

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
 February 20, 2017
 7:00 P.M.

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.

Council Members present: Scott M. Sessions, Mayor
 Adam Stockford, Ward 1
 Timothy Dixon, Ward 2
 William Morrissey, Ward 2
 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
 Patrick Flannery, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Brian Watkins, Ward 1
 William Zeiser, Ward 3
 Matthew Bell, Ward 4

Also present were: City Clerk Stephen M. French, City Attorney John Lovinger, City Attorney Tom Thompson, Bonnie Tew (Finance), Kay Freese (HR), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Assistant Chief Mark Hawkins (HCFD), Steve McDowell (HCFD), Corey Burke (HCFD), Russell Picek (HCFD), Mike Barber (BPU), Chris McArthur (BPU), Bill Sedlaceh (Emergency Vehicles Plus), James Warner (Emergency Vehicles Plus), Corey Murray (Hillsdale Daily News), Nic Rowan (Hillsdale Collegian), Penny Swan, Dennis Wainscott, Ray Briner, and Ted Jansen.

Council Member Excused

Mayor Sessions reported Council Member Bell, Council Member Watkins, and Council Member Zeiser wrote they would not be in attendance at the meeting due to work obligations.

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Morrissey, moved to excuse the absence of Council Member Bell, Council Member Watkins, and Council Member Zeiser from the meeting. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to approve the February 20, 2017 agenda as submitted. By a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Mr. Ted Jansen, 104 Hillsdale Street, voiced support for the recommended purchase of the new fire engine and stated the replacement was long over-due for the department. Mr. Jansen donated \$100.00 towards the purchase of the truck.

Ms. Penny Swan, 192 South West Street, also voiced support for the purchase of the fire engine.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City Claims of February 9, 2017: \$266,844.33
 - 2. BPU Claims of February 9, 2017: \$349,570.23
 - 3. Payroll of February 9, 2017: \$154,205.28
- B. City Council Minutes of February 6, 2017
- C. Local Advisory Committee Minutes of February 14, 2017
- D. TIFA Targeted Development Committee Minutes of January 24, 2017
- E. January 2017 Hillsdale Police Group Progress Report

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll call:	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Flannery	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 6-0.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Project Rising Tide Meeting Announcement – February 28, 2017
- B. Parks & Recreation Department’s Baseball Registration for 2017

Mayor Sessions provided the two pieces of correspondence for informational purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinance/Public Hearing

There were no Ordinances or Public Hearings on the agenda.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business on the agenda.

Old Business

There was no Old Business on the agenda.

New Business

- A. Resolution 3304: Resolution of Intent to Apply for State Formula Operating Assistance for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 under Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as Amended

Finance Director Tew provided information on a proposed resolution to seek financial assistance from MDOT under Act 51 for public transportation and the Dial-A-Ride (DART) program. Ms. Tew detailed the funding sources for DART for the 2017-18 fiscal year that included federal funding of 18.5%, state funding of 38.3%, and local funds of 43.2%. Ms. Tew also noted the resolution would designate herself as the city’s Transportation Coordinator.

Council Member Dixon, seconded by Council Member Flannery, moved to adopt Resolution 3304: Resolution of Intent to Apply for State Formula Operating Assistance for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 under Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as Amended

Roll call:	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Flannery	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 6-0.

B. Lot division approval request – South Addition Lot #137

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to approve the Lot division approval request involving the sale of the rear 49.5 feet of 25 E. St. Joe Street, Lot #006-426-327-16, to be added to an adjacent property located at 17 Ludlam Street, parcel #006-426-327-21.

Roll call:	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Flannery	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 6-0.

C. Elimination of the Performance Based Pay System

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flannery, moved to eliminate the Performance Based Pay System.

Roll call:	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Flannery	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 6-0.

D. Quit Claim Deed re: 47 Willow Street

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Morrissey, moved to authorize the City Manager to sign a Quit Claim Deed to Jessica Pickford the property adjacent to 47 Willow Street totaling 0.18 acres.

Roll call:	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Flannery	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 6-0.

- E. Purchase of Fire Engine from Emergency Vehicles Plus and recommendation to Finance Committee to review and recommend a finance option

Council Member Sharp discussed the desperate need for a new fire engine, but questioned the elimination of the 4th full-time firefighter to help fund the purchase of the engine. Council Member Sharp stated the city residents had supported a 2006 charter amendment that required the city maintain four (4) full-time firefighter positions at all times.

City Attorney Lovinger noted a 2007 circuit court decision invalidated the charter provision that was referenced by Council Member Sharp.

Chief Hephner provided detailed information on the personnel changes that had been endorsed by the fire department personnel with the retirement of long-time firefighter Eric Pressler. Chief Hephner stated the personnel savings would be utilize to finance the purchase of the fire engine.

Council Member Morrissey noted the City Council had recently adopted a resolution which placed the highest priority towards public safety in the city. Council Member Morrissey discussed the need for a new fire engine and encouraged Council approval of the recommendation.

Assistant Chief Hawkins, responding to a question from Council Member Stockford, stated the turn-out gear for the firefighters had recently been replaced and a program had been established for the regular replacement of turn-out gear on a timely basis.

Council Member Sharp voiced support for the dedication of all the firefighters and thanked them for the service to the community.

Mayor Sessions also thanked the firefighters for their service and noted the new fire engine was badly needed for the department.

Council Member Dixon, seconded by Council Member Flannery, moved to approve the purchase of fire engine from Emergency Vehicles Plus and direct the Finance Committee to review and recommend a finance option

Roll call:	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Flannery	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 6-0.

General Public Comment

Ms. Penny Swan thanked the city firefighters for their service and thanked Chief Hephner for his leadership of the department.

Mr. Dennis Wainscott also thanked the fire department for their service to the city.

Mr. Ray Briner invited everyone to attend the annual chili cook-off on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the high school. Mr. Briner also voiced support for the purchase of the new fire engine and the need to increase tax rates in the city to fund additional public needs.

Mr. Ted Jansen voiced support for the slogan "It's the People" for the city.

Council Comments

Council Member Flannery stated he had received complaints from a variety of residents in his ward regarding the recent increases in BPU bills.

February 20, 2017

City Council Minutes

Council Member Stockford discussed the new Clemens food processing factory being built in Coldwater and the effect of that new industry on the City of Hillsdale's economy.

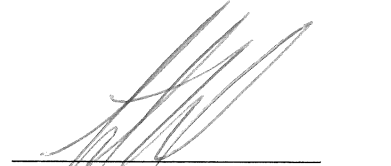
Adjournment

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Sharp, moved to adjourn the meeting. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



Scott M. Sessions, Mayor



Stephen M. French, City Clerk