

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City of Hillsdale  
October 7, 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  
R Greg Stuchell, 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: None

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Brandon Janes (IT), Dan Poole (HCFD), Jennifer Wortz, Mark Nicholas, Shannon Gainer, CJ Toncray, Russell Miller, Jessica Miller.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Vear, to remove New Business A. Airport Sale of Corporate Hangar 1 and add Consent Item G. Jeff Emery Homecoming Alumni Celebration

Motion by Councilman Sharp, support by Councilman Vear, to approve the agenda as amended.

All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., had Hillsdale College employee information he wanted to distribute to Council and discussed migrant (student) workers, working at minimum wages.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of September 12, 2024: \$1,063,781.93
  - 2. Payroll of September 6, 2024: \$200,256.25  
September 12, 2024: \$205,357.03
- B. City Council Minutes of September 16, 2024
- C. Finance Minutes of September 16, 2024
- D. 2024 Winter Tax Special Assessment Roll
- E. TCO 2024-56 Street Closure- Hillsdale College Homecoming
- F. Best Source Justification- Game Time Equipment Purchase
- G. Jeff Emery – Use of Vacant Lot Homecoming Party Use Agreement

Council discussion ensued on item G. Use of vacant lot and Council Minutes.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilwoman Pratt, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

**Communications/Petitions**

- A. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk of Remembrance Event
- B. BPU Hydrant Flushing
- C. Appliance Recycling Rewards Event
- D. Hillsdale County Materials Management Plan Intent Notice
- E. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

Doug Ingles, County Commissioner reported on the Materials Management Plan Intent Notice.

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

**Old Business**

- A. IBEW Union Contract

City Manager Mackie reviewed the proposed contract and changes.

Motion by Councilman Stuchell, support by Councilman Vear, to approve the IBEW Union Contract as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- B. 2025 Special Assessment Districts for Street Projects

City Manager Mackie lead discussion on Special Assessment stated it was brought back to Council at the request of Councilman Socha. One of City Council’s primary goals is to address the declining quality of the city’s street and infrastructure systems. City staff has utilized the Special Assessment process as delineated in the City of Hillsdale’s Code of Ordinances, Article V.-Finances, Division 3.- Special Assessments and any other applicable sections of the City Charter and/or Code of Ordinances to facilitate these projects.

The Department of Public Services (DPS) Director, City Engineer and City Manager recommend the following streets for inclusion in proposed Special Assessment Districts (SAD) for street rehabilitation projects and potential associated utility work during the 2025 calendar year.

- Proposed SAD 2025-9 – Arch Avenue – from Carleton Road (M-99) to Mechanic Road  
0.34 miles (Estimated 12 parcels in the SAD)
- Proposed SAD 2025-10 – Monroe Street – from West Street to Hillsdale Street  
0.22 miles (Estimated 13 parcels in the SAD)
- Proposed SAD 2025-11 – Barry Street – from Broad Street (M-99) to West Street  
0.30 miles (Estimated 29 parcels in SAD)

City Engineer Bauer explained the road system and current condition of city streets.

Council discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman 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 the above listed street project areas.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 6-3

**New Business**

A. Michigan Employee’s Retirement System (MERS) Changes

City Manager Mackie reviewed changes.

- Close City Treasurer Defined Benefit (DB) Division (18).
- Request DB to Defined Contribution (DC) projection for City Manager Division (15).
- Increase BPU Union, Division (12), employee contribution rate from 9.16% to 10.16%.

Motion by Councilman Vear, support by Councilman Paladino, to approve all three changes as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Bid Award- City Hall Carpet Replacement

City staff developed and requested bids for carpet replacement within the 3rd floor City Manager’s Suite in addition to 2nd floor Assessing Suite. Carpet in both areas currently has extensive delamination, wrinkling, and seam raveling due to age, rolling chairs and pedestrian traffic.

A bid from Willowbrook Interiors from Coldwater Michigan.  
\$16,000 was budgeted in the 24/25 fiscal year for this project.  
Contractor Base Bid - Willowbrook Interiors \$12,089.00

Due to Willowbrook interiors bid coming in under the \$16,000 budgeted amount, City Staff obtained an additional quote from Willowbrook Interiors for new carpet, with installation, within the City Clerk’s Suite.

Additional Quote  
City Clerks Suite - \$3,890.00

Council discussion ensued.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve the Carpet replacement as presented to Willowbrook Interiors in the amount of \$15,979.00.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-2

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Proclamations – Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Day – October 15, 2024

Mayor Stockford read proclamations aloud.

- B. Appointment- None

- C. Other- None

General Public Comment

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., commented on college students/migrant workers, parking at beach and overnight parking and 42 Union St. tax.

Jennifer Wortz, State Representative candidate, thanked council for support and asked residents to cast vote for her and to vote on November 5, 2024.

Russ Miller, 9 Lake St., commented on his driveway, thanked council for doing a good job.

Shannon Gainer, ward four, commented on special assessment, sidewalks and airport hangars.

Jessica Miller, 9 Lake St., commented on her driveway.

City Manager Report

MyHillsdale App is live downloads are available on Apple and Google.

Train event is October 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> in downtown Hillsdale. There is plans for a Christmas train event towards the end of November or beginning of December.

Brush Collection starts next Monday, October 14, 2024.

Leaf Collection October 28 – December 12. Public Services will be around to pick up leaves in two rounds.

Airport had a great month in September with landing, hangar and fuel fees profited \$30,000.00.

Council Comment

Councilman Sharp commented on the airport and is pleased to see the progress that has happened.

Councilman Socha commented on the no votes for the carpet item. Asked for clarification on no votes as the item was budgeted and the budget was approved.

Councilman Stuchell thanked the police department for all they did at the St. Anthony's Church event.

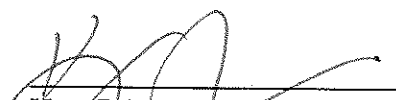
Mayor Stockford thanked BPU for helping a resident with a water line break and commented on his no vote for the carpet item.

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 8:25p.m.

  
Adam Stockford, Mayor

  
Katy Price, City Clerk