



Town of Hillsboro

## **Public Hearing**

**October 19, 2020**

The Hillsboro Town Commission held a Public Hearing on October 19, 2020 at the Hillsboro Town Office. The hearing was called to order at: 7:31pm by President, Ross Benincasa. The pledge was recited and those present were: President Ross Benincasa, Commissioner Steve Higdon, Commissioner Sandy Higdon, and Town Manager, Virginia Albers, Jennifer Shull, Meg Gallagher, Jayne Fitzgerald, Marlene Knotts, Ron Stafford, Rick Schlitz and Sally Campbell.

Virginia Albers read Ordinance #77. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 9.2 OF THE TOWN OF HILLSBORO CODE, GENERALLY OUTLINING PROVISIONS FOR ALLOWING RESIDENTS TO KEEP OR MAINTAIN POULTRY AS AN ACCESSORY USE WITHIN THE TOWN OF HILLSBORO AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF.

The details of the ordinance were discussed. Ron Stafford stated that “Amending Section 9.2” should be replaced to say rescinded rather than amending due to the fact that section 9.2 states that No Chickens are permitted and this Ordinance permits chickens in the town limits with certain guidelines. Also revised Section 9.2.2 Item C. Language removed (or similar poultry) and add: or guinea hens. We talked about the fact that no more than 4 chickens or ducks permitted per residence. No roosters. All fowl must be registered through the MD Premises Poultry Program. Ron asked who would be enforcing these regulations. This would be done through Codes Enforcement.

Commissioner Benincasa adjourned the public hearing at 7:45pm.

## **Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020**

The Hillsboro Town Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:46pm by Commission President Ross Benincasa. (see above for those present)

The minutes for the September 21, 2020 meeting were prepared and disseminated by Virginia. A motion was made by Steve and seconded by Sandy to approve the September 21, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

The September/October, 2020 Finance report was reviewed. With one numerical correction, Commissioner Steve Higdon made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Sandy Higdon to approve the financial report as corrected.

An income tax chart was recently emailed and forwarded to Commissioners and Commissioner Benincasa questioned the accuracy in some of the figures. President Benincasa stated that he still needed a better explanation of disseminated income tax for Hillsboro and he asked Virginia to review further.

Stormwater Project update-Commissioner Benincasa said that due to Covid, no activity discussed on this, however we still need to keep it on the radar.

Main Street/Sidewalks. We discussed the badly needed repairs/replacement for those sidewalks along town owned streets of Maple Street and Church Street. Virginia drafted an RFP for the project.

Town Manager's Report- Codes Enforcement-

- 1) Contacted MDIA to send two more letters for deteriorations. Both properties located on Main Street.
- 2) Working with TGM Rep regarding our Annual Audit. Sent most of the requested files. Still a work in progress.
- 3) Highway User Grant Application completed by September 30.
- 4) Placed in ad in newspaper for a hearing on Ordinance #77. Chicken Ordinance.
- 5) Attended a Hillsboro Workshop. October 12, 2020
- 6) Planning Commission Zoom Call, October 14, 2020
- 7) Took Halloween Flyer-had copies made and posted in public areas.
- 8) Talked to a resident regarding plans for Halloween Pet Parade.
- 9) Rough-drafted an RFP for repair/replacing sidewalks on Maple and Church Streets.
- 10) Called Cathy Moore at Caroline Finance Office to see if direct deposits were transferred to Provident Bank from PNC Bank.

President Benincasa asked Virginia to find out from Hal Davis at MDIA, what the next steps are after the 90 day period has expired for those properties that were set violation letters.

Town Meadow-The Town is working with resident Sally Campbell who is working on the Meadow Project. A project meeting was held on September 22, 2020 with the Town of Hillsboro, Resident Sally Campbell, Leslie Grunden from County Planning Office, Eric Buell and Soil Conservation to discuss, spraying, weed control, prepping the soil and replanting.

A Public Hearing was just held for Ordinance #77. Permitting Town Residents to have chicken and ducks within the Hillsboro Town limits. A motion was made by Commissioner Steve Higdon and seconded by Commissioner Sandy Higdon to approve Ordinance #77 with a word correction as stated above. The motion passed.

The General Election is scheduled to be held on November 3, 2020. Caroline County Polling places are at: Greensboro Firehouse, Community Center in Denton and Preston Firehall.

Halloween-Times for Trick or Treating on October 31<sup>st</sup> are: 5:30 to 7:00pm. We plan to have a house decorating contest-Commissioner Higdon created a flyer and Virginia is donating a gift basket for the winner. Sally Campbell will head up the pet parade on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Someone will ask Denton Petco to sponsor the event.

Ordinance #77-An Ordinance amending Section 9.2 of the Town of Hillsboro Code, for provisions to allow residents to have poultry within the Town Limits of Hillsboro. A Public Hearing was scheduled to be held on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 7:30pm. A public notice will be posted and a notice will be put in the newspaper for two weeks.

There being no further business to discuss Steve made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Sandy to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm.

The next Hillsboro Town Commissioners meeting was scheduled for: November 16, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Albers