

Hills City Council Meeting  
April 11, 2022 / 7:00 PM / Hills Fire Station

The regular Hills City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kemp at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022 at the Hills Community Center.

Present: Council members: Goldsmith, Hill, Hudachek, Knebel, Sommers. Absent: None. Also present: Schlitz, City Administrator, Pantel, Public Works, Emily Perrot, JEO Consulting Group, Cathy Fitzmaurice-Hill, resident, Scott Hebl, resident, Nicole & Kyle Acheson, residents.

**Consent Agenda:** A Motion was made by Knebel and seconded by Sommers to approve the consent agenda approving agenda, minutes from March 28, 2022 Council Meeting, scheduled list of claims, receipts from March 26, 2022 thru April 8, 2022, Treasurer's Report and Budget Report. Ayes:5. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Scott Hebl voiced concern about the cleanliness of the Community Center and asked about cleaning policies. He argued that staff needed to do a better job checking the building after events. He also voiced his opposition to the Council discussing changes to First Monday trash pick-up. Nicole Acheson commented on the state of the batting cage at the city park and the number of sticks on the ground during the Easter Egg hunt.

**Business:**

Emily Perrot presented the DNR's Tree Inventory Study that was conducted in the summer of 2021. It highlighted the benefits of the city owned trees and identified trees in need of management. There are currently 4 trees recommended for removal.

Resolution 2022-16 was presented accepting proposal, awarding contract, and approving contract for the Second and Third Street Road Improvements Project. One bid was received: L.L. Pelling Company Inc., \$459,297.60. The bid was higher than originally expected but not surprising with recent price increases. City Engineer Shive-Hattery recommended accepting the bid from L.L. Pelling Company Inc. A Motion was made by Sommers and seconded by Goldsmith to approve Resolution 2022-16 awarding contract to L.L. Pelling Company, Inc. Roll Call: Ayes: Sommers, Goldsmith, Hill, Hudachek, Knebel. Absent: None. Resolution 2022-16 approved.

Council reviewed two estimates from companies who can inspect the storm sewers that run along 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets in preparation of the road improvements project. A Motion was made by Knebel and seconded by Sommers to approve the estimate provided by CIT Sewer Solutions in the amount of \$6,898.00. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Council reviewed estimates for back-up sewer pumps for two lift stations. Pumps will be paid for with designated American Rescue Plan Allocation funds. A motion was made by Goldsmith and seconded by Hill to approve the estimate provided by Iowa Pump Works in the amount of \$56,585.00. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Council discussed L.L. Pelling's recommendation for FY22 street work. Pantel highlighted which streets listed on the proposal were in most need of repairs. A Motion was made by Sommers and seconded by Hudachek to approve Pantel's street repair recommendations. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the First Monday trash pick-up service. Johnson County Refuse (JCR) provides a similar service where they set up dumpsters in the park. They provide staff and equipment to haul large items into dumpsters. Fitzmaurice-Hill asked the Council to consider reducing the number of pick-ups instead of getting rid of the service all together. Councilmember Hudachek was concerned that some residents may not have the ability to take unwanted items to the park. Staff explained how JCR will currently collect large items at the curb on Tuesdays if they are notified in advance and the appropriate number of tags are placed on the item(s). Tags are currently sold at the City Office for \$3/tag. A Motion was made by Knebel and seconded by Hill to continue with First Monday trash pick-up for May and June and then have JCR provide a clean-up service in August and October. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

Attorney: No report.

Fire Chief: Pantel reported that the tanker truck broke down over the weekend while on a call. It will need to be repaired and potentially replaced. The tanker truck is used for calls needing water in the townships or on mutual aid calls.

Maintenance: No report

Sewer: No report

Water: Silt coming from the wells has increased. This has meant that more filters are being used. Steve Flake is looking into why this is happening.

Administrator: Schlitz reported on the energy savings at the community center, city office and fire station this past month thanks to the solar panels. Shive Hattery prepared two rough sketches of possible new fire station buildings on the existing site. They are also working on a plan to retrofit the current building.

Mayor: No report

Council Comments: None

A Motion was made by Knebel and seconded by Hill to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Ayes:5. Motion carried.

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Tim Kemp, Mayor

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Kelley Schlitz, City Administrator