

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**

City of Hillsdale

August 2, 2021

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. Clerk Price took roll call.

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

Council Members absent: Morrisey

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Mark Hawkins (HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS Director), Penny Swan, Dennis WainScott, Lance Lashaway, Linda Quiggle, Ben Quiggle, Ferran Quiggle, Ashlynn Moore, Anna Springborn, Mary Harman, Mars Mason, Luke Hollenbaugh, Emily Sheicus, Shannon Gainer, Keith Porter, Brady Helmrig, Sheri Lemki, James Galloway, Jeffery Rogers, Richard Stephenson, Laura Leutheuser, Beth Calvert, Claire Calvert, Arthur Hilgendorf, Shannon Spahr, Georgeann Hilgendorf, Stephanie Myers, Kathryn Watkins, Leisha Taylor, Carson Cooley, Candy Carter, Jake Healy, Kris Healy, David Turner, Angela Turner, Tim Sullivan, Brandan Hadlock, Christine Hadlock, Heather Trichka, Judy DeVries, Chloe Trichka, Mark Lee Dickson, K Sukanuma, Liz Wells, Carrie Nolten, Fred Nolten, Olivia Trichka, Adam Matthews, Josh Colletta, Ted Jansen, Jane Englehart, Namoo Carolan, Anne Schmitt, Randy Schmitt, Adelaide Holmes, Elizabeth Turner, Ryan Cote, Chris Goffos, Colin Brown, Paula Karlorich, Rick Moeggenberg, Anthony Czerwonka, Marcus Reynolds, Raul Larlovich, Carol Czerwonka, Nancy DeBacker, Eric Leutheuser, Joshua Antonini.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Vear approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 8-0.

**Public Comment**

Dave Turner, city resident, thanked council for opportunity to voice opinion on city business. Turner stated that he was in favor of the ordinance to declare the city a sanctuary for the unborn.

Dennis Wainscott, city resident, stated we all have God given rights and breath the same air, we need to speak and stand up for the unborn rights and they should have the same rights as everyone.

Namoo Carolan, Hillsdale County, stated she hopes that the proposed ordinance is passed to prevent abortions, spoke on abortion laws and recited scripture.

Kabe, Coldwater, stated the proposed ordinance force people to have kids and can't afford it as well as rape victims. He is not in favor of the ordinance as there aren't any abortion clinics in Hillsdale to begin with.

Jeff Rodgers, city resident, stated he champions life. Fought for the country for the right of other nation's people and stands for the right of life for the unborn Americans. Mentioned to Council they have a duty to make an important decision to choose life. In favor of ordinance.

Josh Colletta, city resident, stated the proposed ordinance is unconstitutional and unenforceable. Colletta mentioned that it is a waste of time and resources. Not the job of city government and is not in favor of the ordinance.

Charles Vear, city resident, urged council to give the unborn the same rights to life as everyone else has, just equal rights no more no less. The purpose of an abortion is to intentionally kill an unborn child. Asked council to pass the ordinance.

Adelaide Holmes, city resident, stated that we all have human rights, the proposed ordinance protects the rights of the most vulnerable of citizens, the unborn. Holmes urged council to pass the ordinance.

Kathryn Watkins, Hillsdale County, shared a story of a friend and her minor daughter from Texas. Watkins mentioned that the city is home of the only hospital and only OBGN offices in the county and with the passage of the proposed ordinance it will affect all women in the entire county.

Ashlynn Moore, city resident, shared her personal story of abuse. Mentioned stats on hunger, foster care and abuse. Moore stated that all lives matter but not all lives are good and not everyone should have children that have them.

Linda Quiggle, Hillsdale Township, stated that all lives are important. Quiggle shared that less than 1% of abortions are taken by women whose lives are in danger. She stated that 70% of women who are pregnant look to abortion because they don't have the support they need to have a child. Hillsdale needs to have more services available to help these women.

Judy DeVries, stated she is visiting Hillsdale and currently working with Michindoh Conference Center but resides in California. She urged council to pass the proposed ordinance as abortion is a horrific permanent solution to a temporary situation. She stated the importance of having local services like the Helping Hands available.

Candy Carter, city resident, stated that she is shocked that the proposed ordinance is even on the agenda. Not in favor of the ordinance and questioned the legality of it.

Sheri Lemke, city resident, stated abortion is murder and shared her personal story about how she assisted with the process as a child.

Leisha Taylor, Hillsdale County, stated the proposed ordinance is unconstitutional and is concerned with the health of women if the ordinance passes.

Shannon Gainer, city resident, shared that abortion is not a one day act, it has side effects for the woman's entire life. She shared her story about her miscarriage. Gainer stated that there are a lot of free birth control options available and to not use abortions as one of them.

Heather Tritchka, city resident, stated that she contacted Mark Lee Dixon, she mentioned that a group went door to door and collected 400 signatures to see if there was an interest of establishing an unborn sanctuary in the city. The proposed ordinance doesn't take away any rights at this time and won't change anything but will not allow abortion clinics in the city and abortion pills be mailed within the city.

Farren Quiggle, city resident, stated she was pro-life and supports the proposed ordinance. She stated that legality doesn't equal morality. Miscarriages are different than abortions, a miscarriage is the loss of a child, and abortions are an intentional taking of a child's life.

Paul Karlovich, Hillsdale County, stated he supports the proposed ordinance and mentioned that the council has an opportunity to do something great for our community.

Stephanie Myers, city resident, stated that there is no abortion clinics in the county and doesn't understand why it is on the agenda as it is wasting time and resources. Council should be focusing on the drug problem, affordable housing and the poor infrastructure. Myers mentioned that her group collected 540 signatures in opposition of the proposed ordinance.

Emily Shelcusk, Auburn Hills, staff member of Students life of America, stated that young people of America are proudly pro-life and many people in the community have been waiting for an ordinance like the one proposed. Abortion is not health care it creates all sorts of problems mentally, emotionally and physically. She mentioned the proposed ordinance is an incredible opportunity to protect the most vulnerable and restore justice and dignity for the smallest members of our community.

Joshua, city resident, stated that the proposed ordinance is criminalizing speech but doesn't state what the speech actually is. Asked council if they have the right to tell someone what they should believe about other people and legislate what sort of beliefs they should have.

Christopher, Hillsdale Township, stated he is firmly anti-abortion but is concerned by the content in the proposed ordinance. Asked council to read and review the ordinance as it is useless as it is written, and if it is something the citizens want, then to draft their own with the assistance from the local legal team and citizens.

Brandon Hadlock, city resident, stated he is in favor of life of the unborn, but would like to see some modification to the proposed ordinance as some women do not have a choice to have a child like rape or incest victims. As well as an amendment so that citizens aren't encouraged to report and tell on others but to consider their feelings.

Ryan Cote, city resident, stated he's in support of life and the right to life and is favor of the ordinance by doesn't want to see the ordinance rushed through as it is important. Council should have a public hearing and discuss it further. Life is beautiful and we should support it.

Georgeann Hilgendorf, city resident, shared her personal story and mentioned that every life and baby is a miracle and is in support of the proposed ordinance.

Tim Sullivan, Hillsdale Township, thanked council and all who serve. Asked council as a matter of procedure move the proposed ordinance forward and set up a public hearing.

Adam Matthews, Ohio, thanked council for giving the opportunity for the public to speak on the proposed ordinance. Matthews stated with the current language in the ordinance it has held up in court.

Mark Lee Dixon, Texas, came to Hillsdale as there was interest in Hillsdale with the proposed ordinance. Stated that there was lawsuits that came against the ordinance but has held up in court and won. Lawyers like Jonathon Mitchell are willing to help and represent Hillsdale at no cost if the proposed ordinance is passed. Stated he is willing to speak with anyone that may have any questions.

Lance Lashaway, Hillsdale County, doesn't see why the proposed ordinance is on the agenda and why the city is discussing it.

Carson Cooley, city resident, the proposed ordinance is outside of local authority and asked why it is

even being discussed. Not in favor of the ordinance and encouraged council to vote to not pass it. Cooley thanked the Mayor and Mr. Lashaway for their help with his car a week ago.

Laura Leutheuser, Hillsdale County, thanked the public for all the comments on the proposed ordinance. She stated we must stand for truth even when it is uncomfortable or if it causes a ruckus. Each person has a right to life, the unborn included.

Joshua Antonini, Ohio, stated he is a pro-life individual, murder is wrong. All humans have the right to life and are valuable, unborn are humans and are valuable as well. Thanked council for time.

Penny Swan, city resident, stated she is against abortion and is pro-life but is against the proposed ordinance. She mentioned that transparency was lacking on the ordinance and feels like it was rush for a vote.

Ted Jansen, city resident, stated sections of the proposed ordinance are troubling and mentioned it is a total over reach and is not in favor of it.

Ben Quiggle, city resident, is pro-life and believes the proposed ordinance is a good idea but needs to be vetted and modified to be effective.

### Consent Agenda

#### A. Approval of Bills

1. City and BPU Claims of July 22, 2021 \$2,177,645.04
2. Payroll of July 8, 2021 \$212,412.22; July 22, 2021 \$179,666.98

#### B. Finance Report July 22, 2021

#### C. City Council Minutes of July 19, 2021

#### D. TIFA Targeted Development Minutes of June 29, 2021

#### E. TIFA Minutes of May 18, 2021

#### F. Governance Board Minutes of June 17, 2021

#### G. Minutes of the 2021 July Board of Review

#### H. MML Board of Trustees Election Ballot

#### I. Hillsdale College Alley Closure Agreement – Welcome Party

#### J. 2021 Archery Deer Hunt

#### K. Hillsdale College Alley Closure/Noise Variance College Student Involvement Fair

#### L. Hillsdale College Street Closure/Noise Variance Freshman Convocation

#### M. Hillsdale College Alley Closure/Noise Variance Freshman Dinner

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Zeiser to approve the Consent agenda as presented.

Roll call:

Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Briner	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.

### Communications/Petitions

- A. MEDC Letter- 2021 Water-Related Infrastructure
- B. Michigan Gas Utilities -2022-2023 EWR Plan
- C. Hillsdale County Recreation Plan Resolution

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

**Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings**

None

**Old Business**

- A American Rescue Act Update

David Mackie, City Manager reported that no funds have been received yet. Application was completed and submitted to the Treasury. Estimated amount to be received is \$837,000.00.

- B Infrastructure Construction Update

Jake Hammel, DPS Director reported that Elm Court water/sewer mains have been completed and there are a few services that need tied over.

Special Assessment District projects, contractors have started in Hillcrest Dr. area and completed work on Riverdale St side. Contractors have completed the outfalls on storm sewer issues. Concrete to be put down later this week. Project scheduled to be completed September 4, 2021.

Transfer Station building has been demolished, contractor is prepping foundation for the new building and working on floor. Project completion date is set for the end of September 2021.

Council discussion ensued on flooding issues with Center City Apartment area along with the entire city from previous weather conditions.

**New Business**

- A. Vacant Land Offer – 203 Development Drive

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Zeiser to approve the sale of a 3.92 acre parcel of vacant land at 203 Development Drive in the amount of \$20,000.00 to Fix Roof, LLC.

Roll call:

- Council Member Briner Aye
- Council Member Vear Aye
- Council Member Socha Aye
- Council Member Sharp Aye
- Council Member Stuchell Aye
- Council Member Pratt Aye
- Council Member Zeiser Aye
- Mayor Stockford Aye

Motion passed 8-0.

- B. City of Hillsdale Employee Handbook

City Manager Mackie updated council on a few changes made to the handbook. Mackie mentioned that the handbook has not been updated for several years. Updated changes include; PTO policy, commercial driver's license requirement, Call to Duty and including Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a holiday.

Council discussion ensued on Martin Luther King, Jr holiday as well as the Social Media policy.

Motion by Council Member Vear, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve the updated handbook.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

C Broadband Task Force

City Manager Mackie stated the City is working with the county to establish a Broadband Task Force comprised of representatives from the county, local cities and townships. The Task Force is an effort to move forward with planning and improving access to higher speed internet throughout Hillsdale County.

Mayor Stockford volunteered to serve as the city council representative on the Task Force.

Motion by Council Member Zeiser, seconded by Council Member Briner to approve Mayor Stockford as the city council representative.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

E IAFF (Fire Fighter Local 961 Union Contract)

Chief Hephner updated council on the changes made to the proposed contract.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Socha approve the IAFF Fire Fighters Local 961 Union Contract as presented.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 8-0.

D Declaring Hillsdale a Sanctuary for the Unborn

Council Member Vear lead discussion on the subject. Vear stated that life begins at conception and mention that council recites the pledge of allegiance before every meeting, which states there is liberty and justice for all, which also includes the unborn. Vear stated that there has been a lot of misinformation presented to the public on the ordinance. He supports the ordinance and wanted to clarify there is no action taken on this item at the meeting tonight.

Council Member Stuchell stated that the ordinance looks the way it does because it is to stand strong against any legality. Stated signatures were obtained to see if there was enough interest in the community for this item. Thanked the mayor and rest of council on taking a stance on a few other tough items that were brought forth for council to act on previously. Stuchell mentioned that a public hearing on the ordinance needs to be set.

Council Member Sharp mentioned that the ordinance should be reviewed to the Operations and Governance Committee to make any modification before coming to council and also allow the city attorney to review it.

Mayor Stockford stated that he had issues with some of the content of the ordinance. He doesn't agree with abortion but doesn't think you should bring charges against someone or a neighbor. Stockford suggested to make modifications to it to fit the community. He mentioned that he thought there was a rush to get the ordinance passed at this meeting which confused a lot of the public.

Council Member Stuchell mentioned to send it to the Operations and Governance committee to review and modify and then bring back to council to set a public hearing.

Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Pratt motioned to send the ordinance to the Operations and Governance Committee for review and possible modification.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**Miscellaneous Reports**

- A. Proclamation – None
- B. Appointments—None
- C. Other – None

**General Public Comment**

Josh Colletta, city resident, finished his comments from the first public comment. He mentioned there are broader issues that council needs to be working on as well as fixing local issues. Colletta stated that city and all government have no place to tell anyone what to do with their bodies.

Mark Lee Dixon, Texas, stated that there was much misinformation circulating on the ordinance. Dixon stated that any modifications to the presented ordinance may hinder assistance from the attorney Jonathan F. Mitchell at no cost.

Ted Jansen, city resident, stated that any change or modification to the ordinance may result with little help or a cost from the attorney is absurd and disgusting.

Adam Mathews, Ohio, thanked council and other public officials for serving the community and stated the Hillsdale is a beautiful city and urged council to vet and continue to process the ordinance.

Joshua Antonini, Ohio, stated that everyone has freedom and free will and is allowed to basically do what they want but not when it harms or hurts someone including the unborn.

**City Manager's Report**

Manager Mackie reported a finance director opening as Joseph Mangan has submitted his resignation.

Event: Summer in the City, Friday, August 6, 2021 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. cruise in car show, sidewalk sales, and local food vendors in downtown Hillsdale.

Event: Summer String Festival on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. and the Movies in the Park on Friday, August 6, 2021 at 9:30 p.m. both events are located at Mrs. Stock's Park.

Event: Will Carleton Poor House Farm Festival on Saturday, August 7, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Council Comments**

Council Member Socha agreed with Council Member Vear and is for right to life and in favor of the ordinance and is grateful for it to be reviewed by the Operations and Governance committee.

Council Member Sharp stated there are term limits for council members. He is on his last term as he has served many years. Sharp mentioned that he never saw a petition for signature of interest for the ordinance.

Council Member Stuchell stated that there is no rush for this ordinance and glad it will be reviewed by Operations and Governance committee.

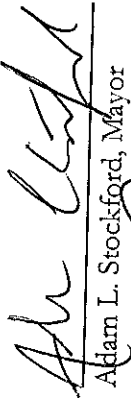
**Adjournment**

August 2, 2021

City Council Minutes

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

  
Adam L. Stockford, Mayor

  
Katy Pires, City Clerk