

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

March 4, 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  
William Morrissey, Ward 2  
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2  
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3  
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3  
Robert Socha, Ward 4  
Joshua Paladino, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Anthony Vear, Ward 1  
R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1

Also Present: Tom Thompson, (City Attorney), Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (Chief HCPD/HCFD), Sam Fry (EDC/Marketing), Dennis Wainscott, CJ Toncray, Holly Rossman, Mark Nichols, Lance Lashaway, Jeff Fazakas, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles.

### Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stockford requested New Business item H. Street Closure request of North Manning Street for placement of crane used at Hillsdale Place be added to agenda.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Councilmember Socha to add New Business item H. Street Closure of Manning Street for crane use, TCO 2024-07.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Councilmember Socha to approve amended agenda.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### Public Comment

Jeff Fazakas, 121 State St., commented on the Leaf Collection and trackless boom mower attachment.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of February 15, 2024 - \$614,003.78
  - 2. Payroll of February 29, 2024 - \$189,396.60
- B. City Council Minutes of February 19, 2024
- C. Finance Minutes of February 19, 2024
- D. Public Services Minutes of February 26, 2024
- E. Street Closure for Hillsdale College Taste of Manning Event
- F. Noise Variance Request Hillsdale College CentralHallaPalooza Event
- G. Farmers Market Street Closure Request

Motion by Councilmember Morrisey seconded by Councilmember Socha to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call:

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

**Communications/Petitions**

A. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

Commissioner Ingles reported on Adult Use Marijuana payment report for FY 2023 Hillsdale County will receive \$472,690.80 into the general fund in 2024.

Additionally Hillsdale County board and commissions have opening for anyone interested in serving on a board should contact County Clerk.

Information is presented for information only.

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

None

**Old Business**

A. None

Council Member Stuchell entered meeting at 7:17 p.m.

**New Business**

A. Set Public Hearing to Amend Ordinance Requiring U&O permit for Owners principal residence.

David Mackie, City Manager reported on February 26, 2024, City Staff and City of Hillsdale Public Services Committee (PSC) met to review and discuss the current Use and Occupancy Permit requirement for properties occupied by the owner as their principal residence. The current Ordinance requires the owner to apply and pay for a permit, but provides that if they plan to occupy the residence and they had a professional home inspection by a licensed third-party inspector then they could bypass the inspection by the Fire Department. It further requires the code official to issue a permit based on the third-party inspection regardless of what the results of that inspection were, and there was no authority provided to the code official to verify that any of the issues found in the inspection were corrected. Ordinance #2020-4.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Paladino to set public hearing for April 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for public input.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. U & O Permit Application and Inspection Fee Increase

David Mackie, City Manager On February 26, 2024, City Staff and City of Hillsdale Public Services Committee (PSC) met to review and discuss the current Use and Occupancy Permit Application and Inspection fees. After considerable discussion, the PSC motioned to increase the Permit Application and Initial Inspection fees from \$50 to \$100 and all repeat inspections from \$25 to \$50. The change is to better cover the cost of providing the service.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Sharp approve the increase for the Permit Application and Initial Inspection fees from \$50 to \$100 and all repeat inspections from \$25 to \$50.

Roll Call:

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

C. Set Public Hearing to Amend Ordinance Municipal Civil Infractions and Fines

David Mackie, City Manager reviewed that on February 26, 2024, City Staff and City of Hillsdale Public Services Committee (PSC) met to review and discuss the Municipal Civil Infraction language and Fines included in Sections 20-31 through and including Section 20-33 of Article II, Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Hillsdale. The PSC has discussed this information at a number of meetings and requested City Attorney Tom Thompson provide some updated language.

Motion by Councilman Sharp support by Councilmember Socha to set public hearing for April 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for public input regarding amending the ordinance for Municipal Civil Infractions.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. Spring Leaf Collection

Jason Blake, DPS Director reporting that during the Public Services Meeting on Monday, February 26, 2024, City staff and the Public Services Committee discussed foregoing the 2024 Spring Leaf Collection. The current Leaf Mileage covers most of the fall collection, any additional expenditures comes from the General Fund. In 2023 the Fall Leaf Collection was performed at a cost of \$74,277.00 (down \$5,184 from fall 2022 pickup) with revenue from the mileage at \$74,000. DPS crews hauled 3,572 cy of leaves at @ \$20.79 per cy.

DPS did not perform a Spring Leaf Collection in 2023 due to continuing efforts to clean up from February 2022's ice storm. The few calls that DPS received on leaf collection were referred to a local farmer for disposal.

During the 2022 Spring Leaf Collection, DPS collected a total of 189 cy of leaves over 6 days at a cost of \$14,621.14 (\$77.36 per cy).

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Sharp to forgo the spring leaf collection this year.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-1

E. Trackless Boom Mower Attachment

Jason Blake, DPS Director stated currently, the Trackless Utility Tractor is only utilized during leaf collection operations, to better utilize the machine, DPS would like to purchase 1 (one) Boom Mower attachment for brush and vegetation clearing along the bike path and roadsides of various major/local streets. To maintain the bike path and several roadsides, DPS spends approximately \$13,000 yearly in labor and equipment, this work requires the use of several DPS crewmembers. Clearing of vegetation is primarily conducted with hand tools and chainsaws over a two-week span.

By utilizing the Boom Mower attachment, the clearing of the bike path and roadsides could be completed over 2-3 days with only 1-2 member of DPS staff @ a cost of approximately \$2,700.

Bell Equipment – MiDeal Contact Price \$36,352.00

Purchase of this attachment would come from RMEF Capital Outlay. RMEF Capital Outlay currently has an available balance of \$56,802 as our previous purchases of 2 (two) F550 plow trucks came in under their budgeted amounts.

Motion by Councilman Sharp support by Councilmember Wolfram to approve the trackless boom mower attachment in the amount of \$36,352.00.

Roll Call:

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

F. Right of Way Street Closure – N. Howell Street

Scott Hephner, Chief of Police reported the US-12 Daughters of the American Revolution requested the closure of N. Howell Street between E. Bacon and McCollum Streets on Saturday, June 22, 2024 for America 250 Dedication of the Revolutionary War Monument at the Hillsdale County Courthouse. Traffic Control Order 2024-05.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Sharp to approve the Street Closure and Traffic Control Order 2024-05 for the US-12 Daughters of the American Revolution Ceremony.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

G. FY 2025 CDS Resolution

Sam Fry, EDC Coordinator stated In 2021, the City of Hillsdale applied for a Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Community Development Block Grant-Water Related Infrastructure to assist with the replacement of several culverts that are rated poor condition. The City was unsuccessful in obtaining that funding. After making some revisions to the project, staff submitted it through U.S. Senator Gary Peters’ office as a Congressionally Delegated Spending Request (Earmark) for possible federal funding in FY2024. Although our project did not make it into the final draft appropriations bill, we were encouraged to resubmit our request when the FY2025 appropriations process begins. To be considered for funding, there must be demonstrated community support for the request. As such, staff are requesting a resolution of support from City Council.

Motion by Councilman Morrisey support by Councilmember Wolfram to approve the FY 2025 CDS Resolution as presented. **Resolution # 3588.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

H. Street Closure – N. Manning Street Crane use Hillsdale Place

Scott Hephner, Chief of Police reported Irish Roofing requested the closure of N. Manning St. between North Street and E. Carleton Road to place a crane for a re-roofing project at 32 E. Carleton Rd (Hillsdale Place).

Council discussion ensued on project can’t utilize alley or parking lot.

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Sharp to approve the Street Closure of N. Manning St to use crane for re-roofing project as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 6-2

**Miscellaneous Reports**

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

**General Public Comment**

Lance Lashaway, commented on Marijuana report and funds received and the Use and Occupancy permit fee increases for landlords.

CJ Toncray, commented on the Use and Occupancy permit fee increases and showed her displeasure of the increase.

Dennis Wainscott, Garden St., commented on the Use and Occupancy inspection fees.

Holly Rossman, commented on the Farmers Market and thanked Council for the support of it.

**City Manager's Report**

Sam Fry reported on submitted a request through Congressman Walberg's office for funds to reconstruct Arch Ave. and storm water improvements. The request has made it into the final draft bill.

Match on Main Grant open for businesses, deadline to submit it March 29, 2024 to City offices.

Spring Cemetery Clean up March 11, 2024.

Day of Service is set for Saturday, April 6, 2024.

County and City officials met with Wildwood subdivision to discuss options for future possible flooding issues.

**Council Comments**

Councilman Sharp commented on how well the Keefer Hotel construction is coming.

Mayor Stockford commented on the leaf collection.

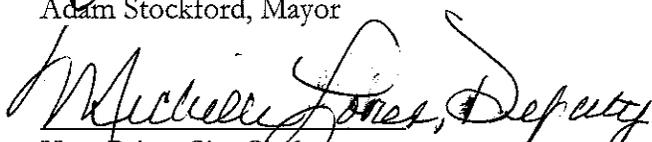
**Adjournment**

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

  
 Adam Stockford, Mayor

  
 Katy Price, City Clerk