

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

January 21, 2013  
7:00 p.m.  
(517)437-6441  
[www.cityofhillsdale.org](http://www.cityofhillsdale.org)

## CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale  
Regular Meeting

### Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pro Tem Brian Watkins opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

### Roll Call

Mayor Pro Tem Brian Watkins informed the council that Councilpersons Kinney, Arnold, and Mayor Moon contacted him and will be unable to attend the meeting. Councilperson Sullivan made a motion to excuse Mayor Doug Moon Councilperson Sally Kinney and Councilperson William Arnold. The Motion was supported by Councilperson Brown.

All ayes.

Motion Passed

The meeting was called to order with the following Council members present: Council members Casey Sullivan and Brian Watkins representing Ward One; Council members Ruth Brown representing Ward Two; Council members Scott Sessions and Mary Wolfram representing Ward 3; Council member Mary Beth Bail representing Ward 4.

Also present were City Clerk Julie Kast, Russ Martin-WCSR, Lew Loren-City Attorney, Linda Brown-City Manager, Eric Macy – Nonik Technologies, Matt Durr-Hillsdale Daly News, Amy England, Judy Buzo, Jack Butler, Julia Denig.

### Approval of Agenda

City Manager Linda Brown added Communications/Petitions Resignation of City Clerk Kast, and Old Business Dial A Ride update.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sessions to approve the amended Agenda, supported by Councilperson Brown.

All Ayes

Motion Carried.

### Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

### Consent Agenda

The items listed in the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the City Council and the City Manager and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless requested by a Councilmember. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and Council action will be taken separately on said item.

- A. Approval of Bills from January 3, 2013: Claims of \$58,902.84 Payroll of \$96,455.60.
- B. Committee Reports (Pending Approval):
  - 1. TIFA Minutes of December 13, 2012
  - 2. BPU Minutes of January 8, 2013
  - 3. Finance Minutes of January 7, 2013
- C. Council Minutes of January 7, 2013
- D. Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Fundraiser.
- E. ~~Resolution #3119~~ Resolution #3122 establishing City Council Meeting Schedule
- F. Financial Reports of December 2012.

A Motion was made by Councilperson Brown supported by Councilperson Sessions to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll Call: Council members Brown-yes; Watkins-yes; Sullivan-yes; Bail-yes; Wolfram-yes; and Sessions-yes.

Approved 6-0

Motion carried.

### Communications/Petitions

City Manager Linda Brown read the resignation letter from the City Clerk Julie Kast.  
*At the end of January I am resigning my position as City Clerk of Hillsdale. It has been a pleasure to serve the City of Hillsdale and the Council this past year but due to some personal issues I will be unable to serve out the remaining 10 months.*

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolfram supported by Councilperson Bail to accept the resignation of the City Clerk.

All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Councilperson Sullivan raised the question on when is the next scheduled election and if in the meantime can the city appoint someone temporarily to the position. The City Manager replied that the next scheduled election is in November and in the mean time the city can appoint someone to fill in until then.

Mayor Pro Tem Brian Watkins brought up the subject of putting it back on the ballot to allow the City Clerk and Treasurer positions to be appointed rather than elected. He felt it would be easier to handle replacements if appointed rather than have to wait until the next election and require existing staff to cover in the meantime.

Councilperson Wolfram would like this go to the O & G so that it can be discussed.

Councilperson Ruth Brown said that just last year it was on the ballot and the people of Hillsdale voted it down. She said the people of Hillsdale are tired of proposals getting voted down and then the Council puts it back on the ballot again. We the Council should move forward and not back.

Mayor Pro Tem Watkins stated committee consideration of this for either position is definitely worth revisiting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolfram for the issue to go to the O & G Committee for recommendation, supported by Councilperson Sullivan.

5 Ayes, 1 Nay

Motion Carried

#### **Unfinished Business**

- A. Local Streets Maintenance – No update at this time.
- B. Code Enforcement Report – Report for December 2012 reviewed along with the Police Report for December 2012. City Manager provided update on 12 Waldron Street property.

Mayor Pro Tem Brian Watkins remarked that the number of items on the report keeps going down and it seems like some hit and miss stuff. Specifically there is one house that he has been complaining about since he move back here and it still is not on the list.

City Manager Linda Brown inquired of Mayor Pro Tem Watkins as to whether there had been discussion regarding the possibility of bringing back inspection services from the County. He indicated there had been that discussion.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan, supported by Councilperson Sessions, to refer the matter to the Public Safety Committee for review.

#### **Old Business**

- A. Dial A Ride Update – Judy Buzo updated the Council on the Dial-a-Ride service to Wal Mart. During the October – January period we had 44 people use the service about 6 people per trip. The Service is working well and she would recommend continuing this service.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sessions supported by Councilperson Sullivan to continue the Dial-a-ride service to Wal Mart.

All Ayes

Motion Carried.

#### **New Business**

- A. Award of Bid Industrial Park Farmland – City Manager Linda Brown is asking the Council to approve Brian Fix’s bid to lease the property at \$156 per acre for three years and authorize the Mayor and Clerk’s signatures on the lease agreement..

A motion was made by Councilperson Brown to approve the Lease Agreement supported by Councilperson Sessions. Roll Call: Council members Brown-yes, Watkins-yes; Sullivan -yes; Wolfram-yes; Bail-yes; and Sessions-yes.

Approved 6-0

Motion passed.

- B. Application for Annual ROW Permit from MDOT Resolution #3120. City Manager Linda Brown requests that the council pass a resolution required by the Michigan Department of Transportation for purposes of issuing individual permits to use its M99 right-of-way within the City Boundaries. The use of the right-of-way is required from time to time by the Department of Public Services, the Board of Public Utilities and the police department.

RES #  
3120 MDOT  
ROW  
PERMIT

A motion was made by Councilperson Sessions supported by Councilperson Sullivan to pass MDOT Resolution #3120.

All Ayes

Motion Passed

- C. Domestic Harmony Contract – Julia Denig the Executive Director of Domestic Harmony recently contacted the City Manager in regards to a request to appear before Council regarding the possibility of the City entering into a contract with Domestic Harmony to provide certain services to its citizens. Domestic Harmony is asking the City Council to approve the \$5,500 that was already budgeted for the fiscal year 2013. City Manager Linda Brown would also like to know if the Council would like to continue supporting Domestic Harmony due to the budget planning for 2014 will be starting soon.

JuliaDenig addressed the Council on Domestic Harmony’s services.

Councilperson Sullivan asked about what budget this would come out of. City Manager let the Council know that the fund this will come out her budget. The City Manager is looking for direction from the Council on what their main priority is for the next year whether it is road improvements or other issues. She would like to get direction from the Council as to what their priorities are for the next year.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolfram to approve the \$5500 going to Domestic Harmony and also for it to be included in the budget planning for 2014. The motion was supported by Councilperson Bail. Roll Call: Council members Brown-yes, Watkins-yes; Sullivan -yes; Wolfram-yes; Bail-yes; and Sessions-no.

Approved 5-1

Motion passed.

- D. Hydro Power Purchase Agreement Resolution #3121. The city is a member of the Michigan South Central Power Agency (MSCPA) together with four other municipalities. Recently the City received a memo from the General Manager of MSCPA regarding an offer the Agency received to purchase power at a fixed price of \$49/MWh for twenty years. This resolution will approve the Hydro-Electric Power Purchase Agreement and Related Matters which is intended to approve the execution and delivery of the agreements identified above and which designates the purchase as an additional Project under the Contract and allocates the City’s entitlement share in the project. The City’s entitlement share under the contract is 25.5%.

RES.#  
3121  
HYDRO  
POWER  
BPU

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan supported by Councilperson Brown to approve Resolution #3121 Hydro Power Purchase Agreement. Roll Call: Council members Brown-yes, Watkins-yes; Sullivan -yes; Wolfram-yes; Bail-yes; and Sessions-yes.

Approved 6-0

Motion passed.

**General Public Comment**

**Council Comment**

Councilperson Mary Wolfram addressed the Council and public on reminding everyone that petitions for Council, Clerk, Mayor, and Treasurer are due May 15, 2013. So anyone who wishes to run for one of these offices needs to pick up a petition at the Clerk's office.

**Adjournment**

A Motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan to adjourn supported by Councilperson Sessions.

All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Adjournment at 7:55 pm

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Pro Tem Brian Watkins

2/18/2013  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk, Julie Kast

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date