

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
October 16, 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 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 Gary Wolfram, Ward 3 Joshua Paladino, Ward 4 Robert Socha, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1 Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
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Also Present: Attorney Tom Thomson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Scott Hephner (Chief HCPD/HCFD), Sam Fry (Economic Development), Frank Engle (Cemetery Sexton), Gene Tucker, Kim Tucker, Owen Johnson, Drew Homovec, Mary Bertakis, Ken Joswiak, James Galloway, CJ Toncray, Carol Lackey, Richard Smith and Mark Nichols.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stockford asked to have Consent item L added Hillsdale College Noise Variance for Founders Fest.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Councilmember Wolfram to add Hillsdale College Noise Variance item to Consent agenda.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey support by Councilmember Vear to approve the amended agenda.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ken Joswiak HBA President, commented on the fee schedule. The Summer in the City event costs \$800 to hold the event. He is concerned with future events moving forward due to fee increases.

Mary Bertakis HBA member and Light Up Parade Chair, commented on fee schedule for special events. Asked Council to look at ways to save for Community events.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of September 28, 2023: \$549,738.85
 - 2. Payroll of September 28, 2023: \$179,324.41
- B. City Council Minutes of October 2, 2023
- C. Finance Minutes of October 2, 2023
- D. Cemetery Minutes of October 5, 2023
- E. Operations & Governance Minutes of October 9, 2023

- F. Public Services Minutes of October 9, 2023
- G. Hillsdale College Noise Variance for Block Party
- H. BPU Eaton Yukon AMI Software Support
- I. BPU Aerator Gearbox (Reducer Purchase)
- J. BPU Warehouse & WWTP Roof Replacements
- K. TCO 2023-19 Dawn Theater (Food Truck)
- L. Hillsdale College Noise Variance for Founders Fest

Motion by Councilmember Morrissey seconded by Councilmember Socha 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 Socha	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. Keefer House Hotel Construction Quarterly Update
- B. Assessing Department- 2023 CRE, IFT, OPRA, NEZ Reports
- C. Halloween Party Flyer
- D. Community Thrift Store Letter
- E. Comcast Letter

Information is presented for information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Public Hearing- Ordinance Amendment Cemetery Animal Ban

Jason Blake, DPS Director reported dogs in city cemeteries have been an ongoing concern for some time now. Owners use the cemeteries as dog runs, allowing their pets to run unleashed throughout the premises. Ordinance No. 2017-01 is currently in place allowing animals as long as they are leashed/controlled and also limiting them to the roadways within. The ordinance has consistently been ignored. As expected, animals are relieving themselves on head stones and various other places within the cemeteries whether leashed or unleashed. Not only is this very disrespectful to the deceased, but their families as well. In an attempt to remedy the situation, the Cemetery Board has requested the City Attorney draft an amended ordinance prohibiting all animals from being in the cemeteries.

Mayor Stockford opened podium at 7:14 p.m.

Kim Tucker, Ward 4 stated the dogs in the cemeteries have been an ongoing issue, she has seen people bring in dogs and have them relieve themselves and leave in vehicles, she has also seen at different times dog feces on graves and thinks it is very disrespectful.

Richard Smith, 63 S. Broad St., Cemetery board member, mentioned the board was updating signage and the dog issue has been a problem. He has seen cemeteries signs that have included no pets in cemeteries. Cemeteries are sacred grounds and need to be respected.

Frank Engle, 53 S. Norwood Ave., Sexton has been in cemeteries doing clean up and has seen dogs in their relieving themselves and has been bitten and chased after. The City has tried to enforce current violations for years problems still are present. People disregard laws, cemeteries are sacred grounds and shouldn't have pets allowed.

With no more comments Mayor Stockford closed podium at 7:21 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Vear seconded by Councilmember Socha to adopt the amended

ordinance to prohibit persons from bringing or maintaining animals within cemeteries owned or controlled by the City of Hillsdale. **Ordinance 2023-06.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A. Corecoyle IFT Abatement

Drew Homovec, Owner of Corecoyle gave an overview of company and status of where it was at in regards the requirements for the Industrial Facility Tax abatement.

Lengthy council discussion ensued.

Mayor Stockford stated council needs to be consistent with business that aren't fulfilling their abatements.

Councilmember Wolfram stated that Mr. Homovec has unforeseen circumstances and would like to continue with the IFT abatement as he has but much into the building and business.

Further discussion ensued on giving Corecoyle another six month for the business to have production and parts running.

No action to revoke IFT taken.

B. Fee Schedule Discussion

The Public Services Committee (PSC) met on October 9, 2023 to review the fee schedule.

Special events fees were discussed and the labor fees associated with that. Discussion ensued on volunteers that would put up barricades and tear down and deliver to Public Services Department to avoid additional labor fees from the City to assist. Councilmember Vear mentioned that he would be willing to help and volunteer time for a few of the special events to help aid in costs.

Mayor Stockford mentioned that he doesn't understand how services are given away and businesses and organizations are being charged when they pay taxes. City Attorney Thompson mentioned it was in the Michigan Supreme Court that you cannot give away services and not receive full consideration or compensation for it.

Lengthy Council discussed ensued on drafting a special event policy for events that are community minded that are free to public enjoy as well as getting volunteer organizations to help with labor for these specific events.

Council Member Socha asked about previous event fees be refunded ex post facto to policy for special events. Attorney Thompson stated no.

Motion by Councilmember Socha seconded by Mayor Stockford to revert back to Right of Way fees prior to July 2023 for community event specially for; Summer in the City, Light up Parade and 4th of July Parade until the Public Services Committee presents a special event fee schedule to Council.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Hillsdale Mobile Home Park

City Manager Mackie reported at the October 2nd City Council meeting Council heard from John Salsman of the Keel Team about the Hillsdale Mobile Home Park. Council asked Mr. Salsman to have a list of improvements that could be made to the MHP over a short period of time which would be in the amount owed, \$221,890.00.

Council requested City Manager Mackie to see if Mr. Salsman would be present and review the improvement list at the next meeting on November 6, 2023.

No action taken.

New Business

A. City Manager Annual Review

The O&G Committee meet and reviewed the annual review of the City Manager for 2022-23. The O&G Committee recommended a 2% pay increase per the terms of the City Manager’s employment contract.

Council discussion ensued on contract and percentages.

Motion by Councilmember Morrisey seconded by Councilmember Socha to approve the City Manager 2% pay increase.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 6-1

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Mayor Stockford read proclamation aloud.

B. Appointment- Cemetery Board- JoAnne Miller

Motion by Councilmember Socha seconded by Councilmember Vear to approve the Cemetery Board appointment as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other- None

General Public Comment

Mary Bertakis, HBA Light up Parade Chair, thanked Council for the fee schedule discussion.

Richard Smith, asked about the constant blighted property at 55 S. Broad St. that was condemned in 2009.

James Galloway, inquired about the Homeless Task Force removing the Public Comment section from meeting.

City Manager’s Report

Hallett St Bridge was hit by garbage truck and road has been shut down and will be for an extended period of time. Detours routes are in place.

Council Comments

None

Adjournment

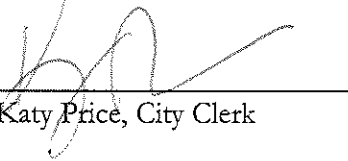
Motion by Councilmember Socha, seconded by Councilmember Sharp, to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Adam Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk