

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale  
September 3, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

### Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Adam Stockford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call

Mayor Adam 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  
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2  
William Morrissey, Ward 2  
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3  
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3  
Joshua Paladino, Ward 4  
Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2  
William Morrissey, Ward 2

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Brandon Janes (IT), Dan Poole (HCFD), Lois Cogswell, Carolyn Cogswell, Sharon Bisher, Corey Murray (HDN), Charles Holbrook, Douglas Bauerly, Margaret Youngs, Ted Jansen, Mark Nicholas, Kevin Pauken, Shannon Gainer, Matt Hazelton, CJ Toncray, James Galloway, Russ Miller, Jessica Miller, Karin Timeus, George Angell and Mary Lee Playford.

### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Sharp, to approve the agenda as presented.

All ayes. Motion carried.

### Public Comment

Shannon Gainer, 134 S. Howell St., apologized for the facts she didn't have straight at the previous meeting.

Megan Angell, 298 N. Hillsdale St., commented on the development agreement with Hillsdale College and asked to see the site plan and exhibits.

Jack McClain, Hillsdale Twp, commented on Public Safety meeting, Jay walking issue that was brought up at the meeting, DART advertising. Paperwork he read showed the College doesn't own all the property on the streets asked to be vacated.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of August 15, 2024: \$399,873.24
  - 2. Payroll of August 15, 2024: \$201,148.38
- B. City Council Minutes of August 19, 2024
- C. Finance Minutes of August 19, 2024
- D. Public Safety Minutes of August 26, 2024
- E. Annual Bow Hunt

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Vear, to approve the Consent Agenda.

All ayes. Motion carried.

**Communications/Petitions**

- A. Willow Street Stop Sign Update
- B. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

Jason Blake, DPS Director, reviewed the Public Safety committee met where they reviewed the project on Willow Street regarding the stop sign, the committee recommended the City leave the stop sign as is, as there are state regulations. Councilman Socha reported on the driveway at 9 Lake St.

**Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings**

- A. Public Hearing: Vacation of E. Galloway Drive and portion of Summit Street

Matt Hazelton, Hillsdale College Representative, stated the college owns all the property on the requested vacated streets. Hazelton reported there was an architecture rendering that was submitted with the development agreement.

Mayor opens podium at 7:19 p.m.

Kevin Pauken, 72 West St., stated he would like to see a site plan for the project. Asked about the cost of the vacation of the streets.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., stated according to papers in packet stated the college doesn't own all the properties on the vacation of streets. McLain stated the College should have a site plan.

Megan Angell, stated the intersection of the streets can be dangerous. In vacating Galloway Street it will increase street usage on the side streets around the area. Angell would like to see those streets upgraded or replacement. She was also concerned with the Oak Street up by the hill on Galloway St.

Matt Hazelton addressed some of Ms. Angell's concerns.

Brenda Mota, 316 Summit St., stated she had a lot of questions would like a project information packet as she is one affect by the project.

Shannon Gainer, commented the College does own all the property on the streets asked to be vacated. She asked about the rest of Summit Street and asked if residents would be assessed with a special assessment to reconstruct the street.

David Mackie, City Manager addressed some concern on the process of the vacation of streets and the endowment at the Hillsdale County Community Foundation and stated the architecture rendering was included in the previous packet with the development agreement that was approved at the last council meeting.

Councilman Vear reviewed the endowment and the funding source to help with essential services.

Brenda Cogswell, Hillsdale County, inquiring about the light and noise pollution and being more like a commercial property, water runoff and the control of it.

George Angell, 298 Hillsdale St., concerned about the water runoff, and the flooding issues in that location.

James Galloway, thought the endowment was a great idea. Street improvement the last few years have been good. A great project and is hoping the college could help fix the rest of Summit Street. Galloway Street White Oak tree is beautiful.

Mayor Stockford closed podium at 7:56 p.m.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to adopt the resolution to vacate part of E Galloway Drive and the south 203 feet of Summit Street.

Roll Call:

Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Abstain
Councilman Vear	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Abstain
Councilman Sharp	Aye

Motion passed 7-2 (Abstain)

**Old Business**

**New Business**

A. Sandy Beach Admission Discussion – Mayor Stockford

Mayor Stockford led discussion on admission pricing for Sandy Beach and suggested not charging Hillsdale city residents and charging the \$10 for all others.

Council discussion ensued.

Council sent item to review to the Public Services Committee.

B. MDOT Tree Trimming Project Award

In accordance with the City of Hillsdale’s Trunkline Maintenance Contract with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the City has obtained approvals through MDOT to solicit to obtain quotes for contracted tree trimming services.

Areas to be trimmed:

- Broad St. (M99) from E. Bacon St. to Steamburg Rd, both sides of roadway.
- W. Carleton Rd from N. Manning St. to W. Fayette St. south side of roadway.
- W. Carleton Rd. from W. Fayette St. to Arch Ave. west side of roadway.

DPS obtained three quotes for tree trimming operations and submitted to MDOT for review and approval. Quotes are based on hours of service provided for MDOT’s approved amount of \$20,000:

- Complete Tree Services – 114 Total Hours (\$175.44 per hour)
- R.T. Farrel Enterprises, LLC – 45 Total Hours (\$444.44 per hour)
- Wickham Tree Service - No Quote

MDOT has approved Complete Tree Services as a subcontractor of the City of Hillsdale to trim along M99.

City Expenditures will be reimbursed by MDOT.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve contract to Complete Tree Services for the amount of \$20,000.

Roll Call:

Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Councilman Vear	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye

Councilman Sharp

Aye

Motion passed 7-0

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Miscellaneous Reports**

A. Proclamations – None

B. Appointment- Economic Development Corporation – Clark Judge, Russell Richardson and Ken Joswiak as reappointment.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilwoman Pratt, to approve the appointments and reappointment as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other- None

**General Public Comment**

Russ Miller, 9 Lake St., commented on his driveway issue and the stop sign at Willow St. and Lake St. He stated he received a permit for his driveway when he put it in from the City years ago.

Jack McClain, Hillsdale Twp., commented on E Galloway Drive and the vacation of the streets.

CJ Toncray, Hillsdale, commented on Sandy Beach and park entrance fee. Toncray also commented on the Use and Occupancy inspections and her frustrations about them.

Shannon Gainer, 134 S. Howell St., commented on getting a permit sticker when residents pay taxes for the Sandy Beach entry, she has reviewed the 2023 budget and asked about funds.

Kevin Pauken, 72 S. Bacon St., commented on the Sandy Beach employees, entry fee and the potential safety issue with beach goers.

Jessica Miller, 9 Lake St., commented on her driveway issue and didn't agree with opening up center of drive and she is concerned about the water line.

**City Manager Report**

Airport Fly-in Event Sunday, September 8, 2024, 7am-2pm at the Hillsdale Municipal Airport.

Recreation Department started the youth football program has six teams and 70 participants.

Bid out for Airport farmland lease open until October 4, 2024.

St. Joe Street Project is being finalized with line work and restoration.

Mitchell Research Center have not signed the contract, wanted to make changes.

Seal Coating work on parking lots in the City this week.

**Council Comment**

Councilman Socha, stated he appreciates Mr. Miller for voicing his frustration he is not a waste of time. Socha also commented on the trash he picked up on his way to the meeting. He asked the community to keep the streets clean.


Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Sharp, seconded by Councilmember Socha to adjourn the meeting.  
By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36p.m.



Adam Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk