

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

May 15, 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
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent: William Morrisey, Ward 2
Joshua Paladino, Ward 4

Also Present: Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), David Mackie (City Manager), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Mark Hawkins (HCFD), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Brandon Janes (City Tech Services), Angela Turner, David Turner, Barb Dennis, Elizabeth Wilson, Pamela Cobb, Angie Kratzer, Melaney Wells, Deb Wascnich, Lori Alder, Barb Handyside, Cody Strecker, Cindy Eckhardt, Josie Eckhardt, Kay Freese, Bethany Karn, Joseph Caudill, Cornell Sample II, James Wolodkin, Tami Wolodkin, Pam Dobson, Judy Ford, Casey Sullivan, Brad Benzing, Pam Benzing, D. Morris, Andrew Kuiper, George Allen, Stephanie Myers, Melissa DesJardin, Penny Myers, Corinna Lewis, Eric Lewis, Cristino, Lori Way, Mark Cousino, Ashlynn Moore, Caroline Wells, Karl Raines Hermann, Lindy Jordan, Dennis Wainscott, James Galloway, Alex Roback, Kyra Roback, John Brooks, Jaminda Springer, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Jean Heise, Rev. Steven Allen, Kent Heise, Ginger Novak, Josiah Lippincott, John Brooks, D. Gelzer, Elizabeth Schlueter, Keri Stewart, Bryan Clark, Liz Burr, Spencer Pibbles, Jack Mosley, Linda Mosley, José Rublio, Laura Rahe, Bill Zeiser, Jarrod Collison Vanessa Collison, Michael Jordan, Lindy Jordan, Beth Dobrozsi, Penny Swan, CJ Toncray, Victoria Titus, Ken Calvert, Katy Caspar, Timothy Caspar, Gerry Brown and Lisa Moreno.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilman Vear support by Council member Pratt to approve the May 15, 2023 agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

David Turner, ward one, thanked council for what they do for the City as a whole. He spoke on the Homeless Taskforce and the formation of the ordinance, he suggested Council table the ordinance so the Taskforce can review it and come up with a better solution.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 1. City and BPU Claims of April 27, 2023: \$832,692.08
 2. Payroll of April 27, 2023: \$167,727.81
- B. City Council Minutes of May 1, 2023
- C. Finance Minutes of May 1, 2023

- D. BPU Minutes of April 11, 2023
- E. Street Closure Request/Train Event
- F. Hill Pavilion Completion: Dry Mar Trucking Payment

Motion by Council member Socha seconded by Council member Vear to approve the consent agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Michigan Balance of State Continuum of Care Letter
- B. Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness Letter
- C. Salvation Army No Camping Ordinance Letter
- D. Elizabeth Schlueter No Camping Ordinance Letter / Survey
- E. Michelle Hebert No Camping Ordinance Letter
- F. HIT Team No Camping Ordinance Letter
- G. Ted Jansen No Camping Ordinance Letter

Information is presented for information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

A. Public Hearing- FY 2023-24 City Budget

On April 3, 2023 Council and the public received the proposed 2023-24 fiscal year budget covering the period from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 In accordance with Section 8.3 of the City Charter, a public hearing must be held prior to the budget’s final adoption.

Mayor Stockford opened the podium at 7:17 p.m.

Ted Jansen, ward one, asked council to review and give a cost of living increase to all city staff.

James Galloway, spoke on no camping ordinance and unfunded mandates not budgeted in the proposed budget if the ordinance passes.

Mayor Stockford closed the podium at 7:20 p.m.

Councilman Stuchell thanked City Manager Mackie and staff for the well put together proposed budget.

Motion by Councilman Socha, supported by Councilman Sharp, to the approve FY 2023-24 City Budget as presented. **Resolution # 3551.**

Roll Call:

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	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Motion by Councilman Sharp, supported by Councilman Socha, to approve the budget levy resolution as presented. **Resolution # 3552.**

Roll Call:

Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Wolfram	Aye

Mayor Stockford Aye
Council Member Pratt Aye

Motion passed 7-0

B. Public Hearing- Ordinance for No Camping

The proposed ordinance was presented at the April 17, 2023 Council meeting by the Public Safety Committee for review and consideration.

Mayor Stockford opened the podium at 7:37 p.m.

Spoke in Favor of the Ordinance: Elizabeth Schlueter, Dave Morris, José Rublio, George Allen, Jean Heise, Michael Jordan, Josiah Lippincott, Ginger Novak, Laura Rahe, James Thomas III, Katy Caspar, CJ Toncray, Jaminda Springer, John Brooks, Bill Zeiser, Rev. Steven Allen.

Spoke in Opposition of the Ordinance: Ashlynn Moore, Andrew Kiebert, Elizabeth Wilson, Cody Strecker, Bethany Karn, Ted Jansen, Holly Carpenter, Jerry Brown, Cindy Eckhardt, Josie Eckhardt, Crisanto, Penny Swan, James Wolodkin, James Galloway, Angie Kratzer, Deb Wascnich.

Stephanie Myers, Homeless Taskforce Chair, would like more time to review ordinance on a committee level and mentioned about the lack of funding options.

Pamela Cobbs, Salvation Army Representative, reviewed court cases against ordinances like the one proposed. Cobbs shared stats of homeless, asked for a better solution.

Bryan, commented on the lack of funding options for homelessness. He inquire about how the airport is being funded for the improvements in the upcoming budget.

Rev. Catherine Shively, Kings Cupboard Representative, shared stats on food pantry and how many homeless they served last year. Shively asked council to lend support and help during their distribution.

Melissa DesJardin, Hillsdale Impact Team Representative, asked council to work with other agencies and organizations to find better solutions to the homeless issues. DesJardin stated Hillsdale needs a full time shelter and asked council to table the ordinance.

Angela Turner, Hillsdale Impact Team Representative/Homeless Taskforce, agrees that encampments on public property is not a solution for homelessness but asked council to not pass the ordinance so that agencies, committees and organizations can help find better solutions.

Sarah Yacks, ward four, stated it's okay to pull back and review the ordinance and do more research and take more time.

Cornell Sample, works with homeless and shared his experiences with them. This ordinance creates fear. The population of the homeless are not all bad as portrayed.

Jimmy Herman, homeless, shared his story of trying to obtain employment and housing.

Elijah, stated investing in a homeless person is a good thing. He was homeless and changed his life. He was given a chance and now is working full time and has a home in Reading, MI. Thanked Councilman Socha for helping him with funds in the past. He hopes to pay it forward and invest in Hillsdale in the future.

Joseph Caudill, shared his story as a homeless man. He was given a change and it has changed his life working two jobs and has housing and is thankful for the help.

Dennis Wainscott, asked council not to make a decision on the ordinance, take it back, review it and make changes.

Mayor Stockford closed the public hearing at 9:17 p.m.

Council Comment:

Council Member Sharp commented on homelessness and stated the City needs to have signage on what is Public property; he doesn't agree with the penalty being a misdemeanor and isn't in support of the ordinance as it stands.

Council Member Stuchell stated the homeless isn't slated in the budget presented for the following year but public safety is. This ordinance would help in the grand scheme of things it doesn't stop doesn't limit and doesn't stop all the great work going on in the community. Community Action Agency and other organizations are going to look at more funding options to help with the homelessness.

Mayor Stockford stated that Council's goal was to look at the public safety aspect of homelessness and as a whole.

Council Member Wolfram would like to delay the ordinance and amend the penalty to a civil infraction instead of a misdemeanor.

Council Member Socha stated he is amenable to the change from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction in section five of the ordinance. This City is responsible for the City, the public is responsible for the people. There isn't money in the budget for homelessness or people that have fallen on hard times, it the responsibility of the community to help others and thanked Hillsdale Community Thrift and the other great organizations locally. Taxpayers pay taxes to the City and deserve to feel safe and have public safety.

Further Council discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilman Stuchell, supported by Councilman Sharp, to send ordinance to Public Safety Committee for revision to Section 5 to change the violation from a misdemeanor charge to a civil infraction.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 5-2

Old Business

None.

New Business

A. Jansen FOIA Appeal

City Manager Mackie reported that Mr. Jansen's FOIA appeal letter was attached to the packet, his original FOIA request and copies of correspondence he indicates were not provided to him by Councilman Paladino in his original FOIA request. Mr. Jansen is asking City Council to direct Councilman Paladino to provide him with all correspondence as requested in his original FOIA as required by law.

Mayor Stockford requesting direction from Attorney Thompson as Council member Paladino was absent.

City Manager Mackie suggested Council to have Council member Paladino review and examine the emails again to see if any were missed as there was quite a few emails requested.

Further council discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Sharp, to sustain the appeal and request Council member Paladino to review and examine the emails again.

Roll call

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

Motion failed 3-4

B. 2023 Sanitary Sewer Lining

Kristin Bauer, City Engineer, reported in 2021 the City had completed a video evaluation of the entire sanitary sewer system. Following these video evaluations each section of the sanitary system was rated utilizing the Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) which assigns a numerical value to the pipe based on the defects found in the pipe section. Some sections of sanitary sewer have already been addressed following this evaluation. Additional sections are planned to be addressed with a project currently being bid associated with grant funds the city received. City staff has budgeted funds to address additional sections of the sanitary sewer system utilizing the Cured-in-Place Pipe Lining (CIPP) process. This process allows us to rehabilitate a sewer pipe by placing a resin impregnated liner into the pipe. This liner is then expanded and cured to create a new pipe within the existing sewer section with very little loss in pipe capacity. This process is widely used and less costly than direct sewer replacement. On April 18, 2023 we received 4 bids in response to our advertised Request for Bids to provide 5,600 LF of CIPP lining throughout the city.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Sharp, to approve and award contract to the low bidder, Insituform Technologies of Indianapolis, IN in the amount of \$255,753.90 plus a contingency amount of \$19,246.10 for a total contract amount of \$275,000.00.

Roll call

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

Motion passed 7-0

C Hillsdale County Historical Society Gaming License Approval (Resolution)

The Hillsdale County Historical Society, a domestic nonprofit corporation operating in the State of Michigan, desires to request a Charitable Gaming License from the State in order to hold raffles in the future to raise money for their organization. In order to apply for a license, it is required that they submit as part of their qualification information a resolution passed by the local body of government stating their organization is a recognized nonprofit organization in the community.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Wolfram, to approve the Hillsdale County Historical Society Gaming License. **Resolution # 3553.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Stockford read the proclamation aloud.

B. Appointments- Shade Tree Commission –Gary Stachowicz

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Sharp, to approve Gary Stachowicz to the Shade Tree Commission.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other- None

***Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Vear, to extend the council meeting passed 10:00 p.m.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

General Public Comment

Jaminda Springer, ward four, asked about the civil infraction process.

James Thomas III, commented on the school resource officer and asked about installing a trash can over at Davis Middle School and A/C unit in the Council Chambers.

David Turner, thanked council for their service and understands it's a tough position.

James Galloway, stated he enjoys camping and hard work. He believes the ordinance came forth to protect the city but suggests council make places in the city more useful.

City Manager's Report

None

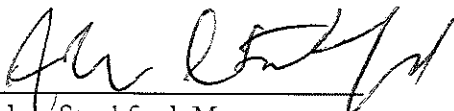
Council Comments

None


Adjournment

Motion by Mayor Stockford, seconded by Council Member Pratt, to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.



Adam Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk