

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
August 18, 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/Planning/Zoning), Brandon Janes (IT Dept), Penny Swan, Lance Lashaway, Scott Sessions, Parker Hjelmberg, Cathy Kelemen, Jean Heise, Kent Heise, Zech Steiger, Andrew Gelzer, Luke Robson, Colm Maches, Jackie Snook, and Darius Audrys.

Approval of Agenda

City Manager Mackie requested Communication item C. Airport Update be removed as Airport Manager is not in attendance.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Socha, remove the item.

Motion by Councilman Flynn, supported by Councilman Morrissey to accept the amended agenda.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Luke Robson, Road Diet Project, the TAP grant and funding that has been offered to help with cost.

Zech Steiger, 36 E Fayette St., read Facebook comments on Road Diet aloud. He is not in favor of the project.

Penny Swan, Ward four, stated the Road Diet had been approved asked for clarification as the discussion was for a resolution on details for funding.

Jean Heise, Ward four, stated she was against the road diet at first but is very much in favor of the road diet project now.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of July 31, 2025: \$1,388,065.65
 - 2. Payroll of July 31, 2025: \$215,215.82
- B. City Council Minutes of August 4, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of August 4, 2025

- D. Cemetery Minutes of May 7, 2025
- E. Shawn's 5k walk/run for Cancer Right of Way
- F. Indiana Outboard Races – Park Use Agreement
- G. BPU: Scale Computing VM Hosts and Network Storage
- H. Investment Report June 30, 2025

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

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

Communication/Petitions

- A. Hillsdale Hospital Blood Drive – August 26, 2025
- B. MI Solar for All- EGLE Director Statement & Letter
- C. 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. TAP Grant Local Contributions (Resolution)

Sam Fry, Economic Development and Jason Blake DPS Director reported At the August 4, 2025, City Council meeting, staff presented revised estimates of the City's projected cost share for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant. At that time, staff noted that further clarification from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) was needed regarding whether some items within the proposed scope of work were TAP-eligible.

On August 12, 2025, City staff met with MDOT representatives, who confirmed that the items included under the "Miscellaneous" category are TAP-eligible, and therefore only require a 20 percent local match. MDOT staff also requested that staff include a 15% assumed design cost in the Non-Participating category. With these adjustments and updated figures entered into the grant platform, the total TAP Grant project cost is now estimated at \$868,088.36, with a required local contribution of \$395,443.10.

On August 13, 2025, the TIFA Board held a special meeting with 12 members in attendance. The Board unanimously voted to support the project with a financial contribution. After deliberating how much to contribute, the Board voted to pledge \$250,000 towards the project. With TIFA's commitment, plus a pledged donation of \$10,000, the City's remaining share is \$135,443.10, allowing the full project scope to be completed, including both the TAP-eligible and Non-Participating components.

Council discussion ensued on traffic lights, possible funding from the Economic Development Corporation and specifics on time frame of the project.

Councilman Bentley requested the resolution be tabled until a later date.

Councilman Stuchell spoke about the TIFA meeting, business owners that are in favor of the project and funding received to do the project.

Councilman Flynn mentioned that council’s previous, along with other city committees have approved this project for over 12 years and it was also put in the City’s master plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino stated the infrastructure improvements are good. He questioned if the project would be canceled by council in 2026 and what the repercussions would be cost wise.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to accept the TAP Grant resolution as presented.

Councilman Morrisey commented the local contribution of \$135,000 is not that large of an amount when you talk infrastructure and road repair.

Councilman Bentley stated people don’t pay attention to what goes on in the master plan, city council, and TIFA meetings; people are out living their lives. People show up when they are aggravated when there is a plan that no one wants.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Bruns to table to TAP Grant local contribution Resolution.

Roll Call:

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

Motion failed 3-5

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to accept the TAP Grant resolution as presented. **Resolution 3646.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 5-3

New Business

A. Efficiency Smart Service Agreement

City Manager/BPU Director gave background on the state and the Energy Waste Reduction legislation.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to approve the renewal of AMP’s updated Efficiency Smart Agreement for a term of 2 years 3 months as presented. **Resolution 3647.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye

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

Motion passed 8-0

B. September 2, 2025 Council Meeting Discussion

Council discussion ensued on cancellation of the September 2nd meeting due to holidays.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to cancel the September 2, 2025 Council meeting.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

Councilman Bentley motioned to hold a special meeting.

Discussion ensued on special meeting procedure.

Councilman Bentley stated it would be for Road Diet and ballot initiative.

No further action.

Miscellaneous Reports

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

General Public Comment

Kent Heise, Ward four (4), thanked Council for what they do. Commented on the road diet and public safety. Stated public safety should be priority. The Road diet would do that.

Luke Robson, spoke on the Road Diet, possible overturn of it for esthetic preference along with additional costs to taxpayers.

Penny Swan, ward four (4), thanked Mr. Mackie for trying to look at cost saving methods for energy and thanked council for using their microphones.

Lance Lashaway, commented on road diet and council.

Scott Sessions, 102 Cold Springs Cir., stated someone was going around taking photos of homes.

Jean Heise, Ward four (4), commented on the person taking pictures, gentlemen works for Meijer. Cathy Kelemen, Ward three (3), commented on the solicitor taking pictures and congratulated Mr. Bentley and Mr. Sessions on winning the election. Encouraged City Council to listen to city residents and not always the outside comments.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., commented on Keefer House and mayor candidate brochures.

City Manager Report

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


Council Comment

Adjournment

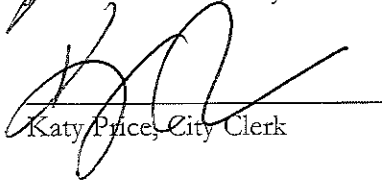
Motion by Councilmember Flynn, seconded by Councilmember Socha to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Joshua Paladino, Mayor Pro Tem



Katy Price, City Clerk