

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

May 1, 2023

7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Stockford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Mayor 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 William Morrisey, Ward 2 Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 Gary Wolfram, Ward 3 Robert Socha, Ward 4 Joshua Paladino, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), David Mackie (City Manager), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Dan Poole (HCFD), Jim Bowen, George Allen, Leslie Bennett-Granata, Felicia Finch, Brianna Crall, Britt Bays, David Diener, Tom Burke, Elizabeth Burke, Jaminda Springer, Beth Culbert, Ken Culbert, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Brandon Janes, Liz Webb, Jean Heise, Rev. Steven Allen, Tara Scott, Kent Heise, Dan LaRue, Greg Kurtz, Karen Hill, Barry Hill, Ginger Novak, JoAnne Miller, Linda Fogarty, Jeff Cooley, Jeanette Cooley, Leisha Taylor, Michael Horne, Carolyn Horne, Joe Mason, Dedra Birzer, Louise Worms, Candy Carter, Beth Reamsnyder, Jason Gehrke, Josiah Lippincott, John Brooks, Aaron Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Kelly Franklin, Jonathan Mumme, Elizabeth Schlueter, Nathan Schlueter, Janell Wilson, Laura Negus, Jeremiah Regan, Andrew Gelzer, Michael Jordan, Lindy Jordan, Beth Dobrozsi, Lisa Moreno, Elias McConnell, Carl Young, Lauren Seabolt, Charles Hutchins, Penny Swan, Lee Cole, Kelly Cole, CJ Toncray, Timothy Green and Julie Budd.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stockford requested New Business Item C. Jansen FOIA Appeal to be removed from agenda. City Manager Mackie asked to add a Resolution of Appreciation of Years of Service for Cheryl Cox (Retirement) to Miscellaneous Reports Item.

Motion by Council member Morrisey, seconded by Council member Pratt to approve the requested changes. All ayes.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Morrisey, support by Council member Pratt, to approve the May 1, 2023 Agenda as amended.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No Comment

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Bills

- 1. City and BPU Claims of April 13, 2023: \$832,692.08
- 2. Payroll of April 13, 2023: \$184,297.53
- B. City Council Minutes of April 17, 2023
- C. BPU Minutes of March 14, 2023
- D. Finance Minutes of April 17, 2023
- E. Community Development Minutes of April 20, 2023
- F. Financial Investment Report as of March 31, 2023

Motion by Council member Morrisey seconded by Council member Pratt to approve the consent agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Grant Finding Opportunity- Optimize Main Street Program
- B. Ted Jansen Letter
- C. MRC Spring 2023 Newsletter
- D. Library Ordinance Amendment- Councilman Paladino

Sam Fry reviewed the grant program with Council.

Council member Paladino read his amendment on the proposed library ordinance amendment.

Information is presented for information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

A. Public Hearing- **Ordinance 2023-02** Library Ordinance Amendment to amend City Ordinance § 2.48.020, Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 7, Sec. 2-262.

The amended ordinance would read: “The library board shall consist of five directors appointed by the mayor with the approval the city council, the directors to be chosen from the citizens of the city at large with reference to their fitness for office; provided, however, that not more than one member of the city council shall be a member of the library board at any one time.”

Mayor Stockford opened the podium at 7:23 p.m.

Spoke in Favor of the Ordinance: Pastor Steven Allen, Sam Lair, Josiah Lippincott, Jean Heise, Elizabeth Schlueter, Tim Ginger Novak, Patrick Tennis, Nathan Schlueter, George Allen, Jason Gehrke, Jonathan Mumme, David Diener, Jeremiah Regan, Jaminda Springer, Sarah Yacks, Kelly Cole, José Rubilo Calvin Stockdale, Colin Brown, John Brooks, Elias McConnell, Tripp Young, Aaron Johnson.

Spoke in Opposition of the Ordinance: Joe Mason, Dan LaRue, JoAnne Miller, Janelle Wilson, Lauren Seabolt, Karen Hill, Leisha Taylor, Terra Scott, Brianna Crall, Barry Hill, Jeff Cooley, Liz Webb, Candy Carter, Greg Kurtz, Jim Bowen, Mary Forks, Penny Swan, Jack McLain.

Leslie Bennett-Granata, Cambria Twp, stated she is on the Hillsdale Community School board and has no interest in serving on the library board. She mentioned that the McRitchie donors wanted the original ordinance language and if changed she would like to see council reach out to the McRitchie family and explain the reasoning. She hopes to continue to move forward working with council and the community.

Brad Porter, ward three, stated council will vote their conscious and asked to not make it political.

Mayor Stockford closed the public hearing at 8:35 p.m.

Council Comment:

Councilman Sharp asked the attorney to clarify the fitness for office requirement in the proposed language.

Attorney Thompson stated that it is in state statute language and reviewed the statute; it would mirror the state statute.

Councilman Sharp stated that Council terms are term limited, if ordinance changes there is a rotating Mayor’s seat.

Councilman Stuchell thanked the public for attending and all the emails that were sent. He also thanked the Mitchell family for laying the foundation for the City. He stated Hillsdale is one of the strongest communities in the United States with great educational options. He is in favor of the ordinance.

Councilman Vear stated going by current statute, he states the Mayor shall appoint with council approval. Based off that and the school options of today he is in favor of the ordinance.

Mayor Stockford indicated that the ordinance does not say that the school board get to appoint their own representative to the library board. He stated that the two representatives brought forward for the library board from school board were both problematic and discussed the matter further with the Superintendent of school. He discussed the process and other possible options. He apologized for mistakes that were made. He is in favor of changing the ordinance.

Councilman Morrissey mentioned that the school board members have 100% control of their private library and don’t need to represent 20% of the community library in which they do not fund.

Attorney Thompson stated that the ordinance can be approved or denied based on the language that is presented at the meeting proper format can be drafted at a later date.

Motion by Councilman Stuchell, supported by Councilman Vear, to approve **Ordinance 2023-02** to amend City Ordinance § 2.48.020, Chapter 2, Article IV, Division 7, Sec. 2-262.

Roll Call:

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Nay
Council Member Sharp	Nay
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Nay
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 6-3

Old Business

A. Tree Limb Pickup/Street Patching Verbal update

Jason Blake, DPS Director, gave a brief update on the pickup and the street patching.

No action.

New Business

A. Social District Plan

Sam Fry, Marketing and Development Coordinator reviewed that pursuant to MCL 436.1551, the governing body of a local government unit may designate a Social District within its jurisdiction. Qualified licensees whose licensed premises are contiguous to the commons area within the Social District, and that have been approved for and issued a Social District Permit, may sell alcoholic liquor (beer, wine, mixed spirit drinks, spirits, or mixed drinks) on their licensed premises to customers who may then consume the alcoholic liquor within the commons area of the Social District. City staff have prepared a management and maintenance plan for a proposed Social District located in downtown Hillsdale. This plan defines the boundaries of the Social District and commons area, and hours of operation of the Social District, in addition to other necessary policies to ensure that the City of Hillsdale will be maintaining the commons area in a manner that protects the health and safety of the community.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Vear, to adopt the City’s Social District Plan by **Resolution 3549**.

Roll call

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Nay
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 8-1

B. Proposed 2024 Special Assessment District for Street Projects

Kristin Bauer, City Engineer, reported 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 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 potential associated utility work during the 2024 calendar year.

SAD 2024-8 – Arch Avenue – between Carleton Road (M-99) to Mechanic Road
0.34 miles (Estimated 12 parcels in the SAD)

SAD 2024-9 – W. St. Joe Street/Griswold Street – between Bacon Street to Waterworks Avenue
0.92 miles (Estimated 42 parcels in the SAD)

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Morrissey, to direct the City Engineer to develop plans, specifications and cost estimates for submittal to City Council on or before July 31, 2023 for consideration of establishment of SAD’s for the Arch Avenue and W. St. Joe/Griswold Street Project areas.

Roll call

Council Member Paladino	Nay
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Nay
Council Member Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 7-2

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Stockford read the proclamation aloud.

B. Appointments- None

C. Other- Resolution of Appreciation for years of service: Cheryl Cox

Mayor Stockford read the Resolution aloud and thanked Dial-A-Ride driver Cheryl Cox for her many years of service.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilwoman Pratt to approve Resolution of appreciation for years of service for Cheryl Cox. **Resolution #3550.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

General Public Comment

Karen Hill, stated she was upset with council's decision on the library ordinance amendment change. Historically, the library board hasn't received a lot of applications over the years to serve on the board, there have been vacancies that needed filled.

Timothy Green, Ward 3, thanked Council for their work.

Greg Kurtz, Ward 3, was disappointed on the library ordinance amendment that passed and inquired about the Westwood Street project timeline.

George Allen, Ward 4, extended thanks to Council and thanked them for their votes for the library ordinance amendment.

Sara Yacks, Ward 4, thanked Councilman Paladino for the ordinance amendment.

Rev. Steven Allen, thanked Council for approving the Social District Plan.

Felicia Finch, Hillsdale Brewing Company, thanked council for approving the Social District Plan.

Penny Swan thanked Council members Sharp, Wolfram and Pratt for their no vote on the library ordinance amendment.

City Manager's Report

None

Council Comments

Councilman Paladino inquired about special assessments and state law on the General Law Village Act.

Attorney Thompson reported that the City of Hillsdale is subject to the Home Rule City Act.

Councilman Sharp stated we are fixing the roads by special assessments.

Councilman Morrissey spoke on a vehicle that was removed from a City garage and asked if GPS can be installed to all in the fleet.


Councilman Paladino mentioned that a general tax spread across the City can assist with road repair instead of the special assessment.

Adjournment

Motion by Council member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Paladino, to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.


Adam Stockford, Mayor


Katy Price, City Clerk