

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
 Council Chambers
 April 16, 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.

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| Council Members present: | Adam Stockford, Mayor |
| | R. Gregory Stuchell, Ward 1 |
| | 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: | Timothy Dixon, Ward 2 |
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Also present were: City Manager David Mackie, City Clerk Stephen M. French, City Attorney John Lovinger, Scott Hephner (HCPD & HCFD), Jeff Hawkins (HCFD), Chris McArthur (BPU), Jake Hammel (DPS), Bonnie Tew (Finance), Kay Freese (HR), Mary Hill (Library), Alan Beeker (Zoning), Corey Murray (Hillsdale Daily News), Nic Rowin (Hillsdale Collegian), Julie Beeker, Cpl. Cassy Grey (Salvation Army), Don Tippner, Pete Jennings, Dennis Wainscott, Penny Swan, Ted Jansen, Jack McLain, Ruth Brown, Bob Finegan, and Brian DuBois.

Council Member Excused

Mayor Stockford reported Council Member Dixon would not be able to attend the meeting due to work obligations.

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Zeiser, moved to excuse the absence of Council Member Dixon from the meeting. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Bell, moved to the April 16, 2018 agenda as submitted.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Public Comment

Mr. Ted Jansen, 104 Hillsdale Street, voiced support for the proposed Letter of Intent with TerraNavigator for the construction of a solar energy development in the city's industrial park.

Mr. Jack McLain, 1445 South Bunn Road, questioned why the common area maintenance agreement requirement for the lot division application on South West Street at the previous Council meeting was not presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals for their consideration and recommendation.

Mr. Dennis Wainscott, 34 Garden Street, discussed the new employment contract for City Manager Mackie and noted many improvements that Mr. Mackie had made during his first three years of service to the city. Mr. Wainscott encouraged Council to approve a 5-6% wage increase, rather than the 10-12% that had been proposed.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City Claims of April 5, 2018: \$198,174.36
 - 2. BPU Claims of April 5, 2018: \$90,483.24
 - 3. Payroll of April 5, 2018: \$157,790.07
- B. City Council Minutes of April 2, 2018
- C. Finance Committee Minutes of:
 - 1. February 26, 2018
 - 2. March 12, 2018
 - 3. March 26, 2018
 - 4. April 9, 2018
- D. Closure of Hillsdale Street for Hillsdale College Commencement

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

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

Motion passed 7-0.

Communications/Petitions

- A. The 15th Annual Paul W. Smith "Pure Michigan" Tour
- B. Arbor Day Proclamation – April 23, 2018
- C. Hillsdale Chamber Tourism Division
- D. Mr. Eric Moore Communication re: City Manger's Contract
- E. Maxine Vanlerberg Retirement Open House

The communications were received for informational purposes only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinance/Public Hearing

There were no ordinances or public hearings on the agenda

Unfinished Business

There were no Unfinished Business items on the agenda.

Old Business

A. Draft Marketing Strategy for the City of Hillsdale

Mayor Stockford briefly reviewed the staff memo outlining the marketing strategy review and noted the final approval of the plan would be scheduled for the May 7, 2018 Council Meeting.

Council Member Stuchell encouraged the strategy be amended to reference the excellent educational opportunities in the area. Council Member Stuchell noted the excellent K-12 schools, in addition to the colleges and trade schools.

B. City Treasurer Vacancy – Verbal Update

Mayor Stockford reported interviews for the vacant City Treasurer position would continue through the upcoming week and a recommendation would be presented to Council for final approval at the May 7, 2018 Council Meeting.

New Business

A. American Municipal Power's (AMP) Mutual Aid Program

BPU Interim Director McArthur reviewed the proposed mutual aid program with AMP, which would cooperatively provide equipment and staffing support in the event of a large power outage situation. Mr. McArthur noted any labor and equipment costs associated with this agreement would be reimbursed by the utility that requested the assistance. Mr. McArthur stated all of the other members of the Michigan South Central Power Authority (MSCPA) were members of the proposed AMP mutual aid program.

Responding to a question from Mayor Stockford, Interim Director McArthur stated the BPU administration would determine if the utility was able to allocate manpower or equipment to another area of the country when a request was made. Mr. McArthur stated the agreement would not require the BPU to automatically send personnel or equipment, especially if there was a prioritized need within the BPU service area.

Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Briner, moved to approve the American Municipal Power's Mutual Aid Program as presented.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

B. MERS Health Care Savings Program Amendment

Human Resources Director Freese reviewed the proposed amendment, which would remove the existing requirement that city employees place any payments for unused sick and vacation time upon their exiting city employment, into a pre-taxed health care savings plan. Ms. Freese noted the amendment would allow exiting employees to choose their preference of the allocation method for the unused hours.

Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Sharp, moved to approve the MERS Health Care Savings Program Amendment as presented.

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

Motion passed 7-0.

C. TerraNavigator Letter of Intent

City Manager Mackie reported the city had been approached by TerraNavigator in regards to the development of a solar energy project in the city's industrial park. City Manager Mackie presented a draft letter of intent to memorialize the intentions of TerraNavigator to enter into a land lease agreement, if after further investigation, the project is deemed feasible.

City Manager Mackie, responding to a question from Mayor Stockford, noted the area for the proposed solar program would be approximately 15 acres, and would not negatively impact the ongoing efforts of the city to develop the remaining, available property in the area. City Manager Mackie stated the proposal would allow the city to receive \$600.00 per acre in annual Payment In-Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) payments.

Council Member Zeiser voiced concern at the long-term effects of an agreement for solar development due to the rapid progress in alternative fuel or renewable energy production. Council Member Zeiser recommended the development agreement include language that would require TerraNavigator to restore the property to its original condition and remove all of the infrastructure upon termination of the contract.

Council Member Zeiser, seconded by Council Member Sharp, moved to approve the TerraNavigator Letter of Intent as presented. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. 2018 MEDC ICE Grant - Construction Engineering Services

DPS Director Hammel presented a draft construction engineering services contract between the City of Hillsdale and Fleis Vandenbrink in the amount of \$170,900 for the Garden, Vine, Mead, and Rippon Streets project. Mr. Hammel stated the price of the contract was included in the overall projects costs, and would require the engineers to provide all testing and monitoring of the Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement (ICE) project. Mr. Hammel also provided a review of the project schedule and noted trees had been removed from Rippon Avenue and the contractor planned to remove the existing roadbeds throughout the project area during the week of April 23, 2018. Mr. Hammel noted a minimum of 25 nursery-stock trees would be planted in the city right-of-way when the project was completed to replace the trees that had been removed.

Council Member Bell, seconded by Council Member Morrissey, moved to approve the 2018 MEDC ICE Grant - Const ruction Engineering Services contract with Fleis Vandenbrink at a cost of \$170,900.

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| Roll call: | Council Member Bell | Aye |
| | Council Member Briner | Aye |
| | Council Member Morrisey | Aye |
| | Council Member Sharp | Aye |
| | Council Member Stuchell | Aye |
| | Council Member Zeiser | Aye |
| | Mayor Stockford | Aye |

Motion passed 7-0.

Miscellaneous Reports

- A. Appointment of Council Member Sharp to the Airport Advisory Committee
- B. Appointment of Council Member Bell to the Public Services Committee

Council Member Briner, seconded by Mayor Stockford, moved to appoint Council Member Sharp to the Airport Advisory Committee and Council Member Bell to the Public Services Committee. By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

General Public Comment

Mr. Ted Jansen commended Detective Brad Martin and the entire Hillsdale Police Department for their efforts to solve a series of break-ins at the Papa's Treasures store on North Broad Street. Mr. Jansen also noted the excellent walking tour that was outlined on the city's website and encouraged staff to place the page on a more accessible location on the site. Mr. Jansen then reviewed the positive actions that were occurring at the airport, including increased fuel sales and the development of a Civil Air Patrol unit at the site.

Mr. Jack McLain noted the assertion that City Manager Mackie's raise exceeded 10% was an inaccurate statement based on his recent bonus payment. Mr. McLain also discussed disappointment that the city staff did not provide him with a timely donation letter regarding his \$1,119.83 payment made to the city in November 2017.

Ms. Penny Swan, 192 South West Street, stated the city's on-line payment portal for BPU invoices was very confusing and was not customer friendly.

Cpl. Cassy Grey, representing the Salvation Army, invited everyone to attend an Open House at their Bacon Street facility on May 14, 2018 from 5-7p.m.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Mackie reported:

1. April 18, 2018 was National Linemen Appreciation Day and commended all of the BPU employees for their dedication and service.
2. DPS Foreman Jason Blake had recently graduated from a three-year, national leadership program.
3. A Civil Air Patrol meeting would be held at the Hillsdale Municipal Airport on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
4. The next edition of the city's newsletter would be distributed within the next couple of weeks.
5. The budget work sessions had been scheduled for Wednesday, April 25th and May 2nd at 6:00 p.m. and would be held in the Council Chambers.
6. City Forester Gary Stachowicz would participate in tree-planting activities with area school children during Arbor Day.

Council Comments

Council Member Stuchell provided additional information on the Civil Air Patrol meeting that was to be held at the airport. Council Member Stuchell stated the air patrol was designed for students between the ages of 12-22 and the meeting on the 18th would include regional leaders of the Civil Air Patrol.

Mayor Stockford announced he would be the guest speaker at the Hillsdale Chamber of Commerce Connection Breakfast on May 2, 2018.

Council Member Bell supported the concerns raised by Ms. Swan and offered to pick-up payments from Ward 4 residents and hand deliver those to the BPU offices on Monroe Street.

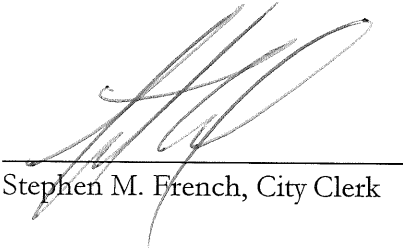
Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.



Adam L. Stockford, Mayor



Stephen M. French, City Clerk