

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

March 7, 2022

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. Clerk Price took roll call.

Council Members present: Adam Stockford, Mayor  
R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1  
Anthony Vear, Ward 1  
William Morrissey, Ward 2  
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2  
Bill Zeiser, Ward 3  
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3  
Raymond Briner, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Robert Socha, Ward 4

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS Director), Penny Swan, Lance Lashaway, Shawn Vondra, Try Reehl, Dale Linton, Nikki Sobell, Chuck Hoard.

### Approval of Agenda

City Manager asked if Communication Item B. Code Enforcement should be table as Council Member Socha was not present. Mayor Stockford stated he was asked to review it at the meeting in Socha's absence.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve the agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### Public Comment

Penny Swan, commented on the sounds system for Council. She thanked Councilmen Sharp for getting it added to the agenda.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of February 17, 2022: \$1,196,917.41
  - 2. Payroll of February 17, 2022: \$174,966.70
- B. City Council Minutes of February 21, 2022
- C. Finance Minutes of December 27, 2021, January 24, 2022, February 7, 2022 & February 21, 2022
- D. Cemetery Minutes of February 2, 2022
- E. Hillsdale Airport Terminal Study- RS&H Engineering
- F. Hillsdale College Manning St. Closure (Taste of Manning)

Council Member Briner thanked DPS director Hammel and the Cemetery board for looking at the dog issue in the cemeteries and considering to ban domestic animals in the cemeteries.

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

Roll call:

Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

**Communications/Petitions**

- A. Hillsdale County ISD: Millage Flyers – Shawn Vondra
- B. Code Enforcement – Council Member Socha

Shawn Vondra, Superintendent of Hillsdale Community Schools and Troy Reehl, Superintendent of Hillsdale County Intermediate School District reviewed the proposed ISD school millage for the May 3, 2022 Special Election. They stated the additional monies will be used for special education programs as it is currently running in the red at about \$700,000 every year. Vonda stated there is a responsibility to educate all children in the school district and provide services. There is a modest increase of services needed for special education as there has been a 25% increase in special education over the past four years. Any student that is in the special education and with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) that doesn't graduate with a diploma the school system is required to educate that student up to 26 years of age. The millage is county wide not just in the City of Hillsdale. Both Vondra and Reehl mentioned that there is a definite need for the funds for special education and that it is a nationwide problem. Vondra and Reehl thanked Council for allowing them to share the proposed ISD Millage information.

Further Council discussion ensued on the Hillsdale County ISD millage proposal.

Mayor Stockford briefly discussed the code enforcement issues in Council Member Socha's ward.

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

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

None

**Old Business**

- A. Airport Parallel Taxiway C Additional Services

City Manager Mackie reported last spring the City Council approved a contract with RS&H for the Parallel Taxiway C Extension and Taxiway Connector at the Hillsdale Municipal Airport. The project received 100% funding through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Construction is nearly complete but some additional engineering services are needed by RS&H to complete the project. The Amendment No. 2 provides for those services. MDOT Aero is in agreement with the additional work, which will be at no cost to Hillsdale.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve the Parallel Taxiway C Additional Services with RS&H in the amount of \$10,718.

Roll call:

Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

**New Business**

A. Bridge Rebuild and Trail Maintenance Agreement

DPS director Hammel stated the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) has approached the City with a desire to rebuild/repair and maintain the old rail bridge located on city owned property in Osseo. It is just east of Blackbridge Rd, between Beecher Rd and Monroe St. The current bridge is in very poor condition and is closed to pedestrians. Replacement of the bridge will allow trail users to stay on the trail all the way into Osseo. Currently pedestrians need to go around the bridge and walk down Beecher Rd. Additionally, the agreement allows the NCTA to help maintain the trail from Osseo to Sandy Beach. This will include minor grooming, trash pickup, removal of fallen limbs, etc. to keep the trail safer and cleaner for all users.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve the Bridge Rebuild and Train Maintenance Agreement with North Country Trail Association.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Council Chambers Sound Equipment – Council Member Sharp

Council Member Sharp stated that the sounds system is a goal for the council this year. He wants residents to be able to hear what is being said to continue with transparency.

Manager Mackie stated that it is in the upcoming budget to get the system updated, etc.

Mayor Stockford asked where the funds are located. Mackie stated in an Admin account.

Further council discussion ensued.

No action taken.

C. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade & Celebration – Discussion

Mayor Stockford asked if there was a Right of Way application submitted for the parade.

Manager Mackie mentioned that the Clerk's office received two applications for the event. One from the Republican Party and one from the Hillsdale Hospital/HBA/Hillsdale College. So it was brought to council for review.

Mayor Stockford is thankful that there is a lot of interest in the event and hopes that both groups can collaborate together to have a good event. He doesn't feel like council should decide who would get to put on the event.

DPS Director Hammel stated that there isn't enough traffic control for more than the parade that the city owns.

Mayor Stockford stated he would be in discussion with both parties to see if they can work together on the event.

Further council discussion ensued.

**Miscellaneous Reports**

A. Proclamation – None

B. Appointments—Becki Jaeger – Board of Review

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Vear to appointment Becki Jaeger to the Board of Review.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other – None

**General Public Comment**

Lance Lashaway commented on the parade and asked to have more people involved and not have to have more traffic control to pay for but to have more volunteerism.

Tom Thompson commented on the ISD Millage proposal and stated he is on the Jonesville School Board of Education and wanted to state that the board is in favor of the proposal. It is important to the kids that need the services to receive them. Thompson stated it's tough in rural areas to have services, residents have a legal and moral obligation to education the children and do what we can to help them succeed.

Penny Swan commented that Julie Games put on the parade prior to the Republican Party taking the parade over the last few years, she was also an officer in the party. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Shawn Vondra thanked law enforcement and Chief Hephner in doing a great job in the community. He appreciates the services of all officers.

Jack McLain supplied Clerk Price a letter to give to Council. McLain's daughter submitted a check for the Dawn Theater Fundraiser last month for tickets to the event and check was returned, which was stated in the letter. He suggested a no parking sign in front of the theater. He inquired about how TIFA is being paid back for the Dawn Theater.

Clerk Price mentioned that she is accepting nominating petitions for Council. deadline to submit is April 19, 2022 by 4:00 pm. Petitions and forms can be found in her office during business hours for anyone interested in running for Council.

**City Manager's Report**

Manager Mackie stated that TIFA money was used for the roof repair from the BPU loan.

Budget is being finalized and will be presented to council next month.

The City is currently looking to fill a number of job openings. Visit the website for listing.

The Airport terminal study has been on the ten year plan prior. The state has encouraged grants to get terminals completed.

Public Services have already put out 50 tons of patch and more to come.

Street Improvements for the project design for Westwood is being worked on as well as the Manning St area for the flooding issue.

**Council Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

  
Adam L. Stockford, Mayor

  
Katy Price, City Clerk