

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

January 20, 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 Lew Loren, Matt Durr (Hillsdale Daily News), Mary Wolfram, Keith Richard, Aimee England, Nate Rusk, Casey Sullivan, Hal Nottingham, Julia Denig, Nichole Dunlop, Laura VanWormer, Tim Hart Haberl, Kristin Schilling, Timothy Dixon, Kristen Lucas, and Tony Ginolf.

Approval of Agenda

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

All ayes.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Laura VanWormer, 60 N. Norwood, stated that she had worked with Domestic Harmony for 28 years and can think of no finer organization. She told council that Domestic Harmony serves the community well and that she hopes council will pass their contract.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills from January 2, 2014: Claims of \$79,031.13 Payroll of \$98,688.70
- B. Committee Reports (Pending Approval):
Community Development 12-9-13
Public Safety 12-11-13
BPU 1-14-14
- C. Council Minutes 1-8-14
- D. December 2013 Financial Reports

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

City Manager Linda Brown stated that the pictures council members received were not all Code issues.

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Energy Optimization Program Resolution

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the Energy Optimization Program Resolution as presented. City Manager Brown explained the rates and that this is required to stay in compliance with the state mandate.

REST
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Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to approve the Energy Optimization Program Resolution as presented. Roll call: Councilperson Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – no.

Approved 6-1.

Motion carried.

- B. Sewer Fund Transfer

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the Sewer Fund Transfer as presented.

Rick Rose addressed Councilperson Flannery's questions on designated funds verses restricted funds. Rick also explained why they are required to pay off internal funds.

SEWER
FUND
TRANSFER

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

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

- C. Property Tax Exemption for Persons in Poverty Resolution

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the Property Tax Exemption for persons in Poverty Resolution as presented.

Motion by Councilperson Kinney, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the Property Tax Exemption for Persons In Poverty Resolution as presented. Roll call: Councilpersons Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes.; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

- D. Domestic Harmony Contract

City Manager Linda Brown recommends that council do not enter into the Domestic Harmony Contract. City Manager Brown suggests that if council does choose to enter into a contract with Domestic Harmony that they look at reducing the amount of the contract. City Manager Brown also states that these are hard cuts to make to the budget.

Mrs. Denig addressed council as to the importance of Domestic Harmony not only in the county but in the city of Hillsdale. Mrs. Denig stated that Domestic

DOMESTIC
HARMONY
CONTRACT

Harmony provides the only safe place in the county for people of domestic violence. She also made know the different supporters of Domestic Harmony. Mrs. Denig also stated that she recognizes the strains on the City budget but requests that the council will renew the contract with Domestic Harmony because the support that the City provides is critical for them.

Timothy Dixon also spoke and explained the budget funding for Domestic Harmony. He explained that they have cut their budget as much as possible and they need the contract with the City to stay in the black with their own budget.

Councilperson Stockford asked for clarification on the percentage of the budget the contract represents. Timothy Dixon stated that it represents 2% of their budget.

City Manager Brown asked if the County contributes to their budget. Mr. Dixon stated that they do not contribute.

Councilperson Watkins expressed his strong support of Domestic Harmony and the importance of having a safe place for people to go.

Councilperson Stack-Davis stated that everyone probably agrees that the topic of domestic violence is important but asks if there is a way to possibly agree on a smaller amount for a shorter period of time?

City Manager Linda Brown, along with Mrs. Denig, clarifies the budget year dates for the contract.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to approve a Domestic Harmony Contract of \$5,000 subject to legal review. Roll call: Councilpersons Flannery – no; Kinney – yes; Stockford – no; Watkins – yes.; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – no.

Approved 4-3.

Motion carried.

E. Entrance Signs

City Manager Linda Brown suggested that council approve the Entrance Sign Proposal as presented.

Mary Wolfram spoke on the importance to the economic development of the City of Hillsdale to advertize that we are a college town.

Councilperson Stockford states that Hillsdale College will be paying for the sign.

Councilperson Watkins suggests that they look into replacing the existing welcome signs rather than adding additional signs. He went on to say he would like to see "It's the people." replaced with something else.

Councilperson Stack-Davis asks for clarification that this is just a proposal and not the final project.

Mary Wolfram states that the sign pictured is a proposed sign and Hillsdale College and the City of Hillsdale will have the final say on the finished sign.

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

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

Information Only- Police Dept. 4th Quarter Report

General Public Comment

ENTRANCE
SIGNS
TO
CITY

Tim Hart-Haberl introduced himself as a candidate for the 58th District State Representative seat and told council about his experience that makes him a good candidate.

Hal Nottingham introduced himself as a candidate for the 58th District State Representative seat. Mr. Nottingham went on to state why he is a good candidate for the job. He also invited council to get to know him better through contacting him by phone, email, or his website.

Kristin Lucas, one of the founders of Domestic Harmony, thanked council for their continued support and relationship with Domestic Harmony.

Council Comment

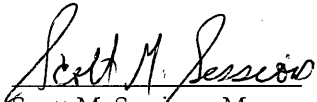
Adjournment


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

All ayes

Motion carried.

8:18 p.m.


Scott M. Sessions, Mayor


Robilyn Swisher, City Clerk