

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
May 17, 2021
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. Deputy Clerk Loren took roll call.

Council Members present:

Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Briner	Aye
Councilwoman Vear	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Pratt	Aye
Councilman Zeiser	Aye

Council Members absent: None

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Michelle Loren (Deputy City Clerk), Tom Thompson (City Attorney) Kristin Bauer (City Engineer), Jake Hammel (DPS), Scott Hephner (HCPD, HCFD), Penny Swan, Corey Murray, Joseph Hendee, Curt and Monique Sarles, Dennis Wainscott, Jon Smith, Jake Burns, Robert Eichler.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Briner, to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call:

Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Briner	Aye
Councilwoman Vear	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Pratt	Aye
Councilman Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 9-0.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills from April 29, 2021:
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of April 29, 2021: \$167,409.17;
 - 2. Payroll of \$87,067.21
- B. City Council Minutes of May 3, 2021
- C. Finance Minutes of April 19, 2021 and May 3, 2021
- D. Cemetery Minutes of February 3, 2021
- E. Shade Tree Minutes of May 5, 2021
- F. EDC Minutes of February 18, 2021
- G. July 3rd Fireworks Display
- H. Hillsdale College Alley Closure – Blue and White Event
- I. TCO 2021-12 Here's To You Pub and Grub Street Closure
- J. Here's to You Pub and Grub Street Closure Agreement

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Vear, to approve the Consent Agenda.

All Ayes

Motion carried, unanimously.

Communications/Petitions

None

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Public Hearing – Application for Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate (OPRA) – Resolution

Tri City Management, LLC submitted an application for an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate for a rehabilitation project to start April, 2021 with a projected end date of August, 2021. Project total reported by the applicant is \$120,000.00. The project has been reviewed by the Economic Development Corporation board and is recommended for approval for a 10 year abatement.

Mayor Stockford opened the public hearing to receive public comment. No comment was offered.

Mayor Stockford closed the public hearing to accept Council comment. Councilman Socha spoke in support of the applicants

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Stuchell, to approve the OPRA for a 10-year term.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Briner	Aye
Councilwoman Vear	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Pratt	Aye
Councilman Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye

Motion carried, 9-0.

- B. Public Hearing – FY 2021-22 Budget

Mayor Stockford opened the public hearing to receive public comment regarding the proposed FY2021-22 Budget. No public comment was offered. Mayor Stockford then opened the floor for Council comment. City Manager David Mackie gave an overview of the

budget, making the point that the budget did not include money from the American Rescue Fund and did include the 4 mills that had been approved by ballot at the May 4, 2021 election.

Mayor Stockford closed the public hearing and invited comment from Council. No comment was offered.

Old Business

A. Road Projects Verbal Update – Kristin Bauer

Kristin updated Council on the Fayette Street project; guard rails, man holes, paving and restoration.

Arbor Court water main underway.

Special Assessment Districts to starting road reconstruction in July with a completion date of September 3, 2021.

B. American Rescue Act

City Manager David Mackie presented Council with a high level overview of how the Act funds can be used once they are received and explained how the City could apply the funds. Mr. Mackie made note that the funds had not yet been received and he had not received notice of future funds.

Councilman Zeiser asked if the funds could be diverted to cover costs of the leaf program and that money saved then be applied to the road repair side of the millage recently passed in the May election. Mr. Mackie explained it could not, but it could be used to offset the cost of the leaf collection operation.

Councilman Vear asked how much the City is eligible to receive to which Mr. Mackie responded \$790,000.00. Mr. Mackie also stated the City would be required to report expenditures.

New Business

A. Request for Noise Variance – 41 Highland Ave.

Resident Scott Pienta requested a noise variance in order to have a live band play at a party at his residence at 41 Highland Ave.

Motion by Councilman Briner, support by Councilman Socha, to approve a noise variance at 42 Highland Ave.

All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 2021 Special Assessment District

City Manager Mackie reported that City staff had been contacted by a resident on Williams Court requesting the inclusion of their street in a future Special Assessment District. The resident has spoken with neighbors who have indicated their interest in having road work completed by way of the special assessment process.

City staff along with the City Manager reviewed the project and see that it can be done within the 2021 construction season. They recommend SAD 4 – Williams Court (0.219 mile): N. Hillsdale St. to deadend.

Motion by Councilman Stuchell, support by Councilman Morrissey, to direct the City Engineer to develop plans and cost estimates for submittal th City Council on or before June 30, 2021 for consideration of the establishment of SAD 4 utilizing the Special Assessment process.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilwoman Vear	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Pratt	Aye
Councilman Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Briner	Aye

Motion carried, 9-0

C. Resolution of Support for Submission of a Grant Application for Funds from the Transportation Economic Development Fund.

Mr. Mackie explained that this is the time to begin looking into and applying for grant funding for street funding. The City is completing a grant application through the Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF) with a due date of June 1, 2021 for the milling and resurfacing projects on the following city local streets:

- S. West Street from South St. to Warren Ave.
- E. & W. Lynwood from Reading Ave. to S. Howell St.
- Budlong St. from E. Hallett St. to Elm Hill
- Charles St. from E. Hallett St. to Elm Hill
- Elm Hill from Budlong St. to Charles St.

In order to fulfill the requirements of the grant application, the program requires a “Resolution of Support” approved by the governing body.

Motion by Councilman Morrisey, support by Councilman Vear, to adopt Resolution #3452, a Resolution of Support supporting the REDF-B grant request for the maximum amount of \$250,00 for an estimated total project amount of \$957,500.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilwoman Pratt	Aye
Councilman Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Briner	

Motion carried, 9-0.

D. Updated May 2021 Community Development Plan

Motion by Councilman Morrisey, support by Councilwoman Pratt, to adopt the Community Development Plan as modified and authorize submission with the CDBG grant application for Water-Related Infrastructure for roadway and utility projects on Galloway Drive and N. West Street.

All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Undated May 2021 Street and Storm Sewer Capital Improvement Plan

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support be Councilwoman Pratt, to approve the May 2021 updated version of the City of Hillsdale Street & Storm Sewer Capital Improvement Plan.

All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamation – None
- B. Appointments – Richard Smith to Cemetery Board
Dennis Wainscott to Board of Review

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Briner, to approve the Appointments of Richard Smith to the Cemetery Board and Dennis Wainscott to the Board of Review.

All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

General Public Comment

Lance Lashaway, TIFA board member, stated he had been having issues with requests for inclusion of documents in TIFA packets. Mr. Lashaway presented a letter to Council to be submitted for the record.

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St., commented on the amount of work that needs to be done to the storm sewers in the City. Mr. Hendee also spoke of the current change in laws that help people with expungement of criminal history. Mr. Hendee encouraged the City to get the information out and help educate those it would benefit but can't afford to go through the process. Mr. Hendee also commented on the issues Mr. Lashaway is having.

Robert Eichler, Scipio Township, addressed Mr. Mackie and Council regarding the American Rescue Act. Mr. Eichler stated the City should give the money back if it's received in order to benefit those in the surrounding areas that need it more.

Dennis Wainscott stated Council needs to do a better job at educating the public about local elections, i.e., millage proposal. We should hold town hall meetings to get information out.

Correy Murray, on behalf of the American Legion Post 53 event, "Baw Beese Bash" and the many events that will be available to the public to enjoy June 11-13, 2021.

City Manager's Report

Mr. Mackie reported on different things happening in the City, such as, the Baw Beese Bash, baseball and softball, Dawn Theater open house on 5/22/2021. He also gave an update on the repair and repainting of the industrial park water tower. Mr. Mackie reported the May 4 Election came at a cost of \$3088.00 and that the City's Tree Program received a donation of \$2500 from a citizen.

Mr. Mackie also addressed Mr. Wainscott's concern about getting information out to the public. He stated that information regarding the millage was sent out in the mail, with BPU bills, posted on FB, and the City's website.

Mr. Mackie addressed Mr. Eichler as well with regard to the American Rescue Act

Council Comments

Councilman Sharp made mention of the mess on M-99 as is was under repair by MDO'T

Councilman Briner mentioned how great it was to see the turnout for the Taco Walk.

Councilman Socha shared that May 25 there will be a public hearing in Lansing in order to discuss the State's ability to make some of the COVID mandates permanent. He also mentioned the several restaurants participating in the Taco Walk downtown.

Councilman Vear mentioned tacos could be gotten at the Legion on Tuesdays.

Adjournment

Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Briner, moved to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Adam L. Stockford, Mayor

Michelle Loren, Deputy City Clerk