

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale

August 16, 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
William Morrissey, Ward 2
Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
Raymond Briner, Ward 4
Robert Socha, Ward 4

Council Members absent: Pratt, Zeiser

Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS Director), Chris McArthur (BPU Director), Corey Murray (HDN), Dennis Wainscott, Earl DeVries, Judy DeVries, Lisa Sparks, Roger Sparks, Jordan Adams, Rachel Cram, Kirk, Adeline, Padino's, Karla Adams and Karlee Embach.

Approval of Agenda

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of August 5, 2021: \$1,295,871.64
 - 2. Payroll of August 5, 2021: \$176,701.00
- B. City Council Minutes of August 2, 2021
- C. Hillsdale College Street Closure Agreement – Freshman Convocation
- D. Hillsdale College Street Closure Agreement – Freshman Dinner
- E. Hillsdale College Street Closure Agreement – Student Involvement Fair
- F. Hillsdale College Request for Fireworks Display and Noise Variance
- G. Hillsdale College Request for Bonfire and Noise Variance
- H. Hillsdale College Street Closure Request- Homecoming
- I. Hillsdale College Request for Noise Variance Tent Party
- J. BPU: Lead Service Line Parts Purchase
- K. BPU: Purchase of Electric 3 Gang Switches
- L. BPU: LTC Maintenance and Inspection

Motion by Council Member Morrisey, seconded by Council Member Socha 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
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0.

Communications/Petitions

- A. Health Department- Hillsdale County Covid Vaccination Rate July 2021
- B. Health Department – Coronavirus Mask Recommendations
- C. Comcast Letter
- D. City Newsletter- Fall 2021

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

- A Road Projects Verbal Update- Jake Hammel

Jake Hammel (Public Service Director) gave a report on the Hillcrest area project, stated it was moving along well, concrete work done, base course/asphalt to be done tomorrow or Wednesday. Top course will be done shortly after, project completion is tentative for the end of the August.

Hammel led discussion on the storm and brush needing to be picked up. Council discussed dates. Next collection date Monday, August 30, 2021 residents should have all brush at curb by 8:00 a.m.

- B American Rescue Act Update

David Mackie, City Manager reported that no funds have been received yet as is in progress. Estimated amount to be received is \$837,000.00. Mackie reviewed the top five items that would qualify to use with funds.

- 1. Westwood – Sumac Dr. street/infrastructure design work with engineering services
- 2. Bacon St and Manning St flood mitigation engineering services
- 3. Purchase of leaf collection
- 4. Performance pay for police officers (employee contracts)
- 5. Upgrades to the municipal airport for internet services

No action taken.

New Business

- A. BPU Security System

Chris McArthur (BPU Director) reported that the BPU currently has three different alarm companies providing services to the BPU buildings. BPU would like to combine all services provided to one vendor. Having one provider will save costs, provide one vendor for billing, make managing users simple, and make it easier for any customer support needed.

By switching all of our services to Safety Systems we will save money and have a service provider who has been excellent to work with. BPU will have an initial equipment cost of about \$9000 but will save that amount in the first year of service. Current alarm cost are \$12,408.48 per year, after the first year installation cost the annual alarm cost will be \$2,760.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Morrisey to approve the contract with Safety Systems.

Roll call:

Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0.

B. BPU 2021-2023 Lead Line Water Service Replacement

Chris McArthur (BPU Director) reported In June 2018 the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) promulgated major revisions to Michigan’s Lead and Copper Rule. These rules, commonly called the Lead & Copper Rule (LCR) requires public water supplies to complete Lead Service Line Replacements (LSLR) over a period of years at an average of 5% per year not to exceed 20 years. These replacements are required to be completed from the water main to the water meter, or 18” maximum, into the homes. These replacements, regardless of the service ownership, must be replaced at the City’s expense. As a result of these rule revisions the city has secured bids to continue replacements of the lead service lines into homes.

RJT Construction was successful low bidder on this project in 2020 and the work was completed successfully within budget and with very few issues.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve the contract for 2021 (\$104,500.00), 2022 (\$109,750.00) and 2023 (\$115,250.00) construction years to the low bidder, RJT Construction Co of Jackson, MI.

Roll call:

Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0.

C. WoodHill Group Service Agreement

City Manager Mackie presented the proposed service agreement between the City and WoodHill Group for accounting services. He stated the agreement would provide the City with a solution to the open Finance Director position, while searching for a new individual to fill that role. The agreement has a not-to-exceed amount of \$110,000 for one-year of service. If the city is able to hire a new Finance Director prior to one-year and WoodHill’s services will be no longer needed the agreement can be canceled at any time with no penalty.

Council discussion ensued.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Socha to approve the agreement with WoodHill Group in the amount of \$110,000.00 for financial services.

Roll call:

Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0.

D. US Staffing Agency Agreement

Jake Hammel (DPS Director) presented the staffing agreement to council. He stated the Department of Public Services uses temporary staffing services to help with tasks such as cemetery mowing, fall leaf collection, and winter maintenance. The City has had an agreement with US Staffing in the past however, it has expired. This agreement does not bind the City to one temporary staffing company. It will allow the City to use US Staffing when the need arises.

Mayor Stockford commented on the rate of pay.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Morrisey approve the agreement with US Staffing Agency as presented.

Roll call:

Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Morrisey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0.

E. Award of Bid – Pavement Marking to JV Contracting Inc

Jake Hammel (DPS Director) reported the Department of Public Services and the City Engineer solicited bids for cold plastic pavement markings. Historically DPS has hand painted all symbols, crosswalks annually with waterborne paint. The contract will install plastic symbols with a life expectancy of 5-8 years. The quality of the marking will be substantially better over the life of the symbols, and also save the annual cost of paint and labor.

The low bid to do all symbols, crosswalks, and line/delineations was submitted at \$114,275.00. The approved budgeted amount for this fiscal year was only \$60,000.00. The low bidder has agreed to do approximately half of the work this year, and will honor pricing to do the other half after July 1, 2022. It has been determined that it would be best to complete all stop bars, turn arrows, schools, and railroad symbols this year, and the crosswalks and lane delineations next year.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Briner to award contract to JV Contracting Inc in the amount of \$51,350.00 for the current fiscal year, and the balance of the contract \$62,925.00 next year.

Roll call:

Council Member Vear	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Stuchell	Aye
Mayor Stockford	Aye
Council Member Socha	Aye
Council Member Morrissey	Aye

Motion passed 7-0.

Miscellaneous Reports

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

General Public Comment

Karla Adams, Ward 4, commented on the TIFA, Dawn Theater and Keefer Hotel. She also expressed her displeasure with the possibility of a mask mandate again.

Jack McClain, Hillsdale Twp, commented on the August 2, 2021 council minutes specifically on a comment made from the public saying the abortion pills could not be mailed into Hillsdale as a part of the unborn sanctuary ordinance, saying he was not sure how they could stop that from happening. McClain also asked if there was a formal complaint form again.

City Manager’s Report

Manager Mackie reported the fall city newsletter will be out in BPU bills this month.

The leaf collection equipment was delivered last Thursday

US Staffing agreements could help with temporary employees to assist with leaf collection.

Library Director Mary Hill submitted resignation, the city will be going out for position soon.

Hillcrest Dr. area is looking good. The asphaltting starts tomorrow.

The health department gives recommendations that are shared in the council packets but the city currently is not requiring masks.

Thanked BPU/DPS crews for all their hard work for restoring power and for clean up from the storm.

Council Comments

Council Member Stuchell asked about the Modern Waste trash collection. Modern will be out picking up their normal schedule next week. Stuchell mentioned about the TIFA informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

Council Member Socha stated the Keefer Hotel is planned to commence work over the next few weeks. Socha also mentioned he does not like the notices for mask mandates or recommendations as he believes it is a total overreach.

Mayor Stockford stated there is no formal complaint form for the city. If it is a criminal complaint residents should see the police, if it is for council or staff should use the podium at a council

meeting.


Council Member Morrisey stated he is working on scheduling a meeting for the Operations and Governance committee possibly for next week. Morrisey mentioned that the Unborn Sanctuary ordinance will take time to review and may require multiple meetings until it's in final form to bring back to council.

Adjournment

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

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Adam L. Stockford, Mayor



Katy Price, City Clerk