

Council Chambers
Hillsdale City Hall
97 N. Broad St.
Hillsdale, MI 49242

January 5, 2015
7:00 p.m.
(517)437-6441
www.cityofhillsdale.org

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Scott Sessions opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Mayor Scott Sessions called the meeting to order with the following Council members present: Council members Adam Stockford and Brian Watkins representing Ward One; Councilmember Sally Kinney representing Ward Two; Council members Emily Stack-Davis and Bruce Sharp representing Ward Three; and Council members Mary Beth Bail and Patrick Flannery representing Ward Four.

Also present were: City Attorney Lewis Loren, Deputy Clerk Michelle Loren, Kay Freese (HR), Bonnie Tew (Finance), Keith Richard (DPS), Gary Stacowicz (Forester), Scott Hephner (HCPD), Judy Buzo (Dial-a-Ride), Samuel Nutters, Kevin Pauken, Mary Hubbard, CW "Bud" Heinowski, Jay Easterday.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Scott Sessions requested *Consent Item D. MDOT Performance Resolution #3205* be added to the agenda.

Motion by Councilperson Stockford, supported by Councilperson Stack-Davis, to approve the January 5, 2015 Agenda as presented.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Bud Heinowski addressed Council regarding New Business Item B. Unauthorized Removal of City Owned Tree. Mr. Heinowski gave some background as to the creation of the ordinance governing the removal of City owned trees and replacement cost determination.

Jay Easterday, 117 Lombard St., addressed Council regarding New Business Item B. Mr. Easterday apologized for his actions and stated he didn't realize it was a city owned tree; neither did he realize there was an ordinance relating to it. Mr. Easterday explained his situation and made available some information he had gathered (entered into minutes). Mr. Easterday further sited a public nuisance ordinance regarding tree removal.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills from December 4, 2014; Claims of \$159,017.95; Payroll of \$86,273.05.
- B. Committee Reports:
 - 1. Planning Commission Minutes of November 18, 2014
 - 2. Airport Advisory Committee Minutes of December 20, 2014
- C. Council Minutes of December 15, 2014
- D. MDOT Performance Resolution #3205

Motion by Councilperson Flannery, supported by Councilperson Sharp, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call: Councilpersons Stack Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Sharp – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Bail – yes.

Motion carried 8-0.

Communications and Petitions

None

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Unfinished Business

- A. Local Streets Maintenance:
Councilperson Stockford asked DPS Director Keith Richard if Gard and Vine Streets had been declared emergency snow routes to which Mr. Richard responded no. Mr. Stockford asked if there was a way to have it declared as such. Mr. Richard responded no and gave a brief explanation.
- B. Code Enforcement. Councilperson Sharp questioned the ownership of a building in disrepair at 90 W. Galloway. Mr. Sharp felt if the residents are being held responsible for maintaining and repairing their homes, the City should do so as well. DPS Director stated the ownership of the building was not known (City or BPU) but would look into the matter. If the City is in ownership of the building and money can be found in the budget, he is happy to make the proper repairs. Councilperson Stockford mentioned the building at Owen Memorial Park as being in disrepair and concurred with Mr. Sharp's sentiment about the City maintaining its properties. DPS Director Keith Richard commented the building housed the well and electrical for the park as well as storage for recreation equipment. Mr. Richard stated this matter had been looked at before and the City would like to do the necessary repairs if the budget would allow. Discussion followed. No action was taken.
- C. Clerk & Treasurer. None

Old Business

- A. Revised Joint Management Agreement. Council members were presented with a revised copy of the Joint Management Agreement between the City of Litchfield and the City of Hillsdale for city manager services. The revised agreement had been approved by the City of Litchfield at their December 16, 2014 meeting. The changes to the agreement were a \$250 per month mileage allowance and review of the agreement by the City of Litchfield in March of 2015.

REVISED
JOINT
MANAGE-
MENT
AGREEMENT

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Flannery to approve the Revised Joint Management Agreement as presented and authorize the Mayor and Clerk's signatures. Roll call: Councilpersons Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Sharp – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes.

Approved 8-0.

New Business

- A. Letter of Interest. Economic Development Consultant Mary Wolfram presented Council with a Letter of Interest from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation regarding continued discussions with the MEDC to pursue a recommendation to the MSF for a possible award the redevelopment project at 42 Union St

Motion by Councilperson Stockford, supported by Councilperson Watkins, to authorize the Mayor's signature on the Letter of Interest. Roll call: Councilpersons Kinney – yes; Sharp – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes.

Motion carried 8-0.

- B. Unauthorized Removal of City Owned Tree. Mayor Sessions stated Council had received information regarding the unauthorized removal of a city owned tree at 117 Lombard St. Mayor Sessions stated the resident, Jay Easterday, had requested the matter be put on the agenda for the January 5, 2015 meeting.

UNAUTHORIZED
TREE
REMOVAL

City Attorney Lew Loren interjected that the proper place to hear this matter is not with Council, but District Court. Mr. Loren stated that Council had passed a resolution giving the City Forester authorization to handle such matters in small claims court. Mr. Loren explained further that this way both sides can make a presentation of their facts and a court can make its decision.

No action taken.

Miscellaneous

- A. Appointments:

Appointment of Tim Auseon to Board of Special Assessors to fill a 1 (one) year term expiring November, 2015.

APPOINTMENT

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the appointment of Tim Auseon to Board of Special Assessors to fill a 1 (one) year term expiring November, 2015.

City Manager Report

None

General Public Comment

Fire Chief Kevin Pauken addressed Council regarding code inspection and the community's expectancy of the City to maintain its own buildings, particularly the building at 90 Galloway.

Jay Easterday, 117 Lumbard, questioned what the next step would be regarding settling the tree removal situation.

DPS Director Keith Richard addressed Council regarding the building at 90 Galloway stating he is willing to make repairs, but will await direction from City Manager Doug Terry. Mr. Richard stated the same is true of the house at Owen Memorial.

Council Comment

Councilperson Sharp asked about the city manager search. Councilperson Stack-Davis replied a timeline would be laid out and that there is also some official business Council will need to attend to. Information would be shared at the next council meeting.

Councilperson Stockford lightheartedly offered the suggestion of a controlled burn on the house at Owen Memorial. Deputy Clerk Loren reminded Council the house serves the purpose of housing the well and electrical for the park as well as storage for recreation equipment.

Councilperson Sharp mentioned to the Forester there is a 100 year old tree at 64 S. West St. that presents a problem as it sits extremely close to the driveway of the residence. Mr. Sharp also apologized to the Easterdays for having to come with no resolve.

Councilperson Stockford also apologized to the Easterdays and sympathized with their position stating they should be given a pass or a \$100 fine.

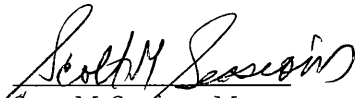
Adjournment

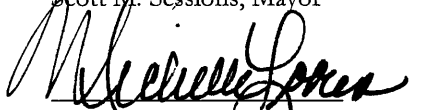
Motion by Councilperson Stack-Davis, supported by Councilperson Watkins, to adjourn.

All ayes.

Meeting adjourned.

7:52 p.m.


Scott M. Sessions, Mayor


Michelle Loren, Deputy City Clerk