

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

June 16, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

### Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

City Clerk Katy Price opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

City Clerk Price called the meeting to order and took roll call.

Council Members present:	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:	Joshua Paladino, Ward 4 Mayor Pro Tem
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Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Jack Lovinger, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Brandon Janes (IT Dept.), Jake Hammel (Electrical Superintendent), Cindy Pratt, Nancy McCarty, Debi Taylor, Karen Leese, CJ Toncray, Howard Spence, Stephanie Scott, Eric Moore, Jill Hardway, Paul Rale, Melissa DesJardin, Chris Parks, JoJo Enon, Andrew Gelzer, Matt Gelzer, Adam Bentley, Zech Steiger, John Novok, Jessica Hurley Fawley, Richard Smith, Jacquelyn Snook, Mark Nichols, Melissa Conklin, Scott Sessions, Luke Robson, Colm Manes, Cathy Kelemen, Lori Boyd, Janice Plummer, Michelle Blanchi and Isaac Kirshner.

Motion by Councilman Bentley, support by Councilman Socha, to appoint Councilman Flynn to the Mayor's seat and chair the council meeting in Mayor Pro Tem Paladino's absence.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

### Approval of Agenda

City Manager Mackie requested a New Business item C. Love Inc. Charitable License request and Communication item D. FOIA Appeal – Kayla Ward.

Councilman Socha stated Council received letters from Missy DesJardin regarding Camp Hope, Brent Leininger in opposition of Road Diet and a letter from Eric Moore supporting the Road Diet.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Morrissey, to amend the items to the agenda.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

### Public Comment

Melissa DesJardin, 190 Rea St., commented on Camp Hope and Public Safety meeting.

Josiah Lippincott, Paul Rale, Jill Hardway, CJ Toncray, Zech Steiger, Nick Lopresto commented on Road Diet Plan and are not in favor of the plan.

Luke Robson, in support of Road Diet Plan he gave brief background of process of Road Diet through TIFA Board and the Planning Commission over the years.

Eric Moore, ward one, downtown business owner commented on Substack article by Councilmember Bentley. Moore is in favor of the Road Diet Plan.

Adam Bentley, ward two, is in opposition of the Road Diet Plan and shared his views of Ann

Arbor's street infrastructure and their bike lanes.

Cindy Pratt, 41 Applerun Ln, commented on condition of Camp Hope and Applerun issues with rats and other concerns.

Karen Leese, 64 Applerun Ln, commented on Camp Hope and homelessness. Leese shared issues seen with the homeless.

Howard Spence, 61 Applerun Ln, commented on his negative experience at the apartments with the homeless at Camp Hope.

John Novak, Hillsdale Twp., commented on the Road Diet Plan stated it had commercial traffic issues.

John Mincio, downtown business owner, is in favor of the Road Diet Plan.

Jeff Fazkas, 126 State St., not in favor of the Road Diet Plan and suggest \$200k put to the streets and to slow traffic use police enforcement.

Steve Vear, 275 W. Bacon St., commented on Road Diet Plan.

Mary Wolfram, 3 Corona Circle, supports the Road Diet Plan and shared her experience with fast and noisy traffic at the Dawn Theater.

Scott Sessions, 102 Coldspring Circle, shared concerns about safety of the Road Diet Plan.

Issac Kirsner commented on the Road Diet Plan.

Jeff O'Neil, Hillsdale College Student, commented on the Road Diet Plan around the fairgrounds at Fair time. He is not in favor.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., thanked Council for using their microphones and commented on speed limits through town.

Richard Smith, 63 S. Broad St., is not in favor of the Road Diet Plan he collected 18 signatures from his neighbors that are also not in favor of the plan. (Given to clerk for record).

#### **Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of May 29, 2025: \$895,445.39
  - 2. Payroll of May 22, 2025: \$194,856.97
  - June 5, 2025: \$219,351.72
- B. City Council Minutes of June 2, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of June 2, 2025
- D. BPU- Renew Milsoft Licensing
- E. BPU – Industrial Substation General Site Work
- F. BPU- Industrial Substation Electrical Site Work
- G. BPU- Wastewater Certified Operator Contract
- H. BPU- Asteri GPS Receiver and Equipment
- I. BPU- Personnel Committee Report

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

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

#### **Communication/Petitions**

- A. July 3, 2025 Independence Day Parade
- B. 2025 Summer Concert Series
- C. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update – Doug Ingles
- D. FOIA Appeal – Kayla Ward

The items of communications were received for informational purposes only.

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

None

**Old Business**

A. Public Safety Committee Meeting/Camp Hope Discussion

Council discussed meeting and Camp Hope.

**New Business**

A. Budget Amendments (Resolution)

The Uniform Budget and Accounting Act of 1968, as amended, requires the City to make amendments to the budget when appropriations exceed the current budget. These amendments must be approved by the City Council.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the budget amendments as presented. **Resolution #3642.**

Roll Call:

Chair Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

B. MDOT Road Diet (Resolution)

In the fall of 2023, MDOT approached the City to discuss implementation of a Traffic Calming Plan (Road Diet) in conjunction with their 2026 M-99 resurfacing project. The City conducted a traffic survey that concluded a reduction of 4 lanes to 3 lanes along Broad Street (M-99) between Steamburg Road and East Carleton Road. As part of the road diet approval process, the City hosted two public forum meetings, January 16 and June 12, 2025. The final requirement to partner with MDOT to implement the road diet is a resolution passed by the Hillsdale City Council.

The plan would reduce Broad Street between Steamburg Road and East Carleton Road from four lanes to three lanes. The new configuration would include two lanes of through traffic with one lane as a designated left turn lane. The additional space gained through the lane reduction would be allocated to a buffered bike lane.

Very lengthy Council discussion ensued on the plan, safety, funding and commercial traffic.

Bentley asked to have the Substack article on Road Diet Plan he penned be added to minutes. Article is on file with minutes in the Clerk's office.

Jason Blake discussed and answered questions Council had regarding the Road Diet.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Bruns to table the Road Diet Plan Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilman Socha	Nay
Councilman Stuchell	Nay
Councilman Wolfram	Nay
Councilman Bentley	Aye

Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Nay

Motion failed 3-4

Further lengthy council discussion followed.

Councilman Socha stated he was in favor of the road diet but will be voting no due to his conversations with his neighbors.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Wolfram to approve the MDOT Road Diet Plan as presented. **Resolution 3643.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Nay
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Nay
Councilman Bruns	Nay
Councilman Flynn	Aye

Motion passed 4-3

C. Love Inc. Charitable Gaming License (Resolution)

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the gaming license for the Touch a Truck event from Love Inc. **Resolution #3644.**

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

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

General Public Comment

Steve Vear, 275 W. Bacon St., stated the BPU doing a great job on lighting. Encouraged dark sky lighting for the City.

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St, commented on the Road Diet, Alan Becker, Road and TIFA Funds.

Cindy Pratt, 41 Applerun Ln., stated she spoke with DesJardin on complaints.

Lance Lashaway, 18 Garden St., funds being spent for Road Diet. Thanked Bentley for speaking for residents.

Luke Robson, 45 E Bacon St., thanked Council for passing the Road Diet resolution and stated Hillsdale Renaissance will be making a contribution to help fund the City’s portion of the Road Diet project.

Richard Smith, 63 S. Broad St., commented on Road Diet project.

Thomas Thompson, S. Broad St., thanked Council for passing the Road Diet resolution and shared his concerns at his office.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., commented on microphone use and Road Diet grant.

**City Manager Report**

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

**Council Comment**

Councilman Bentley thanked the public for attendance.

Councilman Bruns had TIFA board questions.

Councilman Socha answered some of the TIFA questions.


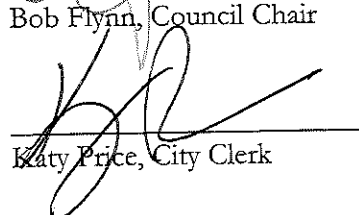
Council Chair Flynn thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**Adjournment**

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

  
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Bob Flynn, Council Chair  
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Katy Price, City Clerk