

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

April 7, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tem Joshua Paladino opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Josh Paladino called the meeting to order. Clerk Price took roll call.

Council Members present: Joshua Paladino, Ward 4 Mayor Pro Tem
R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1
Jacob Bruns, Ward 1
William Morrissey, Ward 2
Matthew Bentley, Ward 2
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
Bob Flynn, Ward 3

Council Members absent: Robert Socha, Ward 4

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Karen Lancaster (Finance Director), Mark Hawkins (HCFD), Sam Fry (Economic Development), Kim Thomas (City Assessor), Cathy Kelemen, Sheri Ingles, Ashlee Kast, Rick Kast, CJ Toncray, Dennis Wainscott, Dennis Niner, Ken Cole, Scott Sessions, Mark Nichols, Clark Judge, Chad Hammond, Alan Pitts, James Galloway, Rick Roth, Cindy Merritt, Jean Heise, Jeff Fazekas, Russell Richardson and Doug Ingles.

Approval of Agenda

City Manager Mackie requested Communication item F. Resignation of City Engineer K. Bauer.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Flynn, to add the item presented.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Flynn, support by Councilman Morrissey, to approve the amended agenda.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Scott Sessions, 102 Coldspring Cir., commented on SAD Policy and requested relief as he paid \$5000 for his portion of street.

Alan Pitts, Spoke on road repair and is in favor of airport and other services.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of March 13, 2025 \$1,390,318.71
 - 2. Payroll of March 27, 2025: \$203,750.49
- B. City Council Minutes of March 17, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of March 17, 2025
- D. 2025 March Board of Review Minutes
- E. 2025 Assessor's Report
- F. Hillsdale College Taste of Manning Use Agreement
- G. MERS Signatories Resolution- **Resolution #3630**

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call:

Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Communication/Petitions

- A. 2024 Water Quality Report
- B. E-waste Collection Event
- C. St. Anthony’s Letter
- D. Council Work Sessions- Dept. Head Budget Review
- E. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update – Doug Ingles

The items of communications were received for informational purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Public Hearing: SAD 2025-10 Monroe St. Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll

Discussion of exempting MDOT property located at 50 Monroe Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino opened the public hearing 7:34 p.m.
With no public comments Mayor Pro Tem closed hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Bruns to amend the SAD 2025-10 Monroe St to remove 50 Monroe St from the assessment roll.

Roll Call:

Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Wolfram to accept the SAD 2025-10 Monroe St Assessment Roll as amended. **Resolution #3632.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Nay
Councilman Flynn	Aye

Motion passed 6-1

B. Reopen Public Hearing SAD 2025-11 Barry St

Discussion on current policy, local and major street funding and metrics of SAD funding.

No action taken.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. FY 2025 Budget Amendments (Resolution)

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the FY 2025 Budget Amendments as presented. **Resolution #3633.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

B. Request for Qualifications –Banking Services

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve Banking services with Southern Michigan Bank & Trust.

Roll Call:

Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

C. Request for Qualifications – Investment Advisory Services

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve Investment Advisory Services with Meeder Investment Services.

Roll Call:

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

D. Set Public Hearing for 2025-26 Proposed City Budget

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to set public hearing for 2025-26 Proposed City Budget for May 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

E. Monroe Street Reconstruction Project (SAD 2025-10)

City staff developed project documents for the reconstruction of Monroe Street between Hillsdale Street and N. West Street. This project will include new road base material, concrete curb and gutter, updated ADA compliant ramps and an updated storm sewer system.

Bids were requested for this project and six (6) bids were received on March 27, 2025.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to award this contract to the low bidder, Rieth-Riley Construction Inc. Co. of Lansing, MI for the base bid amount of \$649,934.00 with an additional contingency amount of \$50,066.00 for a total project cost of \$700,000.00.

Roll Call:

Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

F. Concrete/Asphalt Crushing

The Department of Public services and City engineer solicited bids for crushing of approximate 5,500 tons of concrete and 3,300 tons of asphalt rubble. Concrete and asphalt crushed to MDOT specifications in plans to repurpose the materials for future street project.

\$56,000 was included and approved in the 24-25 Fiscal Year Budget.

The city received five (5) bids.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to award the bid for the Concrete Crushing to Mierzwa Inc in the amount of \$50,500.00.

Roll Call:

Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – Autism Awareness Month

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino read the proclamation aloud.

B. Appointments- Richard Smith to Board of Review as Alternate

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Bruns to appoint Richard Smith to the Board of Review and an Alternate.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other - None

General Public Comment

Dennis Niner and Jeff Fazekas, commented on Exchange Club and permit fees

Dennis Wainscott, commented on the proposed pay increase for Council, public services and helping people.

Cindy Merritt, spoke on airport, streets (SAD policy), Mayor Pro Tem, City engineer, and Officer Compensation Board and potential wage increase for council.

Jean Heise commented on the Officer Compensation Commission video and potential wage increase.

CJ Toncray and Russell Richardson spoke on Officers Compensation Commission meeting.

Chad Hammond spoke on officials focusing on the City.

City Manager Report

Manager Mackie made a statement about the City Engineer's resignation and the negative impact of road repair moving forward. Mackie reported on the current negative culture and reiterated the City has great staff that chose Hillsdale.

Council Comment

Councilman Bentley requested the Officers Compensation Commission not be discussed at the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino commented on the charter on the compensation of Council and the Officers Compensation Committee. He stated there has been negative comments floating out there. He received five (5) applications for the Officer Compensation Committee.

Councilman Flynn commented on the Officers Compensation Commission, charter and an email received from the OCC member Green. Council should not vote on their own compensation. The budget doesn't have additional funds to support for the increase in compensation. Council doesn't serve for the money it's about public service.

City Attorney Thompson stated Council doesn't approve compensation, Council would reject it by resolution. If it is rejected compensation would remain the same as it currently is. If council doesn't reject it salaries would go into effect after 30 days.

Councilman Stuchell stated the City has a great staff and the City is run by City Manager and Council. He stated that he was sick about the resignations of two (2) great managers. Stuchell request Mayor Pro Tem to consider submitting a resignation from his position as Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Bentley stated Mayor Pro Tem Paladino called for the Officers Compensation Committee as it needed to be called.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino stated Council is having policy discussions. He asked Council and staff for specifics on him being disrespectful and/or being dysfunctional.

City Manager Mackie stated that six (6) applications were submitted for the Officers Compensation

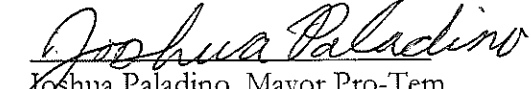
Committee and gave some specifics for Mayor Pro Tem Paladino as he requested.

Adjournment


Motion by Councilmember Flynn, seconded by Councilmember Stuchell to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:01 p.m.



Joshua Paladino, Mayor Pro-Tem



Katy Price, City Clerk