

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale  
November 6, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

### Regular Meeting

#### **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Stockford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Roll Call**

Mayor Stockford called the meeting to order. Clerk Price took roll call.

Council Members present:	Adam Stockford, Mayor Anthony Vear, Ward 1 R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1 William Morrissey, Ward 2 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2 Joshua Paladino, Ward 4 Robert Socha, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
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Also Present: Attorney Tom Thomson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (Chief HCPD/HCFD), Sam Fry (Economic Development), Brandon Janes (IT), Renae Shircliff, Corrie Conant, Mark Wiley, Robert Eichler, John Salsman, Nick Fox, Jamie Parsons and Nickaylah Sampson.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Councilmember Socha asked to have Communications item E. added Keefer House Hotel LLC Construction Update.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Stuchell to add Keefer House Hotel LLC Construction Update item to Communications agenda.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Councilmember Vear to approve the amended agenda.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Public Comment**

Mark Wiley, Hillsdale County Veterans Board, invited Council to come join the Veterans Day Program on Friday, November 10, 2023. Mr. Wiley read a letter aloud from the Veteran's Board requesting all fees be waived for the event in the future and asked the letter be entered into record.

Robert Eichler, Scipio Twp., thanked the Public Services Department for taking care of limbs and tree debris from the bike path.

#### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of October 12, 2023: \$465,454.32
  - 2. Payroll of October 12, 2023: \$192,760.85  
October 26, 2023: \$185,850.10
- B. City Council Minutes of October 16, 2023
- C. Finance Minutes of October 16, 2023

- D. Library Minutes of August 10, September 14, September 28, September 29, & October 6, 2023
- E. Hillsdale Veterans Affairs Program- Street Use Agreement

Motion by Councilmember Morrissey seconded by Councilmember Vear to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call:

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

**Communications /Petitions**

- A. Hallett Street Railroad Overpass Letter
- B. Toys for Tots Christmas Assistance Program
- C. Wreaths Across America
- D. Nutcracker Ballot @ The Dawn Theater
- E. Keefer House Construction Update

Keefer House Hotel project manager gave a brief construction update. The foundation is level on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. The elevator pit is in. Continued projects are going on.

Information is presented for information only.

**Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings**

None

**Old Business**

- A. Hillsdale Mobile Home Park

John Salsman reviewed the improvements that the company was planning on making in the amount of \$221,890.00.

Lengthy council discussion ensued on the civil penalties and necessary business improvements and not necessarily community improvements.

Council members Socha, Stuchell, Morrissey and Sharp were in favor of assessing the full penalties.

Mr. Salsman stated that the business was up to date on property taxes and have been working with the City on resolving the civil penalties. Salsman reported investment and reinvestment is going back into the mobile home park.

Council Member Vear stated that council is being overzealous, he explained the back property tax procedure and then the civil penalty procedures. Business do want to receive profit. He mentioned that the full amount is not very helpful and excessive and would like to rethink the amount of penalty.

Further council discussion resulted.

Motion by Mayor Stockford seconded by Councilmember Vear to offer a civil penalty of 10% of the full calculated penalty fine in the amount of \$22,189.00.

Roll Call:

Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Nay

Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Nay
Council Member Vear	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye
Council Member Paladino	Nay

Motion passed 5-3

**New Business**

None

**Miscellaneous Reports**

A. Proclamations – Family Court Awareness Month

Mayor Stockford read proclamation aloud.

B. Appointment- None

C. Other- None

**General Public Comment**

Jason Blake, DPS Director reviewed leaf pick up scheduled.

Corrie Conant, commented on the Mobile Home Park and fees generated with that to help with fund barricades and other necessary items to improve the community.

**City Manager’s Report**

City Audit will be presented at next meeting, 11/20/2023.

Leaf pickup is somewhat different from previous years as low volume of leaves.

Neighborhood meeting for Westwood street project scheduled for January 10, 2024.

Green Energy Plan – Article in the Detroit Free Press.

**Council Comments**

Socha spoke on Roberts Rules of Order and City Council Rules.

Sharp asked that the City follows up with the Mobile Home Park.

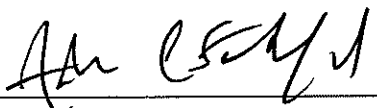
Paladino reported that a new library director was hired. He encouraged council to stop in and meet director.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Socha, seconded by Councilmember Vear, to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

  
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 Adam Stockford, Mayor

  
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 Katy Price, City Clerk