

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City of Hillsdale  
May 5, 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
	Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Sam Fry (Economic Development), Brandon Janes (IT Dept.), Cathy Kelemen, Hannah Jordan, Rebekah Dobski, Larry Walworth, Keri Stewart, Sheri Ingles, Scott Sessions, Mark Nichols, Melissa DesJardin, Brian DesJardin, Rebekah Bussard, Terri Van Voorhis and Doug Ingles.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino requested New Business D. Capital Improvement Plan to be moved to New Business A.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Socha, to move the item as presented.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

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

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Rebekah Bussard, commented in favor of Camp Hope.

Scott Sessions, 102 Coldsprings Circ., commented against the proposed BPU board appointment.

Mark Nichols, Adams Twp., commented on Camp Hope and zoning requirements.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of April 17, 2025: \$1,010,544.01
  - 2. Payroll of April 24, 2025: \$204,660.57
- B. City Council Minutes of April 21, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of April 21, 2025
- D. Council Budget Work Session Minutes of April 24, 2025
- E. Hillsdale College Commencement Agreement
- F. Q3 Financial Report
- G. Quarterly Revenue and Expenditure Report

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey 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
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

**Communication/Petitions**

- A. Carol Lackey Memorial Dedication at Oak Grove Cemetery
- B. Summer 2025 City Newsletter
- C. Hillsdale Community Library 2023-2024 Annual Report
- D. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update – Doug Ingles

Rebekah Dobski, Library Director gave a reviewed the Library’s annual report.

Doug Ingles, Hillsdale County Commissioner report on a meeting for the Lifeways Bond sent to the Bond Counsel for further discussion. Ingles mentioned there will be an upcoming meeting of the Commissioners at a later date to review to item.

The items of communications were received for informational purposes only.

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

- A. Public Hearing – CBDG Grant Close –Out

This grant was to assist UGLGs in making necessary improvements to existing public infrastructure systems. The grant application scope of work was as follows:

The proposed project will address critical infrastructure maintenance/improvements required throughout the City of Hillsdale on the water main and sanitary sewer systems. The proposed grant project would include the following items:

Water System: Replacement of approximately 75 (12%) of the in-line shut off valves in the water main system. This work will include the installation of new valves and removal of the failed valves.  
Sanitary Sewer System: Replacement and/or cured-in-place lining of approximately 1.40 miles of sanitary sewer within the city.

This project was successfully completed in 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino opened podium at 7:37 p.m.  
With no public comment, Mayor Pro Tem closed podium at 7:37p.m.

- B. Ordinance Adoption: Section 18-103 & 18-113  
Section 36-411 & 18-412  
Section 36-381

**Sec. 18-103 and Sec. 18-113.** The amendments allow for private streets in planned developments. The intent is to help reduce costs for developers but also to remove future maintenance costs to the city by having to add more streets to an already overburdened infrastructure.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Socha to adopt ordinance amendment for Section 18-103 &113 as described. **Ordinance 2025-01.**

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
Councilman Bentley	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

**Sec. 36-411.** The amendments are for references to other sections within zoning that have been recently amended as well as creating minimum requirements that will reduce impediments for future developers.

**Sec. 36-412.** The amendments are to remove references to sections that have been changed or eliminated.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Socha to adopt ordinance amendment for Section 36-411 & 36-412 as described. **Ordinance 2025-02.**

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
Councilman Bentley	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

**Sec. 36-681.** The amendments clarify permit requirements for fences and obscuring walls.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Socha to adopt ordinance amendment for Section 36-681 as described. **Ordinance 2025-03.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-1

**Old Business**

**Camp Hope- Code Enforcement Extension Denial**

On November 18, 2024 the City Council discussed Camp Hope with Melissa Desjardin and the fact the structures didn't meet zoning and building codes. After the discussion, Council suggested to staff that Camp Hope be given till spring 2025 to remove the tents and relocate its' tenants. Code Enforcement gave Melissa until April 30, 2025 to achieve those tasks. On March 25th Melissa requested additional time beyond April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Code Enforcement denied Melissa's request. As of May 1st the structures are still in place. On May 1st Melissa was issued a municipal civil infraction notice for the violation. After two weeks from the notice's issuance if the violation isn't cured it becomes a District Court ticket and the matter will go in front of the judge for resolution.

Lengthy Council discussion ensued on process of infraction violation.

Melissa DesJardin spoke on a plan to move Camp Hope into a transitional housing facility at the

Hillsdale Community Thrift Building (390 W. Carleton Rd.). She stated she is planning on moving the Thrift Store to downtown Hillsdale.

Further discussion ensued.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Bentley to set a Public Safety Committee meeting for May 22, 2025 to discuss options of timeframe, process and hear more on Desjardin’s plan.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A. Capital Improvement Plan (Resolution)

As part of Michigan Public Act 33 of 2008, the City is required to have a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that is updated annually. In addition to the City Master Plan, the CIP is a coordinated spending plan that helps the City implement the adopted Master Plan along with other long-range physical goals. After meeting with City Department Heads and consolidating information. The plan must be reviewed by the City Planning Commission and the public must have an opportunity to review the plan at a public hearing.

The City Planning Commission held a public hearing during their regular meeting on April 16, 2025. Following the public hearing, the Commission moved to send the FY 2025-2031 Capital Improvement Plan to City Council with a recommendation to adopt.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as presented. **Resolution #3638.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-1

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Domestic Harmony Contract

Hannah Jordan, Domestic Harmony Director, gave a brief overview of services and statistics. The City has supported Domestic Harmony for more than 20 years. They provide victims of domestic violence and their children vital services such as: crisis intervention, 24-hour supportive counseling, and transportation, temporary shelter, housing placement assistance, information and referrals in legal and financial matters. These services are free of charge to those who reside in Hillsdale County.

Council discussed services, law enforcement and amount of contract.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Wolfram to increase the amount of contract from \$6000.00 to \$7500.00.

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye

Motion passed 5-3

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the contract if Domestic Harmony in the amount of \$7500.00.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 5-3

#### C. Library Carpet Replacement

Rebekah Dobski, Library Director commented on the condition of the carpet.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to award the Library carpet replacement contract to Seelye Group LTD in the amount of \$22,360.00.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

#### D. Investment Report 3/31/25

The City's investment portfolio report was presented.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Socha to accept the report as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### Miscellaneous Reports

##### A. Proclamations – Arbor Day

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino read proclamation aloud.

##### B. Appointments- Douglas Dobrozsi – BPU Board

Discussion ensued on qualifications/Floridization.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to appoint Douglas Dobrozsi to BPU Board.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-1

C. Other - None

**General Public Comment**

Melissa DesJardin, Ward Three, commented on train cameras, littering and the bike path.

Mark Nichols, Adams Twp., thanked Council for compassion on Camp Hope.

Lance Lashaway, commented on the civil discussion from Council.

**City Manager Report**

City Manager Mackie presented a written report which was in packet.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to send trail camera on bike path discussion to the Public Safety Committee for May 22, 2025.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 5-3

**Council Comment**

Councilman Socha asked about Councilman Bruns no votes on the ordinances.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino stated he won't be in attendance of the next meeting.

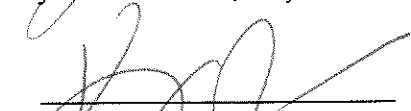
**Adjournment**

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

  
Joshua Paladino, Mayor Pro-Tem

  
Katy Price, City Clerk