

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

June 1, 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), Karen Lancaster (Finance), Tina Bumpus (Finance), Mark Nichols, Penny Swan, Kevin Pauken, Amber Yoder, James Brandon.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Sessions requested to add State Representative Jennifer Wortz in Communication replacing item D. Hillsdale County Commissioner Ingles as the Commission was absent.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, supported by Councilman Socha to replace Communication item D. Hillsdale County Commissioner Ingles with State Representative Jennifer Wortz.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Flynn, supported by Councilman Socha to approve the agenda as amended.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mayor Sessions read the rules requesting name and address.

Meeting attendee (Lance Lashaway) refused to give name and address. Mayor Sessions read the current council rules of procedure aloud, Sessions called to order; the Mayor and Lashaway went back and forth. Mayor Sessions asked Lashaway to sit down for refusal to state name, with Lashaway not complying, Mayor Sessions called to go into recess at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Sessions resumed meeting and came out of recess at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Sessions, stated Lashaway was out of order. Mayor read the Council's rules of procedure aloud again and asked Lashaway to state his name.

Motion by Councilman Bentley, supported by Councilman Paladino to override the Mayor's ruling to discuss.

Council discussed ruling.

Roll Call:

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

Motion failed 3-6

Mayor Sessions asked once more to state name and limit comments to three (3) minutes. Lashaway refused to state name. Mayor Sessions asked the Sergeant of Arms to remove Lashaway from the Council Chambers. Lashaway was removed.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of May 14, 2026: \$280,449.08
 - 2. Payroll of May 21, 2026: \$211,700.67
- B. City Council Minutes of May 4, 2026 & May 18, 2026
- C. Finance Minutes of May 18, 2026
- D. Operations and Governance Minutes of May 20, 2026
- E. Annual Firework Permit for July 4, 2026

Motion by Councilman Morrisey, support by Councilman Flynn, to approve the consent agenda 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

Communication/Petitions

- A. Library Summer Reading Events
- B. 2026 Independence Day Parade Registration
- C. 3rd Annual Butterfly Release Memorial Service
- D. State Representative Update – Jennifer Wortz

State Representative Wortz gave a brief update on road funding passed last year, along with discussing clerk positions, elections and green energy.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

Old Business

New Business

- A. FY 2026-27 Budget (Resolution)

Council discussion on BPU Power rate increase.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to adopt the budget as presented. **Resolution #3678.**

Council discussion on City Manager department increase.

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrissey	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

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha to amend the approved budget to increase the purchase power line in the Electric Department in the amount of \$880,078.00.

Council discussion on rate study done years ago and increase in electric rates for residents and consumers.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve the budget levy resolution as presented. **Resolution #3679.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

B. Electric Rates Amendment (Resolution)

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve the amendments to the BPU electric rates as presented. **Resolution #3680.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

C. Approval of Amendments to the Council Rules of Procedures

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Paladino to amend the revision in section 6.3 to add, "Public Comment periods shall first obtain recognition and approval from the presiding officer; a person addressing the Council is required to state his or her name and address, or city residents may provide their ward in lieu of a full street address, while non-city residents may provide their city, village, or township of residence." to the Council Rules of Procedures.

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

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the amendments to the Council Rules of Procedures.

Council discussion ensued on the handling of previous public comment and identifying and stating name to speak at podium.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-1

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – None
- B. Appointment- James Brandon- TIFA Board

Motion by Councilman Socha, seconded by Councilman Wolfram to approve James Brandon Prince to the TIFA Board

All ayes. Motion carried.

- C. Other –None

General Public Comment

Jill Hardway, Kevin Pauken, Joseph Hendee.

City Manager Report

Assistant City Manger Fry gave the report.

Council Comment

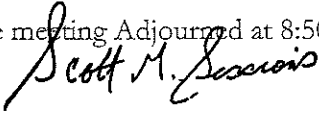
Councilman Flynn commented on the steam train event and recognition for employees and retirements.

Mayor Sessions wished City Clerk Price a Happy Birthday.

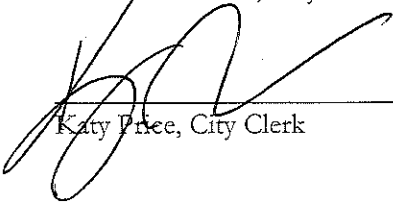
Adjournment

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.


Scott M. Sessions, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk

View meeting online: [City Council Meeting June 1st, 2026](#) (YouTube Channel)