

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
Council Chambers
November 20, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Adam Stockford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Mayor Adam Stockford called the meeting to order.

Council Members present:	Adam Stockford, Mayor R. Gregory Stuchell, Ward 1 Brian Watkins, Ward 1 Timothy Dixon, Ward 2 William Morrissey, Ward 2 Bruce Sharp, Ward 3 William Zeiser, Ward 3 Matthew Bell, Ward 4 Raymond Briner, Ward 4
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Council Members absent:	None
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Also present were: City Manager David Mackie, City Clerk Stephen M. French, City Attorney John Lovinger, Scott Hephner (HCPD & HCFD), Mark Hawkins (HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS), Mike Barber (BPU), Chris McArthur (BPU), Alan Beeker (Zoning), Mary Hill (Library), Corey Burke (HCFD), Mark Hawkins (HCFD), David Grumhaus (HCFD), Seth Johnson (HCFD), Ginger Moore (Airport), Rob Berger, Robyn Galloway, Pat O'Malley, Corey Murray (Hillsdale Daily News), Brett Boyd, Mike Phillip, Robert Socha, Jan Hutchins, Mary Playford, Annette Frosch, Charles Sharp, Cheryl Cox, Diana Carson, Lori Rodgers, Lon King, Bill Walters, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Joseph Hendee, Kurt Elarton, Amy Elarton, Ken Joswiak, Ruth Brown, Alia Stuchell, Gina Gallutia, Michael Mitchell, Ted Jansen, Dennis Wainscott, Penny Swan, Ray Szarafinski, Steve Wismar, Jason Walters, Marty Hubbard, Peter Merritt, Richard Smith, Scott Curry, Heather Tritchka, Shawnae Stockford, and Nick Adzic.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bell, moved to approve the November 20, 2017 agenda as presented. By a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Mayor Stockford noted that with the large number of comments expected on the agenda topics, the time limit for public comment would be reduced to three minutes for each person who wished to address Council.

Mr. Lon King, 18 Foxtail Lane, voiced support for the 425 Agreement which would allow Meijer to locate in the Hillsdale area. Mr. King noted that when he shopped at the Meijer store in Coldwater, he spent additional money at nearby restaurants and other stores in close proximity to the Meijer store.

Mr. Jack McLain, 1445 Bunn Road, presented the City of Hillsdale with a check in the amount of \$1,119.83 for the reimbursement of costs associated with the public hearing that was held on November 6, 2017 regarding rezoning Ordinance 2017-02. Mr. McLain stated the city staff member responsible for the public hearing notice errors should have a discipline letter place in their personnel file.

Ms. Penny Swan, 192 South West Street, encouraged the Council to table the recommendation to purchase the hangar at the airport, as there were issues that remained on the purchase agreement, including the purchase price and the building modifications that remained unfinished in the hangar. Ms. Swan also encouraged Council to maintain the city's seal throughout the branding process and to include the general public in designing a new city logo. Ms. Swan finalized her comments by voicing support for the 425 Agreement with Fayette Township and stated the Meijer store would allow residents to purchase items that were not available locally.

Mr. Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea Street, objected to the purchase of the hangar at the airport and stated that code violations remained at the site, due to modifications that had been made by the owner without proper permitting. Mr. Hendee also questioned if an appraisal had been completed prior to the staff recommendation.

Mr. Roy Szarafinski, Chairperson of the Airport Advisory Committee, recommended the purchase of the hangar and stated the purchase agreement was in the city's best interest for the long-term development of the airport. Mr. Szarafinski also objected to the verbal attacks that had been made by the previous speakers regarding Mr. Walters.

Ms. Gina Gallutia, 36 Highland Avenue, voiced support for the 425 Agreement with Fayette Township and stated that she shopped at the Meijer location in Coldwater due to their competitive pricing.

Ms. Ginger Moore, Director of the Hillsdale Municipal Airport, recommended the purchase of the hangar from Mr. Jason Walters.

Mr. Robert Socha, member of the Dawn Theater Governance Board, discussed the board's recent conversations about the renovation of a Wurlitzer Organ that had originally been installed in the theater. Mr. Socha stressed the Governance Board would look to fund the organ renovation with only private funds, and not city or TIFA dollars, if the project was included within the overall, theater renovation project.

Mr. Dennis Wainscott, 34 Garden Street, discussed the recommendation to place Council Member Briner on the Finance Committee. Mr. Wainscott noted Council Member Briner was an employee of County National Bank and discussed the need for Council Member Briner to abstain on all matters involving his employer.

Mr. Michael Mitchell, 108 E. Hallett requested the minutes from the November 6, 2017 Council meeting be amended to more accurately reflect his comments. Mr. Mitchell provided a proposed replacement paragraph that could be inserted into the meeting minutes. Mr. Mitchell also objected to the reconsideration of the 425 Agreement following the Council's failure to act on the draft agreement at the November 6th meeting. A copy of Mr. Mitchell's proposed amendment to the minutes was filed with the City Council papers for the meeting.

Mr. Richard Smith, 62 South Broad Street, discussed a number of historical, newspaper advertisements from the Hillsdale County Chamber of Commerce which encouraged people to live and work in Hillsdale. Mr. Smith encouraged Council to approve the 425 Agreement with Fayette Township, as the development would invite and encourage businesses to locate in the Hillsdale area.

Ms. Diane Carson, 3400 Cronk Road, indicated she was a realtor who had seen a large number of people who wanted to live outside of the city, and instead live in the outer reaches of Hillsdale County. Ms. Carson stated the approval of 425 Agreement was a "no-brainer" which would bring business into the area.

Mr. Scott Curry, 2643 West Hastings Lake Road, encouraged the Council to approve the hangar purchase from Mr. Walters and discussed how the airport was a gem to the Hillsdale community. Mr. Curry highlighted the efforts made by Mr. Walters to improve and expand the airport.

Ms. Kay Freese, 8360 Grass Lake Road, discussed the progressive improvements that had been initiated throughout the City of Hillsdale in recent years and how the 425 Agreement with Fayette Township would continue the improvements to Hillsdale.

Mr. Grant Baker, 195 West Bacon Street, stated he was neither in favor or against the 425 Agreement; however, Mr. Baker discussed his concern with the shrinking tax base in the city and the reduction in tax revenue due to that decrease. Mr. Baker recommended Council table consideration of the 425 Agreement and have the Finance Committee perform a true cost/benefit analysis of the development.

Mr. Brett Boyd, 210 West Carleton, stated he wanted what was best for the City of Hillsdale, whether that meant having Meijer build near the city or whether it meant not approving the 425 Agreement. Mr. Boyd discussed the harmful and negative comments that had been made about himself, his family, and employees following his comments made at the November 6th Council meeting. Mr. Boyd stated he was proud to be from Hillsdale and stated the county residents needed to come together and not remain divisive during this time.

Mr. Doug Ingles, 20 Vine Street, questioned if electric service to the new Meijer store would be provided by the city's BPU or by Consumers Energy. Mr. Ingles also requested clarification on the millage rates that would be split between Fayette Township and the City of Hillsdale.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City Claims of November 2, 2017: \$221,895.70
 - 2. BPU Claims of November 2, 2017: \$221,149.23
 - 3. Payroll of November 2, 2017: \$157,574.65
- B. City Council Minutes
 - 1. November 6, 2017 Regular Meeting
 - 2. November 13, 2017 Special Meeting
- C. November 7, 2017 Election Report
- D. Finance Committee Minutes of November 6, 2017
- E. TIFA Dawn Theater Governance Board Minutes October 26, 2017
- F. EDC -Architectural Control Committee Minutes of November 7, 2017
- G. Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes of September 13, 2017
- H. Light-Up Hillsdale Parade 2017
- I. September 2017 Financial Reports

Council Member Watkins, seconded by Council Member Morrissey, moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Watkins	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 9-0.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Newly Elected Officials Training from Michigan Municipal League
- B. Small Business Saturday – November 25, 2017
- C. Communication received from Ms. Nola Wagner

The communications were received by Council for informational purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinance/Public Hearing

A. CDBG Close-out for 42 Union Street

Mayor Stockford opened a public hearing at 7:40 p.m. to receive citizen comments regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) close-out for 42 Union Street.

Ms. Penny Swan voiced support for the renovations completed at the site and recommended Council close-out the CDBG grant for the project. Ms. Swan noted the project had been completed without exceeding the established budget for the renovations.

Mr. Jack McLain noted the project had not been completed, as a fence to screen the trash dumpster and a privacy fence between the development and the adjacent, residential property had not been constructed. Mr. McLain also noted the property address had not been placed on the east side of the building that faced Union Street.

Zoning Administrator Beeker reported the zoning permit for the site would remain open and would not affect the grant close-out process. Mr. Beeker stated the property owner, Ms. Marty Hubbard, intended to install landscape screening instead of a privacy fence between 42 Union Street and the adjacent, residential property, in addition to having the street numbers etched into the glass door that faced Union Street.

Responding to a question from Council Member Sharp, Zoning Administrator Beeker stated Ms. Hubbard was working with the residential property owner to finalize the location and type of landscape screening between the two properties.

Being no further public comments, Mayor Stockford closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

City Manager Mackie discussed the project and noted city staff was very pleased with the development that renovated a blighted structure into a very unique, multi-use building.

Council Member Bell stated the project was a great improvement to the community and noted the building contained a variety of uses including meeting spaces, a coffee house, and numerous apartments.

Council Member Stuchell also discussed the great improvements made at 42 Union Street and the excellent coffee served at Rough Draft.

Unfinished Business

There were no unfinished business items on the meeting agenda.

Old Business

A. Branding for the City of Hillsdale

City Manager Mackie reviewed a staff recommendation to hold a work session with Council on November 28, 2017 to review the branding recommendation provided by city staff. City Manager Mackie stated Mr. Randy Mielnik from Poggemeyer has offered to facilitate a work session with Council members and city staff to review various options for a City branding program and to develop a concept that could be approved by Council. City Manager Mackie also reviewed the role of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Marketing and Branding Strategy Guide, and the proposed BrandTouch Manual that had been prepared by Ben Muldrow of Arnett Muldrow & Associates.

Council Member Bell voiced support for the staff recommendation to hold a work session to review this topic. Council Member Bell questioned if the representative from Poggemeyer would encourage the city representatives to select the branding and logo that had been presented in previous Council meetings, or if the consultant would allow the city to amend or change the proposed artwork. City Manager Mackie noted the logo and branding had been completed by Arnett Muldrow & Associates, which was not connected with Mr. Mielnik from Poggemeyer. City Manager Mackie stated all of the comments and suggestions made during the work session would be beneficial in determining the design of the city's new branding campaign.

Responding to a question from Council Member Stuchell, City Manager Mackie reported the services of both Mr. Mielnik from Poggemeyer and the designs from Arnett Muldrow & Associates were paid with grant funding from MEDC through the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Initiative.

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Watkins, moved to schedule a special City Council meeting for Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. to review the branding recommendation provided by city staff. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. 425 Agreement with Fayette Township

Mayor Stockford reported a conflict of interest on the issue, as his employer contracted with Meijer for certain personnel services. Mayor Stockford announced he would abstain from the discussion and vote on this issue. Due to this conflict, Mayor Pro-Tem Morrissey presided over the meeting during this agenda topic.

Council Member Sharp recommended approval of the agreement and stated that although he would continue to support locally owned businesses, the construction of a Meijer store would bring in additional businesses to the area. Council Member Sharp noted there were many businesses in Hillsdale that provided similar services, including auto repair stores, coffee shops, and gas stations, which promoted competition in the specific industries. Council Member Sharp also noted the construction of the Meijer store would bring additional revenue to the BPU through the utility services provided.

Council Member Stuchell questioned if the BPU was able to provide the utility services necessary to support the Meijer location without having to expand their existing facilities. City Manager Mackie reported the BPU would be able to provide all of the services required by the Meijer location, although a large, water main and other site work would be necessary to serve the location. City Manager Mackie also noted Meijer's commitment to their communities, although specific discussions about their philanthropy had not been held to this point.

Council Member Bell noted the investment of Meijer into the site and the taxes paid by the corporation would be in itself, an investment into the community. Council Member Bell also commended Market House owner Brett Boyd for his continued support of community initiatives throughout the area.

City Manager Mackie reported the estimated tax revenue from the Meijer store would be approximately \$80,000-\$100,000 per year, in addition to \$300,000-\$350,000 per year in BPU charges for utility service. City Manager Mackie also noted Meijer had agreed to pay \$600,000 for the construction of a water service main on M-99 to service the location. City Manager Mackie stated the city had received a petition signed by 458 people that encouraged the city to approve the 425 Agreement with Fayette Township, which would help facilitate the construction of the Meijer store.

Council Member Zeiser applauded the city's local businesses for their excellent service and products offered to their customers. Council Member Zeiser also discussed comments made at the November 6th public hearing that discussed the distribution of the economic "pie" and the slices of the pie to the various business owners. Council Member Zeiser noted our economic system was not a fixed-sized pie, but one that consistently changed with the expansion and reduction of the economy. Council Member Zeiser voiced support for the construction of the Meijer store and stated the development would increase the economic "pie" for all of the residents.

Council Member Watkins noted the importance of local stores for their unique features and services. Council Member Watkins stated the Meijer development would be a catalyst for job growth in the area and would spur additional economic development in the area near the new store.

Council Member Bell requested additional information on the staff memo that referenced a possibility that the agreement could be changed following Council approval. City Attorney Lovinger stated the City of Hillsdale was comfortable with the agreement in its present form and that any substantive changes made to the agreement by Fayette Township would require follow-up, Hillsdale City Council action.

Council Member Stuchell predicted the Market House would grow and would be positively impacted by the Meijer store, as many people would travel to Hillsdale for the Meijer store, and then find unique, locally-owned stores.

Council Member Dixon stated that he had received more comments from citizens regarding this issue than any other issue he had been involved with, including the medical marijuana issue. Council Member Dixon noted that if the City of Hillsdale did not approve the 425 Agreement with Fayette Township, there would be a good possibility that the Meijer store plans would be moved a few hundred yards down the road and be built within the City of Jonesville.

Council Member Briner voiced support for Brett Boyd and the improvements to the area made possible by the community spirit of the Market House family. Council Member Briner noted the impact Market House and other locally-owned stores would have on the Meijer store, not necessarily the reverse, negative impact on local stores that many residents had predicted.

Council Member Zeiser, seconded by Council Member Sharp, moved to approve the 425 Agreement with Fayette Township as presented.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	Aye
	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Watkins	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Abstain

Motion passed 8-0.

New Business

A. Purchase of Airport Hangar

City Manager Mackie reported on the staff recommendation to purchase the airport hangar from JW Enterprises at a cost of \$90,000 using reimbursement funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Office of Aeronautics, in addition to Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding from the city in the estimated amount of \$25,000.

Council Member Watkins stated the purchase of the hangars with the willing sellers would continue to promote the capital improvements to the airport that had been included in a ten-year plan. Council Member Watkins stated that if the purchase was not approved, the current owners could sell the hangars to owners who would not be willing to resell the hangars to the city at a later date, once expansion plans had been finalized and scheduled.

City Manager Mackie responded to claims that had been raised during the public comment section earlier in the meeting. City Manager Mackie stated that a hangar purchase was much like the purchase of a home, and any unpaid liens against the owner would be paid from the sale proceeds at closing. City Manager Mackie also noted that he had accepted Mr. Walter's resignation as the airport manager with a 30-day notice, due to the relentless, personal attacks made against Mr. Walters and his family. City Manager Mackie stressed the staff recommendation was a business decision and

certainly not a bail-out, as the ownership of the hangar was in the city's capital improvement plans for the airport and Mr. Walters simply wanted to move on from his aviation endeavor.

City Manager Mackie noted the city hoped to maintain the tenant in Mr. Raker's hangar, which would not be guaranteed if the hangar was sold to a third party. City Manager Mackie also reported that Mr. Walter's hangar was leased to the owner of a jet, who had purchased more fuel in the past few months than had been sold at the airport in years.

City Manager Mackie reported the city's aviation consultant had estimated the purchase price of both hangars would exceed \$260,000, using the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) purchasing guidelines. City Manager Mackie stated that if the purchase was completed using MDOT reimbursement funds, the purchasing guidelines were not required and the costs to the city would be much lower. City Manager Mackie noted the city's plan was to also utilize the existing offices within JW Enterprises' hangar during the planned terminal replacement in future years.

City Manager Mackie discussed the planned terminal reconstruction and expansion had been derailed by a group of Hillsdale residents who took steps to send old newspaper clippings to people who were working on the project, residents who wrote letters to the state in opposition to the improvement projects, and residents who have simply attacked the city repeatedly. City Manager Mackie stated the State of Michigan had not directed JW Enterprises or the City of Hillsdale to remove any improvements to Mr. Walter's hangar, as was alleged earlier in the meeting.

City Manager Mackie reported the city had an appraisal performed on the hangars based on construction costs, which placed the value of the hangar owned by JW Enterprises at \$90,000.

Council Member Sharp discussed the improvements made to the airport in the past two years and voiced support for the staff recommendation to purchase the hangars, as the owners were willing to sell and the city had the available funding. Council Member Sharp also noted the positive impact of the airport on Hillsdale County, not just on the city.

Council Member Sharp then moved to approve the Purchase Agreement with JW Enterprises, Inc. and authorize Mayor Stockford to sign the document on behalf of the City.

Mayor Stockford noted the airport would also be a sensitive subject to many residents, as the majority of residents did not utilize the airport or visit the facility. Mayor Stockford also commended Mr. Walters for the improvements that had been made at the airport throughout the past two years. Mayor Stockford discussed the personal attacks that had been made against Mr. Walters' family and how those attacks were unfair and without merit. Mayor Stockford stated he would not spend unnecessary energy or be pressured to vote on certain policies, based on comments made on social media.

City Manager Mackie noted many other cities, including Coldwater and Adrian, owned all of the hangars that were located on their airport properties.

Council Member Stuchell questioned the staff recommendation, as only one appraisal had been received for the hangars, there was a large difference in price between the two hangars, and questions remained if the city would incur costs to complete upgrades and/or repairs to the hangars. Council Member Stuchell also questioned if the funding to purchase the hangars was a priority, especially in lieu of much needed road improvements and street maintenance. Council Member Stuchell stated the proposed sale of the hangar was not a wise business decision for the city at the present time.

Council Member Bell recommended the city obtain additional appraisals of the hangars to compare with the single appraisal that had been received. Council Member Bell also questioned if the hangar purchase would commit the City of Hillsdale and the Council to future expansion plans or construction projects in the future. Council Member Bell finalized his comments by questioning if the city could utilize eminent domain to purchase the hangars at fair market value, if a purchase agreement could not be reached in the future.

City Manager Mackie noted the difference in hangar price was due to the fact that the hangar owned by Mr. Walters was approximately 50% larger than the second hangar. City Manager Mackie also stated the hangar purchase would not contractually bind Council to future airport improvements, such as a new taxiway or terminal and noted no federal or state funding could be used for the

construction of a new terminal. City Manager Mackie reported the city could not direct all of its resources to one issue, such as road improvements, but must allocate funding to all of its responsibilities such as DPS, parks & recreation, police, and the airport.

Council Member Stuchell questioned the purchase price of \$90,000 when the hangar was purchased by JW Enterprises for \$72,000 just two years prior. Council Member Stuchell stated the city was not obligated to pay the appraisal price, but could negotiate with the seller for a less amount. City Manager Mackie responded Mr. Walters had purchased the hangar, but had also had made improvements to the hangar that met, or exceeded, the difference in purchase prices.

City Attorney Lovinger noted the use of eminent domain was not economically advantageous to a governmental unit in most situations and would take considerable time to travel through the court system before the issue could be resolved.

Responding to a question from Council Member Bell, City Manager Mackie stated the lease payments received on the smaller hangar was \$600.00.

Council Member Bell discussed if the issue should be referred to the Finance Committee for further review.

Council Member Dixon stated the purchase agreement had been based on a long-term plan for the airport and the purchase price was based on an appraisal from a qualified individual. Council Member Dixon stated that if Council delayed the purchase of the hangars, the asking price could be increased or the sellers could decide to sell to other potential buyers.

Council Member Briner noted most appraisals considered not only the construction costs, but potential income and sales as well. Council Member Briner warned that if a specialized appraisal was performed on the hangars, the value would be inflated and the city's cost to purchase the hangar would increase.

Council Member Bell objected to the motion to approve the hangar purchase at the present time, due to some on-going questions that had been raised during the meeting.

Council Member Zeiser also objected to the motion and encouraged the Council to table the issue to a future meeting so that questions could be addressed.

Responding to a question from Council Member Briner, City Manager Mackie reported the city would own all of the hangars at the airport, if the two hangars were purchased as recommended by city staff.

Council Member Dixon then seconded Council Member Sharp's motion to approve the Purchase Agreement with JW Enterprises, Inc. and authorize Mayor Stockford to sign the document on behalf of the City.

Roll call:	Council Member Bell	No
	Council Member Briner	No
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	No
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	No
	Council Member Watkins	No
	Council Member Zeiser	No
	Mayor Stockford	No

Motion failed 2-7.

Council Member Watkins, seconded by Council Member Zeiser, moved to assign this to the Finance Committee to review the Purchase Agreement with JW Enterprises, Inc. as presented. By a voice vote, the motion carried.

B. Council Committee Appointments

Council Member Sharp voiced support for the appointment of three members of Council to each committee, instead of four members that had been appointed during the previous administration.

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Morrissey, moved to approve the following Council Committee appointments:

Council Member Matt Bell- Operations and Governance & Economic Development
Council Member Ray Briner- Finance & Public Safety
Council Member Tim Dixon- Operations and Governance & Finance
Council Member Will Morrissey- Operations and Governance & Planning Commission
Council Member Bruce Sharp- Finance & Public Safety
Council Member Greg Stuchell- Economic Development & Public Services
Council Member Brian Watkins- Public Safety & Public Services
Council Member Bill Zeiser- Economic Development & Public Services

Roll call:	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Watkins	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Personnel Handbook Revision

City Manager Mackie reviewed the recommended revisions to the personnel manual, which would freeze the 2016 amount and eliminate the longevity benefit for new hires effective July 1, 2016. City Manager Mackie stated this policy would affect all of the city's non-union employees, as the city's union employees had agreed to this change during the most recent contract negotiations.

Responding to a question from Council Member Stuchell, HR Director Freese explained the program had provided an annual payment to each employee based on their years of service to the city. Ms. Freese stated the policy had been used to promote employee retention for the City of Hillsdale.

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Watkins, moved to approve the revisions to "Section 385: Longevity" of the Personnel Handbook to reflect the freezing of the 2016 amount and eliminating the longevity benefit for new hires effective July 1, 2016.

Roll call:	Council Member Briner	Aye
	Council Member Dixon	Aye
	Council Member Morrissey	Aye
	Council Member Sharp	Aye
	Council Member Stockford	Aye
	Council Member Stuchell	Aye
	Council Member Watkins	Aye
	Council Member Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 9-0.

XI. Miscellaneous Reports**A. Appointment of Mr. David Morris to Airport Advisory Committee**

Council Member Watkins, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to appoint Mr. David Morris to the Airport Advisory Committee. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Presentation by Police/Fire Chief Scott Hephner

Chief Hephner provided information on the activities of the fire and police departments that included community relations, participation in the school systems and youth events, fire safety education, training, "Shop with a Hero" event, Salvation Army bell-ringing, neighborhood social events, parade duties, and station tours.

Chief Hephner provided information on the current status of the city's 34 year old ladder truck that had failed inspection due to a mechanical failure. Chief Hephner stated city staff continued to look at all possibilities for the issue, including repairing the truck or replacing the ladder truck with a new piece of equipment. Chief Hephner noted the department had notified all departments within Hillsdale County about the issue and ladder trucks from neighboring departments would be requested during emergency situations.

Chief Hephner reported four members of the department were attending Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, one member had begun Fire Officer training, and two new members who would soon begin Firefighter I & II training.

Mayor Stockford thanked Chief Hephner for the report and for his outstanding leadership of the police and fire departments. Mayor Stockford encouraged any resident to contact the police or fire department with any concerns about the information provided by Chief Hephner.

Responding to a question from Council Member Bell, Chief Hephner stated city staff continued to apply for grant funding for equipment replacement.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Mackie reported:

1. An open house for the new Center City Apartments was scheduled for Friday, December 8, 2017 from 1-3 p.m. City Manager Mackie noted only a few of the apartments remained vacant and available for rent.
2. The Hillsdale County Rural Task Force would have a meeting at the Hillsdale County Road Commission offices on December 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. regarding rural transportation funding.
3. Small Business Saturday was scheduled for Saturday, November 25, 2017.

General Public Comment

Mr. Jack McLain encouraged the Christmas light contest to be made available to all BPU customers, not just those customers who were city residents. Mr. McLain also disputed the option to permit landscaping screening at 42 Union Street, but argued the original plans required the owner to install privacy fence screening near the adjacent residential property.

Mr. Joseph Hendee commented the city had not monitored the activities of Mr. Jason Walters during his tenure as the airport manager, which had led to the complaints made to the MDOT and the Hillsdale County Building Department.

Ms. Penny Swan objected to the claims made by Mayor Stockford concerning the social media comments and threads posted about Mr. Walters. Ms. Swan stated she had never threatened or verbally attacked anyone personally on social media.

BPU Director Barber reported the Christmas light contest was open to any BPU customer, whether they were a city resident or not. Mr. Barber also reported the back-up generators at the wastewater treatment plant had been installed and were operational.

Council Comments

Council Member Morrissey encouraged any interested Council Member to attend the upcoming Michigan Municipal League (MML) training in Coldwater.

Council Member Zeiser voiced enthusiasm for the completion of the generator project at the wastewater treatment plant and noted the generators would help prevent future spills into the St. Joe River. Council Member Zeiser also commended the Dawn Theater Governance Board for utilizing private funding for the potential organ restoration project at the theater.

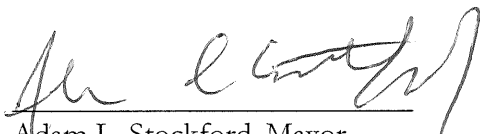
Mayor Stockford commended City Clerk French for his administration of the recent election. Mayor Stockford stated Mr. French provided very thorough information to all of the candidates, while voting on Election Day seemed to go very smoothly and without problems.

Council Member Watkins also commended City Clerk French on his leadership and administration of the election, even with a large increase in voter turnout.

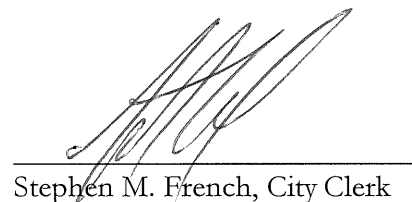
Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.



Adam L. Stockford, Mayor



Stephen M. French, City Clerk