

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

April 21, 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
	Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
	Bob Flynn, Ward 3
	Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent:	Matthew Bentley, Ward 2
-------------------------	-------------------------

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (Chief HCPD/HCFD), Sam Fry (Economic Development), Cathy Kelemen, Sheri Ingles, CJ Toncray, Dennis Wainscott, Scott Sessions, Mark Nichols, Clark Judge, Chad Hammond, Jeff Fazakas, Russell Richardson Cindy Pratt, Janice Plummer, Susan Arnold, Travis Stebleton, Ken Joswiak, Greg Bailey, Alex Dehaan, Brian DuBois, Louise Worms, Ted Jansen, Mark Anderson, Lori Anderson, Libby Clark, Ayla Clark, Amanda Tabbert, Kayson Tabbert, Shannon Gainer, Aleigha Rearick, Leo Webster, Doz Webster, Ana Marie Wentz, Donald Tesch, Ramsey Stoneman, Dash, Olivia, Tim Dold, Marie-Louise Larue, Jessica Sullivan, Melissa DesJardin, Joseph Hendee, Alex Larue, Christine LaRue, Christine Tesch, Donald Tesch Jr., Allen Wipp, Tracy Wipp, Ethan Stoneman, Julie Nevins and Doug Ingles.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino requested Operations and Governance Committee Minutes of April 17, 2025 and New Rules and Procedure for Setting Committee meetings to the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Socha, to add the items as presented.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino had two letters from Kyle Kirsten and Sue Arnold.

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

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Greg Bailey, 17 Foxtail Ln, commented on the Officers Compensation Commission salary determination. Bailey gave a brief overview of the Commission and duties.

Shannon Gainer, Ward four, commented on the Officers Compensation Commission salary determination.

Ken Joswiak, HBA President, commented on the permit and special event fees.

Penny Swan, Ward four, commented on the Officers Compensation Commission salary determination.

Scott Sessions, 102 Coldspring Cir., commented on Barry Street Special Assessment District.

CJ Toncray, ward three, commented on Barry Street Special Assessment District, policy, meetings

and employee retirements.

Dennis Wainscott, ward one, commented on Town Hall meetings and Council holding more one on one meetings with residents.

Russell Richardson, Officers Compensation Commission Chair, commented on the OCC meeting and determination.

Jeff Fazakas, thanked Council for what they do for the City. Commented on the OCC determination and the budget.

Ted Jansen, ward one, commented on his letter in communication about Mayor Pro Tem Paladino.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of April 3, 2025: \$1,219,990.76
 - 2. Payroll of April 10, 2025: \$222,279.83
- B. City Council Minutes of April 7, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of April 7, 2025
- D. Officers Compensation Commission Minutes of April 3, 2025
- E. TCO 2025-8 Hillsdale College Commencement
- F. Noise Variance Request – Hillsdale College
- G. BPU Water Meter Purchase
- H. BPU Diesel Fuel Purchase

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

Roll Call:

Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Socha	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. Mitchell Research Center Spring Newsletter
- B. Ted Jansen Letter
- C. HBA Letter
- D. CAPA 5k Run/Walk
- 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. SAD 2025-11 Barry St.

Councilman Morrisey mentioned he wanted to take a vote and put the item to rest. Residents do not want the project from the majority of letters collected previously.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to reject the SAD 2025-11 Barry Street project.

Roll Call:

Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye

Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Old Business

None

New Business

A. TCO 2025-9 No Parking

TCO 2025-9 No Parking for anytime for the south side of Waldron St. between S. West and S. Manning Streets.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve TCO 2025-9 for No Parking as presented. **Resolution #3631.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval for Social District Permit for St. Joe's Café

Qualified licensee St. Joe's Pizza, LLC, dba St. Joe's Café, located at 92 N Broad Street, Hillsdale, had requested the Hillsdale City Council adopt a resolution so they can apply to the MLCC for their Social District Permit.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to adopt and approve the resolution for the Social District Permit for St. Joe's Pizza, LLC. **Resolution #3634.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

C. Request of Support for Industrial Dr. TEDF Grant

The City of Hillsdale is seeking funding through the Michigan Department of Transportation's Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) Category F grant program to support the resurfacing of Industrial Drive, a key connector serving the Hillsdale Manufacturing and Technology Park. The 0.70-mile project will rehabilitate the deteriorating roadway between Beck Road and Mechanic Street to support continued commercial and industrial traffic.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the Resolution in support for the TEDF Grant for Industrial Dr. as presented. **Resolution #3635.**

Roll Call:

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye

Councilman Wolfram Aye

Motion passed 7-0

D. Set Public Hearing for CDBG Grant Close-Out

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) on behalf of the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF) invited Units of General Local Governments (UGLG) to apply for its Water-Related Infrastructure (WRI) Grant in 2022. This grant was to assist UGLGs in making necessary improvements to existing public infrastructure systems. The City of Hillsdale was successful in securing these grant funds and executing this construction project during 2024. A public hearing is required by the MEDC to adhere to the public participation provisions set forth in Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to close out this grant project.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to set public hearing for CDBG Grant Closeout for May 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

E. Ground Penetrating Radar Purchase

After City Council approved the Grant Agreement (Grant Agreement #009104) with the Hillsdale Community Foundation during the December 16, 2024 Council Meeting, city staff solicited and received three (3) quotes.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Bruns to award the purchase of one (1) Ground Penetrating Radar Unit to GuidelineGeo in the amount of \$23,500.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

F. City Street Decertification (Resolution)

During review of the City of Hillsdale’s ACT 51, Annual Road Mileage Certification for Fiscal Year 2024 it was noted that the city would be required to decertify Winona Drive and a portion of Hillcrest Dr. as the streets were never constructed and are not open for public travel. In addition to Winona Dr. and Hillcrest Dr. a section of Mechanic St. from Industrial Dr. to Barr St. is required to be decertified as part of the City’s annual certification as the Hillsdale County Road Commission is certifying the street as it is a city/county boarder street.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the resolution to decertify the streets as presented. **Resolution #3636.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

G. Airport Parking Lot Bid Award

Travis Stapleton, Airport Manager introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his airport experience.

Alex Dehaan, RS&H Engineering, report on the parking lot project and grant funding.

The recommendation is to award the bid to the low bidder, Big Red Team, LLC dba Dubois Trucking and Excavating, in the amount of \$311,720.02. Including construction engineering

services of \$77,164 the total project cost is \$388,884.02.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to award the airport parking lot project to Big Red Team, LLC dba Dubois Trucking and Excavating in the amount of \$311,720.02.

Roll Call:

Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Nay
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye

Motion passed 6-1

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve the use of capital reserve funds to pay for the project with reimbursement from MDOT Aero.

Roll Call:

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Nay
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye

Motion passed 6-1

H. RS&H Airport Parking Lot Construction Engineering

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve RS&H Airport Parking Lot Construction Engineering Contract in the amount of \$77,164.00 and authorize City Manager Mackie to sign the contract on the City’s behalf.

Roll Call:

Councilman Bruns	Nay
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye

Motion passed 6-1

I. Officers Compensation Commission Salary Determination

The Officers Compensation Commission (OCC) convened on Thursday, April 3, 2025, and, by majority vote, approved an increase in compensation for local elected officials, setting the mayor’s salary at \$25,000 per year and council members’ salaries at \$10,000 per year. The meeting minutes were submitted to the City Clerk’s Office by OCC Secretary Timothy Green, which document this action.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to reject the Officers Compensation Commission’s salary recommendation by resolution. **Resolution #3637.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – none
- B. Appointments- none
- C. Other - None

General Public Comment

Cathy Kelemen, city resident, announce she is running for the Mayor position in August.

Mark Nichols, commented on the flag placement and flag code.

Penny Swan, ward four, commented on Mr. Richardson's comments about City Manager Mackie and the employee's resignations.

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St., stated his displeasure of Mayor Pro Tem Paladino not running for the Mayor position.

Chad Hammond, ward three, commented on the budget.

CJ Toncray, disappointed that Mayor Pro Tem Paladino is not running for the Mayor's position.

City Manager Report

No report

Council Comment

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino commented on the three (3) house fires close to each other and asked for reports.

Councilman Socha announce he is running for the Mayor's seat in August.

Councilman Flynn commented on Mr. Richardson's comments made about council being old, full of gray hair, retired and well off. Flynn disagreed with comments. He encouraged young residents to get involved wherever there was an opening with organizations, boards, or government positions.

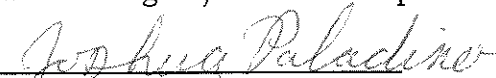
Councilman Stuchell stated he is still working at 70 years old. Stuchell reported that its great that young people are making Hillsdale their home. He also stated the City Manager system that Hillsdale has is not broken and wrong, it is run well. Hillsdale has professionals and good department heads in place who run the City out of professionalism and love of community.

Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.


Joshua Paladino, Mayor Pro-Tem


Katy Price, City Clerk