

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

May 5, 2014  
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 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, Eric Swisher, Ron Foley, Lynn Foley, Edmond Sumner, Jane Englehart, Aimee England, Bethany Miller, Ruth Brown, Taylor Knopf, Eldonna Bernath, Katy Price, Donna Hicht, Tom Condon, Becki Jaeger, Joanne Miller, Lincoln Miller, Shirley VanArsdalen, Allison Hutchinson, Ellen Condict, Carol Lachey, Lorna Holmes, Irene Valentine, Kathy Flaughner, Kimberly Henes, Mike Ritter, Judy Buzo, Casey Sullivan, Nate Rusk, Samuel Nutter, Maria Sernold, Calvin Stockdale, Ted Jansen, Jeffery Turner, Joshua Mercer, Jaminda Springer, Steve Vear, and Christine Levack..

### Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Flannery to approve the May 5, 2014 Agenda with the addition of New Business D: Street Closure for the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker Dedication.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

City Manager Linda Brown thanks all the individuals who supported her position during the contract negotiations. City Manager Brown stated that we find ourselves at a point at which a decision has to be made. She stated that she has always tried to represent the citizens of Hillsdale in such a way as to keep the city as a wholes best interest first. Sometimes in that process she has had to make decisions that are not popular with everyone. City Manager Brown stated that she found herself at a point where she had to make one of the most difficult decisions. During negotiations it has been expressed by council that they are satisfied with my performance and want Linda to stay on as manager. The only stumbling block appears to be the onetime payment of \$15,000.00 into her ICMA. City Manager Brown stated that at one of the recent meetings councilperson Flannery stated that he did not have a problem with the severance package, which he understands cost the city nothing unless she was terminated without cause. City Manager Brown stated that after discussing the matter with her family and after much prayerful consideration she has decided that she cannot in good faith abandon the citizens she has worked for over the past fourteen years, as well as her coworkers, leaving them without management for an unknown period of time. City Manager Brown then stated that accordingly she is withdrawing her request for the onetime payment of \$15,000.00 into her ICMA leaving only the issue of severance in her proposal for a new contract. City Manager Brown again thanked everyone who supported her and said it was very much appreciated.

### Public Comment

Edmond Sumner, member of the fourth ward, stated that he was pleased by City Manager Browns letter. Edmond stated that several previous city managers have had assistant managers, and Jonesville even has an assistant city manager. Edmond stated that he has been told the cost of health insurance is \$10,000.00 annually, which Linda does not take. If you plugged in the cost of health insurance at \$10,000.00 for the assistant city manager, \$30,000.00 for their wages, that is a savings of over \$40,000.00 by having Linda here.

ED  
SUMNER

LINC  
MILLER  
RUTH  
BROWN

Linc Miller, State Street, asked for confirmation from Linda that she withdrew her request for the \$15,000.00 from the contract agreement.

Ruth Brown, County Commissioner 45 Applerun, stated that she felt Linda's integrity and character rises to the top. Ruth stated that Linda did a good thing by putting the city above her own self.

DDN  
HOFFMAN

Don Hoffman, 20 Elm Hill, stated he had served the city for over 30 years in various capacities. Don stated that he has known many city managers and that the city has a jewel in Linda. He went on to state that he thought it was ridiculous that they were squabbling over \$15,000.00 for a woman of her capacity. Don challenged council to overlook Linda's letter and give her that money, or at least a token amount of that money even though she has withdrawn the request. Mr. Hoffman stated that he didn't think that any one of council would not ask for some kind of pension if in her position. He went on to ask council to step up and do the right thing and put her needs first as she has put the cities above her own.

SHIRLEY  
VANARSDALEN

Shirley VanArsdalen, 90 South Street, stated that she did not agree with Linda's severance package. Shirley stated that she feels the contract is not fair and that she thinks the city should get someone young in the position. She also stated that they may have new ideas. Shirley went on to state that she worked as the city managers secretary from 1976 to 1979 and the city manager did not have an assistant at that time. Shirley stated that one of the council people that she called did not return her call and she felt that was a poor representation.

STEVEN  
SMITH

Steven Smith, 136 Hillcrest, addressed the elimination of the police officer position in the budget. Steven stated that he would like to see that position kept in place. Steven also stated that he would like the cars parking on the lawn issue to be addressed with residents, as well as the noise ordinance.

JUDY  
BUZO

Judy Buzo, Dial A Ride, stated that she has worked for the city for 37 years and during that time has worked with 6 city managers, and Linda by far has the most integrity. Judy stated that the Dial A Ride building cost \$784,000.00 of which the city only had to pay about \$30,000.00 because of Linda and Bonnie's hard work.

SHELBY  
DOWNY

Shelly Downy, 28 West Hallet Street, stated that she has lived in the city for 27 years and feels the elimination of a police officer position could cut down on response times, which are very important. She also stated that in the 13 years she has worked at the Hillsdale County Sheriff's department she has seen the changes in the levels of crime and she has also seen the detriment of fewer officers on the job and the stress it puts on the remaining officers. Shelly stated that having more officers on the job will reduce overtime since complaints will be handled in a timely manner with very little carry over to the next shift. Shelly asked that council support the position of the dayshift patrol officer.

LORNA  
HOLMES

Lorna Holmes, 100 Westwood Street, commended the City Manager for withdrawing her request for the \$15,000.00. She also stated that council should consider getting someone younger for the city manager position after Linda's contract is up, for financial reasons as well as the possibility of bringing new ideas to the city.

JEFF  
TURNER

Jeff Turner, 33 North Norwood, stated that experience speaks volumes of the city manager position. He stated that knowing the intricacies of the city in which we live is close to invaluable. Jeff suggests council negotiate an amount to give Linda to show their support of her. He went on to state that he felt Linda deserved to be a winner and felt council should give her a token to show their appreciation of her and the job she does.

ALLISON  
HUTCHINSON

Allison Hutchinson, 21 North Norwood, thanked Linda for withdrawing her request and for the work that she is doing. Allison stated that she would like to know what a drastic reduction in expenditures is to look like. Mrs. Hutchinson also stated that she is interested in hearing the cities ideas on the reductions that City Manager Brown stated need to be made. Allison also stated that at our current rate cash reserves will be depleted by 2017, so she feels the city needs to look at all possibilities to resolve the issues.

TOM  
CONDON

Tom Condon, CHBW, explained why council should go with their bid rather than the other lower bid.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills from April 25, 2014: Claims of \$78,818.78 Payroll of \$86,114.71
- B. Committee Reports (Pending Approval):
  - Operations & Governances Minutes of 4-4-14 & 4-9-14
  - Election Commission Minutes of 4-7-14
  - Operation & Governances Minutes of 4-28-14
- C. Council Minutes 4-21-14
- D. Quarterly Investment Report

Motion by Councilperson Davis, supported by Councilperson Watkins, 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

City Manager Linda Brown requests the removal of restrictions that were made on February 17, 2014 on the Deputy Clerk allowing her to perform all duties of the City Clerk in the Clerks absence.

City Attorney Lew Loren stated that Robilyn has a conflict in terms of her time which led her to submit her resignation which she later withdrew. City Attorney Loren stated that they met with Robilyn and she is willing to accommodate the City by continuing in the Clerks role, but in order to make sure all clerk duties are fulfilled the restrictions on the Deputy Clerk need to be lifted. City Attorney stated that the importance of this is that if you do not have a Clerk, you do not have a Deputy Clerk, which means you will have no Clerk at all, and because of the way the Charter is worded you won't have a Clerk until the next election which is in November. City Attorney Loren went on to state that Robilyn's willingness to work with the City for the benefit of the City and Michelle's willingness to step into that role on a heavier basis will cover that.

Councilperson Davis stated, for clarification of the past, that the restrictions originally came from the City Manager, because she wanted restrictions on the Deputy Treasurer and the Deputy Clerk so they would not be overly imposed on.

City Attorney Loren stated that this will solve the issue for now but Council is going to have to look at the current set up of the Charter and decide what kinds, if any, of changes they want to make to it in order to avoid this kind of a problem in the future. This has occurred in the past and could occur again.

REMOVE  
RESTRICT  
IONS  
OF  
DEPUTY  
CLERK

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Davis, to remove all restrictions on the Deputy Clerk. Roll call: Councilperson Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

### Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

#### A. Public Hearing – OPRA (Resolution)

City Manager Linda Brown recommends that council, subsequent to the public hearing, pass the Resolution approving the application of grant funding for the Rental rehab Program as identified in the application for 10 years.

PUBLIC  
HEARINGS  
OPRA  
RENTAL  
REHAB  
RES#  
3168

Motion by Councilperson Flannery, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to pass the Resolution Approving the application of grant funding for the Rental Rehab Program. Resolution # 3168 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.

#### B. Public Hearing – Transfer of IFT to Precision Gage, LLC (Resolution)

City Manager Linda Brown recommended Council pass the Resolution approving the IFT transfers. City Manager Brown stated that if Council chooses not to grant the transfers the certificates would be removed effective with the 2014 tax year resulting in an additional burden of \$47,000 to the property owner with approximately \$21,000 allocated to the City. That \$21,000, as noted by the Assessor, would only be returned if none of the currently abated equipment is removed from the facility. The purchaser of this industry is a subsidiary of Metal Technologies, Inc. located in Auburn, Indiana. In the event Council does not approve the transfers, the reasons for the denial must be stated in the resolution.

PUBLIC  
HEARINGS  
IFT  
PRECISION  
GAGE  
RES#  
3169

Jeff Turner, Senior Vice President of Metal Technologies stated that Mark Jagger is leading the effort at this time and he is a Hillsdale resident. The previous owners are still

employed with the company and it is a positive working relationship. Mr. Turner went on to explain about what the company does. He assured the Council that they have maintained the staff at Precision Gage and anticipate that will continue and plan to expand the company as well.

City Manager Linda Brown stated that the Assessor will be in contact with the company's attorney because before the state will accept an IFT the City has to have a contract, which basically says that if there are certain job creation levels or investments, that those things are included too. City Manager Brown stated that in the event Council approves this that contract will be presented to the company's attorney and will then need Mayor and Clerks signatures, so she suggests Council authorized those signatures of future documents as well.

Mary Wolfram, Economic Development, stated that the Assessor asked her to answer any questions on her behalf. Kim wanted Council to know that this transfer is essentially no increase or decrease in tax abatement.

Motion by Councilperson Kinney, supported by Councilperson Watkins, to approve the IFT Transfers and authorize the signatures of the Mayor and Clerk on future document that pertain to these transfers. Resolution # 3169 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.

C. Public Hearing 2014-15 Budget (Resolution)

City Manager Linda Brown, subsequent to the public hearing, recommends Council pass the budget and the Resolution levying taxes for the following year to pay for the expenditures contained in the budget. City Manager Brown stated that the budget will then become the blueprint for all expenditures for the fiscal 2014-15. City Manager Brown stated that the Budget has been available in the Library, on our website, and at the Clerk's office since early-April.

Bethany Miller, 130 State Street, stated that she would like to see Council enact a Tax Payer Bill of Rights. Bethany told how it would work and possibly how it might help fund the repairs to the streets.

Ted Jansen, 104 Hillsdale Street, stated that the cut in police force makes him concerned with the safety of the citizens of Hillsdale, as well as the officers on duty, if these services are cut.

Mary Wolfram stated that the city has had no growth, with the exception of health care, we are actually operating under decreased revenue. Mary stated that nobody wants to cut a police officer, but municipalities have to balance their budget, so if that officer is not cut that money has to come from somewhere else.

Aimee England, interrupts, point of information, to state that Mary Wolfram is addressing the public and not the Council, and would like Council to have her redirect her comments otherwise it is a presentation.

Edward Sumner asked Council what percent of the total budget is the police department.

City Manager Brown responded that Public Safety is a third of the budget.

Josh Mercer, Budlong Street, agreed with a lot of what Mary said. Josh stated that over a course of 9-10 years employees naturally want cost of living increases in their wages. Josh stated that citizens need to talk to their representatives in Lansing and not just immediately blame our City Council member.

Joann Miller, 189 State Street, stated that City Manager Linda Brown for the past three years as well as this year is going with the same salary package. Joann thanked Linda for helping the City by maintaining her salary package.

Shirley VanArsdalen, 90 South Street, asked how much was going to be cut from the administrative salaries. Shirley stated that she felt cuts should start at the top and come down rather than at the bottom and go up.

Keith Miller, State Street, stated that he thinks the City should cut a police officer in order to meet the needs of the budget.

Bruce Sharp, 80 Westwood Street, stated that the police officers were there for his son and that when canvassing the city public safety has been the number one concern.

Doug Moon, 123 State Street, stated that the City has done a good job at trimming the budget down in the past, but it has gotten to a point where services are going to have to be cut. Doug stated that citizens do not want any more coming out of their pockets and if that is the case then services are going to have to be cut at some point.

Councilperson Watkins stated that everything everyone said makes sense and nobody wants to make any decisions that are detrimental to anyone's employment. He went on

Public  
HEARING  
2014-15  
BUDGET

to state that if there is an upside; it is that there was already a vacancy in the police department so no one will be losing their job, the vacancy will just not be filled. Councilperson Watkins also stated that looking at the budget there is nowhere else to cut that won't directly impact someone's job.

Councilperson Flannery states that he would like to be able to have a work session to be able to discuss the police position.

Councilperson Davis stated that she would also like a work session since this is the first time the public has been able to comment on the issues concerning the budget.

Motion by Councilperson Davis, supported by Councilperson Stockford, to table the City Budget resolution until the May 19, 2014 Council Meeting and schedule a work session for Monday May 12, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Roll call: Councilpersons Flannery – yes; Kinney – no; Stockford – yes; Watkins – no; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes.

TABLE  
RES. ~~##~~  
UNTIL  
MAY 19,  
2014  
BUDGET

Approved 5-2.

Motion carried.

Councilperson Watkins stated that he is not, not in favor of exploring other options for cuts to the budget, but it seems that every time this Council gets a difficult decision it gets tabled. Councilperson Watkins stated that the information on what was going to be cut has been out for more than a week, and there has been plenty of time to talk to people to find out the details of this. That is why there are packets given out. Councilperson Watkins stated that he will attend and participate in the meeting but he feels at some point Council needs to get their information before the meeting and make a decision at the meeting. There are a lot of hard decisions need to be made and if we continue on this pattern Council will never get anything done.

#### Unfinished Business

- A. Local Streets Maintenance -None
- B. Code Enforcement.  
City Manager Linda Brown stated that the house on Waldron is down.
- C. Clerk / Treasurer Duties and Hours

#### Old Business

- A. Award of Contract for Audit Services

City Manager Linda Brown recommended Council consider all information in light of the in-depth investigation conducted by Finance Director Tew and make a decision tonight so as to allow the auditors to begin preparations prior to June 30, 2014 for the 2014 audit.

Councilperson Flannery stated that he looked through and did research into all the companies that submitted bids for the audit contract. When looking into Gabridge he found 4 errors, in the 20 audit reports that he reviewed, on required disclosures on the financial statements. Gabridge admitted making the errors but considered them minor errors. Gabridge said they had corrected the problem for the second calendar quarter of 2013. Councilperson Flannery stated that one of the errors he found was in September of 2013 which is after Gabridge said they had corrected the problem. This is why Councilperson Flannery says he continues to have an issue with it. Councilperson Flannery stated he feel this speaks of quality, and the City needs to be sure they are hiring a company to do the job well. Councilperson Flannery feels that in light of all his research the better company to award the bid to would be CHBW.

Councilperson Watkins stated that there is no way with the budget we have that he can justify spending almost 30% more on an audit firm. The City is talking about not having a police officer, the City does not have the luxury of spending 30% more on this. Councilperson Watkins stated that he appreciated that it is a local firm and would like to award it to a local firm, but they need to come in within the 3% rule.

Councilperson Davis asked for confirmation purposes if the local firm was cheaper than the Spring Arbor firm that the City has been using for years. It was confirmed that it true. Councilperson Davis stated that with that there is still a savings it is just not as big of a savings. Councilperson Davis stated that she would not want the City to get a low quality firm and make Bonnie's job even harder. Councilperson Davis asked why Councilperson Flannery is worried about Gabridge and Bonnie is not worried about them.

AWARD  
CONTRACT  
CHBW  
AUDIT  
SERVICES

Financial Director Bonnie Tew stated that the reason she is not worried is because she spoke with three municipalities that had used Gabridge and they had nothing negative to say about them.

Councilperson Davis asked Bonnie if the municipalities that she had talked to were any of the four that had the letters of contention. Financial Director Bonnie Tew stated that they were not.

Councilperson Flannery stated that their peer review that was done was done before the current quality standards were in place. Councilperson Flannery noted that the opinion letter is the most important thing. Councilperson Flannery stated that if the City goes to do a bond issue several years of financial audits will be required and we want them to be right so as to not cause us future problems. Councilperson Flannery stated that he knows this is an extra \$4,670 per year that the City is looking at and he does not take spending money lightly, but he has looked at this in detail and he feels strongly about his decision on this. Councilperson Flannery stated that he would even offer up his salary to pay for it that is how strongly he feels about his decision.

Councilperson Davis stated that with tough financial times ahead she would like to see the City hire a top notch firm to handle these things.

City Manager Linda Brown asked Bonnie what the difference in price was between the Willis and Jurasek firm and CHBW.

Mary Wolfram stated that the difference was about \$2,000.

Motion by Councilperson Flannery, supported by Councilperson Davis, to award the Audit Services Contract to CHBW. Roll call: Councilpersons Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – no; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes.

Approved 6-1.

Motion carried.

B. City Manager Contract

CITY MANAGER CONTRACT  
 City Manager Linda Brown stated that this is the last Council meeting prior to the expiration of the existing contract. Accordingly, Council must make take action if they want to continue to have management services for the City. City Manager Brown stated that she will not be involved in this decision and will refer the matter to the Chairperson of the O&G Committee, Councilperson Watkins.

Chairperson Watkins stated that given the overwhelming support expressed by the public, the committee's unanimous agreement on Linda's performance and the clear financial savings reflected in her contract, the Operations and Governances Committee recommends that Council approve the contract with Linda Brown and authorize the Mayor and Clerk's signatures pending review and confirmation by the City Attorney that the terms of the new contract reflect the terms of the current contract, with the exception of the changes indicated here. Length: 1 year with an automatic 2<sup>nd</sup> year if neither party acts to negate the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Severance: A severance amount to equal 6-months pay (\$45,000) or the balance of her remaining contract, whichever is less, should she be terminated without cause.

Councilperson Davis stated she was curious what the cession plan is. The contract goes for 2 years so on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2 years from now Linda's contract is over and there has been no prevision made for a one month part time pay position for Linda to introduce a new City Manager to the position. Councilperson Davis stated that this may not be a traditional plan but she feels we need to have some creative ideas going forward. She also stated that the review mechanism has still not been corrected to include more of a broad 360 degree review, and she would like to see this corrected.

Councilperson Watkins stated that the review process is on the list to improve. Councilperson Watkins also stated that the cession plan is a good idea and can certainly be looked into, but he does not feel it needs to be hammered out right now.

Councilperson Flannery stated that he is in favor of the severance package because it caps the liability on the City.

Councilperson Watkins thanked Linda for her statement at the beginning of the meeting, and he feels it represents her continuing sacrifice for the best interest of the City.

Mayor Sessions asked for clarification of the severance package which Councilpersons Watkins and Davis explained to him.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Kinney, to approve the City Manager Contract as presented pending review by the City Attorney. Roll call: Councilperson Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – no; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes.

Approved 6-1.

Motion carried.

**New Business**

A. BPU Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan

City Manager Linda Brown recommends that Council set a public hearing for June 10, 2014 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers to be held during the BPU meeting.

Motion by Councilperson Flannery, supported by Councilperson Watkins, to set a Public Hearing for June 10, 2014 at 7:00 pm in chambers during BPU meeting.

All Ayes

Motion carried.

B. Request for Street Closures - Hillsdale College

City Manager Linda Brown recommends Council listen to the College representative provide his reasoning for why the closures are for public purposes and if satisfied, authorize the closures. City Manager Brown also recommends Council authorize the signatures of the Mayor and Clerk on a Use Agreement if necessary.

City Attorney Lew Loren clarified that the closures did not have to be for a public purpose, but need to be for a public benefit.

Councilperson Davis asked what the precedent had been in the past.

City Attorney Loren stated that by law a public street cannot be closed for personal use and having the party requesting the closure state the public benefit has not been done in the past but he felt it needs to be.

Bill Worley, Director of Campus Security and Emergency Management, Stated the first closure is for a ground breaking ceremony for the new Ceral Center. Mr. Worley stated that this is an expansion and improvement on the Curtis Dining Hall and the Philip Auditorium. Mr. Worley stated that the college is expanding these facilities to accommodate some activities that not only the college holds there but also public events that are held there, such as the Hillsdale Health Center and The National Rifle Association. Mr. Worley stated the basic benefit of the closure is safety. Mr. Worley stated the second closure is for the commencement ceremony. Mr. Worley stated the main public benefit for this closure is the safety of the public coming to and from the ceremony. Mr. Worley stated that if the weather is clement the street will not be closed because the ceremony will be held in the Bierman Center.

Councilperson Watkins asked, for clarification, if this had been done in the past.

City Manager Brown stated that in the past these requests did not come before Council, but instead were handled by the Public Safety Director.

Councilperson Watkins asked Mr. Worley if it was necessary to close the street for 8 hours for the commencement ceremony.

Mr. Worley stated that it will probably not be closed for that long, but should be open before 6:00 pm.

Councilperson Davis asked if in the future there is some way to simplify this process so Mr. Worley, or others wanting closures, do not have to come to Council to present the public benefit of the closure.

City Attorney Loren stated that there could be a form fashioned so that the person requesting the closure would put on it the purpose and the benefit and that could be submitted to Council.

STREET  
CLOSURE  
HILLSDALE  
COLLEGE

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Davis, to approve Street Closure Requests by Hillsdale College, whereas they have proven a public benefit of these closures, and Council authorizes the signatures of the Mayor and Clerk on a Use Agreement. Roll call: Councilpersons Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Bail – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

RES#  
3170  
APPROVED

- C. Airport Expansion – Contract for Professional Engineering Services (Resolution)  
City Manager Linda Brown recommends Council pass the Resolution and authorize signatures on the contract with RS&H Michigan, INC. subject to legal review.

Motion by Councilperson Flannery, supported by Councilperson Bail, to approve the Airport Expansion Contract Resolution as presented subject to legal review. Resolution # 3170. Roll call: Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

- D. Request for Street Closures – Hillsdale Garden Club  
City Manager Linda Brown recommends that the Mayor read the Proclamation recognizing June 1-7, 2014 as National Garden Week. City Manager Brown also states that she approves the request for street closure if it is determined on record by Council that the closure is a benefit to the general public. City Manager Brown recommends Council also authorize signatures on a Use Agreement to be prepared by the City Attorney.

Becki Jaeger, District IIA Director of Michigan Garden Club Inc. and Local Chairman of the Blue Star Memorial Dedication, stated that they are requesting closure of Howell Street between McCullum and Bacon between the hours of 8:00 am and noon on June 14, 2014 for the Blue Star Memorial Dedication Ceremony. Mrs. Jaeger stated this closure would benefit the whole community by holding a ceremony honoring all Veterans and proclaiming June 1-7, 2014 National Garden Week.

Mayor Sessions read the proclamation declaring June 1-7, 2014 as National Garden Week.

Motion by Councilperson Davis, supported by Councilperson Watkins, to approve the Street Closure for the Blue Star Memorial Dedication Ceremony, whereas they have proven it to be a benefit to the community. Roll call: Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes Kinney – yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes.

Approved 7-0.

Motion carried.

#### Miscellaneous

##### **Appointments:**

Carol Lackey to the Cemetery Board  
Term- 5/2014 – 5/2019

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to appoint Carol Lackey to the Cemetery Board.

All Ayes

Motion carried.

#### General Public Comment

Don Hoffman stated that he was not impressed with his first view of this Council. Mr. Hoffman stated that three members of Council did not even participate, and by doing this you do not let the people you represent know your opinions on things. Mr. Hoffman stated he disagreed with Councils decision on the Audit Service Contract. Mr. Hoffman stated he would like to see more discussion and he asked if Councilperson Flannery meant what he said when he stated that he would donate his salary to offset the cost of the Audit Contract.

Councilperson Flannery stated that he did.

Allison Hutchinson, 21 North Norwood, stated that leading up to the council meeting she asked questions via email of several council members and received lengthy and helpful responses. Mrs. Hutchinson thanked Council for that participation.

STREET  
CLOSURE  
HILLS-  
GARDEN  
CLUB

APPOINT-  
MENT

DON  
HOFF-  
MAN



Jaminda Springer, 89 South Howell, thanked Council, the Mayor, and City Manager for what they do, and stated that she liked the way this council is working.

Aimee England, 100 South West Street, stated she would like to see the rest of Council follow Councilperson Flannery's lead in putting his money where his mouth is. Aimee England stated that in the current budget crunch she feels Council should look at themselves and realize that they are elected to serve rather than a job and this is not a job that you should not get paid for. Aimee England asked that a former councilmember and active member on several boards and in the community be recognized, as he has passed away, with a moment of silence. (Moment of silence)

Doug Moon, 123 State Street, stated that there were a lot of opportunities to discuss the budget as all the committees had meetings on it. Mr. Moon stated that many council members did not attend these meetings and now with the deadline close there really is no time to make any changes to it. He stated that he did not see the point in another meeting to discuss it. Council members need to do their homework before council meetings and attend the committee meetings to have input ahead of time, rather than adding another meeting.

Eric Swisher, 126 South Manning Street, commended everyone for doing the job they do as governing officials, and with that being said the City governing officials are held to a higher standard than most of us are due to the position you hold. Mr. Swisher stated that the way you walk, talk, drive, etc. speaks to the person you are and the decisions you may make, so just remember people are paying attention to what you do. Mr. Swisher also stated that there has been discussion on blight in the city and wondered if the city hasn't helped create that problem by allowing single family home to be turned into apartment houses, which are rented to lower income people who generally do not care to keep up the houses or yards. Mr. Swisher asked if maybe there is a way for the city to enact some sort of ordinance to limit these types of properties and maybe even as these properties are sold to require the new owners to revert them back to single family dwellings.

Steve Vear, 275 West Bacon, commended Councilperson Flannery for bringing up the issue with the audit, and stated that the \$28,000 could turn into \$100,000 if the firm were to make a mistake, so he felt the right decision had been made. Mr. Vear also stated that he feels that if a local business is within 10% we should be supporting our local businesses because those businesses are supporting the local community.

### Council Comment

Councilperson Davis stated that on one hand Council is criticized for violating the open meetings act and on the other hand they are criticized for holding open work sessions. We tend to be criticized no matter what, and this is the slow process of conducting open public meetings for discussion.

Councilperson Flannery reminded the public that tomorrow is Election Day and encouraged everyone to get out there and vote.

Mayor Sessions also encouraged everyone to get out there and vote.

### Adjournment


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

All ayes

Motion carried.

9:32 p.m.

  
Scott M. Sessions, Mayor

  
Robilyn Swisher, City Clerk