

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

July 18, 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
William Morrissey, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
Bill Zeiser, Ward 3
Raymond Briner, Ward 4
Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Anthony Vear, Ward 1
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2

Also Present: Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Kristin Bauer (City Engineer), Ginger Moore (Airport Manager), Jake Hammel (BPU Electric Director), Keith O'Neil, Penny Swan, Stephanie Myers, Dennis Wainscott, Mark Nichols, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Ted Jansen, Louise Worms, Mary Bertakis, Ezra Bertakis, Allison Grimm, Russ Picek, Joseph Hendee, Robert Eichler, Josh Paladino and Brigitte Paladino.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stockford requested to remove New Business item H. DPS Street Sweeper Purchase and add Consent item L. Jennifer Wagner Park Use Agreement.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, Seconded by Council Member Sharp to remove New Business item H. DPS Street Sweeper Purchase and add Consent item L. Jennifer Wagner Park Use Agreement.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Bills

1. City and BPU Claims of June 16, 2022: \$377,380.34
June 30, 2022: \$1,010,825.06

2. Payroll of June 23, 2022: \$176,557.47
July 7, 2022: \$182,472.65

B. City Council Minutes of June 20, 2022

C. Finance Minutes of April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, June 6 & June 20, 2022

D. EDC Minutes of April 19, 2022

- E. Brownfield Redevelopment Minutes of June 21, 2022
- F. Library Board Minutes of May 20, May 26, and June 9, 2022
- G. Street Closure Request – HBA Summer in the City
- H. HBA 2022 Summer in the City Use of Street Agreement
- I. Hillsdale College Alley Closure/Noise Variance Request – Source Event
- J. Hillsdale College Alley Closure/Noise Variance Request – Welcome Party Event
- K. Hillsdale College Street Closure Request – Freshman Convocation Event
- L. Jennifer Wagner Park Use Agreement

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Keith O’Neal – REU
- B. Hillsdale County Public Safety Radio Project – Chief Hephner
- C. Comcast Email/Expiring Channels
- D. Modern Waste Surcharge Notice
- E. MRC June 2022 Newsletter
- F. Flooding Claim Notice
- G. HBA’s Summer in the City Flyer
- H. Cold Springs Park Letter- Ted Jansen
- I. Meijer Request of Service to the Territory Letter

Keith O’Neal Executive Director from Reading Emergency Unit reported the services numbers and response times.

Police Chief Hephner spoke on the Safety Radio project.

Ted Jansen read his Letter aloud on the Cold Springs clean up.

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. The Heritage Association Gaming License Request (Resolution)

Mayor Stockford reviewed the request for a gaming license from The Heritage Association for their 1920’s Great Gatsby event held on October 29, 2022.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Briner to recognize The Heritage Association of Hillsdale County, MI as charitable organization and approve the request for a gaming license for their event. **Resolution #3509.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- B. Airport MDOT Crack Filling Contract (Resolution)

Ginger Moore, Airport Manager reported the City needs to crack fill the runway and taxiway areas of the Municipal Airport. The City has received State and Federal funding for 95% of the project. The total project cost is \$21,000 and the City’s share of the project is \$1,050.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the resolution for MDOT contract 2022-0742 and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into the agreement. **Resolution # 3510.**

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

C. 2022 Major and Local Street Projects

City Engineer Bauer stated City staff developed and requested bids for the paving and miscellaneous work associated with approved Special Assessment District (SAD) projects on Morry Street – S. Howell to Walnut, S. Howell Street – Hallett to the south City Limits and Lynwood – S. Howell to Reading.

As this was a late year bid we requested bids for either a fall 2022 or spring 2023 project. Seven (7) bids were received on June 27, 2022. The lowest bidder is Nashville Construction Co. in the amount of \$723,668.00 with an additional contingency amount of \$51,332.00 for a total project cost of \$775,000.00 starting the project in the fall 2022.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Sharp to approve the contract to the lowest bidder, Nashville Construction Co. in the amount of \$775,000.00.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

D. Proposed 2023 Street Assessment District for Street Project

City Engineer Bauer mentioned that one of City Council’s primary goals is to address the declining quality of the city’s street and infrastructure systems. City staff has utilized, in the past two years, the Special Assessment process as delineated in the City of Hillsdale’s Code of Ordinances, Article V.- Finances, Division 3.-Special Assessments and any other applicable sections of the City Charter and/or Code of Ordinances to facilitate these projects.

The Department of Public Services (DPS) Director, City Engineer and City Manager recommend the following streets for inclusion in proposed Special Assessment Districts (SAD) for street rehabilitation projects and associated utility work during the 2023 calendar year.

SAD 23-7 – Westwood Project Area – 1.204 mile (88 Prop. in SAD):

Westwood Drive (0.270 mile): Spring Street to Sumac Drive, includes water main and sanitary sewer replacements.

Sumac Drive (0.139 mile): Westwood Drive to Bacon Street, includes water main work.

Picardy Place (0.043 mile): Full extent, includes water main and sanitary sewer replacement.

Azalea Court (0.041 mile): Full extent, includes water main and sanitary sewer replacement.

- Corona Circle (0.039 mile): Full extent, includes water main replacement.
- Scenic Drive (0.078 mile): Full extent, includes water main replacement.
- Westwood Street (0.241 mile): Cold Springs Circle to Lewis Street, includes water main and sanitary sewer replacement, construction of a new storm sewer to Cold Springs Park pond.
- Cold Springs Circle (0.066 mile): Full extent, includes water main replacement.
- Highland Avenue (0.144 mile): Westwood Street to Bacon Street, includes water main and sanitary sewer replacements.
- Glendale Avenue (0.143 mile): Westwood Street to Bacon Street, includes water main and some sanitary sewer replacements.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to direct the City Engineer to develop plans, specifications and cost estimates for submittal to City Council on or before October 17, 2022 for consideration of establishment of SAD's for the Westwood Project area.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

E. City Wide Traffic Signal Upgrades

City Engineer Bauer reported City staff developed and requested bids for purchase of all materials, hardware and equipment for the complete installation of the new signals. This bid was placed on the statewide bidding network and the City's website. The City received one (1) bid on June 27, 2022 as a result from Carrier & Gable Inc. in the amount of \$47,051.00.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to award purchase and approve contract with Carrier & Cable Inc. in the amount of \$47,051.00.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

F. City Hall Chiller Replacement

Jason Blake, DPS Director reported City staff developed and requested bids for replacement of the chiller unit at City Hall. This unit has been failing and required significant repairs over the past several years to keep it operational.

The City requested and received three (3) bids on June 27, 2022. JC Mechanical Services, Inc. was the lowest bidder in the amount of \$86,200.00 with additional costs for installation of the buffer tank and mix for a total cost of \$99,584.00.

Council discussion occurred on the additional costs needed.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Socha to award the agreement to JC Mechanical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$99,584.00.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 7-0

G. ADA Policy Revision

Mayor Stockford and Council reviewed the American Disability Act and Reasonable Modification Policy Revision for Dial-A-Ride. Stating that the policy is a standard form used by all Federal Motor Carrier agencies.

Jason Blake, DPS Director stated that the City has updated the contact information along with other necessary items. The policy and forms will be posted on the buses for anyone that has any concerns.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the policy revisions as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

H. DPS Compact Tractor Purchase

Jason Blake, DPS Director reported the compact tractor is the most diverse and widely used piece of equipment within our fleet. It is used for leaf collection, winter maintenance, and bike path maintenance (year round), street projects, etc. A new compact tractor will replace our 2001 John Deere 4100, which has cost the city approximately \$8,814 in maintenance over the last 3 years. Public Services solicited quotes from three (3) different vendors. The lowest bid did not include all the bid requirements, it was quoted without wheel weights.

John Deere \$23,222.30
 New Holland \$22,450.00
 Kubota \$29,463.00

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Briner to purchase the John Deere 1025R 4x4 compact tractor in the amount of \$23,222.30.

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

Motion passed 7-0

I. HBA Farmers Market Right of Way Request

Police Chief Hephner reported the Hillsdale County Farmers Market requested to utilize McCollum Street between Broad and Howell Streets each Saturday from 8:00 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. through the month of October as they have been displaced from their current location. Traffic Control and Certificate of Liability Insurance have been obtained.

Mary Bertakis, Farmers Market representative spoke on the right of way request, stated she would eventually like to see the Farmers Market set up on Howell Street.

Council discussion ensued with the location and possible change of location in the future.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Sharp to approve the Farmers Market request for street closure, TCO 2022-24.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamation – None

B. Appointments- None

C. Other- None

General Public Comment

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St, spoke on 2020 General Election and an email communication with Council Member Stuchell.

Penny Swan, Ward 4, thanked Mayor Stockford, City Manager Mackie, Council and staff for all the work done to bring in Meijer.

Jack McClain Hillsdale Township, talked about June 6, 2022 Council meeting and an incident that occurred after the meeting leaving City Hall and asked to have a picture shared with Council.

Mark Nichols, Adams Township, commented on the airport and trees that were cleared out on an expansion done at that time and had issues with half staffed flags being done so often.

Joshua Paladino commented on a request for a block party and requirements needed. He reviewed the library curation process, censorship and spoke on intellectual freedom.

Robert Eichler, Scipio Township, commented on the emergency radio proposal for the August 2022 Primary election along with the proposal for the Senior Center. Eichler also commented on his prior police incident.

City Manager's Report

None

Council Comments


Council Member Socha commented on the request for the street closure for block party Mr. Paladino spoke on during public comment. He mentioned that he reads all letters from constituents in the packet and doesn't want to take time to have them re-read during the meeting. He is not in favor of tax increases but sees the necessity of the emergency public safety radio system. He reported the Keefer House Hotel progress is moving forward with the reconstruction phase.

Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.


Adam L. Stockford, Mayor


Katy Price, City Clerk