

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

January 8, 2014
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 M. 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 Brian Watkins and Adam Stockford representing Ward One; Council member Sally Kinney representing Ward Two; Council member Emily Stack Davis Ward Three; and Council members Patrick Flannery and Mary Beth Bail representing Ward Four.

Also present were City Manager Linda Brown, City Clerk Robilyn Swisher, City Attorney Kevin Shirk, Matt Durr (Hillsdale Daily News), Eric Swisher, Doug Moon, Mary Wolfram, Keith Richard, Aimee England, Alan and Julie Beeker, Linc Miller, Codee Jimsy, Brad Benzing, James Scheibner, Nate Rusk, Casey Sullivan, Allison Hutchinson, Tim Groves, Sid Michaels, Jennifer Rodgers, and Jaminda Springer.

Approval of Agenda

With corrections: City Fee Schedule moved to New Business F, Appointments added to Miscellaneous, and Charles Street Final Payment added to the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Mayor Sessions to approve the January 8, 2014 Agenda.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mary Wolfram 3 Corona Circle commented of the councilperson's list for funding our roads. Mary suggests that council alerts our State Representatives to our need for street funding. Revenue sharing funds that have come from the state to our local government for street funding have went down in the past 10 years as much as 20% which is another source of revenue that has contributed to the situation we are in. They currently have more revenue coming in and Mary feels council needs to remind our State Representatives of our needs and that they are representing our local municipalities.

Tim Grove from Coldwell Banker addressed council on the fee for home inspection and who pays those fees.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills from December 19, 2013: Claims of \$114,472.41 Payroll of \$93,373.02
- B. Committee Reports (Pending Approval):
 - Shade Tree 12/18/13
 - EDC 10/17/13
 - BPU 12/10/13
 - Board of Review 7/16/13
- C. Council Minutes 12-16-13
- D. Charles Street Final Payment

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

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

Communications and Petitions

None

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Unfinished Business

- A. Local Streets Maintenance
- B. Code Enforcement.

Old Business

None

New Business

A. BPU Sewer Rate Schedule Amendment (Resolution)

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the Resolution for the BPU Sewer Rate change pursuant to the Boards request.

Councilperson Flannery informed council of the conversation he had with the city regarding the rate increase. Councilperson Flannery also stated that he felt the amount of the rate increase needed to be looked into further before council passes it.

Rick Rose, BPU Director, addressed councilperson Flannery's concerns with the Sewer Rate Schedule Amendment, and explained the reasons for the Amendment and the importance of council passing it, to not only help with the deficit but also to help make sure they are in compliance with federal and state regulations.

BPU
SEWER
RATE
SCHEDULE
AMEND-
MENT
RES#
3161

Motion by Councilperson Flannery to table the decision on the BPU Sewer Rate Resolution until the January 20, 2014 Council Meeting, no support.

Motion failed

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to approve the BPU Sewer Rate Resolution as presented. Roll call: Councilpersons Stack Davis – yes; Flannery – no; Bail – yes; Kinney – yes; Watkins – yes; Stockford – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes.

Approved 6-1.

Motion carried.

B. Assignment and Assumption of Land Lease – BPU

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the signatures of the Mayor and City Clerk on the Assignment and Assumption of Land Lease as presented.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the signatures of the Mayor and City Clerk on the Assignment and Assumption of Land Lease – BPU as presented. Roll call: Councilpersons Stockford – yes; Stack Davis – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Flannery – yes; Bail – yes; Kinney – yes; Watkins – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

C. Senior Center Purchase of Generator

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council turn down the purchase of the generator of the Senior Center as presented. City Manager Brown goes on to explain that the Senior Center does not house anyone and during the 2011 ice storm when many people were without power the Senior Center was without power for only two hours.

SENIOR
CENTER
GENERATOR

Motion by Councilperson Stockford, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to turn down the Senior Center Purchase of a Generator. Roll call: Watkins – yes; Stockford– yes; Stack Davis – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Flannery – yes; Bail – yes; Kinney – yes;

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

D. Councilperson's List for Funding of Streets

Councilperson Flannery went over the list he compiled for possibilities for funding our streets including ways to create revenue, a review of assets, and ideas for self funding. There was some council discussion and Council person Stack-Davis suggested the list be looked into further at a Work Session. Council Person Watkins suggested that more research be done on whether or not the items on the list are even legal options for the council to consider before scheduling a Work Session. City Manager Linda Brown agreed to work with the City Attorney's office to determine which items on the list were viable options.

E. Extension of Airport Manager Contract

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the Extension of the Airport Manager Contract as presented.

EXTENSION
FOR AIRPORT
MANAGER
CONTRACT

Motion by Councilperson Flannery supported by Councilperson Watkins, to approve the Extension of the Airport Manager Contract as presented. Roll call: Kinney– yes; Watkins– yes; Stockford– yes; Stack Davis – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Flannery – yes; Bail – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

F. City Fee Schedule

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the City Fee Schedule as presented.

Motion by Councilperson Flannery supported by Councilperson Watkins, to approve the Extension of the Airport Manager Contract as presented. Roll call: Bail – yes; Kinney– yes; Watkins– yes; Stockford– yes; Stack Davis – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Flannery – yes;.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

Appointments:

IPMC Board: Steve Stoll and Board of Special Assessors: Molly Wentz.

APPINT-
MENTS

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Bail, to approve the Mayoral appointments as presented.

All Ayes

Motion carried.

General Public Comment

Doug Moon, 123 State Street, recommends to members of council to get on the website to research the issues that are coming before council this might save the council some time.

Brad Benzing, 9425 Steamburg Road, thanks council for the signing of the lease for the 911 tower. Mr. Benzing also states that he is running for the term limited State Representative Ken Kurtz's seat. Mr. Benzing goes on to state his qualifications for the position, and how he would represent local government.

Eric Swisher, 126 South Manning Street, addresses council to make sure they are representing their constituents not their own political agenda. Mr. Swisher also feels council needs to trust that the other boards have done their job and have properly researched everything and have provided the best recommendation to council. Mr. Swisher also encourages council to research items more thoroughly before bringing it to the council meeting to avoid wasting time. Mr. Swisher goes on to say that he is against the selling of BPU, and expresses the importance for BPU. He also stated how important it is for council to let BPU, the City Manager, and the other member of boards do their jobs.

Tim Grove, 268 Carleton Road, stated that he would like council to communicate with the local realtors when they change fees that pertain to them and their business. It is important for the realtors to be aware of these things before they happen.

Council Comment

Councilperson Watkins stated he was very impressed with the snow removal with the storm this week. City Manager Linda Brown agreed with Councilperson Watkins and went on to say that the police and fire departments also did a wonderful job during the storm. She said all the departments went above and beyond the call of duty.

Councilperson Stockford felt it was important to state that he had complete confidence in the boards and the work they do, but that questions are also important sometimes to get to the bottom of things.

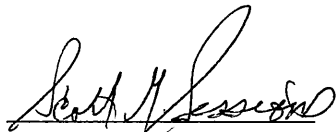
Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Kinney, seconded by Councilmember Watkins, to adjourn.


All ayes

Motion carried.

8:23 p.m.



Scott M. Sessions, Mayor



Robilyn Swisher, City Clerk