

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

July 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 Robert Socha, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Jack Lovinger, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Brandon Janes (IT Dept), Melissa Conklin, Scott Sessions, Cathy Kelemen, Larry Walworth, Jill Hardway, David Hambleton, Cassie Hambleton, Grace Hambleton, Heidilyn Hambleton, Josiah Hambleton, and Mark Nichols.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino requested to add under Proclamation-Civil Air Patrol proclamation as well as Old Business A. MDOT TAP Grant Discussion.

Motion by Councilman Bentley, support by Councilman Flynn, to amend the items to the agenda.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

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

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Jill Hardway, 157 Oak St., commented on City Manager merit pay and MDOT Tap Grant.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of June 12, 2025: \$916,234.62
 - 2. Payroll of June 19, 2025: \$ 197,611.61
- B. City Council Minutes of June 16, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of June 16, 2025
- D. Operations & Government Minutes of June 30, 2025
- E. Park Use Agreement – Domestic Harmony

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

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Communication/Petitions

- A. ARE, Inc – Hillsdale Drop-In Center

B. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update – Doug Ingles

The items of communications were received for informational purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

A. MDOT TAP Grant Discussion

Council discussed the amount of City contribution. City Manager Mackie gave some clarification.

Councilmember Bentley stated Planning and Zoning Administrator Mr. Beeker was not in attendance and shared his displeasure of Road Diet project.

New Business

A. FOIA Appeal – Kayla Ward

Length discussion on reduction for fees on police matters and FOIA procedures.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to deny the request for FOIA appeal from Kayla Ward.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

B. City Manager Annual Merit Increase

Lengthy discussion on merit increase.

Councilman Socha asked Manager Mackie for examples of projects.

City Manager Mackie reviewed several projects and street repair that were started and/or completed in 2025.

Further discussion ensued on staffing levels and Mackie stepping in to fill the BPU position in the interim.

Street Repair has been number one goal in the City for about 10 years. Street projects completed include State St., Westwood St area., Fayette St., Griswold Ave, Lynwood Blvd., W. St. Joe St., Hillcrest St., S. Howell St., Williams Ct., Monroe St., Hallett St. Garden St., Vine St., Mead St.

Councilman Bentley gave his reasons why he would be voting no on the merit increase.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino isn't favorable with the time of contract, he stated two (2) years would be best and gave his reasoning.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the two (2) percent merit increase for the City Manager salary going from \$86,885.00 to \$90,361.00.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 5-3

C. 23/25 N. Broad St. Lot Sale

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bruns for the sale of 23/25 N. Broad St. Lot Sale in the amount of \$40,000.00, including \$19,500 in sidewalk repair.

Discussion on using the Hillsdale College Hotel and Community Foundation model to save funds for future projects.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

D. Rescind TCO 1989-1

TCO 1989-1 allows for 15 minute parking on the north side for 85 feet east of the Manning/Monroe St. intersection. There is now a curb parallel parking on the south side across from the location. Rescinding of TCO 1989-1 is needed for the implementation of the reconstruction plan.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn to rescind TCO 1989-1 as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – Civil Air Patrol Day
- B. Appointments- None
- C. Other - None

General Public Comment

Larry Walworth, ward three, commented on dog issue in his neighborhood and code enforcement issues.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., spoke on the FOIA request and asked council to read their packet. Reported on the harassment of City employees from Council and discussed the election for Mayor

vacancy.

City Manager Report

Jason Blake gave a brief update on the Keefer House Hotel.

Council requested that CL Real Estate gave an update.

Motion by Council Member Bruns, seconded by Council Member Flynn for the Public Services Committee to meet to discuss TCO fees, etc.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

City Manager Mackie stated he will request CL Real Estate to give an update at next meeting.

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

Council Comment

Councilman Bentley requested employee exit interviews to be shared with Council, asked about a BPU tour and spoke on road diet.

Employee exit interviews were added to meeting and put on file in Clerk's office.

Councilman Socha asked about the at large dog issue.

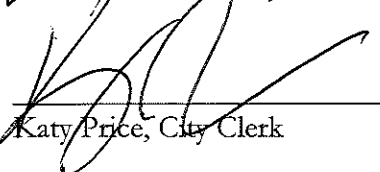
Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Joshua Paladino, Mayor Pro Tem


Katy Price, City Clerk