

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
February 5, 2024
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 Morrisey, Ward 2
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Joshua Paladino, Ward 4

Also Present: Attorney Tom Thomson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (Chief HCPD/HCFD), Karen Lancaster (Finance Director), Jake Hammel (PBU Electric Director), Brandon Janes (IT), Larkyn Dasch, Felicia Finch, Robert Eickler, Wes Wickham and Doug Ingles.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stockford requested Communication item C. Farmers Market Update, Old Business item A. Scarecrow Festival Right of Way fees and appointment for the Zoning Board of Appeals- Cindy Pratt (Council representation).

Motion by Councilman Morrisey support by Councilmember Pratt to amend to agenda with the items presented.

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Paladino entered meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of February 1, 2024 - \$1,321,940
 - 2. Payroll of January 18, 2024: \$209,723.26
February 1, 2024: \$206,478.88
- B. Finance Minutes of January 16, 2024
- C. 12/31/2023 Investment Report
- D. 2023-24 Financial Report
- E. 2024 Board of Review Schedule
- F. 2024 Hillsdale County Recommended Ratios and Estimated Multipliers

G. BPU Small Bucket/Service Truck Purchase

Councilmember Vear had questions on the investment report. Finance Director Lancaster reviewed and reported on the questions.

Councilmember Vear thanked Jake Hammel, BPU Electric Director for finding a better deal on the small bucket truck.

Motion by Councilmember Morrisey 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 Morrisey	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. Corecoyle, LLC Update- 221 Industrial Drive IFE
- B. Library Director Meet and Greet
- C. Farmers Market Update – Larkyn Dasch

Discussion on Corecoyle, LLC

Council thanked Edward Kunesh for his generous donation he left for the Library.

Information is presented for information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

- A. Scarecrow Festival Right of Way Fees

Felicia Finch received an invoice for Public Services labor for her event downtown. She paid \$500.00 upfront and invoice followed for labor.

Jason Blake, DPS Director reviewed the fees and what it costs the city to assist in events for businesses.

Mayor Stockford discussed the confusion at the past Council meetings about the Right of Way fees and being retroactive for event(s) in the middle of council discussion about changing fees.

Additional Council discussion ensued.

Motion by Mayor Stockford support by Councilmember Wolfram to waive the Scarecrow Festival outstanding fees from the invoice for the artistic work of the scarecrows as it draws in public to the City's downtown.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Paladino support by Councilmember Socha to revert fees back to the original fee schedule of \$45.00. (Application fee of \$20.00 and \$25.00 Traffic Control fee).

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

New Business

A. Budget Amendments for FY2024 Budget

Karen Lancaster, Finance Director reported the Uniform Budget and Accounting Act of 1968, as amended, requires the City to make amendments to the budget when appropriations exceed the current budget. These amendments must be approved by the City Council.

In the General Fund, the City Council adopts a budget for each department, so the amendments address any budget needs by department, rather than by fund total. For all non-General Funds, a budget amendment is only necessary if the City finds the total fund appropriation will exceed the budget adopted by Council.

	Revenues	Expenditures
General Fund (Fund 101)	\$7,500	\$8,400
Contributions & Donations Fund (Fund 252)	\$20,469	\$20,000
Airport Fund (Fund 481)	-	\$ 9,813
Sewer Fund (Fund 590)	\$38,500	\$38,500

Motion by Councilman Sharp support by Councilmember Socha to approve the budget amendments for FY 2024 as presented. **Resolution #3586.**

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 Wolfram Aye
 Council Member Pratt Aye

Motion passed 9-0

B. Council Budget Work Session Dates

David Mackie, City Manager mentioned City Council will receive the proposed budget at their April 1, 2024 meeting. During the month of April staff would like to schedule two workshops for the department heads to present their budgets directly to Council for questions. Previously the workshops were held on off council meeting weeks starting at 6:00 pm.

Motion by Councilman Vear support by Councilmember Sharp approve April 8th and April 22nd Council work session dates. Meeting start at 6:00 p.m.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. MDOT Contract Approval – Griswold/W. St. Joe Streets (Resolution)

David Mackie, City Manager reported The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) through the Small Urban Grant Program is providing Federal Surface Transportation Funds for the Griswold/W. St. Joe project.

This grant provides up to the lesser of 81.85% of the eligible project costs or \$385,000 for the “Part A” portion of the project, identified as W. St. Joe/Griswold from South St. to Waterworks Ave. The “Part B” portion of the work, identified as W. St. Joe St. from Bacon St. to South St., is not eligible for Federal participation and shall be paid 100% by the City.

	PART A	PART B	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$620,250	\$615,000	\$1,235,250
<u>Less Federal Funds</u>	<u>\$385,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$385,000</u>
BALANCE (City of Hillsdale’s Est. Share)	\$235,250	\$615,000	\$850,250

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Vear to approve MDOT Contract 23-5507 and resolution and authorize the City Manager to sign said contract on behalf of the City. **Resolution #3587.**

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 Morrisey Aye
- Council Member Wolfram Aye
- Council Member Pratt Aye

Motion passed 9-0

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – Hillsdale A250 Proclamation

Mayor Stockford read proclamation aloud.

B. Appointment- Zoning Board of Appeals – Cindy Pratt
 Reappointments- Cemetery Board – Carol Lackey

Motion by Councilmember Sharp support by Councilmember Morrisey to approve the appointment as presented

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilmember Morrisey support by Councilmember Stuchell to approve the reappointments as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other- None

General Public Comment

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., commented on TIFA minutes of 11/21/23, spoke on lights of Howell St. no permits pulled. Dawn Theater Board regulating rates for events.

Doug Ingles, County Commissioner, reported on Road Commission, not enforcing seasonal weight restrictions and crews are currently patching potholes and grading roads.

City Manager's Report

Recreation Department received donation of three (3) score boards at Fields of Dreams from Bill Mullaly. Exchange Club is working on Phase 1 of Waterworks Park with the City to install new equipment, will also install bike racks at Sandy Beach along with Cigarettes receptacle at the gate as there is NO SMOKING at the beach. Custom iron bench will be installed at Stock's Park.

St. Joe and Griswold Streets started water valve work and then sewer main transferred off soon. Boil water notices will be sent to that area.

Archbold, OH newspaper sent the City a historic postcard from 1910.

Council Comments

Councilman Sharp thanked crews at DPS on their good work on a Lewis Street issue.

Mayor Stockford mentioned the new carpet in the Council Chambers look good.

Councilman Socha thanked Brett Boyd for opening Underdogs.

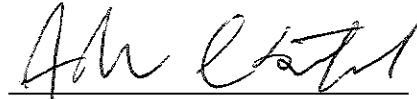
Mayor Stockford mentioned he gave Mr. Boyd a Key to the City for all his good work in the City.

Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09p.m.



Adam Stockford, Mayor



Katy Pice, City Clerk