

Council Chambers
Hillsdale City Hall
97 N. Broad St.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

March 17, 2014
7:00 p.m.
(517)437-6441
www.cityofhillsdale.org

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Scott M. Sessions opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Mayor Scott Sessions called the meeting to order with the following Council members present: Council members Brian Watkins and Adam Stockford representing Ward One; Council member Sally Kinney representing Ward Two; Council member Emily Stack Davis Ward Three; and Council members Patrick Flannery and Mary Beth Bail representing Ward Four.

Also present were City Manager Linda Brown, City Clerk Robilyn Swisher, City Attorney Lew Loren, Keith Richard, Nate Rusk, Samuel Nutter, Matt Durr, Jane Englehart, Alan and Julie Beeker, Prosecuting Attorney Neal Brady, John Lovinger, Judy Buzo, James Scheibner, Rochelle Ray, Margaret Scott, Robert Socha, Joshua Mercer, Shawnae Urban, Eric Macy, and Aimee England.

Mayor Sessions reminded Council that any use of electronic devices during a public meeting is subject to FOIA. City Attorney Lew Loren explained the laws under FOIA and Open Meetings Act.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney to approve the March 17, 2014 Agenda as presented.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Prosecuting Attorney Neal Brady announces his intent to run for the Judge seat that is being vacated by Judge Sanderson and explained his qualifications for the position.

John Lovinger, 307 N. Wolcott, addressed the water accumulation at the end of his driveway. Mr. Lovinger wanted to thank the Mayor, Council, and City Manager for giving this situation attention. He stated that he was appreciative of the attention the city officials are already giving to this, by pumping the water out when they can. He went on to say he knows it would take a lot to fix the problem, but is encouraging council to give it the attention that it needs.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills from February 27, 2014: Claims of \$106,270.87 Payroll of \$96,724.67
- B. Committee Reports (Pending Approval):
 - Board of Review Minutes of 12/10/13
 - Public Safety Minutes of 2/18/14
 - Operations and Governances Minutes of 2/18/14
 - Planning Commission Minutes of 2/20/14
 - Operation and Governances Minutes of 3/10/14
 - BPU Minutes of 3/11/14
 - Community Development Minutes of 3/3/14
- C. Council Minutes 3/3/14
- D. February 2014 Financial Reports

Revenue and Expenditure Report
Balance Sheet

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Roll call: Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Councilperson Watkins – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

Communications and Petitions

None

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Unfinished Business

- A. Local Streets Maintenance
- B. Code Enforcement.
 - Closed Enforcements February 2014
 - New Enforcements February 2014
 - February 2014 Photos
 - Open Enforcements as of 3/5/14
 - Police Enforcements February 2014

Councilperson Flannery stated that he received a phone call before coming to the meeting about a garbage problem at 45 Morey St. City Manager Brown stated that this is an ongoing problem that is being addressed.

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Rental Rehab – Set Public Hearing

City Manager Linda Brown stated that the third party administrator for the rental rehab program is finalizing the application for funding. That document will be provided to Council as soon as it is available. The next step is to set up a public hearing for the April 7, 2014 Council Meeting. City Manager Brown recommended that Council set a public hearing for April 7, 2014 at 7:00 pm as the time for public input regarding the application for funding.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to set a public hearing for April 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

All Ayes

Motion carried.

- B. Small Urban Projects

City Manager Linda Brown stated that if she was Mr. Lovinger or Mr. Scott she would be calling the City Manager every day wanting the water problem fixed. City Manager Brown has talked with several engineers about how to go about fixing the water problem on Wolcott St. but we do not have the money to do it. City Manager Brown stated that currently there are six streets that qualify for the small urban boundary funds.

City Manager Brown met with Road Commission representatives, Keith Richard and Craig Shumaker from Fleis & Vandenbrink for the City and the Assistant Village Manager for Jonesville regarding projects to be considered for the small urban funding for the years 2015, 2016, and 2017. On behalf of the City, City Manager Brown suggested the State Street project for the 2015 funding. She went on to explain that we used to get a project about every other year but now it is going to be every third year. If however we have a project ready and another participant does not have funds for the match we could slide

SMALL
URBAN
PROJECTS

into their spot and possibly get some funding sooner. City Manager Brown feels the standing water is a hazard and needs to be addressed. City Manager Brown went on to say that we are hoping to get a lift station on Wolcott to move the water up the hill and eventually down into the Rearing Ponds. This will not get us any pavement but will take care of the standing water problem. This project would also include a sidewalk on the south side of State St down to the Rearing Ponds and would ensure the safety of anyone walking down to the ponds. City Manager Linda Brown requested that Council by motion approve the submission of the State Street project for the 2015 funding round.

Councilperson Watkins stated that he liked the plan and he appreciated the people's patience with the water problems on Wolcott. He also stated that he feels the sidewalk to be necessary for the safety of people walking to the ponds.

City Manager Brown stated that the cities portion would be approximately \$200,000 because we have a match, but we want the project to be larger so we can utilize as much of the available funds as possible.

Councilperson Davis asked why State Street was the first choice over Hallett Street. City Manager Brown stated that the water problem for the residence is the main reason that it is the first choice, as well as the safety of residents walking to the ponds. Hallett Street will also be much more expensive. Councilperson Davis asked what the breakdown was of how much the sidewalk cost was. City Manager Brown stated she did not know the exact breakdown but thought it to be about \$20,000. Councilperson Davis asked if instead of a sidewalk could we add something else to this project. City Manager Brown stated that council could modify the project, but it had come to council previously and they had suggested they wanted the sidewalk to make it safe for people to walk to the ponds. Councilperson Watkins also stated that when the topic had come up at a previous council meeting the original plan was to have a sidewalk on both the north and south sides of State Street but we had opted to just do the sidewalk on the south side. This is the side of the ponds and would ensure that people could walk from town to the ponds safely. Councilperson Davis asked if this included a barrier. City Manager Brown stated a barrier is not necessary since there is plenty of right-of-way on the south side of State Street.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to accept the plan as presented by City Manager Brown.

Councilperson Watkins rescinds his motion with support by Kinney.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to approve the submission of the State Street Project for the year 2015. Roll call: Councilpersons Watkins – yes, Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

C. Extension of Airport Manager Contract

City Manager Brown states that the airport manager's contract has expired and negotiations are still ongoing and more time is needed to finalize the contract. City Manager Brown requested Council approve the extension of the airport manager's contract until April 30, 2014 and authorize signatures by the Mayor and Clerk.

Councilperson Stockford asked what was holding up the new contract being finalized. City Manager Brown stated that there were negotiations and those take time to complete.

EXTENSION
OF
AIRPORT
MANAGER
CONTRACT

Motion by Councilperson Kinney, supported by Councilperson Bail, to extend the Airport Manager Contract to April 30, 2014. Roll call: Councilpersons Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes, Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

Information Only

Police Department Exceptional Service Certificates

General Public Comment

Margaret Scott, 310 N Walcott St, thanked Council for going ahead with the State Street plan. Robert Socha, new partner at Broad Street Market, introduced himself to Council and stated their future plans for updating the basement under the Market. He also stated it is his intention to fill out paperwork for obsolete property rehab. He went on to say he would like to be considered for that and that it be put on the agenda for the April 7, 2014 Council Meeting.

Aimee England, 1000 S West St, just wanted to let council and the public know that there will be a Fourth of July Parade on July third, so groups and organizations can start planning. Aimee is the chairperson and will be coming to Council for approval.

Shawnae Urban, 163 N Manning St, wanted to commend Council for taking time to talk about things presented to them and not just pushing things through.

Prosecuting Attorney Neal Brady commended the City Police on doing a fine job. They are an exceptional group of people and he considers them an elite group and one of the lead in the county.

Council Comment

Councilperson Watkins stated that in the future when anyone is recognized for a job they have done, like the police officers were under miscellaneous, that they be recognized by stating what they are receiving an award for. We have three officers being recognized; Officer Ted Brendel got a lifesaving award for preventing a suicide, Officers Corey Dow and Dustin Sims received an award for exceptional service for getting narcotics off the streets.

Closed Session: Public Act 267 of 1976, Sec. 15.268, Sec. 8, (e) To discuss settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation

Motion by Councilperson Kinney supported by Councilperson Watkins to re-open in open session. Roll call: Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

Settlement

Motion by Councilperson Watkins supported by Councilperson Davis to approve the settlement as presented by City Manager Brown and authorize the signature of the Mayor on a release on behalf of the city. Roll call: Councilpersons Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.


Adjournment


Motion by Councilmember Kinney, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, to adjourn.

All ayes

Motion carried.

8:06 p.m.


Scott M. Sessions, Mayor


Robilyn Swisher, City Clerk

CLOSED
SESSION