

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
 April 17, 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 William Zeiser, Ward 3 Matthew Bell, Ward 4 Patrick Flannery, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	Brian Watkins, Ward 1
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Also present were: City Manager David Mackie, City Clerk Stephen M. French, City Attorney John Lovinger, City Attorney Tom Thompson, Bonnie Tew (Finance), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS), Mike Barber (BPU), Chris McArthur (BPU), Scott Pienta (Hillsdale TV), Penny Swan, Dennis Wainscott, and Ray Briner.

Council Member Excused

Mayor Sessions reported Council Member Watkins would not be at the meeting due to work obligations.

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

Approval of Agenda

City Manager Mackie requested the agenda be amended to include correspondence from Ms. Jociel Prendergast, Executive Director of the Hillsdale Housing Commission, announcing her retirement effective May 31, 2017.

City Manager Mackie also requested the appointment of Mr. John Condon to the Economic Development Association (EDC) be removed from the meeting agenda.

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flannery, moved to amend the April 17, 2017 agenda as requested by City Manager Mackie. By a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Morrissey, moved to approve the April 17, 2017 agenda as amended. By a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Penny Swan, 192 S. West Street, questioned to the amount paid to Beckett & Raeder for the TIFA Placemaking Study. Ms. Swan stated the amount paid to the consulting firm could be allocated for higher-prioritized projects.

Mr. Dennis Wainscott, 34 Garden Street, agreed with Ms. Swan and stated the amount paid for the Placemaking Study could have been allocated to more pressing needs of the city.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City Claims of April 7, 2017: \$110,456.40
 - 2. BPU Claims of April 7, 2017: \$118,726.92
 - 3. Payroll of April 6, 2017: \$159,213.66
- B. City Council Minutes of April 3, 2017
- C. Financial Reports for period ending March 31, 2017
- D. March 2017 Code Enforcement Report
- E. March 2017 Hillsdale Policy Group Report

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

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

Motion passed 8-0.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Headwaters Recreational Authority Meeting Notice
- B. Jackson College Early/Middle College Correspondence
- C. City-wide Garage Sales Flyer
- D. Temporary Traffic Control Orders (Information Only)
- E. A.P.P.A. System Reliability Report - BPU
- F. Retirement Notice of Ms. Jociel Prendergast

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinance/Public Hearing

- A. **Resolution 3306:** A Resolution to Change the Regular Election for City Offices from the Odd Year November Regular Election to the Even Year General Election and the Even Year Primary Election Pursuant To MCL 168.642a

Mayor Sessions opened a public hearing at 7:08 p.m. to receive public comment regarding a proposal to change the regular election for city offices from the odd year November regular election to the even year general election and the even year primary election pursuant to MCL 168.642a.

No comments were offered during the public hearing.

Mayor Sessions closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Council Member Stockford voiced approval for the change to even-year elections for city offices, but objected to extending the term of the four, current Council Members by one year. Council Member Stockford recommended Council approve a special election in 2019 and 2021 for one-year terms, which would then allow for local offices to be elected in the even-numbered years.

Council Member Bell voiced support for the staff recommendation, as the change would save the city thousands of dollars in election expenses.

Council Member Zeiser encouraged staff to present a draft ordinance in the upcoming weeks that would provide clarification language which would be attached to the City Charter to reference the change approved by Council.

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to adopt **Resolution 3306**: “A Resolution to Change the Regular Election for City Offices from the Odd Year November Regular Election to the Even Year General Election and the Even Year Primary Election Pursuant To MCL 168.642a”

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Flannery	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	No
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Sessions	Aye

Motion passed 7-1.

Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business on the agenda.

Old Business

A. **Resolution 3307**: A Resolution Establishing City of Hillsdale Neighborhood Enterprise Zone #3 Pursuant To P.A. 147 Of 1992

Council Member Bell voiced support for the resolution, as the NEZ would provide incentives for property owners who wished to rehabilitate blighted homes.

Council Member Sharp also spoke in favor of the resolution that would benefit property owners in Ward 1.

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Flannery, moved to adopt “**Resolution 3307**: A Resolution Establishing City of Hillsdale Neighborhood Enterprise Zone #3 Pursuant To P.A. 147 of 1992.”

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

Motion passed 8-0.

New Business

A. **Resolution 3308:** A Resolution Adopting Changes to City of Hillsdale, Michigan, 457 Deferred Compensation Plan

City Manager Mackie provided detail on the staff recommendation, which would match the city's deferred compensation plan to the options available with the BPU's plan.

Responding to a question from Council Member Zeiser, City Manager Mackie noted the proposed changes would not create any expenses to the City of Hillsdale.

City Manager Mackie also noted the city staff continued to review the city's unfunded pension liabilities and hybrid pension plans that would reduce the city's pension costs.

Council Member Zeiser, seconded by Council Member Flannery, moved to adopt **Resolution 3308:** "A Resolution Adopting Changes to City of Hillsdale, Michigan, 457 Deferred Compensation Plan"

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

Motion passed 8-0.

Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous items on the meeting agenda.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Mackie reported:

1. Mr. Scott Pienta from Hillsdale TV was introduced and asked to address Council later in the meeting.
2. City Council budget work-sessions were scheduled for Tuesday, April 18 and Monday April 24 at 6:00 p.m.
3. A public hearing would be scheduled for May 15, 2017 in regards to an application to construct a new cell phone tower on city-owned property.

BPU Director Barber provided information on the "Excellence in Reliability Award" that the BPU had received from the American Public Power Association.

Council Member Sharp requested staff respond to the questions raised by Ms. Swan earlier in the meeting regarding the TIFA payment to Beckett & Raeder. City Clerk French stated the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) had awarded a grant to TIFA for the recent Placemaking Study. City Clerk French stated the grant paid 50% of the approximate \$30,000 project costs.

Council Member Zeiser discussed the need for a new tower to improve cell service in the area.

Council Member Stockford noted NEZ districts could be used for economic development and to entice township property owners to support annexation into the city.

General Public Comment

Mr. Jack McLain, 1440 Bunn Road, stated the condition of city streets would hinder any efforts of the city to annex adjacent township properties.

Ms. Penny Swan encouraged the city to improve the audio quality in the Council Chambers and stated it was hard to hear what was being said throughout the meeting.

Mr. Pienta, 41 Highland Avenue, introduced himself and provided information on Hillsdale TV. Mr. Pienta stated that although he was an employee of Hillsdale College, the college had no connection or involvement with Hillsdale TV.

Chief Hephner reported the Fire Department had been notified that the Weatherwax Corporation had approved a grant request for the department to purchase a new, battery-operated Jaws of Life extrication tool. Chief Hephner also reported the department had submitted additional grant requests for the purchase of new medical equipment and fire hose for the new engine.

Council Comments

Council Member Flannery, with Finance Committee member's consensus, announced the Finance Committee would be held at 5:40 p.m. on Monday, April 24th instead of the noticed starting time of 5:15 p.m.

Council Member Stockford congratulated Council Member Bell and his wife on the birth of a new child to their family.

Council Member Bell commended Chief Hephner and city staff on their efforts to secure grant funding for equipment for the police and fire departments.


Mayor Sessions also thanked Chief Hephner for obtain grant funding for the new equipment. Mayor Sessions also reminded everyone of the upcoming budget meetings and encouraged Council Members to return their City Manager evaluations by April 21, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Scott M. Sessions, Mayor


Stephen M. French, City Clerk