

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
January 18, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting
Electronic Meeting (COVID-19)

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. Clerk Price took roll call.

Council Members present: Adam Stockford, Mayor
R Greg Stuchell, Ward 1
William Morrissey, Ward 2
Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
William Zeiser, Ward 3
Robert Socha, Ward 4
Raymond Briner, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Anthony Vear, Ward 1

Also Present: Attorney Tom Thompson, Michelle Loren (Deputy City Clerk), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Chris McArthur (BPU), Jon-Paul Rutan, Jeff Cooley, Carson Cooley, Heather Tritchka, Charles Sharp, Alice Stuchell, Penny Swan, Eric Hoffman, Sheri Ingles, Doug Ingles, Dennis Wainscott, and Michael Gates.

Present electronically: Jake Hammel (DPS Director), Ginger Moore (Airport Manager), Kimberly Rafferty.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Stockford requested the addition of a letter from Lance Lashaway to Communications.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the agenda as amended.

Roll call:
Council Member Briner Aye
Council Member Morrissey Aye
Council Member Sharp Aye
Council Member Stuchell Aye
Council Member Pratt Aye
Council Member Zeiser Aye
Mayor Stockford Aye
Council Member Socha Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

Public Comment

Dennis Wainscott expressed his support of Council members Socha and Stuchell and TIFA Board member Lance Lashaway with regard to the Carson Cooley Letter asking for resignation from Council and TIFA due to their attendance at the Capitol on January 6, 2021. Mr. Wainscott commended them for their act of patriotism.

Jon-Paul Rutan spoke in support of Council members Socha and Stuchell and TIFA Board member Lance Lashaway going to the Capitol on January 6, 2021 and reminded Council of the Constitutional rights of citizens.

John Smith gave his opinion on constitutional right of citizens, shared his political views, and ensured there was no violence or intent of such in the attendance of Council Members Socha and Stuchell and TIFA Board Member Lance Lashaway at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Penny Swan showed support for the Council members Socha and Stuchell and TIFA Board member Lance Lashaway. Ms. Swan also spoke of the Constitutional rights of all citizens.

Carson Cooley addressed Council as the author of the letter written asking for the resignation of Council Members Socha and Stuchell and TIFA Board Member Lance Lashaway. Mr. Cooley noted that he and the signators of the letter believed

Jeff Cooley addressed Council as a signator of the Carson Cooley letter and stated his support of its contents.

Kimberly Rafferty also addressed Council as a signator of the Carson Cooley letter and stated her support of its contents.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of December 23, 2020: \$212,604.46
 - 2. Payroll of December 24, 2020: \$171,185.76
- B. City Council Minutes of January 4, 2021
- C. Finance Committee Minutes of November 30, 2020, December 14, 2020, and December 28, 2020

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve the Consent agenda as presented.

Roll call:

Council Member Morrissey	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Airport Fuel Sales

Airport Manager Ginger Moore presented an Airport Fuel Sales Report. While jet fuel figures are down because of travel restrictions due to COVID, they are still almost double what was reported in 2017.

Councilman Briner gave thanks to and praised Airport Manager Ginger Moore for the job she does at the airport

- B. Community Action Agency Thank You Letter
- C. Carson Cooley Letter
- D. Beverly Hynes Form Submission: Contact Us (City Website)
- E. Letter of Response From Lance Lashaway – Read by Mayor Stockford

Council Members Socha and Stuchell responded to the Carson Cooley Letter. Both stated they attended with only good intentions and to exercise their 1st Amendment Constitutional right. Councilman Socha addressed Carson Cooley directly and delivered a passionate speech. Neither Council member has any intention of resigning.

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

A. City Council 2021 Goals

Mayor Stockford reviewed the goals set forth by Council at the January 4, 2021 meeting as follows:

1. Street Repair and reconstruction/maintenance
2. Bring back curbside leaf collection
3. Return Police Department staffing to 8 patrol officers
4. Re-establish the Recreation Department and its youth programs
5. Develop a long-term plan for the Mitchell Building

The various goals and some discussion of strategies for implementation took place. Motion by Councilman Morrissey, support by Councilman Stuchell, to approve the 2021 City Council Goals.

All Ayes

Motion passed.

B. Public Service Department Updates

City Manager Mackie reported to Council regarding the vacation of the City right of way at Union and Vine Streets to 4 property owners. It is agreed that the property owners will cover the cost of the survey.

Mr. Mackie also gave an update on the progress of the establishment of a Transportation Authority which will relieve the City of the sole expense of operating a public transit and will also expand the boundaries for public transportation.

Lastly, Mr. Mackie discussed the intent to move forward with ballot language for road funding and leaf collection equipment and operation. Mr. Mackie stated the language will call for 4.5 mills; 4 mills toward road funding and .5 mill for leaf collection equipment and operation. It was pointed out that the 4 mills for road funding is in lieu of the current 3 mills of debt service and would actually increase road funding by 1 mill. Council will need to approve the language at the February 1, 2021 meeting. Ballot language will need to be certified by the County Clerk by February 9, 2021.

New Business

A. BPU Sanitary Sewer Camera Services

BPU Director Chris McArthur presented Council with bid information for Sanitary Sewer Camera Services. Mr. McArthur requested Council award the bid to Taplin Group, LLC in the amount of \$245,344.22.

Motion by Councilman Briner, supported by Councilman Sharp, to award the Sanitary Sewer Camera Services to Taplin Group, LLC in the amount of \$245,344.22.

Roll call:

Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye

Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

B. Wickettstick Sewer Camera Services

BPU Director Chris McArthur reported that the Wickettstick Development on Barnard Street has funded and installed all required infrastructure to the BPU sewer system at no cost to the BPU. Wickettstick agrees to maintain its own infrastructure with no cost to the BPU. Mr. McArthur asked that Council approve an agreement allowing them to do so.

Motion by Councilman Socha, supported by Councilwoman Pratt, to approve the agreement and authorize signature by the BPU Director.

Roll Call:

Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamation – None

B. Re-Appointments—Reappointment of Travis Stebelton to the Airport Advisory Committee

Motion by Councilman Briner, support by Councilman Socha, to reappoint Travis Stebelton to the Airport Advisory Committee

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other – None

General Public Comment

Doug Ingles, Hillsdale County Commissioner, District 1 gave a County Commissioners update and encouraged collaboration

John Smith reiterated there was no violence among the Hillsdale attendees at the January 6, 2021 trip to the Capitol and gave an overview of the event. Mr. Smith also commented that he felt there are streams of revenue other than millages.

Penny Swan, commended Councilman Socha for his speech. She also stated she is of the opinion no one should have to denounce violence as no one in good conscience should condone violence to begin with.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Mackie assured Council that with the high positive testing among City staff, the necessary precautions are being taken to reduce exposure.

The construction on the Dawn Theater is moving along well. The roof and trusses are complete and final funding will be in place by the end of the month.

The gift card program sponsored by the EDP was successful with over \$30,000.00 going back to our local businesses.

EDP is reviewing grant applications submitted by businesses who have been impacted by the shutdowns.

A bid opening for the parallel taxiway extension and connector Scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

The Spring newsletter will be out in February.

The Police Department received certification for Safe Policing/Safe Communities. This will be key when seeking funding opportunities.

Wrapping up, City Manager addressed John Smith's comment regarding the City running to a millage to get streets done. Mr. Mackie explained this has been a first for the City as other streams of revenue have been sought.

Council Comments

Councilman Zeiser commented on taxation. He explained that while he does not care for new taxes, he feels better when it goes to the people for consent rather a millage levied by Council without the peoples' consent.

Councilman Socha thanked Penny Swan for her kind words and thanked Eric Hoffman for investing in the infrastructure and hooking into the BPU lines.

Adjournment

Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Briner, moved to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Adam L. Stockford, Mayor

Michelle Loren, Deputy City Clerk