

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
February 2, 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: David Mackie (City Manager), Sam Fry (Assistant City Manager), Katy Price (City Clerk), Tom Thompson (City Attorney), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Jill Hardway, Abe Dane, Russell Picek, Lance Lashaway, Doug Ingles.

Approval of Agenda

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment Received From:

Jill Hardway- Ward 2, Lance Lashaway, Jake McLain

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of January 15, 2026: \$181,165.92
 - 2. Payroll of January 15, 2026: \$218,771.42
- B. City Council Minutes of January 20, 2026
- C. Finance Minutes of January 20, 2026
- D. Community Development Minutes of January 21, 2026
- E. Finance Reports for the Quarter Ending December 31, 2025
- F. Investment Report as of December 31, 2025
- G. Public Safety Committee Minutes of January 29, 2026

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

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. 2025 Year End Code Enforcement and Zoning Report
- B. Tim Green Email
- C. Eric Moore Email
- D. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

County Commissioner Ingles gave an update on the County.

Items for information purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Q2 Budget Amendments

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the Budget amendments as presented. **Resolution # 3668.**

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. Joint Early Voting Site Agreement

Clerk Price briefly reviewed the Joint Early Voting Site agreement with Council and answered questions on costs and attendance. All 22 municipalities share in the cost of the state and federal elections with the joint agreement which reduces costs and alleviates any staffing shortages. County Clerk Dane answered the few County questions that had been asked.

Councilman Bruns stated he thought municipalities should conduct their own elections individually.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the Joint Early Voting Site Agreement ending December 31, 2027 with Hillsdale County as presented.

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Nay
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye

Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Nay
Councilman Flynn	Aye

Motion passed 7-2

C. Appointment of Kristopher Joswiak as Police and Fire Chief

Kristopher Joswiak introduced himself and shared his history in law enforcement and experience with in the fire department. Council asked Mr. Joswiak questions pertaining to the job.

City Manager Mackie explained the interviewing process and Mayor recommended Mr. Joswiak to the Public Safety Committee.

City Manager Mackie stated that Chief Hephner will be leaving the city on February 17, 2026.

Lengthy Council discussed on the hiring process and mayor’s appointment.

Motion by Council Member Paladino, seconded by Council Member Bentley to table the nomination of Police and Fire Chief.

Roll Call:

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

Motion failed 3-6

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the Police and Fire Chief appointment of Kristopher Joswiak.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-1

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – None
- B. Appointment- None
- C. Other – Moment of Silence – Eric Pressler

Council held a moment of silence for Eric Pressler. Memorial Service will be held on February 22, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Van Horn Eagle Funeral Home in Hillsdale, MI.

General Public Comment Received From:

Jill Hardway, Lance Lashaway, Jack McLain, Russell Picek, Jason Blake, Robert Eichler.

Jill Hardway submitted a special assessment district petition packet to Council.

City Manager Report

Manager Mackie reported Marshalls Store to open in March 2026, 2025 winter taxes are due February 17, 2026, and mentioned an election will be held this year for the Mayor and four (4) Council seats.

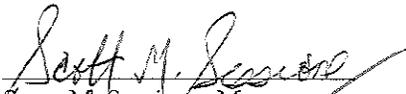
Council Comment

Councilman Bentley spoke on special assessment district and petitions. Discussion on committee meetings, attendance of council and the Open Meetings Act.

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 February 2nd, 2026](#) (YouTube Channel)