

City Council
City of Hillsboro, Texas
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 18, 2022

Present were:

Scott Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem
Eric Fleming, Councilmember
Larry Lloyd, Councilmember
Leann Richmond, Councilmember

Megan Henderson, City Manager
Tony Cain, Assistant City Manager
Dale Snyder, Director of Finance/HR
Sharon McFadden, City Secretary
Christi Ward, Administrative Asst.

Andy Smith, Mayor was absent
Councilmembers Dana Robinson and Frances Zarate were absent.

Others present:

Shannon Cottongame, Reporter
Ignacio Vazquez, Oncor Area Manager

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
Councilmember Lloyd led the Invocation. Councilmember Fleming led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hear Statements from Persons Wishing to Address Council.

No one addressed the Council.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson informed Council that agenda numbers five (5) through seven (7) require no formal public hearing and are subject to being approved in a single motion. However, any City Councilmember or the City Manager may remove an item from the Consent Agenda to allow discussion and voting on the item individually.

(Agenda Item #5)

Deliberate and Act on Approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting on October 4, 2022.

(Agenda Item #6)

Act on the Approval of Bills.

(Agenda Item #7)

Deliberate and Act on a Resolution Authorizing an Independent Audit as Required by the City Charter, Article 8; Section 8.09 and Authorizing the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute All Necessary Documents.

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson asked Council if there were any questions or comments regarding the Consent Agenda Items. There were no responses.

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On a motion by Councilmember Richmond and second by Councilmember Fleming, Consent Agenda Items #5 through #7 were accepted and approved.

On roll call, the following votes were cast:
Ayes: Fleming, Lloyd, Richmond, Johnson
Nays: None Absent: Robinson, Zarate

Regular Agenda

(Agenda Item #8)

Deliberate and Act on a Resolution denying Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC's Application to Increase Rates related to Oncor's statement of intent to increase rates filed on or about May 13, 2022, and requiring Oncor to reimburse the Alliance of Oncor Cities' rate case expense.

The City Manager said the resolution is to deny the Oncor requested increase in rates. Ignacio Vazquez, Area Manager for Oncor, was present and available for questions. The City Manager explained that the City of Hillsboro participates in the Alliance of Oncor Cities. The Alliance hired a consultant to review the proposed rate changes. The Alliance has proposed a different rate and negotiations are currently taking place. The City Manager said that if Council does not deny the resolution tonight (October 18, 2022), then the proposed rates will immediately go into effect. Denying the resolution will allow the process of negotiation to continue. Mayor Pro-Tem asked Council if there were any comments or concerns. There were no responses.

On a motion by Councilmember Fleming and second by Councilmember Richmond, Regular Agenda Item #8 was accepted and approved.

On roll call, the following votes were cast:
Ayes: Fleming, Lloyd, Richmond, Johnson
Nays: None Absent: Robinson, Zarate

(Agenda Item #9)

Deliberate and Act to Propose Limits on Chickens and Other Fowl Inside City Limits.

The City Manager said to place limits and have them take effect, there must be an amendment to the existing animal control ordinance. An amendment to the ordinance is not being presented yet. The City Manager said staff suggested the components (of the ordinance) be discussed and referred to the comparisons from other cities in the Council packet. The comparisons include fowl but are mostly for chickens within City limits. The City Attorney provided parameters from other cities for Council to start with. The City Manager said some cities do not have any restrictions while other cities have specific numbers based on acreage and distance from other houses. A citizen presented concern for the number of roosters on specific properties in a specific neighborhood. The primary purpose for a rooster is to fertilize eggs and may be unnecessary to house multiple

roosters. The City Manager said the comparisons being presented are not actual research but are staff recommendations. Council input is necessary and there will be a mention in the newspaper (The Reporter). The information will be posted on social media. The media outreach will provide opportunities for citizens to give input. The City Manager said once all of the feedback is received, then staff will move forward with a recommendation. The City Manager asked Council to consider initial thoughts on possible changes. Councilmember Lloyd asked if other fowl were going to be considered (in the ordinance change) in addition to chickens. The City Manager said she is aware of other fowl. Councilmember Richmond said she is aware of ducks. The City Manager said Council might as well go “broad” because it is not known how many guineas are in City limits. The ordinance would not apply to birds such as parakeets. Councilmember Richmond said the lot size is of importance on the quantity of fowl allowed. The City Manager said there are many lots that are very close to the City limits and some inside (City limits) that are large so she recommends that be taken into consideration. Most of the comparable cities had fifty (50) feet away from a neighboring house and the City Manager said she sees the logic. She said the change would be very impactful on a large percentage of people that currently have fowl. Councilmember Lloyd said there certainly are residents that raise guineas and maybe even quail. Guineaes and quail are different from roosters and chickens. Councilmember Lloyd said his concern is where to draw the line on “fowl.” The City Manager said that is a question for Council in determining what is to be included. Council needs to decide if the limits will apply only to chicken or include ducks, quail, and guineas. Councilmember Lloyd said he would be more inclined to refer to “fowl” and if someone wants to file for an extension, then the request could be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Councilmember Richmond mentioned ponds on property that have ducks. Mayor Pro-Tem said some ducks may be migratory birds and that when he read the agenda item, he assumed it referred to all birds. The City Manager said that was the intent with referencing to “fowl.” The City Manager said staff will review any changes Council would like to see. This is a starting point, more data will be collected, and ordinance changes will be recommended to Council at a later date. Mayor Pro-Tem asked the City Manager if this was an Action Item. The City Manager said there is nothing official being presented at this time. Councilmember Richmond said there are some cities that do not allow any chickens or roosters and the City of Clifton is one that does not allow any chickens. Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson announce there would be no action taken on this item.

No roll call taken, not an Action Item on Agenda.

(Agenda Item #10)

Hear and Deliberate on City Manager’s Report.

a. Update on Strategic Goals 1-4

i. Ensure Responsible, Equitable Growth

The City Manager said conversations with developers are continuing. One of the groups that previously stopped conversations has resurfaced and are anxious to meet. There has been a proposal that will not include multi-story family housing. There is some low-density multi-family housing, single-family housing, and some commercial

development within the proposal. There are a few more prospects in the retail development place but it is too early to share details at this time. One of the reasons for not publicly sharing is that the developers and companies want to remain anonymous until they are ready to make an announcement and City staff respect the request. The City also does not want public announcement in case the plan is not fulfilled. Needed additional water resources were pursued with the Brazos River Authority (BRA) and BRA has declined to be in the position to assist through lobbying efforts and is focusing their efforts elsewhere. The City Manager said the City is continuing to coordinate with Aquilla Water Supply on materials to share with the Legislature to carry the water concern to Washington. The City Manager said she has been contacted by another city concerning additional water needs.

ii. Foster Transparency and Connection

The City Manager said meetings have taken place with City staff to address the needs of better communication between departments. That phase has been completed and now it is time to reach out to the community for assistance. It is the job of City staff to do the best they can by being aggressive and energetic about trying to serve the needs of the public. There is hope in getting responses from those who are skeptical about what the City does. City staff need to know where the skepticism is coming from and not just assume we can continue without changing. City staff need to work harder on determining public concerns, where the information comes from, and how City staff can provide what the public wants and needs. Providing information is literally the job for all City staff. The City Manager asked Shannon Cottongame, Editor of the Reporter newspaper, to include in the article that the City is interested in citizens that would be willing to communicate. There will be a group of four (4) to five (5) that would meet to determine what the big issues in communication are. There would be an additional meeting at a later date to see if the changes made are working.

iii. Support Preservation and Beautification

The demolition of substandard structures is continuing and is providing significant improvements. At Highway 22 and Waco Street, the removal of the cinder blocks from the former Grimes Garage has made the area look better.

iv. Deliver Efficient, Effective Government

An inspection with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is scheduled next month (November 2022) for the sewer plant. Terry Dietrich, Sewer Plant Operator, has been out for shoulder surgery and may not return prior to the inspection. Although he should likely not be, he is assisting staff with inspection preparation. Walter Garcia, Public Works Director, has been stepping-in to help. Hopefully, next month (November 2022) there will be a good report presented to Council.

b. Recent and Upcoming Staff Activity and Events

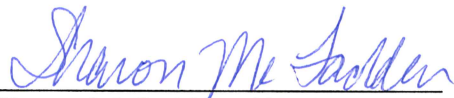
There continue to be openings in the street department. There definitely needs to be more employees in the street department. The new Human Resources Coordinator, Evah Montes, is now on board. Ms. Montes is excited to be in the community and is reaching out to others. Ms. Lana Crow assisted Animal Services with obtaining a grant for dog beds. Movies in the Park will have a double-feature on Saturday, October 22, 2022. Historically, there was a child's movie played first, then followed by a scary movie. AutumnFest will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2022. There will be twelve (12) hours of entertainment provided that includes a Magician, a Michael Jackson impersonator, and other entertainment. There was a tournament held this past weekend (October 22 and 23, 2022) at Wallace Park. The City Manager asked if there were any questions. No responses were made.

The Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson said with there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



Andrew L. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sharon McFadden, City Secretary

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