

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

June 2, 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 Jack Lovinger, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Sam Fry (Economic Development), Scott Hephner (HCPD), Brandon Janes (IT Dept.), Cathy Kelemen, Larry Walworth, Sheri Ingles, Scott Sessions, Penny Swan, Lynn Burkett, Rachel Doty, Zech Steiger, Emily Rhoda, Clark Judge, Ashley Risher, Mark Nichols, and Doug Ingles.

Approval of Agenda

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

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Penny Swan, Ward four, commented on Library board appointment, not in favor of candidate.

Scott Sessions, 102 Coldsprings Circ., commented against the Library board candidate.

Zech Steiger, 36 E Fayette St., not in favor of the MDOT Road Diet Plan.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of April 17, 2025: \$1,010,544.01
May 1, 2025: \$247,008.91
May 15, 2025: \$539,369.79
May 29, 2025: \$895,445.39
 - 2. Payroll of May 8, 2025: \$201,844.90
- B. City Council Minutes of May 5, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of May 5, 2025
- D. Council Budget Work Session Minutes of May 1, 2025
- E. BPU- Wire Barn Roof Replacement
- F. BPU- Material Storage at WWTP
- G. BPU- Ferrous Chloride Storage at WWTP
- H. BPU- SSOE Engineering Agreements
- I. BPU- Process Water Pump Replacement
- J. BPU- Cross Connection Control Contract Extension
- K. TCO – June Train Event
- L. Noise Variance – July 3, 2025 Fireworks Display

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bruns to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Communication/Petitions

- A. Great Start Collaborative Summer Events
- B. EDP Letter of Appreciation
- C. MAMC Letter recognizing City Clerk
- D. Road Diet Project Update
- E. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update – Doug Ingles

Brief Council discussion on MAMC letter and Road Diet Project.

Doug Ingles, Hillsdale County Commissioner report on a meeting for the Lifeways Bond.

The items of communications were received for informational purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Public Hearing – 25-26 FY City Budget

The City Budget was presented.

Mayor Pro Tem opened podium at 7:37 p.m.

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

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to adopt the 25-26 FY City Budget as presented. **Resolution #3639.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve the Budget Levy resolution as presented. **Resolution #3640.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye

Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Old Business

None

New Business

A. Rotary Fitness Park Site Approval

The Rotary Club of Hillsdale County is proposing to develop a fitness park on city-owned property located at 145 E. Bacon Street. This new park would include fitness equipment for all ages, a miniature soccer pitch, and pickleball courts, and other amenities. Rotary plans to raise funds to develop the park in multiple phases. The City of Hillsdale would be responsible for maintaining the park like any other city-owned park or facility.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the Rotary Fitness Park Project.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

B. IBEW Local 876 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

At the October 7, 2024, City Council meeting the Council approved a union contract with Hillsdale’s Local 876 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). On page 38 of the contract, under Electrical Department, the City agreed to a wage reopener for the Class A Lineman, Line Leader and Line Foreman no later than the first Monday of March 2025. The City and IBEW reviewed comparable union wages from other Michigan electric utilities. Based on that review Hillsdale was found to be below the market and a tentative MOU was reached for a one-time wage adjustment consisting of the following:

- Class A Lineman: \$1.70 per hour
- Line Leader \$1.35 per hour
- Line Foreman \$0.25 per hour

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the IBEW Local 876 MOU one-time wage adjustment, in addition to the contractual wage increase scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2025.

Roll Call:

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

Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

C. Engineering Services

Due to the recent resignation of the City Engineer, current street projects, site plan review requirements and design for future projects, city staff solicited and received three (3) proposals for engineering services from:

ROWE PROFFESIONAL SERVICES
TETRA TECH
MANNIK SMITH GROUP

All three (3) proposals are based on an as-needed hourly basis, not to exceed \$75,000. Hourly rates vary pending on type of engineering services required. The proposals are for the 2025 Calendar year only.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to award services to ROWE Professional Services in the amount of \$75,000.00.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

D. Water & Wastewater Director Resignation Letter

City Manager Mackie reported on May 8th Jeff Gier submitted his resignation as Director of Water & Wastewater with the City of Hillsdale’s BPU, effective May 22, 2025. Mackie as BPU Director, stated the staff and I are temporarily covering the vacancy until it is filled. The position is currently posted for applicants. Currently, Mr. Gier is still being paid as our B-2 sewer treatment plant operator. The B-2 certification is required by the State of Michigan. Additionally, the BPU is getting a third party quote for this service if needed. Given the tight labor market and certifications required by this position, this vacancy could be for an extended period of time.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to accept the resignation, refer the exit interview and review the contract to the Operations and Governance Committee.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

E. Noise Variance – Heather Springborn, Father & Sons Auto and Performance

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve the noise variance for Father& Sons Auto and Performance event at the Hillsdale Fairgrounds on August 9, 2025.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

F. Noise Variance – Hillsdale Market House

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the noise variance for Hillsdale Market House events throughout the summer.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

G. Amendment to TCO 1981-1

The amendment is for a stop sign to replace the yield sign at the intersections of Glendale Street and Westwood Street and Highland Avenue at the intersection of Westwood Street for pedestrian safety.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the Amendment to TCO 1981-1 to add stop sign as presented. **Resolution #3641.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – None
- B. Appointments- Emily Rhoda – Cemetery Board
Adam Kear – Library Board

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bentley to appoint Emily Rhoda to Cemetery Board.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued on Library Board applicant. Council discussed financial background that was asked at the last meeting. Applicant did not have finance background.

Motion by Council Member Bruns, seconded by Council Member Bentley to appoint Adam Kear to the Library Board.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 4-3

C. Other - None

General Public Comment

Ashley Risher, Hillsdale County, shared the Lifeways Bond ballot initiative.

Larry Walworth, 190 Rea St., commented on dogs at large and a police report.

Penny Swan, Ward Four, commented on the Library appointment.

City Manager Report

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

Council Comment

Councilman Flynn encouraged residents to apply for committees and positions that are open to the residents.

Councilman Bentley supported Mayor Pro Tem with appointments that are presented to council and spoke on the negative culture.

June 2, 2025

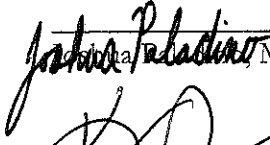
City Council Minutes

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 8:58 p.m.



Joshua Peladine, Mayor Pro-Tem



Kary Price, City Clerk