

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
August 21, 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
Anthony Vear, Ward 1
William Morrissey, Ward 2
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
Robert Socha, Ward 4
Joshua Paladino, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Greg Stuchell, Ward 1

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thomson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Dan Poole (HCFD), Brandon Janes (IT Dept), Kristin Bauer (City Engineer), Mark Nichols, Chris Fund, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Karla Adams, Chris Wingate, Dustin Adams, Nancy Hutchins and Tonya Cook.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Councilmember Pratt to approve the August 21, 2023 agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of August 3, 2023: \$1,419,468.47
 - 2. Payroll of August 3, 2023: \$197,418.52
- B. City Council Minutes of August 7, 2023
- C. Finance Minutes of August 7, 2023
- D. Cemetery Minutes of August 2, 2023
- E. Public Safety Committee Minutes of August 10, 2023
- F. Cemetery Interment Fee Update
- G. Annual Bow Hunt in City Limits
- H. BPU: Cross Connection Control Contract Extension
- I. BPU: Influent Pump #2
- J. BPU: Sludge Storage Pump
- K. BPU: Tertiary Pump 3 and 4
- L. 2023 Hillsdale College Homecoming Street Use Agreement
- M. Indiana Outboard Racing Agreement
- N. Mrs. Stock's Park Use Agreement- Matthew Carr
- O. Public Services Committee Minutes from August 14, 2023

Council Member Morrissey asked to have page 3 in council minutes changed from 4 to a \$ in the contract award & approval from Parrish Excavating. Clerk Price agreed to change it.

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

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. BPU: Public Power Week Coloring Contest
- B. Adams SAD 2024-08 Letter

Karla Adams, resident on St. Joe Street stated her opposition for Special Assessment District 2024-08. She shared her concerns on the amount of payment; she isn't able to pay her taxes now, notice on submitting a written opposition and stated that it wouldn't benefit her directly. She also handed Clerk Price letters of opposition from neighbors.

Information is presented for information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. 2024 Special Assessment District- SAD 2024-08 W. St. Joe/Griswold St Public Hearing

At the August 7, 2023 City Council meeting a public hearing date of August 21, 2023 was set to consider comments on the creation of the W. St. Joe/Griswold Special Assessment District (SAD# 2024-08) which includes W. St. Joe Street from Bacon Street to Barnard Street and Griswold Street from Barnard Street to Waterworks Avenue. The total estimated cost for this project is \$1,281,411.43. City Funds will cover an estimated amount of \$1,118,911.43 (87%) of the project costs with approximately \$178,300.00 (13%) being covered through special assessment to the 44 parcels currently identified in the Special Assessment District (SAD).

The project cost split is in accordance with the City's Policy on Special Assessment Districts for Street Projects presented to the City Council at their February 1, 2021 meeting. It is important to note that the total assessed cost to the affected property owners will not go above the policy maximum assessment limit of \$5,000 per parcel or 25% of the property value per Hillsdale Ordinance Chapter 2, Article V, Section 2-335, whichever is the lesser amount. Notice of the meeting was published once each week for two successive weeks in the local newspaper. Affected property owners were mailed information on the proposed district on August 8, 2023.

According to the City Charter, Sec. 2-335 Hearing procedure, "If more than 50% of the number of owners of privately owned real property to be assessed for such improvement shall object in writing to the proposed improvement, the improvement shall not be made without the affirmative vote of s even of the members of the council."

Mayor Stockford opened podium at 7:18 p.m.

Karla Adams reported about Lithified Technologies LLC and the Accelerated Lithification process as a cheaper alternative to street restoration.

Nancy Hutchins, 78 W. St. Joe St., stated that the special assessment would be a hardship on her household as they are on social security income.

Chris Wingate, asked about the payment plan. Can be paid up front \$5000 or over 10 years for \$5000 with 6% interest. Wingate stated it would be an excessive burden on property owners.

Council Member Wolfram asked if a poverty exemption can be given for this.

Council Member Sharp stated that residents wanted to the roads fixed, the special assessments are working.

Council Member Vear stated property taxes has poverty level lines where residents could get some relief annually if one qualifies. Vear also mentioned the freeze cycles factor in on what product and materials can be used on the roads in Michigan.

Mayor Stockford closed podium at 7:24 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Morrissey seconded by Councilmember Sharp to approve Special Assessment District 2024-08 W. St Joe/Griswold St. **Resolution #3572.**

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 5-3

Old Business

A. Temporary Traffic Control 2023-19

Chief Hephner, Police, reported that a temporary traffic control order was issued on June 9, 2023 authorizing the closure of the southern parking space on the west side of Hillsdale Street in front of 78 Hillsdale Street due to a damaged culvert which cannot be repaired. Council approval is needed after 90 days to extend the order. No date has been established for this replacement.

Motion by Councilmember Sharp seconded by Councilmember Socha to approve Temporary Traffic Control 2023-19.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

A. WoodHill Group Agreement

City Manager Mackie reported in November of 2022 the City Council approved extending the contract with Karen Lancaster (WoodHill Group) for Finance Director services. Mrs. Lancaster and WoodHill are doing a good job for the City. WoodHill and the City's staff would like to continue the relationship. The contract would extend services for another year. The maximum total compensation amount will remain at \$120,000.

Motion by Councilman Vear support by Councilmember Pratt to approve to extend the WoodHill Group agreement for an additional year not to exceed \$120,000.00

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

B. Millage Fund Expenditures

Chief Hephner, Police, reported the Public Safety Committee met to review the request of Flat roof replacement \$22,819.00 (Braman Roofing), Microsoft Surface Pro 8 tablet \$1,707.61 (CDW-G), Body Worn Cameras with computer \$25,730.00 (Kustom Signals), Electric Vehicle Fire Nozzle up to \$5000.00 (Turtle Fire Systems).

Motion by Councilman Socha support by Councilmember Paladino to approval the millage expenditure requests as presented.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – None
- B. Appointments- None
- C. Other- None

General Public Comment

Joseph Kormos, LithTec Products, gave a brief overview on the process of Lithified Technologies and products for roads and potential cost saving measures.

Karla Adams, 60 W. St. Joe St., spoke on LithTec Products and how their process would work in Michigan.

Chris Wingate, Hillsdale County Resident, asked about the County and if they contribute to some of the road work.

City Manager’s Report

City Manager Mackie reported next meeting is Tuesday, September 5th, 2023.

Summer property taxes are due August 31, 2023.

Social District is now open. One business is participating in it. Two other business have permit in to state and will be participating soon.

Extended Youth Tackle Football until Friday, August 25, 2023.

Fly-in event for the Hillsdale Municipal Airport is September 10, 2023, breakfast from 7a.m-11:00 a.m.

School is in session, proceed with caution with children out and about.

Resignation was received from Library Director Spangler, the position is posted.

Council Comments

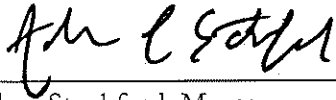
Councilmember Wolfram mentioned a Jazz concert is at the Dawn Theater on Saturday, August 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmember Paladino asked about the Social District and going out farther to include Johnny T’s Bistro & other businesses if they wanted to be added.

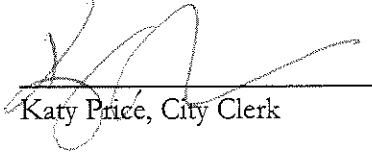
Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Adam Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk