

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

April 4, 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 Morrisey, Ward 2 Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2 Bill Zeiser, Ward 3 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 Robert Socha, Ward 4 Raymond Briner, Ward 4
--------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Council Members absent:	None
-------------------------	------

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS Director), Dan Poole (HCFD), Bryonna Barton (Library Director), Penny Swan, Lance Lashaway, Mindi Meyer, Robert Eichler, Ted Jensen, Doug Ingles, Sheri Ingles, Theresa Rutan, Dennis Wainscott, Joseph Hendee, David Hambleton, Eliana Hambleton, Michelle Fonc, Kelly VanBuskirk, Charles Porter, Karla Adams, Dustin Adams and Karlee Adams.

Approval of Agenda

City Manager requested a Traffic Control Order 2022-05 Barber Drive be added as New Business D.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Vear to add New Business item D. Traffic Control Order 2022-05.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve the agenda as amended.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Theresa Rutan commented on the 4th of July parade stated she followed up with Hillsdale Hospital and mentioned that the Hospital was going to withdraw their application and reschedule their event. She hopes that everything is settled and she can move forward with the approval of the 4th of July parade.

Jack McLain comment on water retention at Airport asked about the findings through the Planning Commission.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of March 17, 2022: \$1,378,682.45
 - 2. Payroll of March 17, 2022: \$164,290.51
- B. City Council Minutes of March 21, 2022
- C. Dane Park Use Agreement – Reception
- D. Hillsdale College Alley Closure- Centralhallapalooza
- E. Hillsdale College Right of Way Closures and Noise Variance – Commencement
- F. Current Offices Solution Printer/Copier Leases
- G. March 2022 Board of Review Minutes
- H. Assessor Annual Report

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Socha 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 Socha	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. Hillsdale Community Library Newsletter information
- B. Delinquent Personal Property Report
- C. Hillsdale Township Letter
- D. Mindi Meyer Letter – Hope House
- E. Ted Jansen Letter

Bryonna Barton Library Director reported that the Library hours have been extended hours from Monday – Thursday from 10:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will have Saturday hours starting May 7, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She also mentioned some events coming up.

Mindi Meyer read her letter aloud and asked for Council’s help with the Hope House and its location and asked about zoning or code ordinances for downtown Hillsdale and stated that having it downtown is not helping other businesses.

Council Member Stuchell spoke on the location and issues of the Hope House and asked the Mayor to remove the owner of the building, TIFA member Lashaway from the TIFA Board.

City Attorney Thompson stated there are TIFA bylaws and rules you need to follow before you can remove someone from the board.

Council Member Socha stated that the location has been an ongoing issue with the Hope House there has been suggestions for a different location that has been turned down. The Hope House is not the best interest for the downtown district.

Mayor Stockford stated that the Planning Commission would be the place to take the issue for the downtown and zoning restrictions, etc.

Charles Porter, Hope House Representative, stated that there is a need for the Hope House and rehabilitation in Hillsdale. He is a part of the group, the men are not intimidating. There is a great epidemic of drugs in today’s time and in the community.

Further Council discussion ensued on Hope House.

Ted Jansen read his letter aloud on the March 21, 2021 Police video that was released. Stated he respects the Police department but thinks that there needs to be an investigation and a de-escalation policy in place for the future and mentioned that the First Amendment right protect those speaking vulgar or profane language.

Council discussed the police incident in length.

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

A. 4th of July Parade Event Right of Way Applications

City Manager Mackie stated that the City has Theresa Rutan’s 4th of July parade permit application. And that the second application was rescinded from the Hillsdale Hospital.

Council Member Stuchell thanked the Republican Party for stepping up and taking on the parade for the last few years but mentioned he would like to see the Hospital do the parade this year as they are pillars in the community. He also entered some pictures into the meeting showing signs of “Hillsdale Republican Party vs. Everybody” and mentioned it puts division in our community.

Council Member Vear mentioned that it wasn’t the Republican Party that submitted the application.

Mayor Stockford stated he doesn’t think Council cannot deny the application for the parade.

Council Member Stuchell asked Theresa Rutan if she would rescind her application to allow the Hospital to move forward with the parade as they planned on honoring fire fighters, police officers, nurses and doctors for all their work during the pandemic.

Rutan stated that she doesn’t plan to rescind the application as she reached out to the Hospital to see if they can move forward together and they withdrew their application.

More Council discussion ensued.

~~Motion by Council Member Vear, seconded by Council Member Pratt to table the parade application process until the next council meeting.~~ Revised 4/18/22

Motion by Council Member Vear, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve Theresa Rutan’s Right of Way application for the 4th of July parade.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

New Business

A. Set Public Hearing for Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption- Patillo Family Properties LLC

The clerk’s office is in receipt of an “Application for Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate” for property located at 3240 W Carleton Rd owned by Patillo Family Properties LLC. The application is for tax abatement on the rehabilitation on the Stadium Roller Rink buildings. The property was originally developed for a roller skating rink and snack bar. The project has an estimated cost of \$608,010 to rehab the building for a family activity center.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Sharp to set public hearing for Monday, May 2, 2022.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. 2022-2023 Proposed Budget and Setting of Public Hearing

City Manager Mackie state the FY22-23 proposed budget document represents the preparation and collaboration of department heads and the City Manager. Revenue and expenditures have been carefully reviewed to meet Council’s expectation of a General Fund balanced operating budget. Fund balance is being used for General Fund capital expenditures. Pursuant to Charter requirements, City Council should set a public hearing for May 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and direct the City Clerk to publish notice of the hearing at least one week in advance.

Mayor Stockford added a Council Budget Workshop on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Public is welcome.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Briner to set public hearing for the 2022-2023 proposed City budget for Monday, May 16, 2022.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. City Mowing Contract Types A,B,C,D,F,G

Jake Hammel, DPS Director stated the mowing contract covers all city parks, some roadsides, city entrance signs, traffic islands, parking lot borders and cemeteries. The scope of work covers all mowing, string terming, edging and some light landscaping. The total area to be mowed is approximately 175 acres once per week and Fields of Dreams twice per week during peak growth.

Five bids were accepted. Bill’s Lawn Care is the recommended bidder for 2022-2024 mowing seasons in all area, except the cemeteries in the amount of \$232,465.00 for three years.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Sharp to approve the 2022-2024 Mowing Seasons contract to Bill’s Lawn Care in the amount of \$232,465.00

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 Socha	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

TKC Lawn, Snow & Wood LLC is the recommended bidder for the cemeteries for the 2022-2024 mowing season in the amount of \$165,490.00 for the three years.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Morrissey approve the 2022-2024 Mowing Season contract for cemeteries to TKC Lawn, Snow & Wood LLC in the amount of \$165,490.00 for the three years.

Roll call:

Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

D. Traffic Control Order 2022-05 No Parking Barber Drive

Chief Hephner stated a joint project between the City of Hillsdale and Hillsdale College on Barber drive has been completed. This included the removal of chain link fencing along the right of way on the south side and the addition of a sidewalk. The ground was improved to the edge of the paved roadway which includes seeding and drainage rocks in some locations. TCO 2022-05 is for no parking at any time commencing 300 feet east of the center of the intersection of Barber Drive and Union Street and continuing for 900 feet east along the south side of Barber Drive.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the Traffic Control Order 2022-05 No Parking on Barber Drive.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamation – Autism Awareness Month

Mayor Stockford read proclamation aloud and declared the Month of April as Autism Awareness Month in the City of Hillsdale

B. Appointments—Daniel LaRue – Zoning Board of Appeals
Heather Tritchka – Airport Advisory Committee

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Pratt to appointment both appointments to appropriate boards.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other – None

General Public Comment

Joseph Hendee commented on the Round Up Program at the Board of Public Utilities. He stated that customers are automatically enrolled in the program. There should be a checkbox to say if you wanted to contribute and round up or not to help those in need through the Community Action Agency. It’s a good program but has an issue of how it is implemented.

Dennis Wainscott mentioned that he is having trouble with his Board of Public Utilities accounts. Stated that his check go into the wrong accounts as he has a few he pays on. The Checks should be looked at specifically the “memo” portion to see which account it needs to be credited to.

Jack McLain commented that there is a conflict with some council members and Lance Lashaway. He is a business owner and renting the building to the Hope House. He stated that last week a council member stated he volunteers. Mr. McLain didn’t know how you could volunteer and get paid.

Ted Jansen commented that he ran the 4th of July Parade for four years and one year a previous Mayor cleaned up the horse excrement's. Good opportunity for anyone running for office. He mentioned about brush pick up and said that DPS didn't pick up a pile. The Hope House has a stigma that it's evil or bad, which is unfortunate.

Karla Adams commented on the Round Up Program at the Board of Public Utilities. She believes there needs to be a checkbox whether or not someone wants to contribute to the program.

Robert Eichler commented that people should have a choice whether or not someone wants to contribute to the Round Up Program at BPU. Mr. Eichler stated he saw the Police video and stated that it was not good and doesn't see the professionalism that the police should have at most times.

Doug Ingles, County Commissioner, reported the state revenues for Marijuana sales that were collected for 2021. The local distribution for Hillsdale County was \$282,000.00.

Eliana Hambleton commented on the Hope House and suggests that the community help them find a location and support them as it takes a lot of courage to ask for help. Ms. Hambleton commented on the Autism Awareness Proclamation as she is on the autistic spectrum. The proclamation stated that 1 in 44 people are on the spectrum, she mentioned that maybe some of the men at the Hope House are autistic as it is not uncommon for autistic people are more susceptible to drugs. Moving the problem doesn't mean it is solve but it is only displaced.

David Hambleton commented that he as a parent of seven autistic children he thanked the Mayor for the proclamation. He stated that there is a rift between the college and the people. He stated that we can do better and work together. He thanked the police chief for his service. Find solutions and build bridges, we can do better.

Penny Swan commented that Hillsdale is not as safe as it used to be. People can't blame the Hope House for the crime in the community. She thought that a committee to help brainstorm on solutions may be something to look at.

City Manager's Report

Manager Mackie shared April 14th at 6:00 p.m. is the Community Development Committee meeting at the Mitchell Research Building.

The Uran Street project received favorable bids which were under budget. Contract will be approved through State agency that provided the grant.

Brush collection started today and next Monday will start leaf collection.

Audio/Visual bids for Council Chambers are being worked on.

Council Comments

Council Member Morrissey asked about the Round Up Program and what Board needs to discuss it.

Mayor Stockford stated that she spoke with a resident about her family grave was being desiccated and isn't happy and asked about cameras or something that can be done.

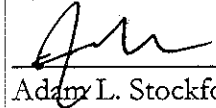
Council Member Socha apologized for interrupting Mr. McLain during Public Comment. He stated that he didn't appreciate his slams as he is on Council to do the best for the City. He is not against the Hope House but the location is not correct for Hillsdale. A location was offered and refused. He stated it's not okay to have a grandmother say it isn't safe to walk her grandchild to the Farmer's Market. Socha expressed strong feelings on the police incident and stated he is for the police and commended and appreciates each one of the City's Police officers.

Council Member Briner stated that the Public Safety meeting was earlier today and there are 200 openings in the state with law enforcement and police. City has gone from double digit applications down to 0. As the chair of the Public Safety Committee he supports the police and how they handled the recent situation.

Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Adam L. Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk