

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

June 5, 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 Morrissey, Ward 2
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
Robert Socha, Ward 4
Joshua Paladino, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Gary Wolfram, Ward 3

Also Present: Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), David Mackie (City Manager), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Brandon Janes (City Tech Services), Angela Turner, Stephanie Myers, Melissa DesJardin, Dennis Wainscott, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Ginger Novak, Penny Swan, CJ Toncray, Mark Nichols, Leisha Taylor, Steve Hammett, Tamiyah Jordan, Joseph Hendee and Ted Jansen.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Council member Vear to approve the June 5, 2023 agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ted Jansen, 104 Hillsdale St., commented on his letter in the packet about the proposed public location for homeless and commented on the Homeless Taskforce.

Steve Hammett, Ward four, commented on the Homeless Taskforce and offered to serve on the Taskforce if needed.

Angela Turner, Ward one, commented on the no camping ordinance and ask that a community service option to be added and thanked Council for their consideration.

Missy DesJardin, Hillsdale Community Thrift, agreed about the community service option for the no camping ordinance and spoke on civil infraction amounts.

Dennis Wainscott, 34 Garden St., commented on the no camping ordinance and stated people don't have money to pay the fines whatever the amount may be.

Robert Eichler, Scipio Twp., stated he has a few rentals and commented on the eviction process. He also commented on the homeless.

Leisha Taylor, Ward four, stated she works with the homeless and mentioned that they do work around the community. They lack the means and resources that they need and asked Council to not criminalize them.

Penny Swan, Ward four, stated she would like the Homeless Taskforce the opportunity to look into the ordinance and process before it's acted on. She mentioned that 13 members on the Taskforce is a large amount for a committee. She stated that people don't have money for fines on the no camping ordinance.

Ginger Novak, Ward four, commented on the no camping ordinance and spoke on Ted Jansen's letter that was included in the packet.

CJ Toncray, Ward three, commented on the no camping ordinance and asked council what their job actually is, public safety, running the City or social issues.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of May 11, 2023: \$381,691.46
 - 2. Payroll of May 11, 2023: \$175,801.11
- B. City Council Minutes of May 15, 2023
- C. Finance Minutes of May 15, 2023
- D. Public Safety Committee Minutes of May 23, 2023
- E. Big Truck Day Event: Closure of South Library Lot
- F. Hillsdale County Community Foundation 5K
- G. Financial Reports for the Quarter Ending 3/31/2023
- H. St. Anthony's Church Park Use Agreement
- I. TCO 2023-17 Morry St. Closure

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

Roll Call:

Council Member Paladino	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Vear	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. 2023 Summer Code Enforcement Liens- Assessment Roll
- B. Comcast Letter
- C. July 2021 – June 2022 Annual Library Report
- D. Letter from Ted Jansen
- E. Letter Requesting State of Emergency
- F. Letter of Resignation – Homeless Task Force

Information is presented for information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Adoption of Ordinance: No Camping Ordinance (2023-03)

The No Camping ordinance was presented at the May 15th, 2023 Council meeting where a public hearing was conducted. After receiving public input and Council discussion, Council approved a motion to send the ordinance back to the Public Safety Committee for amendment. The amended ordinance changes Section 3 Warnings to provide for both "a verbal and written warning to cease the unlawful conduct" and Section 5 Penalty from misdemeanor to a municipal civil infraction.

Council Member Socha asked Attorney Thompson about the Community Service option.

Attorney Thompson gave a brief overview of the court and civil infraction process. The City attorney could make an arrangement on the community service aspect if the City had a structure for tracking the hours done.

Council Member Morrissey stated that public spaces are used for everyone. No one could use it as private property like camping on public property whichever area that may be.

Councilman Paladino asked if the police has a route they use to monitor areas.

Mayor Stockford stated most cases the police department response on a complaint basis.

Motion by Mayor Stockford, supported by Councilman Stuchell, to approve the No Camping Ordinance as presented. **Ordinance 2023-03.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 6-2

Old Business

A. Homeless Task Force Committee - Discussion

Mayor Stockford led discussion on the Task Force. Attendance has been a problem among members and quorum has not been met on most meeting dates.

Mayor Stockford read Mr. Benzing’s resignation letter aloud which stated his frustrations with not meeting quorum to be productive. He thanked all that have been active on the taskforce and wished the group well.

Stephanie Myers, Homeless Taskforce Chairperson spoke on the meeting and membership overview of the taskforce.

Council Member Stuchell commented that public money is at public agencies suggests the community reach out and connect with them to see what can be done with homelessness.

Discussion ensued on eliminating membership to 5-6 people versus 13 so quorum can be met. Along with making sub committees to help with community efforts.

New Business

A. MDOT Aero Contract No. 2023-0514 (Resolution)

City Manager Mackie reported The City is in the process designing the new Airport terminal that will be constructed primarily (est. 88%) with FAA funds. The estimated cost of the terminal and parking lot design is \$309,896. Per the contract FAA will pay \$260,440, MDOT will pay \$6,891 and the City will pay 42,565.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Vear to approve MDOT Contract No. 2023-0514 and authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the contract. **Resolution # 3555.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

B. Amendment to Traffic Control Order 1981-1 (Resolution)

City Manager Mackie reviewed the amendment to TCO 1981-1. The TCO will give authority to the present stop sign and authorize the replacement of the yield sign with a stop sign on the east side of Charles Street at E. Hallett St.

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Socha, to approve the amendment to TCO 1981-1. **Resolution #3556.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C TEDF-B Grant 2024 Funds (Resolution)

The Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF-B) is providing grant funds to cities and villages of 10,000 or less for road construction work. The program requires a “Resolution of Support” in the form of official action by the Governing Body.

The City is completing this grant application, due on June 15, 2023, for a preventative maintenance project including a leveling slurry seal layer, overlain by a single course chip seal, topped by a Micro-surfacing Cape Seal on approximately 62,000 Square Yards (3.79 miles) of various city streets. Through this grant application, for State of Michigan Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 funds, we are requesting \$250,000 in grants funds together with matching funds of \$367,027.59 for a total estimated project cost of \$617,027.59.

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Socha, to approve the resolution to allow staff to submit the grant application for the maximum amount of \$250,000 for an estimated total project amount of \$617,027.59. **Resolution # 3557.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. TEDF – B Grant 2025 Funds (Resolution)

The Michigan Department of Transportation – Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF-B) is providing grant funds to cities and villages of 10,000 or less for road construction work. The program requires a “Resolution of Support” in the form of official action by the Governing Body.

The City is completing this grant application, due on June 15, 2023, for a complete reconstruction of Monroe Street between Hillsdale Street and N. West Street, 0.218 miles. Reconstruction will include the removal of the existing Asphalt/Brick roadway and unsuitable base materials followed by the reconstruction including storm sewer upgrades, new concrete curb & gutter, new road base aggregate, new 5” asphalt paving and ADA sidewalk ramp upgrades.

Through this grant application, for State of Michigan Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 funds, we are requesting \$250,000 in grants funds together with matching funds of \$480,912.96 for a total estimated project cost of \$730,912.96.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Sharp, to approve the resolution to allow staff to submit the grant application for the maximum amount of \$250,000 for an estimated total project amount of \$730,912.96. **Resolution # 3558.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – None
- B. Appointments- None
- C. Other- Assessing Report – 2023 BPU Utility Liens

General Public Comment

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St., stated that Mr. Hodshire is in violation serving on the Board of Public Utilities as he is not a City resident. BPU has a Round Up program for residents to donate funds that go to the Community Action Agency to aid those in need.

Melissa DesJardin, Hillsdale Community Thrift, stated she would be happy to help with the community service and volunteer hour sign off sheets discussed during the meeting. She reviewed her plans moving forward with community service and clean up services.

Robert Eichler, Scipio Twp., commented on eviction process and also the Community Action Agency processes.

Leisha Taylor, Ward four, commented on the ordinance and stated it wasn't just about no camping. Homelessness isn't always about bad decisions or bad choices but sometimes about the environment you are in. People fall on hard times. Shared her story.

Penny Swan, Ward four, commented on Mr. Hendee's comments about BPU and other board members. Expressed displeasure on the passed ordinance.

Steve Hammett, Ward four stated he would be interested in serving on the Homeless Task force.

Jack McLain commented that he can't hear all of council and asked about the assisted listening availability. McLain also shared his concern about City Hall not being handicap accessible. No camping is good for public property, but violators need to be addressed across the board.

Ted Jansen, commented on the Homeless Task force; suggested the Mayor dissolve the current one and then start another. Asked Council about profit loss report on the Airport. The No Camping ordinance is against homeless point blank.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Mackie state the City Hall Chiller unit should be installed on Friday, June 9th.

Games at Field of Dreams are going strong, Sandy Beach is up and running, season pass \$50, daily pass \$5 per car collected at stop sign before entering the beach.

The two new pickup trucks were ordered and delivered from Hillsdale GMC.

BPU Power Secure Project is on track the units and should be tested and installed June 2024.

Airport Terminal Bid put out last Friday, June 2.

Council Comments

Council Member Socha commented on the no camping ordinance and sitting is in an exception.

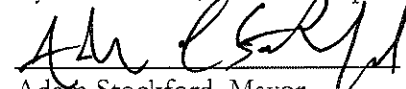
Council Member Paladino asked if Wildlife Drive receive BPU services. Mayor Stockford said yes that area receives electric but not sewer services.

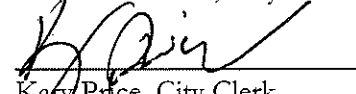
Discussion ensued on BPU Board Members and Charter.

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 9:04 p.m.


Adam Stockford, Mayor


Katy Price, City Clerk