

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

July 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
--------------------------	---

Council Members absent:	None
-------------------------	------

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager/BPU Director), Sam Fry (Assistant City Manager), Katy Price (City Clerk), Tom Thompson (City Attorney), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Kim Thomas (Assessor), Olivia Jones (Zoning Administrator), James Edward Thomas, Mark Nichols, Penny Swan, Amber Yoder, Larry Walworth, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Elizabeth Bianchi.

Approval of Agenda

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of June 11, 2026: \$365,873.19
 - 2. Payroll of June 18, 2026: \$217,411.43 and July 2, 2026: \$214,169.29
- B. City Council Minutes of June 15, 2026
- C. Finance Minutes of June 15, 2026 and July 1, 2026
- D. Shade Tree Commission Minutes of June 10, 2026
- E. Election Commission Minutes of July 8, 2026
- F. BPU- Eaton Yukon AMI Software Support
- G. BPU- Q-Mation/AVEVA SCADA Licensing/Maintenance Agreement
- H. BPU- LSLR Lead/Galvanized Service Line Replacement

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

Roll Call:

Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye

Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

Communication/Petitions

A. Street Project Verbal Update- Jason Blake

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

A. Amendment to Ordinance: Section 36-143, Rezoning 8 E. Bacon St. et al

On May 21, 2026, La Rue's Pest Control LLC, owner of 8 E Bacon St, 10 E Bacon St Lot, and 10 E Bacon St Alley, filed a petition to rezone the property with the Planning Commission. The Property Owner is currently operating a commercial business on the property. Historically, the building has housed McCance Medical Clinic, Volume Salon, and most recently, Bucklin Law PLC.

Motion by Councilman Bentley, supported by Councilman Socha to approve the amendment to Section 36-143, Rezone 8 E bacon St. et al as presented. **Ordinance 2026-04.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

Old Business

New Business

A. Declare Public Nuisance- 64 Spring St

The Code Enforcement Department received notice that a structure fire occurring March 25, 2026 had rendered the residence addressed as 64 Spring Street unsafe for occupancy. The property owner was notified that the structure was dangerous and ordered to demolish it by April 29, 2026. There was no insurance on the property and the property owner has indicated that he did not have the financial means to demolish the unsafe structure. A civil infraction was issued on June 23, 2026. In addition to the unsafe structure, the property owner has been cited for solid waste/sanitation violations and an inoperable vehicle. No civil infractions have been issued yet for this violation. Following the fire, the property owner submitted an application for a zoning permit to change the use of the garage to a residence. The stipulations for approval of this permit included clear language that the structure could not be occupied as a residence until a Certificate of Occupancy was issued by the Hillsdale County Building Official, verifying compliance with the minimum requirements under the Michigan Residential Building Code. Despite this stipulation, the owner has subsequently been cited for occupancy of the garage by himself and others without the required approved permits. No civil infractions have been issued for this violation, but the structure has been posted as unsafe for occupancy.

Council discussion ensued on home owner's intent and lack of insurance.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to declare 64 Spring St a Public Nuisance. **Resolution #3683.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

B. Police Patrol Car Purchase

The Hillsdale Police Department is requesting approval to purchase one new Dodge Durango Pursuit AWD to replace an aging patrol vehicle that will be sold at auction. The department plans to buy the Durango using State of Michigan contract pricing, which typically provides discounted, standardized rates for government agencies.

Funding for the purchase; \$75,000 has already been set aside in the Capital Improvement Fund for the current budget year, meaning no additional appropriation was needed.

Council discussion ensued on current police vehicles and the issues of the fleet.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the purchase agreement as presented for a new police vehicle (Dodge Durango) in the amount of \$74,993.00.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

C. PACE Schedule Software Purchase

The Hillsdale Police and Fire Department currently utilizes manual scheduling processes that are time-consuming and increase the potential for scheduling conflicts, errors, and administrative inefficiencies. PACE Scheduler is a public safety scheduling platform specifically designed for fire and EMS agencies. The software provides automated scheduling, shift trades, leave management, overtime tracking, staffing notifications, and reporting capabilities. Implementing PACE Scheduler will improve operational efficiency, provide greater accountability, reduce administrative workload, and assist in maintaining minimum staffing requirements while enhancing communication with department personnel.

The total first-year cost, including implementation and the annual software subscription, is \$2,350. Staff recommends entering into a one-year subscription, with the option to renew annually. Funding for this purchase was included in the approved FY 2026-27 Police and Fire Department Budget.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the PACE Schedule Software as presented and have the City manager and Police/Fire Chief to execute the agreement.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

D. Bid Award- Junior Renovation

The Library Board along with the Library Director have discussed at length the decision to assess the building and specifically the youth spaces to allow for a more creative and experiential space for the children. While the intent is to redevelop a space in the near future, the Library Board is only actively bidding out for a space assessment.

Council discussion on library space, polling location concerns and getting Hillsdale College interns to help in the effort for a minimal cost.

Motion by Council Member Paladino, seconded by Council Member Flynn to award the junior’s Renovation Beginning Phase to MCD Architects at a price of \$20,800.00 as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

Miscellaneous Reports

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

General Public Comment

Jeff Fazekas- State St.,

Motion by Councilman Paladino, Seconded by Councilman Bentley to allow Clerk Price to add Lance Lashaway to minutes.

City Attorney stated that rules were changed from “requested” to require and it is up to chair to recognize the person at the podium.

Mayor Sessions asked if there was any other public that would like to speak.

Mayor Sessions recognized the next public speaker, Larry Wolworth- Ward 3. (Speaking from Clerk’s desk).

Point of order- Rule 10.6 read by Councilman Paladino.

Motion by Councilman Paladino, Seconded by Councilman Bentley to suspend the first sentence of rule 6.3 requiring his or her name and address.

Roll Call:

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

Motion failed 4-5

James Edward Thomas, 2200 Barr St, Hillsdale Twp.

Roberto Eichler refused to state address, sat down.

Mayor Sessions asked Lashaway to state name, he refused.

No other comments, podium was closed.

Closed Session

Motion by Councilman Morrisey, Seconded by Councilman Flynn to go into closed session to discuss legal opinion.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

Went into closed session at 8:05 p.m.

Council reconvened in open session at 8:45 p.m.

City Manager Report

Katy Price, City Clerk gave an election update.

Council Comment

Councilman Flynn thanked BPU and DPS employees for their work during the July 3rd storm cleanup.

Mayor Sessions also thanked BPU, DPS and Sam Fry along with Corey Murray for all their works for July 4th events.

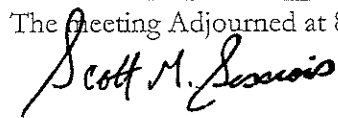
Councilman Bentley asked Mayor Session to reconsider his approach to the meetings.

Adjournment

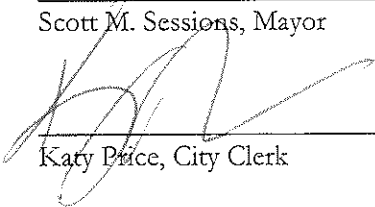
Motion by Councilman Flynn, seconded by Councilman Socha to adjourn the meeting.

All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:53 p.m.



Scott M. Sessions, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk

View meeting online: [Part 1 before closed session City Council Meeting July 20th, 2026 \(YouTube Channel\)](#)
[Part 2 after closed session City Council Meeting July 20th 2026 - YouTube](#)