

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City of Hillsdale  
November 7, 2016  
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, Kay Freese (HR), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS), Mike Barber (BPU), Chris McArthur (BPU), Bonnie Tew (Finance), Jason Walters (Patriot Aviation), Doug Baker (Patriot Aviation), Jociel Prendergast (Hillsdale Housing Commission), Andy Barrand (Hillsdale Daily News), Brandon Thomas, Martha Smith, Ashley Signor, Mark Bogteki, Ray Briner, David Sliff, Nic Rowan (Hillsdale Collegian), Kimm Burger, Richard Wunsch, Dennis Wainscott, Jeff King, and Penny Swan.

**Council Member Excused**

Mayor Sessions stated he had received notice from Council Member Watkins indicating he would not be able to attend the meeting due to a work obligation.

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**

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Flannery, moved to approve the November 7, 2016 agenda as presented. By a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Jeff King voiced objection to the appointments of Ms. Ginger Moore and Mr. Brad Lowry to the Airport Advisory Board (AAB). Mr. King stated the appointment of Ms. Moore would establish a conflict of interest, as Ms. Moore is an employee of Patriot Aviation, the company that manages the airport. Mr. King stated Mr. Lowry was not a tenant of the airport, a city resident, and not an active pilot. Mr. King also argued the biography of Mr. Lowry was not included in the City Council agenda packet and not available for public review.

Ms. Penny Swan, argued the biographies of recommended board & commission members should be included with the City Council agenda packets. Ms. Swan also voiced support for the “Baby Box” and the “No Shave November” agenda items. Ms. Swan finalized her comments by encouraging the inclusion of the phrase “It’s the People” on the city’s new entrance sign.

Mr. Dennis Wainscott noted the new city entrance signs were too small and needed better lighting for passing motorists to see.

Ms. Ashley Signor, 414 Village Green Boulevard, objected to the new entrance signs that reflected only Hillsdale College. Ms. Signor stated the City of Hillsdale encompassed much more than just the college.

### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City Claims of October 21, 2016: \$150,934.60
  - 2. BPU Claims of October 21, 2016: \$217,453.73
  - 3. Payroll of October 21, 2016: \$101,500.86
  - 4. Payroll of November 3, 2016: \$95,645.32
- B. City Council Minutes of October 17, 2016
- C. EDC Minutes of August 18, 2016
- D. EDC – Architectural Control Committee of September 12, 2016
- E. Shade Tree Committee Minutes of October 12, 2016
- F. Election Commission Minutes of July 20, 2016
- G. Cemetery Board Minutes of May 4, 2016
- H. Code Enforcement Report – October 2016
- I. Monthly Financial Report – September 30, 2016
- J. Hillsdale Policy Group Monthly Report – October 2016
- K. Unpaid Code Enforcement Fees Report

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

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

Motion passed 8-0.

### Communications/Petitions

#### A. Hillsdale Housing Commission Report

Director Jociel Prendergast provided a brief review of the Hillsdale Housing Commission, a Public Housing Authority which managed the Hilltop Apartment complex. Ms. Prendergast stated the apartment complex was 100% occupied and was comprised of 60 units, 58 of which were 1 bedroom units and 2 which were 2-bedroom units. Ms. Prendergast noted the complex had recently received numerous renovations including step-in showers, new flooring, a new exercise room, entryway décor, and a recent energy update. Ms. Prendergast stated upgrades and enhancements to the Community Room were currently being constructed.

Responding to a question from Council Member Sharp, Ms. Prendergast stated the highest preference of residents was for senior citizens, followed by the disabled, homeless referrals from Domestic Harmony homeless, and then near-senior citizen age applicants.

Council Member Stockford commended the leadership of Ms. Prendergast and encouraged any resident to meet and speak to the staff at the Hillsdale Housing Commission.

### **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**

#### A. State Land Bank Grant Update

Mayor Sessions noted the demolitions at 240 East South Street and 128 South Manning Streets had been recently completed. Mayor Sessions stated the final processing for the grant had been submitted to the State of Michigan and reimbursement for the demolition expenses was expected within two or three weeks.

City Manager Mackie stated the city anticipated applying for additional grants in the future for other blighted properties.

#### B. City Entrance Sign: Update and Discussion

City Manager Mackie stated the new entrance signs on M-99 would be relocated to other areas of the city and new, larger signs would be installed in their place. City Manager Mackie stated the new medallion signs would remain at their current location and lighting upgrades would be considered for better visibility.

Council Member Stockford reviewed a proposal to solicit public input on the development of a new city slogan. Council Member Stockford indicated the contest could be used as a non-binding recommendation to the City Council and could be added onto the new, city welcome signs.

Council Member Bell noted the design and approval of the new entrance signs had been included in at least two Council packets prior to their installation and the issue had been completed in a transparent manner.

### **New Business**

#### A. Purchase of a 2017 Ford SUV Police Interceptor vehicle from Ken Stillwell Ford Mercury at a cost of \$25,881.00

Chief Hephner reported the city had received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the purchase of a new police vehicle, body cameras, and in-car camera systems. Chief Hephner reported the city had received sealed bids for the vehicle with the lowest bid received from Ken Stillwell Ford Mercury at a cost of \$25,881.00.

Responding to a question from Council Member Sharp, Chief Hephner stated the recommended purchase would be the fifth SUV patrol vehicle for the department. Council Member Sharp voiced support for the vehicle purchase from a local vendor.

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to approve the purchase of a 2017 Ford SUV Police Interceptor vehicle from Ken Stillwell Ford Mercury at a cost of \$25,881.00

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.

B. Placement of a “Baby Box” at the Hillsdale Fire Department

Chief Hephner provided a brief review of the recommended “Baby Box” program, which would be used in conjunction with the State of Michigan’s “Safe Haven” law. Chief Hephner stated a specialized box would be placed at the Hillsdale Fire Department, which would be used for a mother who wished to safely surrender a newborn baby. Chief Hephner stated the funding for the system would be raised from community donations.

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to move forward with the “Baby Box” program as a viable resource that may save the life of a child.

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**

A. Board of Public Utilities Appointment

1. Ms. Lois Howard (New Appointment)

B. Airport Advisory Board Appointments

1. Ms. Ginger Moore (Re-appointment)
2. Mr. Curt Sarles (Re-appointment)
3. Mr. Michael Nye (Re-appointment)
4. Mr. Brad Lowrey (New appointment)

Council Member Stockford objected to the appointment of Ms. Ginger Moore to the Airport Advisory Board due to her employment with Patriot Aviation. Council Member Stockford voiced support for the appointment of Mr. Lowrey, due to his expertise in marketing and his on-going efforts to obtain his piloting license.

Council Member Morrissey noted the importance of being consistent with the board & commission appointments and objected to the appointment of Ms. Moore, due to her conflict of interest.

City Manager Mackie stated Mr. Lowrey had experience in aviation as a co-pilot with his father. City Manager Mackie stated it was Mr. Lowrey’s goal to build an airplane and then obtain his pilot’s license. City Manager Mackie stated Mr. Lowrey had recently aided in the development of the airport’s drone policy and was employed at Hillsdale College.

At this point in the meeting, Mayor Sessions warned Mr. King for his outbursts that disrupted the meeting. Mayor Sessions warned Mr. King that continued outbursts would result in his removal from the meeting.

Council Member Stockford objected to the appointment of Ms. Moore to the Airport Advisory Committee, as a previous employee of Patriot Aviation (Jason Walters) was asked to resign his seat on the AAC prior to being approved as the Airport Manager.

Council Member Sharp asked if Mr. Nye was a resident of the city and a pilot. City Manager Mackie stated Mr. Nye was neither a resident nor an active pilot.

Following an additional verbal outburst, Mr. King was given a final warning to remain silent during Council discussions or face removal from the meeting.

Mayor Sessions removed the appointment of Ms. Ginger Moore from the agenda's recommendation.

Council Member Flannery, seconded by Council Member Sharp, moved to approve the following appointments:

- A. Board of Public Utilities Appointment
  - 1. Ms. Lois Howard (New Appointment)
- B. Airport Advisory Board Appointments
  - 1. Mr. Curt Sarles (Re-appointment)
  - 2. Mr. Michael Nye (Re-appointment)
  - 3. Mr. Brad Lowrey (New appointment)

By a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

C. Police Department Memo – “No Shave November”

Mayor Sessions referenced a memorandum from Chief Hephner regarding “No Shave November”. Mayor Sessions noted the event generated cash donations to community organizations.

**City Manager's Report**

City Manager Mackie reported:

1. The City of Hillsdale was recognized as one out of six communities in the State of Michigan that received an award for best practices from University of Michigan-Dearborn iLabs eCities. The award followed an annual research study that examined community-level factors that influenced entrepreneurship, economic development, and job growth. Local communities who participated in the project received benchmarking reports that showed their performance at creating inviting business environments and encouraging entrepreneurial growth.
2. A note had been received from Governor Rick Snyder thanking the City of Hillsdale for hosting his recent visit.
3. The next Funding Alternatives Identification & Recommendation (F.A.I.R.) Committee meeting would be held on Monday, November 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
4. A tour of the Wastewater Treatment Plant would be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
5. The State Street project remained on-schedule for completion. DPS Director Hammel stated the street should be open for travel by Wednesday, November 16.
6. City staff would begin a thorough review of the Personnel Manual and update the document as necessary.

7. City Manager Mackie asked that voter's exhibit patience during the upcoming election, as turn-out was expected to be at an all-time high. City Clerk French noted the poll workers and city staff were ready for extremely large crowds and encouraged voters to attend the polls during mid-morning and mid-afternoon hours, when the waiting time was expected to be shorter.

Council Member Stockford congratulated City Manager Mackie and city staff on receiving the award from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

### **General Public Comment**

Ms. Kimm Burger provided additional information on the "Baby Box" program and stressed no city funding would be utilized for the program. Ms. Burger thanked Chief Hephner and city staff for the assistance with the planning for the program.

Mr. Jack McClain asked if the new city entrance signs were in compliance with the city's zoning ordinances. Mr. McClain also stressed the importance of all citizens, educational institutions, and businesses in the City of Hillsdale and objected to the entrance signs highlighting only the Hillsdale College.

Mr. Joseph Hendee objected to the free advertising for Hillsdale College on the city's new entrance signs and discussed the city's cost for the airport operations.

Ms. Penny Swan objected to the board and commission member applications not being made public to all residents prior to the Council meetings. Ms. Swan also encouraged the motto "It's the People" to be included on the new entrance signs.

Mr. Dennis Wainscott discussed the importance of citizen involvement in government by using a personal example of how the requirement of flood insurance had affected his property. Mr. Wainscott also announced the Hillsdale Justice Project would provide free transportation to the polling location for city residents on Election Day.

Mr. Jeff King objected to the board and commission member applications not being made public to all residents prior to the Council meetings. Mr. King stressed the importance of transparency in local government. Mr. King objected to the appointment of Mr. Lowrey to the Airport Advisory Board and felt the Council had violated its own resolution by that appointment. Mr. King also encouraged the City Council to solicit recommendations from the Airport Advisory Board and to receive timely updates from airport management at a Council meeting.

### **Council Comments**

Council Member Zeiser supported the appointment of Mr. Lowrey to the Airport Advisory Board and requested the next appointment to the board be a tenant of the airport or active pilot in the community.

Council Member Sharp stated he was not aware that the biographies of the board & commission appointees were not shared with the general public. Council Member Sharp also thanked Jason Walters for arranging a flight over the City of Hillsdale from a tenant at the airport. Council Member Sharp also volunteered to serve as a member of the Airport Advisory Board, if needed.

Council Member Flannery thanked everyone for attending the meeting and offering their opinion on a variety of subject. Council Member Flannery encouraged everyone to vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Stockford also thanked everyone for attending the Council meeting.

Mayor Sessions encouraged everyone to vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

November 7, 2016

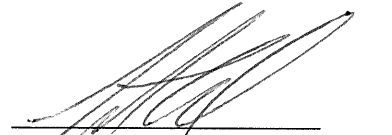
City Council Minutes

**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 8:30 p.m.

  
Scott M. Sessions, Mayor

  
Stephen M. French, City Clerk