

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City of Hillsdale  
 Council Chambers  
 February 5, 2018  
 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 Timothy Dixon, Ward 2 William Morrisey, 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:	Brian Watkins, Ward 1
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Also present were: City Manager David Mackie, City Clerk Stephen M. French, City Attorney John Lovinger, City Attorney Tom Thompson, Scott Hephner (HCPD & HCFD), Mark Hawkins (HCFD), Russ Picek (HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS), Chris McArthur (BPU), Mary Hill (Library), Corey Murray (Hillsdale Daily News), Nic Rowin (Hillsdale Collegian), Peter Merritt, Glen Ziegler, Charles Ferguson, Brian DuBois, Sheri Lemke, Don Tippner, Andrew Gelzer, Kelly Robinson, Ruth Brown, Joseph Hendee, and Penny Swan.

**Council Member Excused**

Mayor Stockford reported Council Member Watkins would not be able to attend the meeting due to a family obligation.

Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Bell, 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 Briner, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to the February 5, 2018 agenda as presented. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

No comments were received.

**Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Bills
  - 1. City Claims
    - a. January 12, 2018: \$83,588.47
    - b. January 26, 2018: \$247,464.69

2. BPU Claims
  - a. January 12, 2018: \$211,170.96
  - b. January 26, 2018: \$569,786.32
3. Sewer Fund Claims
  - a. January 12, 2018: \$279,832.28
  - b. January 26, 2018: \$8,454.00
- B. City Council Minutes
  1. January 10, 2018 Special Meeting
  2. January 15, 2018 Regular Meeting
- C. Planning Commission Minutes of December 19, 2017
- D. Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) Minutes of November 21, 2017
- E. TIFA Targeted Development Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2017
- F. TIFA Façade Grant Committee Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2017
- G. Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2018
- H. Quarterly Investment Report
- I. 2017 Bow Hunting Report

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bell, 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 Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

### **Communications/Petitions**

#### A. Presentation of New City Website

City Clerk French provided a brief review of the city's new website and highlighted some of the new features that had been included in the project. City Clerk French thanked Council for their approval of the project and thanked city staff members Scott Keiser, Kelly LoPresto, Katy Price, and Lisa Kast for their leadership with the project.

#### B. Oak Wilt Disease Informational Flyer

The flyer was received for informational purposes.

#### C. Center for Family Health Luncheon

Mayor Stockford noted that in addition to the luncheon announcement, the health center had released plans to construct a new facility on Care Drive in the City of Hillsdale.

#### D. City Newsletter

City Manager Mackie announced the spring newsletter would be distributed in the upcoming week and had also been posted on city's website.

### **Introduction and Adoption of Ordinance/Public Hearing**

There was no ordinances or public hearings on the meeting agenda.

**Unfinished Business**

## A. Branding for the City

City Manager Mackie announced a Facebook poll was designed to receive public interest in three potential taglines that were identified by Council. City Manager Mackie stated the poll ended with slightly more votes for the tagline of “Family. Tradition. Opportunity.”

Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Bell, moved to adopt the city tagline of “Family. Tradition. Opportunity.”

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 Zeiser	Aye
	Mayor Stockford	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

## B. Update on City Ladder Truck Purchase

Chief Hephner reported the city had approved a purchase agreement for a used ladder truck from the Houston, Texas area following a recent inspection of the apparatus by city staff members. Chief Hephner reported the 100-foot ladder truck, manufactured by E-One, was in excellent condition, had low miles, and no corrosion. Chief Hephner reported the truck was currently in active service in Houston, and would be released to the sales broker when the department’s new ladder truck was delivered in March or April. Chief Hephner noted the broker would be responsible for conducting a full inspection of the apparatus prior to the delivery of the equipment, which included a required ladder certification.

Responding to a question from Council Member Sharp, Chief Hephner stated city staff continued to look at various delivery alternatives, which may include having city firefighters drive the truck back to Hillsdale or having a separate hauling service deliver the apparatus.

Council Member Bell requested an update on the vehicle exhaust extraction system that had been purchased for the fire station. Chief Hephner stated the components for the system had been ordered and staff expected the installation to occur in March 2018.

## C. Update on Garden, Vine, Mead and Rippon Streets Project

City Manager Mackie reported the city had received the grant agreement between the Michigan Strategic Fund and the City of Hillsdale in the amount of \$1,880,300 for the Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement (ICE) project on Garden, Vine, Mead, and Rippon Streets. City Manager Mackie noted the bid documents for the project had been released and sealed bids were due to the city on Monday, February 12, 2018. City Manager Mackie stated the contract award was anticipated to be included on the February 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting agenda.

**Old Business**

## A. Meijer Update

City Manager Mackie reported the city had received an executed copy of the development agreement for the water main construction on M-99 near the proposed Meijer site. City Manager Mackie also indicated the sale of the property had been finalized with Meijer, Inc., although no timeline or construction schedule had been released by the company.

### New Business

#### A. Council Goals 2018

Mayor Stockford provided a brief report on the goals and objectives of the Council in the coming year. Mayor Stockford reported the Council's highest priorities were:

1. **Public Safety:** Mayor Stockford stated the highest priority of the Council was to adequately fund and support public safety measures within the city. Mayor Stockford encouraged the city to development a committee similar to the Funding Alternatives Identification & Recommendation (F.A.I.R.) Committee, to review funding options for future capital needs in the public safety departments.
2. **Economic Development:** Mayor Stockford stated a combination of budget reductions from non-vital expenditures and expansion of business opportunities would allow the city to improve its budget outlook in the coming years. Mayor Stockford stated the city needed to turn its weaknesses into strengths and foster communication with area business owners to expand business opportunities throughout the city. Mayor Stockford stressed the need for workforce development and for the city to be involved in those efforts.
3. **Streets-Infrastructure:** Mayor Stockford discussed the planned improvements scheduled for 2018 and the many street maintenance projects that had been initiated in recent months.
4. **Accountability:** Mayor Stockford discussed the need for the city staff and Council Members to allocate tax dollars responsibly, to improve communication with residents, and to end any mistrust between Council, staff, and the public. Mayor Stockford encouraged Council to schedule events such as "Coffee with Council" and commended the improvements to the city's social media presence and the city's website that clearly improved the city's transparency.

Mayor Stockford requested Council develop a schedule of work sessions that could be used to discuss a number of very important topics within the city.

Council Member Bell commended the goals outlined by Mayor Stockford and stated the priorities established an excellent foundation for growth and opportunity in future years.

City Manager Mackie stated the draft FY2019 budget would include the continuation of a 3-mil sinking fund that was started to fund street maintenance and construction projects. City Manager Mackie reported funding would be included in the draft budget document for future capital expenditures for the Fire Department and requested Council defer discussion regarding the need for a special millage for these capital expenditures until after the budget had been presented. City Manager Mackie also stated city staff continued to develop a plan to eliminate the city's \$3.5 million pension liability within a 10-year period.

Responding to a question from Mayor Stockford, City Manager Mackie stated the determination of future street repairs was made based on current street conditions, traffic volume, and condition of the utilities in the area.

Council Member Morrisey requested the "Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating" (PACER) report for the city streets be uploaded to the city's website for public review.

Council Member Sharp stated the city should have a goal to reconstruct three streets per year in the upcoming budget cycles.

Council Member Stuchell voiced support for the comments made by Mayor Stockford and stated the goals established a clear direction for future budgeting.

### Miscellaneous Reports

#### A. Board/Committee Appointments

1. Appointment of Mr. Steve Vear to the Airport Advisory Committee (AAC)
2. Appointment of Mr. Kelly Robinson to the TIFA Board

Council Member Zeiser, seconded by Council Member Dixon, moved to appoint Mr. Steve Vear to the Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) and Mr. Kelly Robinson to the TIFA Board. By a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

### **General Public Comment**

Mr. Charles Ferguson, 169 E. Carleton Road, discussed the need for the city to become business friendly and to become proactive with potential business opportunities and code enforcement issues. Mr. Ferguson provided examples of negative interactions he experienced with city staff based on zoning and other code enforcement complaints.

Ms. Penny Swan, 169 S. West Street, encouraged the City Council to review the city's sign ordinance, based on numerous complaints from businesses throughout the city.

Mr. Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea Street, requested information on the City Council plan to review the city's Social Media policy. Mr. Hendee encouraged the city to enforce the policy on a consistent basis and argued some elected officials and city employees were in violation of the policy.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Mackie:

1. Reported the Operations and Governance Committee had begun its review of the city's Social Media Policy, as directed by Council
2. Thanked city staff for the development of the new city website
3. Detailed the FY2019 budget schedule, which included April 2, 2018 (released of draft budget document to Council), May 21, 2018 (Public Hearing for the budget), and June 4, 2018 (final adoption of budget by Council).
4. Announced the city would soon begin the review of the contracts for trash collection and transfer station with Republic Services.
5. Reported himself and County Commissioner Ruth Brown would host an event at Rough Draft coffee house on February 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss items of interest with the public.
6. Noted the next Council meeting would include an item to address cost overruns at the wastewater treatment plant resulting from unexpected repairs to the anaerobic digester equipment.
7. Reported dog licenses were available at the City Treasurer's Office until March 1, 2018.
8. Invited everyone to an open house at Hillsdale College's John Anthony Halter Shooting Sports Education Center on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 from 6-8 p.m.

### **Council Comments**

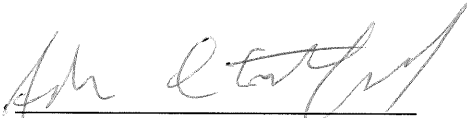
Council Member Stuchell encouraged everyone to visit the open house at the Heritage Association's new studio inside of 42 Union Street when attending the event at Rough Draft on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Stockford announced Council Member Dixon had won a free registration to the Michigan Municipal League's (MML) Elected Officials Academy that would be held in Frankenmuth on February 23-24, 2018. Mayor Stockford stated Council Member Dixon was unable to attend the training, and invited any other Council Member the opportunity to attend the event.

### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
Adam L. Stockford, Mayor

  
Stephen M. French, City Clerk