

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

May 19, 2014
7:00 p.m.
(517)437-6441
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.

New Councilmembers Bruce Sharp and Timothy Wells take their oaths of office.

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 members Sally Kinney and Timothy Wells representing Ward Two; Council members Emily Stack Davis and Bruce Sharp representing Ward Three; and Council members Patrick Flannery and Mary Beth Bail representing Ward Four.

Also present were City Clerk Robilyn Swisher, City Attorney Kevin Shirk, Keith Richard, Matt Durr, Lynn Foley, Aimee England, Ruth Brown, Sally Fallon, Judy Buzo, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Shirley Vaninsdale, Samuel Nutter, Nate Rusk, Jaminda Springer, James Scheibner, Richard, Smith, Mary Wolfram, Alan Beeker, Julie Beeker, and Ted Jansen

Mayor Sessions states that the City Manager will not be in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Davis to approve the May 19, 2014 Agenda as presented.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Ruth Brown, 45 Applerun, urged the council to not cut a police officer position. Ruth Brown also urged council to instruct the City Manager to instruct the Finance Director to look at other options for cutting the Budget.

Josh Mercer, 140 Budlong Street, stated he was happy to see the agenda items concerning houses suffering from blight. Josh also stated that he would like to see council move towards making the treasurer and clerk positions able to be appointed, by either the Mayor or Council, in the instance of one of them resigning before the end of their term. Josh also stated that he appreciated the work Council had done on the Budget.

Jaminda Springer, 89 South Howell, explained how she feels Council can cut the Budget and still keep the General Fund Reserve at the minimum 15% of the General Fund Budget. Jaminda suggests that each department cut their budget by 2.61% to achieve this.

Ted Jansen, 104 Hillsdale Street, stated he would like to see the Council find a way to keep the officer position in the budget, and if not that they set a meeting soon to try to get it back in the budget.

Doug Ingles, 20 Vine Street, stated that he was in favor of the parking restrictions on Vine Street because he feels it is a safety concern.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills from May 8, 2014: Claims of \$124,778.39 Payroll of \$94,316.62
Invoice Distribution Report 5-8-14

- B. Committee Reports (Pending Approval):
Cemetery Minutes of May 5, 2014
- C. Council Minutes 5-5-14
- D. April 2014 Financial Reports

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Stockford, to approve the Consent agenda as presented. Roll call: Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Sharp- yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Wells-Yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

Communications and Petitions

Sally Fallon, Mrs. Stock's Park, reviewed the history of the park and listed the many improvements that have been done to the park. Mrs. Fallon also stated the many events that are held at the park during all seasons. Mrs. Fallon listed many donors and thanked them and the entire community for their support of the park. Mrs. Fallon stated that when visitors or new companies come to look at our city as a place they may want to settle in, we can point to Mrs. Stock's Park as one of our gems that represents the spirit and the beauty of the City of Hillsdale. She also stated that there will be an ice cream social held on August 10, 2014 from 2:00 pm till 5:00 pm to celebrate 10 years and the whole community is invited to attend.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Unfinished Business

- A. Local Streets Maintenance –
Councilperson Flannery stated that he would like to see Council move forward with the plan that was brought to Council listing all of the possibilities for funding the streets. Councilperson Flannery stated that he would like to have this referred to the Public Service Committee to review and for them to give Council some direction on where to go with the street plan.

Motion by Councilperson Flannery, supported by Councilperson Stockford to refer the Street Plan List to the Public Service Committee for review.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

- B. Code Enforcement.
New Enforcements –April 2014
Closed Enforcements
Open Enforcements
PD Code Violations April 2014
- C. Clerk / Treasurer Duties and Hours

Old Business

- A. 2014-15 City Budget
City Manager Linda Browns recommendation states that she recommends Council adopt the budget as originally presented by passing the enclosed Resolutions.
Councilperson Watkins stated that Council had a really good work session, but the bottom line is that the City needs to adopt a budget by June 1st. Councilperson Watkins suggests that Council pass the budget as it is and continue working on it after it is passed.

SALLY
FALLON

2014-15
CITY
BUDGET
RES # 31-71
APPROVED

Councilperson Davis agrees that the budget should be voted through but states that Council needs to immediately set a date for another work session to continue working on it.

Councilperson Flannery agrees with Emily in voting the budget through but also setting a meeting to continue working on it immediately.

Motion by Councilperson Davis, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the City Budget as presented Resolution # 3171. Roll call: Councilperson Wells – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Sharp- yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

B. Levy for City Budget

Motion by Councilperson Davis, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the Levy for the City Budget as presented Resolution #3172. Roll call: Councilpersons Watkins – yes; Wells – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Sharp- yes; Stockford – yes.

RES#
3172
APPROVED

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Davis, supported by Councilperson Flannery to set a work session meeting to discuss the Budget for May 29, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

New Business

A. Parking on Vine Street

City Manager Linda Brown recommends that Council act on the Resolution which is included in the TCO to make this a permanent Traffic Order.

Councilperson Stockford stated that all the houses on Vine Street do have driveways to park in.

Councilperson Flannery Stated that the Ward 4 residents on that street are in favor of this order.

Councilperson Davis inquired if anyone had spoken with the church that is on the corner of Vine Street. It was determined that they had not been contacted about the order being made permanent, but no one has complained and the order has been in place for several months.

NO
PARKING
ON
VINE ST
RES #
3173

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Stockford, to approve the Traffic Control Order for Vine Street as presented, Resolution #3173. Roll call: Councilpersons Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Wells – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Sharp- yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

B. Set Public Hearing for Metallist, Inc IFT

City Manager Linda Brown recommends Council set a public hearing for June 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm as the date and time for public input regarding the issuance of the exemption.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Sharp to set a Public Hearing for Metallist, Inc IFT for June 16, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

All ayes.

Motion carried.

C. Fee Schedule Changes

City Manager Linda Brown recommends that Council adopt the fee schedule again to include the suggested changes.

FEE SCHEDULE CHANGE

Motion by Councilperson Davis, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the Fee Schedule Changes as presented. Roll call: Councilpersons Sharp- yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Wells – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

D. Declaration of Public Nuisance – 55 S. Broad Street

City Manager Linda Brown recommends that Council pass the Resolution to proceed with the correction of the violations. The problem is that the costs of demolition would be paid by the City and added to the tax roll. If the City owned the property we would be eligible for monies through the State of Michigan CDBG funding. However, the City does not own the property so that is a consideration as well.

Councilperson Watkins asked Assessor Kim Thomas to explain the CDBG funding. City Assessor Thomas stated that there are state grants that the City could apply for.

Councilperson Stockford stated that he talked to the person who owns the house. The owner stated that he did not know there were any issues with the house because he doesn't live in the house.

City Assessor Thomas stated that this was the first she had heard that he did not live at the house since the owner is claiming it as his principal residence.

DECLARE Public NUISANCE 55 S. BROAD ST. RES# 3174

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Flannery, to approve the Declaration of Public Nuisance for 55 S. Broad Street as presented, Resolution # 3174. Roll call: Councilpersons Kinney – yes; Sharp- yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Wells – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes; Flannery – yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

E. Declaration of Public Nuisance – 17 Ludlam Street

City Manager Linda Brown recommends Council pass the resolution to proceed with the correction of the violations. However, the same problem exists with this property as well as 55 S. Broad, how does the demolition get paid by the City. If the City owned the property we would be eligible for monies through the State of Michigan CDBG funding.

Motion by Councilperson Watkins, supported by Councilperson Sharp, to approve the Declaration of Public Nuisance for 17 Ludlam Street as presented, Resolution # 3175. Roll call: Councilpersons Flannery – yes; Kinney – yes; Sharp- yes; Stockford – yes; Watkins – yes; Wells – yes; Mayor Sessions – yes; Councilpersons Bail – yes; Stack-Davis – yes.

Approved 9-0.

Motion carried.

Miscellaneous

PUBLIC NUISANCE 17 LUDLAM ST. RES# 3175

Citywide Garage Sales

General Public Comment

Richard Smith, 63 South Broad, commended the new City Assessor and Council for responding quickly to the complaints on the property on South Broad.

Mary Wolfram, 3 Corona Circle, explained how Detroit is handling the great number of homes in blight. Mary also stated that the citywide garage sales are not run by the city but more of a time where there are a lot of garage sales in the city. Mary also reminded citizens who are having garage sales to not post their signs on utility poles.

Council Comment

Councilperson Watkins welcomed new councilmembers.

Councilperson Davis asked if there was a possibility for joint committee meetings that would meet the OMA.

City Attorney Kevin Shirk stated that if Council all want to be present at a meeting and have input and act that is essentially a Council Meeting not a committee meeting. You can have more Council Meetings if Council votes to do so.

Councilperson Davis stated that she felt discouraged that she got no response from the City Manager or the City Attorney when she brought the subject up before.

Councilperson Watkins stated that he could see Councilperson Davis's point, but when committees meet there could be a lot of stuff to go through. The purpose of the committees is to weed out things and narrow the list of things that are brought before Council for discussion.

Councilperson Stockford commended all of the men and women who put their time and effort into making Stock's Park a beautiful place.

Mayor Sessions welcomed the new councilmembers.

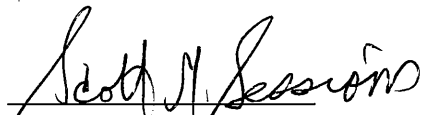
Adjournment

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

All ayes

Motion carried.

8:01 p.m.


Scott M. Sessions, Mayor


Robilyn Swisher, City Clerk