

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
January 20, 2026
7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Scott Sessions opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Mayor Sessions called the meeting to order. Clerk Price took roll call.

Council Members present:	Scott Sessions, Mayor 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 Joshua Paladino, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: Sam Fry (Assistant City Manager), Katy Price (City Clerk), Tom Thompson (City Attorney), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Kim Thomas (City Assessor), Rob Stiverson (City Engineer), Clark Judge, Lance Lashaway, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Chris Sumnar, Howard Spence, CJ Toncray, Cindy Pratt, Aiden Sullivan, Penny Swan, Mark Nichols, Jeff Fezakas, Cathy Kelemen.

Approval of Agenda

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment Received From:

Jill Hardway- Ward 2 , Cindy Pratt- Ward 2, Lance Lashaway, Howard Spence- Ward 2, CJ Toncray- Ward 3, James Edward Thomas,

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of December 30, 2025: \$917,048.10
 - 2. Payroll of December 30, 2025: \$218,771.42
- B. City Council Minutes of January 5, 2026
- C. Finance Minutes of January 5, 2026

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Socha, to approve the agenda as amended with the above changes.

Roll Call:

Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

Communication/Petitions

- A. Toys for Tots Letter
- B. Letter from Dr. Todd Ryan, DDS
- C. Hope Harbor Letter
- D. MSU Extension Virtual Classes- Governing
- E. Staff Update om Solar Project Research Request
- F. Library Appointment Communications from January 5, 2026
- G. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

Items for information purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Highstreet 2026 Insurance Service Agreement

The City of Hillsdale has separated the payment of Highstreet Insurance & Financial Services’ (formerly, Vested Risk Strategies) contracted services from that of the City’s actual insurance premiums. The agreement is for one year. The fee for services, \$50,000, is the same amount as the previous four years.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Wolfram to approve the Highstreet 2026 Insurance Service Agreement in the amount of \$50,000 as presented.

Roll Call:

Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

- B. Property and Casualty Insurance

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the Property and Casualty Insurance as presented.

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye

Councilman Flynn Aye

Motion passed 9-0

C. Proposed 2026 Special Assessment Districts for Street Projects

Council received the drawings, specifications, and engineer’s estimates for the proposed 2026 Special Assessment Districts. This item was presented for informational purposes only.

Lengthy Council discussed special assessments and the way the assessment would be asset to the property owners.

No action taken.

D. Set Public Hearing for 2026-1 Special Assessment District

2026 Special Assessment District – SAD# 2026-1 Arch Ave., Industrial Dr. and Proctor Dr.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to approve the resolution of necessity and set public hearing for February 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. **Resolution # 3665.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

E. Set Public Hearing for 2026-2 Special Assessment District

2026 Special Assessment District – SAD# 2026-2 South St.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the resolution of necessity and set public hearing for February 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. **Resolution # 3666.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

F. Set Public Hearing for 2026-3A Special Assessment District

2026 Special Assessment District – SAD# 2026-3A Oak St.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the resolution of necessity and set public hearing for February 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. **Resolution # 3667.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

G. Water Fluoridation

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino requested the fluoridation item go to BPU to review and research more.

Motion by Council Member Paladino, seconded by Council Member Wolfram to send water fluoridation item to BPU to research more.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – None
- B. Appointment- Library Board – Eric Moore , Reappointment – Election Commission – Ginger Novak, William “Bill” Mullaly
- C. Other

Lengthy Council discussion ensued on Mr. Moore’s appointment for the Library Board. Councilman Bentley questioned the Mayor’s nomination. Councilman Morrissey and Flynn spoke in favor of Mr. Moore’s nomination. Councilman Paladino read aloud an email that he received from Mr. Moore as a library board member from 2022 against censorship or weeding and feels there is policy objection why he is not in favor of his nomination.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve Eric Moore to the Library Board.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 6-3

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha to reappoint Ginger Novak and William Mullaly to the Library Board.

All ayes. Motion carried.

General Public Comment Received From:

Jeffrey Fazakas, Lance Lashaway, Penny Swan, CJ Toncray.

City Manager Report

Sam Fry read the report with Council.

Council Comment

Councilman Bentley and Mayor Sessions had a back and forth. Councilman Bentley requested the SAD petitions turned into the clerk, Mr. Lashaway's items and the email Councilman Paladino read aloud be put on record and emailed to Council. The items were put on file in the City Clerk's office for inspection.

Councilman Socha stated that former Hillsdale County Judge Sanderson passed away and sent condolences to his family, Mr. Sanderson's memorial is February 12, 2026.

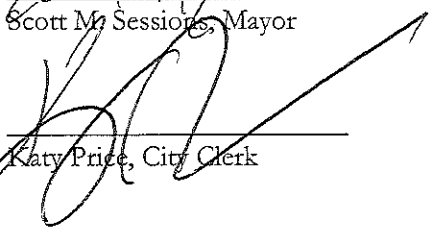
Adjournment

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

The meeting Adjourned at 9:23 p.m.



Scott M. Sessions, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk

View meeting online: [City Council Meeting January 20th, 2026](#) (YouTube Channel)