

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

March 17, 2025

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, Ward 4 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
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Jason Blake (DPS Director), Mark Hawkins (HCFD), Brandon Janes (IT), CJ Toncray, Sheri Ingles, Shannon Gainer, Scott Sessions, Isaac Kirshrer, Andrew Kuntz, Stephen Brindle, Sandy Vieter, Jach Steiger, Joseph Hendee, Tim Polelle, Mark Nichols, and Doug Ingles.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino requested to add New Business item C: Resolution of Support for 2026 congressionally directed spending request for culverts.

Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Socha, to add the item presented.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Councilman Socha requested to remove Introduction and adoption of ordinances/Public Hearing item A. Reopen Public Hearing for SAD 2025-11 Barry St.

Council discussion ensued.

Roll Call:

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

Motion failed 2-6

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

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St., commented on Airport Manager resignation.

Scott Sessions, 102 Coldsprings Circle, commented on the emails in the packet, OMA violation and requested SAD policy relief.

Shannon Gainer, Ward four, commented on Road Diet report.

Jach Steiger, 36 E Fayette St., commented on Road Diet report.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of February 27, 2025 \$1,075,953.38; March 13, 2025 \$1,390,318.71
 - 2. Payroll of March 13, 2025: \$209,464.13
- B. City Council Minutes of March 3, 2025
- C. Finance Minutes of March 3, 2025
- D. HCCF Youth Event
- E. Hillsdale College Noise Variance Requests
- F. Right of Way and Noise Variance Request (Taste of Manning Event)
- G. BPU – Eaton C2SXD Electric Meter Purchase
- H. BPU – Eaton Water Meter Nodes

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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	Aye

Motion passed 8-0

Communication/Petitions

- A. State Tax Commission Letter- IFE Revoke Certificate 2017-181
- B. 2025 Residential Brush Collection
- C. Road Diet Report
- D. Airport Manager Resignation Letter
- E. Hillsdale County Commissioner Verbal Update – Doug Ingles

Alan Beeker, Planning and Zoning Administrator gave an update on the Road Diet application process.

Lengthy council discussion on Road Diet Report.

Motion by Council Member Bentley, seconded by Council Member Bruns to direct Alan Beeker to stop the Road Diet grant application process.

Roll Call:

Councilman Morrisey	Nay
Councilman Socha	Nay
Councilman Stuchell	Nay
Councilman Wolfram	Nay
Mayor Pro tem Paladino	Nay

Councilman Bentley	Aye
Councilman Bruns	Aye
Councilman Flynn	Nay

Motion failed 2-6

Council discussed Airport Manager Ginger Moore’s resignation letter.

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Flynn to accept Airport Manager Moore’s resignation with regret.

Council discussion on treatment of city staff.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Doug Ingles, Hillsdale County Commissioner reported SPARC program submitted great pictures of the Courthouse reconstruction process, Ingles spoke on the County Park funding and Senior Finance Manager position.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

A. Public Hearing: Reopen Public Hearing for SAD 2025-11 Barry Street

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino reopened the public hearing 8:20 p.m.

Tim Polelle, Barry St. resident, would be in favor of a less amount of a special assessment but if not change in policy, he is in opposition of the special assessment as a whole.

Lengthy Council discussion ensued on Special Assessment District Policy and Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Council Member Bruns, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to postpone the public hearing of SAD 2025-11 Barry St to April 7th.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Old Business

A. Set Public Hearing for SAD 2025-10 Monroe St Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll

The City Engineer estimated the costs of the projects and forwarded them to the Assessor for certification of the assessments to be confirmed by Council. The resolution set the special assessment allocations as follows:

- Total Estimated Project Cost: \$737,112.50
- Portion to be Specially Assessed: 50% \$368,556.25
- Method of Allocation: Front foot
- Per Parcel Maximum Assessments: 25% of True Cash Value
- \$5,000 Residential Class
- \$10,000 Commercial Class
- \$15,000 Industrial Class
- Actual Amount to be Specially Assessed: \$124,815.76 (17% of Total Project Cost)

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Flynn to set public hearing for SAD 2025-10 Monroe St. Confirmation of Special Assessment Roll for April 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 7-1

New Business

A. Earned Sick Time Policy

Motion by Council Member Flynn, seconded by Council Member Socha to adopt the Earned Sick Time Policy as presented.

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

B. BPU- Low Income Energy Assistance Fund

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to opt in to the PA 95 Low Income Energy Assistance Fund.

Roll Call:

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

Motion passed 8-0

C. Resolution of Support – FY 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending Request- Galloway Dr., Oak St. and Hillsdale St Culvert Replacements

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the resolution of support for the congressionally directed spending request for culvert replacement as presented. **Resolution #3629.**

Voice vote, approved unanimously.

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamations – None

B. Appointments- None

C. Other - None

General Public Comment

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea St., spoke on special assessment districts, Hidden Meadows Dr and Fayette St reconstruction.

CJ Toncray, spoke on SAD and Barry Street.

Shannon Gainer, spoke on Road Diet Plan and TIFA.

Jeff Fazakas, spoke on Council member comments, SAD and Road Diet Plan.

Thomas Thompson, spoke on the traffic flow on M99, intersection of Carleton and Hillsdale St. and the Road Diet Plan.

City Manager Report

Manager Mackie reported on March 30th BPU will begin flushing hydrants.

Manager Mackie reported council members went on a tour of the BPU waste water treatment facility.

Manager Mackie reported on the great turnout of the Grand Opening of ALDI store on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Manager Mackie reported on the Road Diet Plan and procedure.

Manager Mackie reported on Airport Manager resignation and potential candidate for the position.

Council Comment

Mayor Pro Tem Paladino signed letters on behalf of the City of Hillsdale in support for the Michigan High Speed BEAD program.

Councilman Flynn commented on the ALDI store grand opening. Councilman Flynn thanked Ginger Moore for all her work at the airport. He also congratulated Clerk Price on her completion of the three (3) year MAMC institute program.

Councilman Wolfram commented on the Special Assessment District figures.

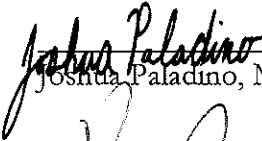
Councilman Stuchell requested a letter of gratitude be drafted for Airport Manager Ginger Moore.

Councilman Socha commented on Special Assessments, lack of funds and street infrastructure. He also thanked Ginger Moore for all her hard work at the airport.


Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.
The meeting Adjourned at 9:49 p.m.



Joshua Paladino, Mayor Pro-Tem



Katy Price, City Clerk