

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

August 3, 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), Katy Price (City Clerk), Tom Thompson (City Attorney), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Kimberly Thomas (City Assessor), Nicole Leroux (Code Enforcement), Clark Judge, Penny Swan, Mark Nichols, Amber Yoder, E. Bianchi, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Bruce Sharp, D. Morris, Charles K.

Approval of Agenda

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Bruce Sharp- Ward 3.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of July 16, 2026: \$665,437.20
 - 2. Payroll of July 16, 2026: \$267,937.47
- B. City Council Minutes of July 20, 2026 & Closed Session Minutes of July 20, 2026
- C. Finance Minutes of July 20, 2026
- D. Board of Review Minutes of July 21, 2026
- E. TIFA Program Review Committee Minutes of July 13, 2026
- F. Planning Commission Minutes of July 15, 2026
- G. TIFA Minutes of July 21, 2026
- H. TIFA Targeted Development Committee Minutes of July 16, 2026
- I. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes of July 22, 2026
- J. TIFA Review Committee Minutes of July 29, 2026
- K. Hillsdale Renaissance Block Party Street Closure Agreement and TCO 2026-28
- L. Hillsdale Renaissance Block Party Noise Variance Request

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

Motion passed 9-0

Communication/Petitions

- A. Hillsdale Municipal Airport Verbal Update – Travis Stebelton
- B. 2026 Q2 Code Enforcement and Permit Report
- C. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update- Doug Ingles

Travis Stebelton, Airport Manager gave a report on events and happenings at the airport.

Kim Thomas reviewed the Q2 CE and permit report.

Doug Ingles, County Commissioner gave his report to council.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

Old Business

- A. Set Public Hearing for Public Nuisance Abatement – 64 Spring St

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to set a public hearing for August 17, 2026 to provide the property owner with an opportunity to be heard on the matter. Following the public hearing, Council may adopt another resolution ordering City staff to complete the work necessary to bring the property into compliance.

All ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

- A. Declare Public Nuisance- 54 Westwood St

The Code Enforcement Department has observed and received multiple complaints for garbage, construction without permits, and illegal parking on and around the property addressed as 54 Westwood Street (located on the southeast corner of the intersection with Rippon Avenue). The property owner has been issued multiple notices and multiple civil infractions have been issued by our department and City Police. The most recent civil infraction issued by our department was heard in district court and a judgment was issued May 5, 2026 finding the property owner guilty of 4 separate infractions, levying fines, and ordering the property to be brought into compliance within 14 days. The only violation that has been corrected since that judgment was issued was for construction of a porch without a zoning compliance permit.

Lengthy Council discussion ensued on property and the steps taken to clean property up.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to declare 54 Westwood St a Public Nuisance.

More Council discussion on contract work and funds to clean up property.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to declare 54 Westwood St a Public Nuisance and set public hearing for August 17, 2026. **Resolution #3684.**

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. MDOT Contract Airport Taxiway Design

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve **Resolution #3685** MDOT Contract 2026-0682 and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk, on behalf of the City of Hillsdale, to enter into the Taxiway C Phase 3 Design contract.

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 Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

C. Temporary Authorization for Inferno LLC- 53 N. Broad St. Letter of Permission

Inferno, LLC, dba Dante’s Inferno, 53 N. Broad Street, Hillsdale, is seeking Temporary Authorization by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission to allow outdoor sales/consumption of alcohol on municipally-owned property during a special event. Inferno, LLC desires to participate in Hillsdale Renaissance’s Summer Block Party community event on August 22, 2026 by operating a cordoned off area with seating where alcoholic beverages will be served. The Summer Block Party will be held in the public right-of-way on N. Howell Street, between E. Bacon Street, and McCollum Street, in downtown Hillsdale.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve letter granting permission for Dante’s Inferno, LLC, to serve alcohol on municipally-owned property during Hillsdale Renaissance’s Summer Block Party on August 22, 2026, contingent upon receiving Temporary Authorization by MLCC.

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. Baw Beese Trail- HMA Repair Seal Coat Contract (Change Order)

City staff developed project documents for the reconstruction of Baw Beese Scenic Trail between Barnard St. and Sandy Beach This project included 1.43 miles of crack repair, crack sealing, and seal coat of 10ft wide Asphalt walking/bike Trail. Crack repair involves saw cutting and removing small patches of asphalt, regrading and shaping base materials and patching with HMA. Crack sealing cracks greater 1/8” in width as coordinated with City Representative, and seal coating entire surface. This project was awarded to the lowest bidder Thomson Construction during the May 4, 2026 Council Meeting.

Due to Thompson Asphalt’s unit price bid being under the recommended and approved budget of \$50,000, project limits were extended from Barnard St. west to Short St., additional .82 miles, with a total project cost of \$48,922.89. Project was completed and open to pedestrian traffic prior to the end of the 25-26 fiscal year, June 30, 2026.

Thompson Asphalt has contacted the City to extended their previously bid unit pricing for the remaining bike path repairs, N. West to M99 and Hillsdale St. to Logan St. (1.68 miles). The approved 26-27 FY budget includes \$50,000 for additional repairs to the Scenic Trail.

As this is a unit price contract, project payments are based solely on the exact quantities utilized for each bid line item.

Council discussed the project and usage of funds allotted for project.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to extend the current contract with Thompson Asphalt Products of Coldwater, MI to include remaining repairs of the Baw Beese Scenic Trail between N. West and M99 in addition to Hillsdale St. to Logan St. in the amount of \$30,407 with an additional contingency amount of \$3,093 for a total additional cost of \$35,000. City Council to authorize the City Manager to sign Contract Change Order #4.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-1

E. FOIA Appeal – Hannah Michelle

Ms. Hannah is requesting her \$57.00 FOIA processing fee be waived based on the grounds that her requests are for “community awareness, educational purposes, government transparency, and legal awareness, and not for commercial purposes or private financial gain.” To date Ms. Hannah has requested 18 FOIAs for arrest bodycam footage. 10 FOIAs have been responded to, which 9 were denied for no records. The \$57.00 processing fee is for these 10 FOIAs.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to deny Hannah Michelle’s request to waive FOIA fees.

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

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – Eric Sheffer Retirement
- B. Appointment- None
- C. Other –None

General Public Comment

Robert Eichler, Scipio Twp

City Manager Report

Katy Price, City Clerk gave an election update.
City Manager Mackie gave his report.

Council Comment

Councilman Flynn asked Nicole Leroux to give some information on her code enforcement duties and her reporting. Flynn thanked her for the work done.

Councilman Flynn shared his condolences on John Savarino’s passing.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino and Councilman Bentley discussed the council update method for the attorney handling the ongoing lawsuit.

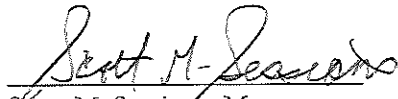
Mayor Sessions thanked everyone for attending and watching at home.

Adjournment

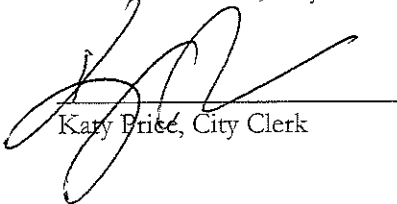
Motion by Councilman Flynn, seconded by Councilman Socha to adjourn the meeting.

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 August 3rd, 2026](#) (YouTube Channel)