

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
 Council Chambers
 May 21, 2018
 7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Adam Stockford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Mayor Adam Stockford called the meeting to order.

Council Members present:	Adam Stockford, Mayor R. Gregory Stuchell, Ward 1 Timothy Dixon, Ward 2 William Morrissey, Ward 2 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 William Zeiser, Ward 3 Matthew Bell, Ward 4 Raymond Briner, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also present were: City Manager David Mackie, Deputy City Clerk Katy Price, City Attorney John Lovinger, City Attorney Tom Thompson, Scott Hephner (HCPD & HCFD), Russ Picek (HCFD), Chris McArthur (BPU), Jake Hammel (DPS), Bonnie Tew (Finance), Kay Freese (HR), Mary Hill (Library), Pete Merritt (Treasurer), Michelle Loren (Recreation), Ginger Moore (Airport), Corey Murray (Hillsdale Daily News), David Slifka, Scott Curry, Maribeth Leonard, Heather Tritchka, Eric Moore, Carol Lackey, Eric Morey, Vickie Burd, Rod Zieal, Dr. Robert Kocembo, Joseph Hendee, Pete Jennings, Carolyn Cogewell, Rachel Doty, Dennis Wainscott, Penny Swan, Ted Jansen, Jack McLain, Ruth Brown, and Bob Finegan.

Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was held in memory of the victims of the Sante Fe, Texas school shootings.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Briner, moved to approve the May 21, 2018 agenda as submitted.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Ted Jansen, 104 Hillsdale Street, encouraged Council to return the phrase "It's the People" to the new welcome signs that were installed on North Hillsdale Street and M-99. Mr. Jansen also referenced his communication supporting the purchase of the new concession equipment at Sandy Beach.

Ms. Rachel Doty, 10 E. Carleton and President of the Hillsdale Rotary Club, voiced appreciation to Council Members for their willingness to reconsider the purchase of the new ice cream machine at Sandy Beach. Ms. Doty provided information on the Hillsdale Rotary Club, which included 37 members and was chartered in 1920. Ms. Doty encouraged Council to approve the purchase of the ice cream machine.

Mr. Eric Macy, 302 River Street and representing the Hillsdale Rotary Club, noted the club had raised over \$300,000 for improvements and organized thousands of volunteer hours for improvements at Sandy Beach. Mr. Macy argued the sale of soft-served ice cream provided great value for the park visitors, while returning profit to the Recreation Department to make Sandy Beach a self-sustaining venture.

Mr. Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea Street, voiced support for the purchase of the ice cream machine for Sandy Beach.

Ms. Penny Swan, 192 South West Street, voiced support for the City Manager's contract and encouraged Council Members to approve the contract as submitted. Ms. Swan also discussed the purchase of the ice cream machine at Sandy Beach and noted some confusion between discussions at the Operations and Governance Committee and the current staff recommendation. Ms. Swan also encouraged Council to return the phrase "It's the People" to the new welcome signs. Ms. Swan then commended the members of the Finance Committee for their due diligence on issues brought before them.

Mr. Dennis Wainscott, 34 Garden Street, encouraged Council to approve the purchase the new concession equipment at Sandy Beach. Mr. Wainscott also voiced support for the approval of the City Manager's employment contract.

Mr. Jack McLain, 1445 South Bunn Road, encouraged the sludge hauler for the BPU wastewater treatment plant use a dedicated truck route away from the residential areas due to odor complains.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City Claims of May 4, 2018: \$ 113,766.60
 - 2. BPU Claims of May 4, 2018: \$ 70,362.67
 - 3. Payroll of May 17, 2018: \$165,132.13.
- B. City Council Minutes of May 7, 2018 Regular Meeting
- C. Ms. Miranda Allison Park Use Agreement for Mrs. Stocks Park
- D. Ms. Becky Kople Park Use Agreement for Mrs. Stocks Park
- E. Hillsdale Hospital 5K Color Run - Saturday June 16th 2018
- F. Shade Tree Committee Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2018
- G. Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) Minutes of March 20, 2018
- H. TIFA Façade Grant Committee Minutes of April 5, 2018
- I. TIFA Targeted Development Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2018
- J. TIFA Targeted Development Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2018

Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Bell, moved to add language to paragraph 3 of the proposed the Park Use Agreements to include a requirement that the park renters assume responsibility for the protection of the statutory pieces within Mrs. Stock's Park.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bell, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

Communications/Petitions

A. Presentation by Ms. Ginger Moore, Airport Manager

Ms. Moore provided an update on the activities at the Hillsdale Municipal Airport and the improvements that were being made at the site. Ms. Moore noted there was limited flights in and out of the airport during the Vice Presidential visit for the Hillsdale College graduation ceremony and due to a dangerous weather pattern that occurred on the same day. Ms. Moore noted, however, record amounts of aviation fuel had been sold during the week leading up to the graduation from visitors at the airport.

Ms. Moore commended airport employee Scott Curry for his outstanding service to the airport.

Ms. Moore also reported Patriot Aviation continued to offer their flight school at the Hillsdale Municipal Airport and encouraged interested persons to contact the airport for additional information.

Ms. Moore reported a Civil Air Patrol program would be established at the Hillsdale Municipal Airport and discussed the many positive aspects of that program. Ms. Moore encouraged interested residents to “like” the Hillsdale Municipal Airport’s Facebook page.

Ms. Moore stated there were no capital improvement projects planned at the airport during the upcoming fiscal year; however, a meeting was planned with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Office of Aeronautics to obtaining training on their new project management program.

Ms. Moore invited everyone to attend the airport’s annual Fly-In on September 9, 2018, which would also include airplane rides, static displays, a fly-by from an F-16 squadron, a car show, and the Hillsdale Exchange Club’s breakfast event.

B. Presentation by Ms. Maribeth Leonard, LifeWays CEO

Ms. Leonard provided a brief presentation in regards to the upcoming millage proposal on the August 2018 ballot for mental health initiatives. A copy of Ms. Leonard's Power Point presentation was filed with the City Council papers for the meeting.

Ms. Leonard reported LifeWays Community Mental Health organization provided services to Hillsdale and Jackson County residents with mental health needs, developmental disabilities, and for those with substance abuse disorders. Ms. Leonard noted the organization had seen a 70% reduction in state funding, which required the organization to implement service reductions and look to alternative funding opportunities.

Ms. Leonard stated the millage request would be for 0.5 mills for 10 years and would levy approximately \$634,000 per year to help fund unmet needs in the community.

Responding to a question from Council Member Bell, Ms. Leonard noted the funds raised by the countywide millage would be used only for services rendered to Hillsdale County residents. Ms. Leonard noted Jackson County had a similar, countywide millage for mental health services that was approved in 2017.

C. Presentation by Reading Emergency Unit

Mr. David Slifka, Executive Director of Reading Emergency Unit, presented information on the ambulance millage question on the August 7, 2018 millage question for funding ambulance services in Hillsdale County. Mr. Slifka stated the levy request would raise the millage rate from 0.25 mills for operational costs to 0.85 mills for operational costs. Mr. Slifka noted the current millage had not kept pace with the increase of costs in providing ambulance services and necessary equipment purchases.

Mr. Slifka reported the millage would allow Hillsdale County to increase ambulance coverage and also allow residents to utilize emergency, ambulatory services with no out-of-pocket costs. Mr. Slifka reported the millage increase would cost the homeowner of a \$100,000 home in Hillsdale County approximately \$50.00 per year.

D. Correspondence from Mr. Ted Jansen re: Welcome Signs

The communication was received for informational purposes only.

E. Correspondence from Mr. Ted Jansen re: Sandy Beach

The communication was received for informational purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinance/Public Hearing

A. Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2019 City Budget

Mayor Stockford opened a public hearing at 7:52 p.m. to receive public comments regarding the proposed FY2019 city budget.

Mr. Dan Basher, 10040 South Hillsdale Road, voiced opposition to the city staff proposal to eliminate funding to the Mitchell Research Center for the new telephone and Internet system that would be implemented in all city buildings during the upcoming year. Mr. Basher discussed the important contributions of the Mitchell Research Center and recognized the many volunteers that staffed the center.

Ms. Penny Swan noted the excellent services provided by the Mitchell Research Center, but questioned if the city should be responsible for accepting the expenses for housing the center, maintaining & improving the building, and providing utilities services to the site.

Mr. Ted Jansen voiced support for the comments made by Mr. Basher concerning the Mitchell Research Center.

City Manager Mackie reported the budget included maintenance costs and utility expenses for the Mitchell Research Center in FY2019 that totaled approximately \$25,000. City Manager Mackie stated what was not included in the FY2019 budget was to include the Mitchell Research Center in the city's plans to install a new telephone system and IT equipment that was expected to be completed in July 2018. City Manager Mackie also noted the FY2019 budget included \$60,000 for planned repairs to the building including exterior façade and interior drywall improvements. City Manager Mackie discussed the valuable services offered by the Mitchell Research Center to the entire county, and noted the City of Hillsdale was the only local entity that provided financial support to the organization.

Ms. Carol Lackey noted the volunteers at the Mitchell Research Center provided vital information to various city staff members who required pertinent history on the city.

Being no further comments, Mayor Stockford closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Unfinished Business

A. City Manager's Employment Agreement

Mayor Stockford noted the City Council had approved the tentative terms of City Manager Mackie's new employment agreement at the May 7, 2018 Regular Meeting and reported the attached agreement reflected those conditions. Mayor Stockford stated the new agreement, if approved, would go into effect on July 1, 2018 and expire on June 30, 2025.

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Briner, moved to approve the City Manager's employment contract terms as presented.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

Old Business

A. Purchase of Concession Stand Equipment for Sandy Beach

City Manager Mackie noted Council had voted against purchasing the ice cream and slushy machines for Sandy Beach at the May 7th meeting and had asked the staff to explore other options. City Manager Mackie noted the city had since met with representatives from the Rotary Club and agreed that the city would purchase the slushy machine at a cost of \$4,780.40, while the Rotary Club would purchase the ice cream machine at a cost of \$10,542.72.

City Manager Mackie reported that after the meeting, Council Member Stuchell had requested the item be placed on the May 21st agenda for reconsideration, after he had met with Recreation Director Michelle Loren, who had addressed his concerns about the equipment.

Council Member Sharp discussed the many improvements made to Sandy Beach with the leadership of the Rotary Club and voiced support for the purchase of the new concession equipment.

Council Member Bell questioned if the City Charter had been followed in this instance when staff had approved a purchase that had been previously denied by Council. Council Member Bell commended the Rotary Club for their outstanding contributions to Sandy Beach and the improvements made at the park.

Mayor Stockford reported he had talked with City Manager Mackie about the shared purchase of the two machines with the Rotary Club, and had expressed his initial support of the ice cream machine purchase.

Council Member Morrissey stated the reconsideration of the purchases should have been placed on a meeting agenda for discussion and should not have been unilaterally approved by the City Manager.

Council Member Zeiser voiced opposition to the reconsideration of the purchase and noted the \$15,000 expenditure was approximately 20% of the account's fund balance. Council Member Zeiser argued there were more appropriate uses of the funds than for the purchase of an ice cream machine.

Council Member Dixon, seconded by Council Member Sharp, moved to approve the purchase of an ice cream machine for Sandy Beach at a cost of \$10,542.72.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	No
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	No
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	No
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 5-3.

New Business

A. Roof replacement at the Waste Water Treatment Plant

BPU Interim Director McArthur reported the roof at the WWTP needed to be replaced due to its age and current condition. Director McArthur stated the project was included in the FY2018 budget as a capital project and Sherriff-Goslin Company had submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$52,200.

Responding to a question from Council Member Briner, Director McArthur stated the contract would include a warranty on the new roof.

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bell, moved to approve a contract with Sherriff-Goslin Company in the amount of \$52,200 to replace the roof at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

General Public Comment

Mr. Dennis Wainscott invited everyone to the Volume II Bookstore on June 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. where the Hillsdale Justice Project would host a presentation from the "Voters Not Politicians" group concerning Congressional term limits.

Mr. Ted Jansen discussed the "It's the People" slogan and noted a resident had volunteered to have the old signs re-installed on property near M-99. Mr. Jansen also requested the city provide the actual costs that would be incurred if the telephone and computer upgrades that were included to the Mitchell Research Center. Mr. Jansen then questioned what fund or organization would be purchasing that ice cream machine that had been approved by Council earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Penny Swan discussed the purchase of the ice cream machine and questioned the purchase of the slushy machine by the City Manager after the initial denial of Council.

Mr. Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea Street, thanked Council Member Stuchell for requesting the concession stand equipment purchase be reconsidered by Council.

DPS Director Hammel thanked a group of Jackson College students who recently volunteered at Sandy Beach.

BPU Interim Director McArthur reported the city's contractor had hauled approximately 830,000 gallons of sludge from the wastewater treatment plant over the past few days. Director McArthur noted the utility had no authority to require the contractor to utilize a certain route or to restrict what public streets they could use.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Mackie:

1. Invited everyone to participate in Hillsdale Hospital's Color Run on Saturday, June 16, 2018.
2. Announced City Hall would be closed on Monday, May 28, 2018 for Memorial Day.
3. Noted the disc golf course was being renovated with the leadership of Gelzer's Hardware, with the expected completion date set for early June 2018.
4. Reported 31 teams participated in a baseball tournament at Fields of Dreams during the May 25-27, 2018 weekend. City Manager Mackie commended Recreation Director Loren for her leadership of the event.
5. Thanked the members of Cub Scout Pack 174 for their assistance in the spring clean-up at Baw Beese Lake on May 19, 2018.
6. Noted there were two vacancies on the Hillsdale Housing Commission and encouraged interested residents to contact City Hall.
7. The Public Service Committee would need to meet in the upcoming weeks to discuss a residential trash collection contract partnership with the City of Jonesville.

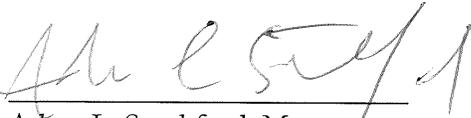
Council Comments

Council Member Zeiser thanked Mr. Jansen for his comments concerning the reinstallation of the old welcome signs to be seen as complimentary to the new signs. Council Member Zeiser noted the concession stand equipment would be paid in entirety from the Owens' Memorial Trust Fund.

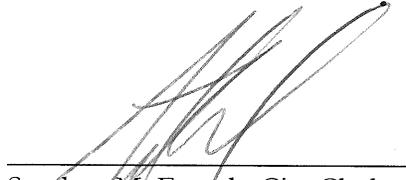
Adjournment

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Briner, moved to adjourn the meeting. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.



Adam L. Stockford, Mayor



Stephen M. French, City Clerk