

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

March 1, 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 (Electronically, Hillsdale, MI)
William Zeiser, Ward 3
Robert Socha, Ward 4
Raymond Briner, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Anthony Vear, Ward 1

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Joseph Mangan (Finance), Corey Murray (HDN), Dennis Wainscott, Mike Prince, Christ Wingate, Penny Wingate, David Mosby, Karla Adams, Mary Wallen, Justin Wallen, Diana Hicksenhiser, Roger Sparks, Lisa Sparks, Jon Smith, Jon Beckwith, Tim Martin, Lance Lashaway, Rob Yeager and Penny Swan.

Present electronically: Kristin Bauer (City Engineer), Alan Becker (Planning/Zoning Administrator), Kim Thomas (City Assessor), Jake Hammel (DPS Director), Jason Blake (DPS Foreman), Ruth Brown, Jack McLain, Eric Moore, Jordan Adams and Joseph Hendee.

Approval of Agenda

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

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, 34 Garden Street, commented on Councilman Socha's resolution and stated he is in favor of it. Wainscott encouraged Council to pass the resolution.

Robert Eichler, Scipio Township mentioned he would like to see the three minutes time for public comment extended to five minutes.

Penny Swan, Ward 4, is in support of Councilman Socha’s resolution, stating the government should stand up and protect the rights of its citizens.

Jon Smith, Somerset Center, thanked Councilman Socha for presenting his resolution at the meeting.

Karla Adams, commented she is in favor of Councilman Socha’s resolution and asked council to pass the resolution and be support of it as well.

John Beckwith, Hillsdale County, stated that he believes that all that are in public service should take a course on the constitution to have a better understanding of it.

Lance Lashaway, Hillsdale County, thanked Council for taking a stand on partisan politics.

Tim Martin, Hillsdale Township, thanked Councilman Socha for presenting the resolution tonight.

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of February 4, 2021: \$530,918.10
 - 2. Payroll of February 4, 2021: \$179,209.42
- B. City Council Minutes of February 15, 2021
- C. Planning Commission Minutes of January 19, 2021
- D. Library Minutes of February 11, 2021
- E. EDC Minutes of December 1, 2020
- F. LAC Minutes of February 23, 2021
- G. Hillsdale College Noise Variance for Mock Rock Event
- H. Hillsdale College Noise Variance for Taste of Manning Event
- I. Hillsdale College Right of Way Use Request for Taste of Manning Event
- J. January 2021 Finance Report
- K. Finance Minutes of January 25, 2021, February 8, 2021, and February 22, 2021

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Briner 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. 2021 Cemetery Spring Clean Up

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

- A. Ordinance Amendment to Sec. 36-143, Rezoning of 450 Hidden Meadows Drive

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the ordinance to amend Sec. 36-143 rezoning of 450 Hidden Meadows from B-1, local business district to R-1, single-family residential district as presented. **Ordinance 2021-01.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

A. Airport Engineering Services Amendment

City Manager Mackie presented the amendment for airport engineering services for the new taxiway C extension and connector.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to approve Amendment No. 1 to the agreement for professional engineering services with RS&H in the amount of \$155,713.00.

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.

New Business

A. Set Special Assessment District #1 Public Hearing

City Manager Mackie reviewed the Hillcrest Area Special Assessment District, SAD# 21-01.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$700,000 with \$380,000 being paid by the City and \$320,000 being assessed to property owners. The project cost split is in accordance with the City's Policy on Special Assessment Districts for Street Projects presented to the City Council at their February 1, 2021 meeting. The total combined cost to the affected property owners will not go above \$320,000, which is limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per lot, but may go down if the total project cost comes in lower than the total estimated cost of \$700,000.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Socha to set the public hearing for Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to establish the special assessment district (SAD# 21-01).

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Set Special Assessment District #2 Public Hearing

City Manager Mackie reviewed the Riverdale Area Special Assessment District, SAD# 21-02.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$200,000 with \$150,000 being paid by the City and \$50,000 being assessed to property owners. The project cost split is in accordance with the City's Policy on Special Assessment Districts for Street Projects presented to the City Council at their February 1, 2021 meeting. The total combined cost to the affected property owners will not go above \$50,000, which is limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per lot, but may go down if the total project cost comes in lower than the total estimated cost of \$200,000.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to set the public hearing for Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to establish the special assessment district (SAD# 21-02).

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Set Special Assessment District #3 Public Hearing

City Manager Mackie reviewed the Elm Court Area Special Assessment District, SAD# 21-03.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$75,000 with \$50,000 being paid by the City and \$25,000 being assessed to property owners. The project cost split is in accordance with the City’s Policy on Special Assessment Districts for Street Projects presented to the City Council at their February 1, 2021 meeting. The total combined cost to the affected property owners will not go above \$25,000, which is limited to a maximum of \$5,000 per lot, but may go down if the total project cost comes in lower than the total estimated cost of \$75,000.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrissey to set the public hearing for Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. to establish the special assessment district (SAD# 21-03).

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

D. MDOT Dial A Ride Funding (Resolution)

Joseph Mangan, Finance Director reported each February the City of Hillsdale submits an application to the State of Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to apply for financial assistance under Act 51 for public transportation known as Dial-A-Ride Transit (DART). The resolution outlines the anticipated balanced budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year of \$370,849 and projected funding sources. The resolution also appoints Mangan as the Transportation Coordinator.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve the resolution for MDOT Dial a Ride funding and appoint Mangan as Transportation Coordinator. **Resolution 3441.**

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 Morrissey	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

E. Banking Resolution

Joseph Mangan, Finance Director reported that he and Bonnie Tew are transitioning the duties and authorizations of the position of Director of Finance. As part of this, Mangan, will be added as ‘signer only’ to the City of Hillsdale’s bank accounts for County National Bank. Bonnie Tew will be removed from the City of Hillsdale’s bank accounts at County National Bank as ‘signer only’ as she is retiring at the end of March 2021.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Briner to approve the banking resolution for to add Joseph Mangan as signer only and remove Bonnie Tew on the city’s accounts. **Resolution 3442.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

F. Resolution for Discussion –Councilman Socha

Council member Socha presented a resolution for council discussion opposing the passage and

enforcement of any trailer bill, or any bill, or any executive order, or any departmental order, or any other order, mandate, or law which infringes on the general Rights of Life, Liberty, and Property, ordained by God and enumerated in the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Michigan amongst other current items included in the resolution. Socha asked for council's opinion and discussion.

Council member Morrisey thanked council member Socha for presenting the resolution. He stated that the council should be focused and specific on one issue developing a resolution. To stay focused and stay economically and not have a broad listed resolution. He mentioned while council is doing consensus building in his opinion, council should stay focused and charged with doing what they are presented to do, which includes the city goals of public safety, economic development, street improvement, recreation and other items. He is in favor of adding focused resolutions or proclamations some.

Council member Stuchell, agreed with council member Morrisey as the city is building the city back up and receiving grants and funding for doing that the council needs to focus on specific items to address in the resolution.

Council member Socha stated that he was upset that council may compromise on principal as the city may lose a few funding dollars.

After much discussion council suggested to send the resolution to a committee to review and modify the resolution.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to send resolution to the Operations and Governance committee to review, modify and bring back to council for approval.

Roll call:

Council Member Pratt	Aye
Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Mayor Stockford	No
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye

Motion passed 7-1.

Miscellaneous Reports

A. Proclamation – None

B. Appointments—IPMC Board – Lance Fansler (Alternate)

Motion by Council Member Briner, Seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the appointment as presented.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Other – None

General Public Comment

Jon Smith, Somerset Center, would like to volunteer for the park and cemetery clean up and thanked council for the discussion on Council member Socha's resolution.

Namrata Carolan, Jerome, MI, expressed her displeasure with the current government over reach. Carolan stated she is in favor of council member Socha's resolution and encouraged council to stand up, speak up and live up to a great nation.

Jon Beckwith, Hillsdale County, commented about the authority and history of a sheriff.

Karla Adams, Ward 4, commented on council member Socha's resolution and asked what part was up for discussion to be sent to committee.

Rob Yeager, Hillsdale Township, asked council to have courage and support council member Socha's resolution.

Tim Martin, Hillsdale Township, commented on the industrial park property and asked council why it's listed at \$30,000 an acre.

Robert Eichler, Scipio Township, asked council not to impose any new milages or taxes on the residents as they are struggling financially.

Jack McLain, Hillsdale County, commented on the charter requirements of a board member. McLain asked about Planning Commission and the advertisement for commission members.

Penny Swan, Ward 4, commented on council member Socha's resolution and asked that the Operations and Governance committee can review the resolution and return to council in a speedy fashion.

Dennis Wainscott, 34 Garden Street, thanked council for reviewing and looking over council member Socha's resolution.

Amanda Brower, Hillsdale City, commented she is in support of council member Socha's resolution and thanked council for the willingness to discuss and review it. She encouraged council to adapt an out of the box mindset as she stated we are living in unprecedented times and council is the protection of the people for unconstitutional mandates.

Roger Sparks, Hillsdale County, thanked council for what they are doing and stated that council is there for the people.

Joseph Hendee, 181 Rea Street, commented that council members needs to speak into the microphones as residents can't hear at home. Hendee stated that the city and council should fight for truth and liberty like Hillsdale College.

City Manager's Report

No report.

Council Comments

Council member Zeiser, stated that he is in favor of the constitution and what it stands for but as government officials council need to pull back and review and look at how to approach the operations of the constitution and how to form a precise and effective proclamation or resolution.


Council member Socha, stated that he spoke with Sheriff Hodshire and stated that the sheriff will not enforce any unconstitutional mandates.


Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.


Adam L. Stockford, Mayor


Katy Price, City Clerk