator Stiles reviewed the Hillsboro Ford invoices totaling \$75.10 for routine maintenance. Council Member McCarty motioned to approve the invoices. Council member Loewen seconded. Council member Beye abstained. Motion carried.

8. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION:** None.

**2023 BUDGET – PERSONNEL EXPENSES:** Administrator Stiles noted the importance of retaining employees and thanked the Council for approving staff’s health insurance recommendations. He shared several ideas to improve employee benefits and requested Council’s feedback. Considerations for improvement included: additional holidays—Good Friday and a personal floating holiday; a cost of living wage increase of \$1.00 for all employees; merit-based performance evaluations; and revisions to the cell phone reimbursement policy.

Council discussion regarding performance evaluations and the importance of employee benefits. Council affirmed staff’s direction in this area of budget preparation.

**9. CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:** Administrator Stiles reported on the following:

- City Auction
- Community Plaza Splash Pad
- Blue Green Algae
- 128 S Main
- KDOT Grant for Adams Street
- KDOT Grant for Highway 56
- Sales Tax Increase

**10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**11. COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Council member Beye shared a story about the demolition of the building at 128 S Main. Council member McCarty requested staff consider street repairs in the 200 block of West B Street and on North Cedar. Council member Loewen noted South Lincoln is also in need of street repairs. Council member Loewen applauded the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade HES Class for their work on the Community Garden.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** Council meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

ATTEST:



LOUIS THURSTON, MAYOR



DANIELLE BARTEL, CITY CLERK