

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
November 21, 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
Greg Stuchell, Ward 1
Anthony Vear, Ward 1
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
Josh Paladino, Ward 4

Council Members absent: William Morrissey, Ward 2
Robert Socha, Ward 4

Also Present: Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake, Scott Hephner (HPD/HFD), Penny Swan, Doug Ingles, Jeremy Kreffler, Cody Cratzenberg, Kara Mayer, Chanitty Brouse, Stephanie Myers, Caroline Wells, Holly Carpenter, Melissa DesJardin and Michelle Hebert.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Stuchell asked to add Old Business item Update on Howder and Union Street and Mayor Stockford asked to add Miscellaneous item under, Proclamation, Homeless Youth Awareness Month.

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Holly Carpenter, commented on the homeless proclamation, Mckinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and gave homeless student statistics.

Melissa DesJardin, Hillsdale Community Thrift executive director, commented on the homeless population in Hillsdale and gave statistics and shared her own dealings with homeless youth and young adults. These individuals are in need of services and help.

Michelle Hebert, commented on homelessness in Hillsdale and asked Council to help find resources needed and asked them for action.

David Morris, commented on the homeless population in Hillsdale and stated that there are homeless that are mistreated, harassed and being burglarized in the City. He is concerned with the drug paraphernalia in the homeless camps among other things. Morris stated he isn't talking about homeless individuals trying to better themselves; transient homeless need to be help but intransient permanent homeless need to be dealt with in a matter that removes them from the public.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of November 3, 2022: \$1,263,754.38
 - 2. Payroll of October 27, 2022: \$182,156.41
- B. City Council Minutes of November 7 & November 14, 2022
- C. Library Minutes of September 8, 2022
- D. Housing Commission Minutes of September 21, 2022
- E. Christmas in the City Parking Space Closure
- F. 2022 Christmas Light Up Parade
- G. BPU WWTP Replacement Valves and Piping

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

Roll call:

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. 2022 The Great Give
- B. Winter Newsletter
- C. Key Opportunity Business After Hours
- D. Christmas in the City
- E. Leaf Collection Update

Jason Blake, DPS Director gave update on the leaf collection.

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

Old Business

- A. Howder Street/Union Street Code Enforcement Update

City Attorney Thompson gave an update on the code enforcement process and stated the Code Enforcement officer has pointed the owner towards available assistance and resources and owner has declined those services. Owner was to immediately vacate the premises on August 17, 2022 and the Council has approved demolition of the property, stated the police were to enforce the order from the judge.

Mayor Stockford corresponded with the owner as well.

Council Member Stuchell asked about the safety issues for the neighbors and city for not enforcing the judge's order.

City Attorney and Police Chief gave an update on the order.

No action taken.

New Business**A. Health Insurance Pool**

City Manager Mackie reported this fall the City was notified by its health insurance provider, Priority Health, that we would be seeing a 27% increase in premiums starting January 1st. Upon this notification the staff started looking at various options with the hope of saving money and improving our plan options. To this end we received a number of proposals from the Burgee Agency (current broker), the Western Michigan Health Insurance Pool (the Pool) and from the Teamsters.

After careful consideration, the staff would like to propose switching over to the Pool. The Pool is made up of over 120 organizations with over 13,000 thousand employees and 36,000 enrollees. Price wise most of the proposals are fairly comparable. Where the Pool shines is with long-term affordability/stability in rates and quality plan options. The City would initially propose two options to the employees (attached). The first is a Health Savings Account (HAS - Plan 166) and the second is a traditional Preferred Provider Organization (PPO - Plan 005) through Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS). Premiums are split between the City 80% and employees 20%. In considering this change nonunion and union staff members were consulted.

Public Entity Membership in the Pool and the Business Associate Agreement that City Council needs to approve. Upon joining the Pool the City is agreeing to be a member for at least three years. Additionally, the City is able to appoint a representative to the Pool to assist in governance of the organization.

Motion by Council Member Vear, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve the Public Entity Membership in the Pool along with the Business Associate Agreement for three years and the resolution appointing the Human Resource Director as the representative from the City. **Resolution #3525.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed.

B. Traffic Control Order for Marked Pedestrian Crossing

Police Chief Hephner, stated in conjunction with the road construction project on Lynwood Street, a marked and signed pedestrian crosswalk connects parking lots on the north and south side of Lynwood Street east of Walnut Street. There shall be "No Parking" twenty five (25) feet on each side of the crosswalk on the north side of Lynwood Street.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve Traffic Control Order 2022-54. **Resolution #3526.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed.

C. Council Standing Committee Appointments

Mayor Stockford reviewed the appointments with Council.

Finance- Gary Wolfram, Will Morrisey, Bruce Sharp
 Public Safety- Greg Stuchell, Rob Socha, Josh Paladino
 Community Development- Cindy Pratt, Tony Vear, Gary Wolfram
 Public Services- Tony Vear, Rob Socha, Josh Paladino
 Operations & Governance- Will Morrisey, Bruce Sharp, Greg Stuchell

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Sharp to approve the appointments for the Standing Committees.

By a voice vote, the motion passed.

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamation – Homelessness Youth Awareness Month
- B. Reappointments- Library Board – George Allen

Motion by Council Member Pratt, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve the Library Board appointment (George Allen).

By a voice vote, the motion passed.

C. Other- None

General Public Comment

Holly Carpenter, thanked Council for the Proclamation and shared information on the homeless.

Jack McLain, commented on the code enforcement at Howder Street property and another specific property. McLain mentioned he had a letter from 1961 about the drainage at the Airport. Had some questions about zoning permits for City property in other townships.

Melissa DesJardin, commented on the property at Howder and Union St that was discussed in the meeting.

Penny Swan commented on an email Council Member Paladino made about a few books at the library that he thinks isn't acceptable for children. Asked Paladino to stick to the truth.

Michelle Hebert inquired about the Homeless Taskforce and the Public Safety meeting.

City Manager's Report

Airport was built in 1963.

Closing on the bond tomorrow on the Westwood area project.

Westwood project out to bid estimated first of the year, 2023.

Public Service Committee need to meet to discuss cemeteries and the Mitchell Research Building on the lease or other options.

Mr. Mackie wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday.

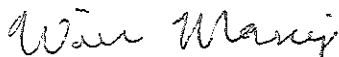
Council Comments

Council Member Sharp welcomed new Council Members Wolfram and Paladino.

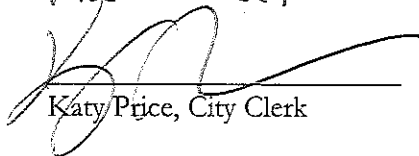
Adjournment

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 8: 16 p.m.



Adam L. Stockford, Mayor ~~PRO TEM~~
WILL MORRISSEY


Katy Price, City Clerk