

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

February 4, 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 Douglas G. Moon opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Moon reported he received correspondence from City Manager Linda Brown stating she would not be in attendance.

### Roll Call

Mayor Douglas G. Moon called the meeting to order with the following Council members present: Council members Casey Sullivan and Brian Watkins representing Ward One; Councilmembers Ruth Brown and Sally Kinney representing Ward Two; Council members Scott Sessions and Mary Wolfram representing Ward 3, and Councilmembers Mary Beth Bail and William Arnold representing Ward 4.

Also present were Deputy City Clerk Michelle Loren, City Attorney Lew Loren, Keith Richard, Chris Gutowski, Matt Durr (Hillsdale Daily News), Bonnie Tew, Aimee England, Eldonna Bernath, Tony Ginolfi, Brad Benzing, Jack Butler

### Approval of Agenda

Mayor Moon requested Item C. Council Minutes of January 21, 2013 be placed as Item C. under New Business.

Mayor Moon also requested the addition of Item D. Discussion Regarding Replacement of City Clerk under New Business.

Motion by Councilmember Sessions, support by Councilmember Watkins, to approve the February 4, 2013 Council Agenda as amended.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

### Public Comment

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 17, 2013: Claims of \$281,451.82; Payroll of \$135,941.89
- B. Committee Reports (Pending Approval):
  - 1. BPU Minutes of January 8, 2013
  - 2. Finance Minutes of December 20, 2012 and January 21, 2013
  - 3. Local Advisory Committee of January 23, 2013

Motion by Councilperson Sessions, support by Councilmember Watkins, to approve the Consent Agenda. Roll call: Council members Arnold – yes; Bail – yes; Brown – yes; Kinney – yes; Sessions – yes; Sullivan – yes; Watkins – yes; Wolfram – yes; Mayor Moon – yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

Communications

None

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Unfinished Business

- A. Local Streets Maintenance. None
- B. Code Enforcement. None

Old Business

APPOINTMENT  
DEPUTY CITY  
CLERK  
MICHELLE  
LOREN

- A. Confirmation of City Clerk Resignation and Appointment of Deputy Clerk - Mayor Moon informed Council that, prior to her departure, then City Clerk Julie Kast appointed Recreation Director Michelle Loren as Deputy Clerk.

Motion by Councilmember Brown, support by Councilmember Bail, to approve the appointment of Michelle Loren as Deputy City Clerk. Roll call: Council members Bail – yes; Brown – yes; Kinney – yes; Sessions – yes; Sullivan – yes; Watkins – yes; Wolfram – yes; Mayor Moon – yes; Councilmember Arnold – yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

Mayor Moon informed Council that former City Clerk Julie Kast had sent notification of her resignation to Council members and City Manager by email. As of this meeting, a signed formal resignation had not yet been received and filed with the Clerk's office as is traditionally done. Mayor Moon asked that Council accept the emailed resignation as the formal resignation of Clerk Kast.

FORMER  
CITY CLERK  
JULIE KAST  
RESIGNATION  
EMAIL

Motion by Councilmember Brown, support by Councilmember Sessions, to accept the emailed resignation sent by former City Clerk Kast as her formal resignation.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

New Business

PURCHASE  
DUMP  
TRUCK  
DPS  
APPROVED

- A. Purchase of Dump Truck - DPS Director Keith Richard presented a history of vehicle turnover within his department, and gave an overview of the specs of the new vehicle and the bid process and options available for the resale of the retired truck.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, support by Councilperson Brown, to approve the purchase of a new dump truck for the Department of Public Services from Tri-County International Trucks. Roll call: Councilpersons Kinney – yes; Sessions – no; Sullivan – yes; Watkins – yes; Wolfram – yes; Mayor Moon – yes; Councilpersons Arnold – yes; Bail – yes; Brown – yes.

Approved 8-1.

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, support by Councilperson Brown, to authorize Mayor and Deputy City Clerk signatures on behalf of the City for the purchase of a dump truck from Tri-County International Trucks. Roll Call: Councilpersons Sessions – no; Sullivan – yes; Watkins – yes; Wolfram – yes; Mayor Moon – yes; Councilpersons Arnold – yes; Bail – yes; Brown – yes; Kinney – yes.

Approved 8-1.

Motion carried.

- B. Contaminated Industrial Sites – Mayor Moon read a summary prepared by City Manager Brown explaining that, after the loss of an industrial facility expansion in the City of Hillsdale due to site contamination, a meeting with representatives from the DEQ addressing the problem of privately owned contaminated industrial sites was arranged. City Manager Brown reported that she and Mary Wolfram of Hillsdale Policy Group met with three representatives of the DEQ on Friday, January 25 to address the matter. Various ways of identifying operating facilities and funding options to assist private owners with site cleanup were main topics of discussion. Mary Wolfram gave an overview of the meeting in greater detail.
- C. Council Minutes of January 21, 2013 - Mayor Moon explained that the resolution number for the Council Meeting Schedule had been mistakenly designated Resolution #3119 at the January 21, 2013 meeting. Mayor Moon asked that Resolution #3119 be redesignated as Resolution #3122.

Motion by Councilperson Kinney, support by Councilperson Sessions, to approve the redesignation of Resolution #3119 as Resolution #3122.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Sessions, support by Councilperson Watkins, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2013 meeting as amended.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

- D. Discussion Regarding Replacement of City Clerk - Mayor Moon opened the floor for Council discussion regarding the filling of the City Clerk's position. Although this matter had been referred to the Operations and Governance Committee at the previous meeting, Mayor Moon felt it was important to discuss the issue in open meeting once more. The matter at hand is whether the position should become an appointed/hired position or remain an elected position. Mayor Moon explained the advantage of Clerk as an appointed position would be that it would allow for the hiring of an individual who possessed most of the qualifications necessary to perform the duties of clerk, be present on a daily basis, and who would stay on with the City rather than the turnover that elections incur. Mayor Moon clarified that appointment would be a hire through Council, not a selection made by him.

*DISCUSSION  
REGARDING  
REPLACEMENT  
OF CITY  
CLERK*

Councilperson Ruth Brown was firm that the matter had been discussed at O&G and sent back to Council and there was no need for further discussion. Because the option of appointment had been on the ballot and voted down by the citizens of the city, Council should not place it back on the ballot so soon.

Motion by Watkins, support by Wolfram, to return the matter back to the O&G for discussion with the City Attorney and City Manager to determine the best option/course of action and make recommendation to Council. Roll call: Councilpersons Sullivan – yes; Watkins – yes; Wolfram – yes; Mayor Moon – yes; Councilpersons – Arnold – no; Bail – yes; Brown – no; Kinney – yes; Sessions – no.

Approved 6-3.

Motion carried.

#### Miscellaneous

- A. Appointments - O&G Chair Ruth Brown reported the following appointments recommended by O&G for Council approval:

Election Commission:

Eldonna Bernath to a 1 year term ending January, 2014

Vera Ladd to a 1 year term ending January, 2014

Ed Swanson to a 1 year term ending January, 2014

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Matt Granata to a term ending November 2017 to coincide with term on EDC

*APPOINTMENTS*

APPOINTMENTS

Shade Tree Commission

Carl "Bud" Heinowski to a term ending November, 2016  
 Maria Bidney to a term ending November, 2017

Board of Special Assessors

Aimee England to a 1 year term ending November, 2013

Cemetery Board

Victoria Ladd to fill a vacancy to expire May, 2017

International Property Maintenance Code Board

Steve Stoll to fill a vacancy expiring January, 2014  
 Al Pitts to a 3 year term ending January, 2016

Board of Review

Bonnie Kyser-Lavelle to a 1 year term ending February, 2014  
 James Hogan to a 1 year term ending February, 2014

Officers Compensation Board

Greg Bailey to a term expiring November, 2017  
 Ed Sumnar to a term expiring November, 2016

Motion by Councilperson Sullivan, support by Councilperson Watkins, to approve the recommended O&G appointments as presented.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

**Proclamations**

None

**Department Reports**

None

**Public Comment**

None

**Council Comment**

None

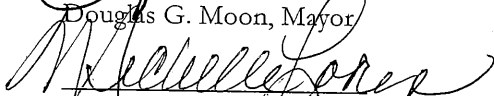
**Adjournment**

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

Motion carried.

7:55 p.m.

  
 Douglas G. Moon, Mayor

  
 Michelle Loren, Deputy Clerk