

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
June 7, 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
Councilman Vear	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilwoman 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), Thad Doty (HCPD), Kevin Hicks, Penny Swan, Tom Simon, Elizabeth Karbetsos, Elizabeth Quigley, Harold March, Pat march, Sheri Ingles, Genevieve Payne, John Davis, Alicia Davis, Dennis Wainscott, Eric Hoffman, Andrew Holm, Mike Penna, Rob Eichler, Jo Mangan (Finance).

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stockford offered two additions to the June 7, 2021 Agenda.

1. Communications “F”: Commissioner Doug Ingles – County Commissioner Report
2. New Business “D”: Hoffman Trail – Discussion

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Briner, to approve the additions to the June 7, 2021 Agenda.

All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Briner, to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0.

Public Comment

Jack McClain questioned if there was only 1 bid considered for the Wayfinding sign project and inquired if there would be City of Hillsdale signs as well as Hillsdale College signs? Mr. McClain also questioned the budget item for liquor license escrow and the LARA payment for the Dawn LLC.

Penny Swan made a statement in support of the Hoffman Trail.

Doug Ingles gave an overview of upcoming projects and points of discussion at the County.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills:
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of May 13, 2021: \$295,520.00;
 - 2. Payroll of May 27, 2021 \$171,416.28
- B. Finance Report
- C. City Council Minutes of May 17, 2021 and May 26, 2021
- D. Fourth of July Parade
- E. Socha Park Use Agreement – Mrs. Stock’s Park
- F. Visser Park Use Agreement

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed. 9-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. Michigan Municipal Electric Association – **Currents** June 2021 Edition
- B. Request for Developer Qualifications
- C. Redevelopment Ready Site Showcase
- D. Letter from Kimberley Tucker Re: Oak Grove Cemetery
- E. RFP for Real Estate Broker Services 2021
- F. County Commissioner Doug Ingles – Report
 County Commissioner Doug Ingles gave an update on projects and discussions being held at the County.

City Manager Mackie expounded on the RFQ for 23 and 25 N. Broad St. and the Redevelopment Ready Site Showcase. Mr. Mackie also addressed the issues Mrs. Kimberley Tucker had with regard to unleashed dogs in Oak Grove Cemetery.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Public Hearing – Special Assessment District (SAD #2021-04 Williams Court)

Mayor Stockford opened the public hearing to receive public comment.

City Engineer Kristin Bauer explained that a petition had been received from residents of Williams Court with an interest in establishing a special assessment district in order that the

street be repaired. Ms. Bauer went to the location and found it to be in line with the current contract the City has with the contractor for the other special assessment projects. Ms. Bauer anticipates the project will start after July 4, 2021 with a completion date of September 3, 2021.

Councilman Sharp questioned why the majority of assessments were for \$5000 and the College-owned properties were assessed for less. Ms. Bauer explained that developed properties are assessed at a different/lesser amount and explained in some detail, the assessment process.

Mayor opened the floor for comment.

Jack McClain questioned why, if the College originally agreed to pay the \$5000, did they then get a reduced price? Mr. McClain also questioned why the property at 107 Williams Court was paying only one assessment on two properties. Ms. Bauer replied that the properties had been combined since the original assessment. Mr. McClain also asked for clarification on the posting of the special meeting that reduced the assessment for the college property.

Mrs. Karabetsos, 106 Williams Court, questioned if she was going to lose her tree. She was Assured she would not. Contractors were looking at her tree in order to fix a water shut off Issue near the tree.

Thomas Simon, 119 Williams Court, expressed the need for the repair of Williams Ct.

Ms. Payne, 110 Williams Court, expressed her concerns about the flooding that takes place on her end of the col-de-sac. Jake Hammel responded that the 2 drains at that end will be worked on, but the biggest impact will be the grade changes. It will not be perfect, but there will be a significant change.

Hal Marsh, 118 Williams Court, gave some background on his 51 years on Williams Court expressed his support for the special assessment district.

Mayor Stockford opened the floor for Council comment. There was none.

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Vear, for approval to move forward with establishing the 2021-04 Special Assessment District (Williams Court).

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passed. 9-0

Old Business

A. 2020-2021 Budget Amendment

Finance Director Joe Mangan get an overview of the necessary 2020-2021 Budget Amendments.

Motion by Councilman Stuchell, support by Councilwoman Pratt, to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Amendments as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried. 9-0

New Business

A. Adoption of 2021-2022 Budget – Resolution #3455

Finance Director Mangan and City Manager David Mackie presented Council with the 2021-2022 Budget.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Vear, to adopt Resolution # 3455 2021-2022 Budget.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried. 9-0

B. Levy Taxes – Resolution #3456

Motion by Councilman Stuchell, support by Councilwoman Pratt, to adopt Resolution #3456 Levy Taxes.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried. 9-0

C. MDOT Project Authorization

Finance Director Joseph Mangan presented Council with the MDOT Project Authorization giving authority to distribute Dial-A-Ride funds.

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Vear, to approve the MDOT Project Authorization agreement and authorize signatures.

D. Hoffman Trail - Discussion

Mayor Stockford opened the floor for discussion regarding a proposed trail connecting Eric Hoffman’s condominium development to the Baw Beese Trail at Baw Beese Lake. The matter had been brought before the Planning Committee, who then tabled approval with the desire to develop policy by which the City would approach future requests in a uniform fashion. Much discussion ensued regarding the matter. Eric Hoffman expressed his desire to see the project through as well as his displeasure with the Planning Commission and the City for putting the project off for so long and that his window for paving was jeopardized for the project to be completed this season.

Motion by Mayor Stockford, support by Councilman Socha, to direct the Planning Commission to draft a policy for consideration at the next regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried. 9-0

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamation – None
- B. Appointments – Joshua Paladino to Board of Review

Motion by Councilman Briner, support by Councilwoman Pratt, to approve the appointment of Joshua Paladino to the Board of Review.

All ayes. Motion carried unanimously.

General Public Comment

Rob Eichler, Scipio Township, stated he had filed his complaint against the police. Commented on Council’s attentiveness.

Jack McClain state he was offended by a comment made at a recent meeting, that being “we need more Christians...” Mr. McClain also expressed his support for the Hoffman Trail.

Pastor Mike thanked City Engineer Kristin Bauer and DPS Director Jake Hammel for the work done on Fayette Street. He also shared an invite to the 4th of July concert in honor of 1st responders and military.

Dennis Wainscott added to Pastors Mike’s comments stating there will also be a July 19th rummage sale.

City Manager’s Report

City Manager David Mackie reported Sandy Beach would be up and running Friday, June 11th.

Mr. Mackie has heard nothing regarding the American Rescue Act as of this time.

Mr. Mackie also reported the ISD house had been sold and another house building project is underway.

Council Comments

Councilman Zeiser made mention there was “chatter” amid the community with concern that money had been wasted for the skim coat of asphalt on Fayette that was destroyed over the winter. DPS Director Jake Hammel addressed this by explaining this had be planned and budgeted for. The delay came about due to EGLE regulations involving the culvert expansion. The delay could not be avoided.

Councilman Sharp asked about the progress with 63 and 65 Westwood St. City Manager Mackie stated the demolition was out to bid.

Councilman Briner asked if there had been any communication with the property owner. He was assured there had been communication.

Councilwoman Pratt mentioned the upcoming Virtual Duck Derby.

Adjournment

Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Stockford, moved to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Adam L. Stockford, Mayor

Michelle Loren, Deputy City Clerk