

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
August 17, 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 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:	William Morrissey, Ward 2
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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), Doug Bildner (BPU), Clark Judge, Penny Swan, Mark Nichols, Larry Walworth, Charles Kelley, Michael Wenisch, Doug Ingles, Bruce Sharp.

Approval of Agenda

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Charles Kelley, Howell St.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of July 30, 2026: \$1,271,829.00
 - 2. Payroll of July 30, 2026: \$222,019.99
- B. City Council Minutes of August 3, 2026
- C. Finance Minutes of August 3, 2026
- D. Hillsdale College Homecoming Street Closure

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

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

Communication/Petitions

- A. Library Annual Report
- B. Summer Block Party
- C. Fluoride Report
- D. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update- Doug Ingles

Rebekah Dobski, Library Director gave the Library Annual Report.

Doug Ingles, County Commissioner gave his report to council.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Public Hearing – Public Nuisance 64 Spring St.

Kim Thomas, City Assessor reported Resolution #3683 was adopted by Council at their regular meeting on July 20, 2026 declaring the property commonly known as 64 Spring Street to be a public hazard and nuisance and ordering the property cleaned up and the unsafe structure removed by the owner within 14 days.

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.

Council discussion ensued on the garage and the condition of it. Council questioned if it should be demolished as well.

Mayor opened podium at 7:30pm

Bruce Sharp, ward three (3) commented on the garage stated it was a solid building and should stay.

No other comment, Mayor closed podium at 7:31 p.m.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Bentley to remove the house only at 64 Spring St to bring into compliance and leave the garage on property. **Resolution #3686.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

- B. Public Hearing – Public Nuisance 54 Westwood St.

Kim Thomas, City Assessor reported Resolution #3684 was adopted by Council at their regular meeting on August 3, 2026 declaring the property commonly known as 54 Westwood St to be a public hazard and nuisance and ordering the property cleaned up and the hazards abated by the owner within 14 days.

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.

Council discussed the current condition of property.

Mayor opened podium at 7:38pm

Bruce Sharp, ward three (3), commented on the property and asked council do approve the demolition.

Karl Grzesiak, 52 Westwood St., commented on property and is in favor of demolition.

No other comment, Mayor closed podium at 7:42 p.m.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn to clean up and bring property located at 54 Westwood St., into compliance. **Resolution #3687.**

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

Motion passed 8-0

Old Business

New Business

A. Power Plant Engine #5 Repairs

David Mackie, Electric Director reported Engine #5 at the Power Plant is in need of a complete overhaul, including the repair and/or replacement of multiple cylinder heads. An estimate was included from Larry Wheeler from Wheeler World Inc. Wheeler World’s estimate is a worst-case scenario and it’s hoped that the final cost will come in at less than the full \$800,000. Engine #5 provides the City with 3.3-4 MWs of capacity, which the City is required to have and emergency power. Based on the cost of capacity, an \$800,000 investment in Engine #5 would pay for itself in four (4) years. Currently, the Electric Department has \$4,215,231 in cash available for capital projects.

Lengthy Council discussion ensued engine #5 and its condition.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the repair of Engine #5 not to exceed amount of \$800,000 with the work being paid for out of the Electric Department’s reserves.

Roll Call:

Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye

Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Sessions	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

B. Noteworthy AI Inspection Program

Noteworthy is an AI tool that analyzes pictures taken by vehicle mounted cameras to inventory and analyze a community's electric distribution pole system. The American Municipal Power (AMP) agency has partnered with Noteworthy to make their AI program available to AMP members at a reduced cost. Through Noteworthy, Hillsdale could work more proactively towards system reliability by inventorying and analyzing the condition of our electric distribution poles/assets.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Flynn to authorize the Master Services Agreement with AMP to deploy the Noteworthy program for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from the Electric Department's 2026/27 budget. **Resolution #3688.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

C. Renew Microsoft Assurance Licensing

Motion by Council Member Socha seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the renewal of Microsoft licensing at a cost of \$9,724.00 from Sonit Systems.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

Miscellaneous Reports

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

General Public Comment

Michael Wenisch- 1500 S Lake Pleasant Rd. Osseo, MI, Larry Walworth- Ward 3, Robert Eichler- Scipio Twp.

City Manager Report

City Manager Mackie gave his report.

Council Comment

Councilman Flynn thanked the fire department for the work recently.

Council discussion on Flock cameras.

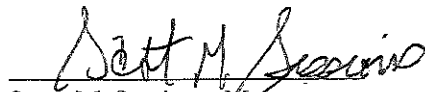
Mayor Sessions thanked everyone for attending and watching at home.

Adjournment

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Scott M. Sessions, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk

View meeting online: [City Council Meeting August 17th, 2026](#) (YouTube Channel)