

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
September 16, 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
	Anthony Vear, Ward 1
	Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
	William Morrisey, Ward 2
	Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
	Gary Wolfram, Ward 3
	Joshua Paladino, Ward 4
	Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent:	R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1
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Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Jake Hammel (BPU Electric Superintendent), Brandon Janes (IT), Ginger Moore (Airport Manager), Doug Ingles, Ray Briner, Hilary Hoose, Kelly Badra, Mark Nichols, Shannon Gainer, Scott Playford.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilman Morrisey, support by Councilman Vear, to approve the agenda as presented.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Ray Briner, 73 E Sharp St., commented on Fair parade and costs associated with it.

Shannon Gainer, Ward 4, commented on the Airport and Special Assessment Districts.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of August 29, 2024: \$1,582,288.22
 - 2. Payroll of August 29, 2024: \$194,293.06
- B. City Council Minutes of September 3, 2024
- C. ZBA Minutes of August 14, 2024
- D. Finance Minutes of September 2, 2024
- E. Investment Report as of June 30, 2024
- F. Fair Parade and Parking Restrictions
- G. Traffic Control Order – Train Events
- H. Leaking Load Tap Changer Repair
- I. Failed Reclosers Replacement
- J. Union St. Substation Transformer Bushing Replacement
- K. Hillsdale County Fairgrounds Parade/Fair Agreement

Council discussion on the investment ensued.

Council and Attorney discussion on the fair parade (fees) along with special events ordinance and resolution followed.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Wolfram, to move Consent Agenda item K. Hillsdale County Fairgrounds Parade/Fair Agreement to New Business D.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Morrisey, supported by Councilman Vear to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Roll Call:

Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Vear	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilwoman Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. Airport Community Benefits Assessment Report
- B. 2024 City Bow Hunting Program
- C. Leaf & Brush Collection Schedule
- D. Newsletter
- E. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

Hilary Hoose, MDOT Aero, reviewed the Airport Community Benefits Report.

Doug Ingles, County Commissioner reported he attended the House Tour of new homes in the Three Meadows area. Courthouse reconstruction is wrapping up targeted completion is November 15th. Budget season for the County has started. Lifeways announce new building at the corner of Industrial Drive and Beck Road.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Street Plan Amended Ordinance – Ordinance to Vacate Streets

Following a public hearing at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, pursuant to Section 7.6 of the City Charter of the City of Hillsdale and Section 256 of the Michigan Land Division Act (MCL 560.256), the Hillsdale City Council adopted a resolution to vacate part of E. Galloway Street between Hillsdale Street and West Street, and to vacate the south 203 feet of Summit Street. Section 30-121 of the Hillsdale Municipal Code requires that the vacated portions of streets and alleys shall be eliminated from the City’s street plan map by ordinance, which shall amend the map.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Vear to adopt the ordinance to Vacate E. Galloway Drive and vacate the south 203 feet of Summit Street. **Ordinance 2024-09.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Vear	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Abstain
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Abstain
Councilwoman Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 6-0, 2 abstained

Old Business

New Business

A. Certification of Abandoned Property for Accelerated Forfeiture Act – Resolution

The schedule for foreclosure of tax delinquent real property under the provisions of the General Property Tax Act is as follows:

- March 1, 2025- Unpaid 2024 Summer & Winter taxes returned to county treasurer as delinquent
- March 1, 2026- Properties with 2024 or prior taxes remaining unpaid are forfeited to the county treasurer (subject to redemption by payment of taxes & fees)
- March 1, 2027- Properties with 2024 or prior taxes remaining unpaid are subject to foreclosure proceedings.

Public Act 132 of 1999, the Certification of Abandoned Property for Accelerated Forfeiture Act (Michigan Compiled Law Sections 211.961-211.966) allows for cities, villages and townships to certify property as abandoned for the purpose of accelerating the property tax forfeiture and foreclosure process under the provisions of the General Property Tax Act.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Morrisey, to approve the Certification of Abandoned Property for Accelerated Forfeiture Act resolution as presented. **Resolution 3616.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Vear	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Nay
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Nay
Councilwoman Pratt	Nay

Motion passed 5-3

B. Proposed 2025 Special Assessment District- Arch Ave., Monroe St., Barry St.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Vear to direct the City Engineer to develop plans, specifications and cost estimates for submittal to City Council on or before December 9, 2024 for consideration of establishment of SAD's for Arch Ave., Monroe and Barry Streets.

Roll Call:

Councilman Socha	Nay
Councilman Vear	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Nay
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Nay
Councilwoman Pratt	Nay
Councilman Sharp	Aye

Motion failed 4-4

C Chipper Replacement – BPU/DPS

The DPS Department’s current chipper, 2006 Vermeer Brush Chipper, purchased new in 2006 is scheduled to be replaced in the 24/25 fiscal year. Over the last ten year both Dept’s. (BPU and DPS) has utilized the DPS chipper due to the BPU’s chipper needing replacement. Staff has determined that the cost of purchasing a new chipper could be split with the Board of Public Utilities.

Due to trade in value, condition, increase cost of maintenance the DPS chipper would be utilized as a backup machine if needed during storms, tree projects etc. and would allow BPU to remove their current chipper from their fleet, if they chose to do so. Both units would be stored at DPS but be available for BPU as needed.

Both departments were able to demo all three quoted units, with staff finding the Vermeer chipper to be the most operator friendly as it is not a big change from DPS’s current unit. Many wear items on the new Vermeer are interchangeable with our current Vermeer chipper. Due ease and cost of maintenance, safety and durability were considered in staff’s recommendation. Quotes obtained were obtain with state contact pricing from MiDeal and Sourcewell:

- Vermeer - \$85,988.17
- Mobark - \$77,045.00
- Bandit - \$69,100

This expenditure was budgeted at \$93,000

Council discussion ensued on price and warranty.

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Vear, to approve the purchase of \$85,988.17 from Vermeer.

Roll Call:

Councilman Sharp	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Vear	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilwoman Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

D. Hillsdale County Fairgrounds Parade/Fair Agreement

The Hillsdale County Fairgrounds has requested use of Howell St., E. Bacon St., McCollum St., Midtown Alley, E South St., and Midtown Lot (Lot C) in order to hold its annual Fair Parade, and the closure of Sharp Street and no parking designation of various streets during the fair. Council approved TCO Numbers 2024-51 and 2024-52 at the September 16, 2024 Council Meeting as it pertained to the necessary street/parking lot closures and “no parking” designations.

Council discussion ensued on fees for the Fair parade.

Jason Blake, DPS Director reviewed the fees associated with the Fair parade and Fee for DPS labor and services for the Fair as a whole. Blake mentioned the Fairgrounds was given a 50% reduction which would be \$2,161.18 fair parade and addition \$664.14 for fair DPS labor, services and permitting.

Attorney Thompson stated that the resolution 3585 noted the Fair parade would be given a 50% reduction in fees that Council adopted on January 16, 2024.

Councilman Socha is concerned that events are moving to fairgrounds because of costs he would be in favor of the fair parade to be exempt from fees for the year as it is listed as a Veteran’s Day Parade.

Motion by Councilman Socha, seconded by Councilman Wolfram to accept the Fair parade as the

City Veteran’s Day Parade and waive fees.

Roll Call:

Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Paladino	Aye
Councilwoman Pratt	Aye
Councilman Sharp	Nay
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Vear	Aye

Motion ~~failed~~ passed 7-1

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – 2024 Public Power Week , Constitution Week 2024

Mayor Stockford read proclamations aloud.

B. Appointment- None

C. Other- None

General Public Comment

Shannon Gainer, 134 S. Howell St., commented on vacation of street and special assessments, fair parade and veteran’s celebration at the fairgrounds.

Ray Briner, 73 E. Sharp St., commented on the Airport Fly-in event.

James Thomas, 2200 Barr St., commented on reassessing the Miller driveway situation on Lake St.

City Manager Report

Keefer House Hotel construction and column structure issues.

87% summer taxes collected.

Public Power week coming up. Breast Cancer Awareness competition.

Audit work is done and presentation will be December 2, 2024.

Define Benefit Plans closed out from MERS plans. (Treasurer and City Manager)

CDBG Project one component needed to be finished waiting on control panel for station. Finally received and will be completed shortly.

Earth work has started on the ALDI Store property.

Three Meadows home property tour was successful.

DART advertising package has gone out to business.

Council Comment

Councilman Socha, stated he would like to have discussion on no votes from Council. Special Assessment District item didn’t have council discussion before it went to a vote. Socha had abstaining questions for Attorney.

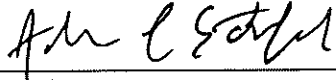
Mayor Stockford mentioned discussion of fees and costs have been difficult.

Councilman Sharp stated he attended the Home Property tour at Three Meadows and stated the City needs more housing. Sharp also spoke on the special assessment process.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:56p.m.



Adam Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk