

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City of Hillsdale  
February 19, 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 Morrissey, Ward 2 Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 Gary Wolfram, Ward 3 Robert Socha, Ward 4 Joshua Paladino, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (Chief HCPD/HCFD), Larry Jones, Larry Walworth and Doug Ingles.

**Approval of Agenda**

Councilman Vear asked about clarification on February 5, 2024 Council Minutes on the two (2) motion for Old Business A. Scarecrow Festival Fees.

Councilman Paladino asked on the Public Services minutes regarding the civil infraction fine changes and setting a public hearing.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Pratt to approve the agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Township, commented on the Council minutes and the Howell Street lights and permit procedure.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of February 1, 2024 - \$1,321,940.36
  - 2. Payroll of February 15, 2024 - \$189,343.76
- B. City Council Minutes of January 16, 2024, February 5, 2024
- C. Finance Committee Minutes of February 5, 2024
- D. Election Commission Minutes of February 2, 2024
- E. Shade Tree Minutes of February 7, 2024
- F. Public Services Committee Minutes of February 12, 2024
- G. Right of Way Request- Annual HCCF Youth 5k
- H. BPU Carleton Lift Station Upgrade
- I. BPU Eaton Water Meter Nodes
- J. BPU WTP High Service Pump 1 Replacement
- K. BPU Water Meters

Councilman Socha inquired about BPU items and if they were budgeted for.

Motion by Councilmember Socha seconded by Councilmember Pratt 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 Wolfram	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

**Communications/Petitions**

- A. Brush Collection
- B. Cemetery Spring Clean-up Notice
- C. Spring Newsletter
- D. 2024 Voter Information Guide
- E. Community Center Grant Update
- F. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

City Manager Mackie gave an update on the grant submittal for the Mitchell Research Center, the City did not receive any funds for the project.

Commissioner Ingles reported on a Material Management Plan needed for the County required by the State of Michigan. The County’s intent of plan needs to be submitted by July 6, 2024. Ingles reported stop lights on Moore Rd by Meijer store intersection will be in effective on February 26, 2024. Mr. Ingles reviewed the reconstruction of the Courthouse.

Information is presented for information only.

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

None

**Old Business**

- A. Right of Way Permit Fee Schedule

Jason Blake, DPS Director started on February 12, 2024, City staff and Public Services Committee met to review and discuss the proposed right-of-way permit fees for special events. The Committee reviewed several other municipalities’ fee schedules. The Public Service Committee recommends City Council approve the proposed fee schedule update and suggest an annual review as part of the budget process.

Lengthy Council discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilman Sharp support by Councilmember Morrissey to approve the Right of Way Permit Fees as present

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

**New Business**

A. Emergency On-call Service Holiday City Agreement

David Mackie, City Manager reported the HBPU electric department has been approached by AMP to consider providing after hours emergency services to the Village of Holiday City, OH. The contract would be between AMP and the City of Hillsdale BPU. BPU would not be required to perform routine maintenance and would only be required to respond to after hours and weekend outages. BPU would not be required to respond if we had outages on our own system, our customers would always be restored first, in the event that both utilities had outages. The system is very small, approximately 45 electric meters and usually only incurs 3-5 outages a year. The line crew has gone to Holiday City and surveyed the system. They are open to consideration and have requested that if we choose to enter into an agreement that we have an opt-out after one (1) year.

The BPU Board recommends the City Council approve a one (1) year contract with AMP for services to Holiday City.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Vear to approve the one (1) year contract with AMP and Holiday City.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. LRS Trash Services Contract

David Mackie, City Manager mentioned The city received bids for solid waste and recycling services from Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) and Granger Waste Management. Bids were presented to Council on January 16, 2024. City Council approved a five-year proposal from Lakeshore Recycling Services.

Jason Blake, DPS Director reported the contracts were reviewed by Attorney Tom Thompson and have been agreed upon by LRS Systems. There are no changes in the price structure previously presented to council.

Residential trash service will be \$14.34/month, residents may also choose to have recycling service for an additional \$3.61/month. LRS will provide 96 gallon carts for both services with weekly and biweekly collection respectively.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Sharp approve the LRS Trash Services Contract 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 Wolfram	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

**Miscellaneous Reports**

- A. Proclamations – None
- B. Appointment- None
- C. Other- None

**General Public Comment**

Larry Walworth, 39 Leroy St., commented on leaf piles procedure, flag etiquette and reported on the animal at large issue he had and the information he received from his FOIA report.

**City Manager's Report**

Election – Nine (9) day Early Voting Site open for early voting.

City Clerk's Office will be open Saturday, 9am -5pm to issue Absentee Ballots.

Election Day is on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. Residents vote at the Hillsdale Community Library polls open at 7am and close at 8pm.

Tax collection due February 14, 2024. Late payments can be made to tax office through March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Board of Review will meet to hear appeals on March 11 9am- 3pm and March 12 from 3pm- 9pm.

DPS met with MDOT railroad and Hallett Street Bridge will receive flashing street lights.

Playground equipment at Waterworks Park will be removed and replaced with new equipment will happen in phases and has started.

**Council Comments**

Councilman Socha asked that the Code Enforcement department verify the violation before sending out an enforcement letter from a complaint.

Councilman Sharp thanked DPS for a job well done with salting and clearing the streets/sidewalks.

Councilmember Pratt asked about BPU billing and statements.

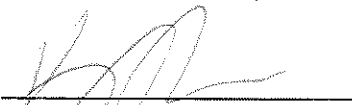
**Adjournment**

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

  
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Adam Stockford, Mayor

  
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Katy Price, City Clerk