

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City of Hillsdale

March 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 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:	Jacob Bruns, Ward 1
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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), Olivia Jones (Zoning Administrator), Rob Stiverson (City Engineer), Brandon Janes (City IT) Robert Eichler, Mark Nichols, Penny Swan, CJ Toncray, Amber Yoder, George Allen, Lance Lashaway, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Joshua Waechter, Parker Hjelmberg, Jonathon Apel,

**Approval of Agenda**

City Manager Mackie asked Council to remove New Business item C. LifeWays Facility Bond Proclamation as Councilman Bruns requested it due to his absence.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, supported by Councilman Flynn to remove New Business item C. LifeWays Facility Bond Proclamation.

All ayes. Motion carried.

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

All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

George Allen.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of February 12, 2026: \$237,931.05
  - 2. Payroll of February 12, 2026: \$214,983.53
- B. City Council Minutes of February 16, 2026
- C. Finance Minutes of February 16, 2026

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

Roll Call:

Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye

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

Motion passed 8-0

**Communication/Petitions**

- A. Spring 2026 Cemetery Clean-up Oak Grove & Lakeview Cemeteries
- B. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

County Commissioner Ingles gave an update on the County.

**Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings**

- A. Ordinance Amendment to Rezone 120 S Broad St

An Ordinance to amend Section 36-143 of Division 1, of Article III of Chapter 36 of the code of the City of Hillsdale. The City of Hillsdale Ordains that the zoning classification of the following described property should be and is hereby changed from R-1, One Family Residential District, to B-1, Local Business District:

120 S Broad Street – Parcel No. 006-426-356-03 W4 LOT 42 EXC PARCEL COM AT SE COR OF SD LOT TH RUNG N'LY ALG THE E'LY LN OF SD LOT, 45 FT TH W'LY TO A POINT IN THE W'LY LN OF SD LOT 42.5 FT N OF SW COR TH S 42.5 FT TO SW COR SD LOT, TH E TO POB. PART LOT 42 FERRIS ADDN FOURTH WARD AS OF 12/31/2018 - WARD 4

The City of Hillsdale Further Ordains that Section 36-143 of Division 1 of Article III of Chapter 36 of the Code of the City of Hillsdale and zoning boundaries of R-1, One Family Residential District, and B-1, Local Business District, referenced herein should be and are hereby amended so as to comport with and reflect the changes in the zoning classification above provided.

Motion by Councilman Flynn, supported by Councilman Morrisey to amend an Ordinance to amend Section 36-143 of Division 1, of Article III of Chapter 36 of the code of the City of Hillsdale. The City of Hillsdale Ordains that the zoning classification of the following described property should be and is hereby changed from R-1, One Family Residential District, to B-1, Local Business District- 120 S Broad Street. **Ordinance # 2026-03.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

- A. Fire Chief Turnout Gear

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn to approve the firefighter turnout gear from Phoenix Safety Outfitters and helmet replacement in the amount of \$6,640.50 from the Public Safety Millage Fund.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

B. Eric Moore v. Joshua Paladino and the City of Hillsdale – Settlement Resolution

A retraction resolution for Council was presented, which Mr. Moore’s attorney, Jeffrey Hart, had indicated to the City Attorney’s office would be satisfactory to Mr. Moore to achieve a settlement with the City without requiring the City to make any monetary payment to Mr. Moore, provided that after its adoption the resolution is read aloud into the record at the March 2, 2026 Council meeting, which is livestreamed on the City’s YouTube channel. Mr. Hart had indicated that Mr. Moore was willing to settle the matter with the City of Hillsdale only, and the adoption and reading of the resolution will not constitute the settlement of any claims Mr. Moore may have against Mayor Pro Tem Paladino in his personal capacity.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Flynn to adopt the resolution settling the matter with the City of Hillsdale and Mr. Moore.

Councilman Morrisey stated in the resolution the clause is incoherent to retraction statement as he didn’t make the statement, not able to retract something not said or done.

Lengthly discussion ensued on the resolution language, misunderstanding of statement and the intent of the resolution.

City Attorney Thompson reviewed how the potential lawsuit would proceed.

Roll Call:

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

Motion failed 2-6

C. 2025-2026 Street Projects

One of City Council’s primary goals is to address the declining quality of the City’s street and infrastructure systems. Since 2021, the City of Hillsdale has relied on special assessments as one component of a broader funding strategy for street reconstruction. This approach was developed in response to the City’s significant infrastructure needs and limited funding sources available to address the backlog of deteriorated streets.

The use of Special Assessments has been guided by policies adopted and supported by City Council and implemented by staff in accordance with those directives. Under this framework, special assessment districts (SADs) have been used in combination with other funding sources—including Act 51 revenue, local street millage funds, and grants—to complete the greatest amount of street reconstruction work in the shortest time possible.

Between 2021 and 2025, eight special assessment districts were created, allowing the City to complete \$5,882,819 in street reconstruction projects over the past five construction seasons. This progress has helped move the City closer to the annual level of work necessary to prevent overall street conditions from deteriorating faster than they can be repaired.

Staff asked Council how they would like to proceed on the street construction and what funding options would be used.

Lengthy discussion ensued on funding options and the quality of the roads.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, to suspend the SAD policy requirements until August of 2026 to fix the roads.

More council discussion on history of the roads and special assessment districts.

With no second to Councilman Bentley motion dies.

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino commented on the review of the Special Assessment District policy and its changes.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Socha to suspend the requirement to levy Special Assessment Districts to do new roads until the election in November 2026.

City Manager Mackie requested council allow staff to review and come up with other funding mechanisms as SADs were an option that was used and the residents have paid for.

Roll Call:

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

Motion failed 2-6

Miscellaneous Reports

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

General Public Comment

Lance Lashaway, Joshua Waechter, Jonah Apel

City Manager Report

None

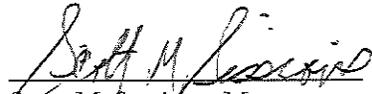
Council Comment

Councilman Flynn thanked residents for their emails over the last few days.

Adjournment

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

The meeting Adjourned at 8:52 p.m.



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Scott M. Sessions, Mayor



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Katy Price, City Clerk

View meeting online: [City Council Meeting March 2nd, 2026](#) (YouTube Channel)