

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
September 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 R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1 Anthony Vear, Ward 1 William Morrissey, Ward 2 Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 Gary Wolfram, Ward 3 Joshua Paladino, Ward 4 Robert Socha, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thomson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (Chief HCPD/HCFD), Bob Flynn (WCSR), CJ Toncray, Mark Nichols, Ginger Novak, Doug Ingles, Sheri Ingles, Dennis Wainscott.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Councilmember Socha to approve the September 5, 2023 agenda as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Dennis Wainscott 34 Garden St., commented on SAD 2024-08.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of August 17, 2023: \$994,451.69
 - 2. Payroll of August 17, 2023: \$188,740.79
- B. City Council Minutes of August 21, 2023
- C. Finance Minutes of August 21, 2023
- D. Shade Tree Minutes of August 2, 2023
- E. Homeless Task Force Minutes of August 28, 2023
- F. Out of the Darkness 5k Run/Walk Event
- G. TCO 2023-40 - Fair "Veterans Day" Parade
- H. TCO 2023-38 Train Event – October 8, 2023
- I. TCO 2023-39 Train Event – October 15, 2023

Motion by Councilmember Morrissey seconded by Councilmember Vear 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 Morrissey	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. Fall 2023 Electronics Recycling Event
- B. Library Director Letter of Resignation
- C. Special Assessment District 2024-08 – Karla Adams

Karla Adams, resident on W. St. Joe Street spoke on the Special Assessment District 2024-08 Public Hearing. She mentioned that she feels there should be another public hearing as the opposition letters were not included in the Council packet. Adams researched types of public hearings and reviewed her Freedom of Information Act request and mentioned City Manager Mackie’s salary contract.

City Manager Mackie stated there was a deadline and timeline to include items in packet submitted to the clerk with approval from the Mayor and or City Manager.

City Attorney Thompson stated that procedure is a motion to rescind the adoption of the Special Assessment District. And would then need a motion to reconsider the SAD brought forth by a council member that voted yes on it. This would also be required at the meeting of the Public Hearing. A public hearing is meant to have the public weigh in on the Special Assessment District item. Charter provision for opposition letters if over 50% threshold is in opposition it would require a majority vote of Council.

Clerk Price had the letters available at the public hearing and have available for public inspection.

Council Member Morrissey stated there was a roll call vote taken on the special assessment district.

Council Member Vear specified the Council shouldn’t have another public hearing it would set a bad precedence.

No motion made to have another public hearing.

Information is presented for information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Brush Grinding Agreement

Jason Blake reported Brush grinding at the DPS facility is required to create space for daily operations in addition to storage space for upcoming street projects. Due to this past February’s ice storm and daily residential brush drop off the amount of brush currently at the DPS facility (5,000cy +) has overtaken the site and leaving little room for any additional operations. The 2023-24 budget includes \$21,000 for brush grinding. A subsequent budget amendment might be needed if DPS is unable to save the cost difference from its total budget.

Staff gathered the following quotes:

- 1. VanBrunt Transport Inc \$52,500
Onsted MI
- 2. Brink Wood Products Inc \$58,000

- Byron Center, MI
- 3. Mid-Michigan Recycling No quote
Flint, MI
- 4. Hacker Services No quote
Northville, MI
- 5. TDE Enterprises No quote
Commerce Township, MI
- 6. Kamps No quote
Grand Rapids, MI

Motion by Council Member Vear, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to award the contract to the lowest bidder, VanBrunt Transport Inc in Onstead, MI in the amount of \$52,500.00.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

B. Code Enforcement Vehicle Purchase

Jason Blake, Public Services Director reported that The Building Department which includes Assessing, Code Enforcement and Zoning is in need of replacing the 2015 Ford Explorer. The Explorer was a retired police vehicle. Replacement of the Explorer is included in the FY 2023-24 Equipment Replacement Schedule. Staff gathered the following quotes with availability.

Stillwell Ford	\$29,541 Ford Escape AWD
Hillsdale Dodge/Cronin	\$30,340 Jeep Compass Sport 4x4
Hillsdale GMC	\$36,198 GMC Acadia SLE AWD

The purchase of this vehicle will be paid with the Assessing, Code Enforcement and Zoning budget. Staff recommends City Council approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford Escape AWD for \$29,541.

Council discussion ensued on the condition and miles of the 2015 Ford Explorer being used currently along with the specifications listed for the dealers to fulfill.

Council member Stuchell asked if the use of employee vehicles would be an option with employees being reimbursed for mileage, etc.

Kim Thomas, City Assessor mentioned she wouldn't use her personal vehicle for safety reasons.

City Manager Mackie stated that City vehicles are marked with logos.

Further discussion ensued on purchasing a used vehicle to save money.

Mayor Stockford asked if there was a motion. None given. No action.

Miscellaneous Reports

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

General Public Comment

Ginger Novak, 125 S. Howell St., thanked Council for what they do and thanked Council Member

Sharp for his comments on vehicle repair due to conditions of the City streets.

Bob Flynn, 10 W. Hallett St., commented on the Electronic Recycling event and asked to have it on a weekend so working residents may be attend.

Dennis Wainscott, 34 Garden St. stated that it would be a good idea if there was a City pickup for the elderly residents to participate in the Electronic Recycling event.

Karla Adams, 60 W. St. Joe St., stated she would be appealing the Public Hearing SAD 2024-08 and read the addresses on letter in opposition to that public hearing.

CJ Toncray, asked what Council would do with the mask and mandates that are being discussed in the news.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., stated it was hard to hear video, Council needs to speak in microphones. He spoke on Social District signs, the Homeless Task Force as well as the Library director resignation letter.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Mackie reported the Fly-in event for the Hillsdale Municipal Airport is September 10, 2023, 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. breakfast from 7:00 a.m-11:00 a.m.

Summer property taxes are due August 31, 2023.

Social District is now open. Pub N Grub is now included along with Hillsdale Brewing Company.

City Manager Mackie will not be in attendance at the September 18, 2023 meeting due to having to attend another meeting.

Council Comments

Council Member Stuchell asked about the food truck progress.

Councilmember Socha stated Pubic Services Committee will be meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023 to review the food truck item among other items. Socha thanked City Manager Mackie for his help on the Vehicle purchase item.

Councilmember Socha also asked Mayor Stockford if letters submitted in Communications to have those that submitted speak on it during public comment section.

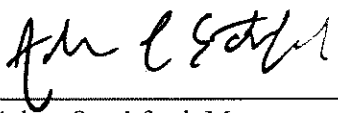
Councilmember Sharp thanked Mrs. Novak for her comments during public comment.

Mayor Stockford stated he received a letter regarding lighting from James Edward and Kristine Thomas that will be added to the next agenda.

Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.



Adam Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk