

# CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale  
December 2, 2024  
7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro tem Joshua Paladino opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Roll Call

Mayor Pro tem Josh Paladino called the meeting to order. Clerk Price took roll call.

Council Members present: Joshua Paladino, Mayor Pro tem  
R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1  
Jacob Bruns, Ward 1  
William Morrissey, Ward 2  
Matthew Bentley, Ward 2  
Gary Wolfram, Ward 3  
Bob Flynn, Ward 3  
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), Ginger Moore (Airport Manager), Penny Swan, Luke Robson, Matt Kniffin, Melissa DesJardin, Brian DesJardin, Shelly Hebert, Andrew Gelzer, Ted Jansen, Jaminda Springer, Jack McLain, Mark Nichols, CJ Toncray, Parker Hjelmberg.

## Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilman Bentley, support by Councilman Socha, to remove November 18, 2024 City Council Minutes from Consent Agenda and add to New Business E. November 18, 2024 City Council Minutes.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Socha, support by Councilman Morrissey, to approve the agenda as amended.

All ayes. Motion carried.

## Public Comment

Ted Jansen, ward one, commented on the Mayor Pro-Tem vote in the November 18, 2024 minutes and OMA act.

Shelly Hebert, Hillsdale Community Thrift commented on Camp Hope, the camping ordinance and wanted to know why now bring it up.

Penny Swan, ward four, commented on the Mayor Pro-Tem vote on November 18, 2024. Asked Council to revoke.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., commented on the November 12, 2024 Council minutes and Council member terms along with the Open Meetings Act. McLain also spoke on Camping on private property.

Melissa DesJardin, Hillsdale Community Thrift, commented on the camping ordinance and an incident that happened at Camp Hope.

CJ Toncray, commented on the Barry Street Petition.

## Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City and BPU Claims of October 31, 2024: \$1,446,692.07
  - 2. Payroll of November 21, 2024: \$262,849.19
- B. City Council Minutes of November 12, 2024
- C. Finance Minutes of November 18, 2024

Motion by Councilman Flynn, support by Councilman Morrisey, to approve the agenda as amended.

All ayes. Motion carried.

**Communication/Petitions**

- A. Audit Report
- B. Comcast Letter
- C. Mitchell Research Center Holiday Open House
- D. Special Assessment Barry Street Petition
- E. Hillsdale County Commissioner Update – Doug Ingles

Michael Rolka, Yeo & Yeo CPA presented the Audit report. All good findings were reported. Mr. Rolka answered Council member questions.

Council discussion ensued on the Special Assessment Petition from Barry Street.

No Commissioner update.

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

**Old Business**

- A. No Camping Ordinance

Council discussion ensued on private property camping, dwellings in the City and other ordinances associated with camping. Kim Thomas, Assessor reviewed the zoning and code information. Councilman Socha requested to extend the deadline to remove tent at Camp Hope until winter is over.

**New Business**

- A. Mayor Stockford’s Resignation

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Stuchell moved to accept Mayor Stockford’s resignation.

Roll Call:

Councilman Bruns	Ate
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Nay

Motion passed 7-1

- B. TIFA Development Plan Update

Alan Beeker, Zoning Administrator and Andrew Gelzer, TIFA Board Chairman, reported in keeping with the requirements of Act 57 of 2018, the TIFA Development plan must be updated periodically. The previous update was adopted in 2015. The TIFA Board has reviewed and updated the proposed development for the district. The required public hearings have been held. At the closing of the second public hearing, the TIFA Board unanimously approved the proposed plan and

recommended presentation to City Council for final approval and adoption.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn moved to approve the TIFA Development Plan as presented. **Resolution #3619.**

Roll Call:

Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrissey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

C. Carol Lackey Memorial Recognition Resolution

Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino read the Lackey Recognition Resolution aloud.

Council discussion ensued on Carol Lackey and the work she had done within the community.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Wolfram moved to approve Carol Lackey Recognition Resolution as presented. **Resolution #3620.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

City Manager requested the November 18, 2024 Council Minutes and Mayor Pro Tem vote be addressed before the Council Standing Committees.

D. November 18, 2024 Council Minutes

Councilman Bentley read his email/letter aloud.

Council discussion ensued on the Mayor Pro-Tem vote and the request to remove line 5 and 6 from page 14, Item IV Mayor Pro-Tem Election of the November 18, 2024 Council Minutes. Attorney Thompson reported if the vote is reflected in the minutes it would not be in violation of the Open Meeting Act or Council can revote.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Stuchell moved to affirm Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino is Mayor Pro-Tem.

Discussion ensued on the process of approval of minutes and then affirm or do a revote.

Councilman Flynn stated he thinks the process is out of sync. Council should approve the Minutes and then move to affirm Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino.

Councilman Socha stated there is a motion on the floor needs to be acted on.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Stuchell moved to affirm Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino.

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrissey	Nay
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Nay
Councilman Wolfram	Nay

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Nay

Motion failed 4-4

Motion by Council Member Bentley to remove line 5 and 6 of page 14 of the November 18, 2024 Council Minutes. No support.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell moved to approve the City Council Minutes of November 18, 2024 as presented.

Roll Call:

Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Nay
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Aye
Councilman Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 7-1

E. Council Standing Committees

Councilman Morrisey made a comment about how he was only on one committee and others were all on two.

Discussion ensued on which committee Morrisey will be added to, along with adding four members to a few committees.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha moved to add Councilman Morrisey to Public Services and Finance.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Wolfram moved to approve the Standing Committees as amended.

- Finance – Wolfram, Bentley, Bruns, Morrisey
- Public Safety – Stuchell, Socha, Flynn
- Community Development – Wolfram, Flynn, Bruns
- Public Services- Socha, Paladino, Bentley, Morrisey
- Operations & Governance- Morrisey, Stuchell, Paladino

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – None

B. Appointments- Library Board- Jaminda Springer, Shade Tree Commission- Parker Hjelmberg, TIFA Board- Luke Robson, Zoning Board of Appeals- Matthew Bentley.

Reappointments- TIFA Board- Andrew Gelzer, Zoning Board of Appeals-Matthew Kniffin.

Councilman Flynn thanked Mrs. Springer for coming to the meeting and asked her a few questions because of residents’ concerns.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve Jaminda Springer to the Library Board.

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrisey	Aye
Councilman Socha	Aye
Councilman Stuchell	Aye
Councilman Wolfram	Aye
Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino	Aye
Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Nay

Motion passed 7-1

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to approve Parker Hjelmberg to Shade Tree Commission.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Flynn asked a few questions for Luke Robson on residency.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve Luke Robson to the TIFA Board.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to approve Matthew Bentley to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve reappointment of Andrew Gelzer to the TIFA Board.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Bruns to approve reappointment of Matthew Kniffin to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Further Council discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino stated Officer Composition Board will meet this year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino listed a few vacancies on the boards and commissions.

**General Public Comment**

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St., Spoke on the Keefer House progress would like enforceable terms.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale Twp., commented on homeless and drug use is not always from homeless. McLain spoke on streets, short term rental funding and boards not setting culture for the city or library board.

Shelly Hebert, Hillsdale Community Thrift, commented on homeless, airport, housing project and taxpayer funds. Suggested needle boxes being put out.

Melissa DesJardin, Hillsdale Community Thrift, thanked Councilman Socha for saying Camp Hope needed more time to disband, she will work with code enforcement for an extension and spoke on her FOIA request she will file an appeal.

Matt Kniffin, ward three, asked about lawn maintenance costs.

CJ Toncray, spoke on Special Assessment Districts, Barry St. and the TIFA district.

Andrew Gelzer, TIFA Chair, stated the TIFA district taxes go in the city fund on all TIFA district property, business and residential properties.

**City Manager Report**

Toys for Tots box in lobby by Clerk's office.

BPU Light Contest deadline to submit photo is 12/14/2024.

Winter tax statements are out now and due 2/14/2024.

Special Assessment District information.

**Council Comment**

Councilman Flynn is not happy about the increase for Comcast Services.

Councilman Socha mentioned if the Barry Street residents don't want the special assessment district with the petition presented, he would suggest moving on from the street and choose another street. He doesn't want to see others that have paid the special assessment for their streets protest and upset that council changed the way they are funding and constructing streets. Council set policy, should adhere to it. Socha also spoke on needles found downtown.

Councilman Bentley asked to have his letter added to the minutes. Bentley's letter has been placed on record with the Clerk's office.

Mayor Pro-Tem Paladino would like to set an O&G Meeting and set some council goals soon.


**Adjournment**

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

  
Josh Paladino, Mayor Pro-Tem

  
Katy Price, City Clerk