

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

City of Hillsdale
December 20, 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
	Cynthia Pratt, Ward 2
	Bruce Sharp, Ward 3
	Bill Zeiser, Ward 3
	Robert Socha, Ward 4
	Raymond Briner, Ward 4

Council Members absent:	None
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Also Present: David Mackie (City Manager), Attorney Tom Thompson, Katy Price (City Clerk), Scott Hephner (HCPD/HCFD), Jake Hammel (DPS Director), Penny Swan, Lance Lashaway, Doug Ingles, Sheri Ingles, Dennis Wainscott, Stephanie Myers, Mike Prince, and Rachel Cram.

Approval of Agenda

City Manager Mackie requested that New Business Item G. Industrial Park Sale Agreement- 30 acres to be added to the agenda.

Motion by Council Member Morrissey, seconded by Council Member Briner to add New Business Item G. Industrial Park Sale Agreement- 30 acres to the agenda as requested.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

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

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

Public Comment

None

Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Bills
 - 1. City and BPU Claims of December 9, 2021: \$285,913.54
 - 2. Payroll of December 9, 2021: \$181,598.23
- B. City Council Minutes of December 6, 2021
- C. 2022 Committee Meeting Dates

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

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

Communications/Petitions

- A. Toys for Tots Appreciation Letter
- B. Airport Infrastructure Grant
- C. State Disaster Assistance Award Letter

All items presented for the purpose of information only.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances/Public Hearings

None

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. 2022 MDOT Performance Resolution

Jake Hammel, DPS Director stated each year it is necessary for the City to adopt a resolution which is required by the Michigan Department of Transportation for purposes of issuing individual permits to use its M-99 right-of-way within the City boundaries. Use of the right-of-way is required from time to time by the Department of Public Services, the Board of Public Utilities, the Police Department and the Fire Department.

Motion by Council Member Briner, seconded by Council Member Sharp to approve the 2022 MDOT Performance Resolution. **Resolution #3484.**

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. BPU Water Truck Bid Award

City Manager Mackie stated the water and sewer department is in need of a new pickup. The newest truck in this department is a 2015 F150 with about 70,000 miles on it. This new truck will be primarily driven by the superintendent but will be made available to water and sewer employees for purpose of out of town training, testing, and any longer trips.

Company Total

- Stillwell Ford \$34,770.80
- Jack Demmer Ford \$34,306.80
- Tiles in Styles \$71,786.00
- Varsity Ford \$36,336.80
- Amaru Ford \$43,768.64
- Amaru Ford \$45,192.40
- Frank Beck \$45,100.00
- Feldman Ford \$36,909.00
- Cronin \$46,264.00

One-half of this purchase to be paid from the capital budget for sewer and the other half from capital budget for water.

Motion by Council Member Vear, seconded by Council Member Socha to award the bid to Stillwell Ford in the amount of \$34,770.80.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

C. Police Officers Association of Michigan Union Contract

Police Chief Hephner gave a brief overview of the City of Hillsdale and the Police Officers Association of Michigan recently negotiated contract. The contract is for three-years. Items to note in the highlighted contract include:

- *Annual raises for the three year contract beginning July 1, 2021 are 3%, 4% and 4%
- *One-time \$750 payment for COVID premium pay
- *PTO (Paid Time Off) time for new hires versus separate vacation, sick and personal time of current employees
- *Defined contribution retirement plan for employees hired on or after July 1, 2023 with a 10% employer contribution and mandatory 5% employee match
- *Addition of Martin Luther King Day off as a holiday
- *Optional hiring bonus for new employees with three (3) year commitment contract

Council Member Stuchell inquired about the 12 hour shifts and benefit package.

Motion by Council Member Stuchell, seconded by Council Member Pratt to approve the Police Officers Association of Michigan union contract for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

D. Vested Risk Strategies- Insurance Services Agreement

City Manager Mackie reported that in the fall of 2021 the Council Finance Committee approached Vested Risk Strategies (Chris Sumnar) about taking the City of Hillsdale’s and Board of Public Utilities’ property and casualty insurance out for competitive bids. Vested Risk approached eight firms in the small municipal market on behalf of the City. Proposals were received from two firms: Travelers and Trident. The City’s current provider is Travelers.

Travelers compensates the adviser as part of their insurance premium. Trident requires that the advisor be compensated directly from the client. Given the Finance Committee’s recommending switching from Travelers to Trident the attached agreement is needed to compensate Vested Risk for their services. Ultimately by switching to Trident the City will be saving \$17,799 over last year’s premiums and \$56,185 over Travelers’ current proposal. Vested Risk’s fee is included in the savings.

Motion by Council Member Sharp, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve the Insurance Services Agreement with Vested Risk Strategies in the amount of \$50,000 for the 2022 calendar year.

E. Vested Risk Strategies- Trident Property and Casualty Insurance

City Manager Mackie stated in the fall of 2021 the Council Finance Committee approached Vested Risk Strategies (Chris Sumnar) about taking the City of Hillsdale’s and Board of Public Utilities’ property and casualty insurance out for competitive bids. Vested Risk approached eight firms in the small municipal market on behalf of the City. Proposals were received from two firms: Travelers and Trident. The City’s current provider is Travelers.

Vested Risk and the Council Finance Committee are recommending the City switch from Travelers to Trident for insurance coverage in 2022. Trident’s premium amount is \$278,037 with the City compensating Vested Risk \$50,000 directly for a total amount of \$328,037. This will save the City \$17,799 over Travelers’ 2021 premiums and \$56,185 over Travelers’ 2022 proposal of \$384,222 including Vested Risk’s compensation. The change will also improve many coverage limits.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Vear to approve switching to Trident for property and casualty insurance in the amount of \$278,037 for the 2022 calendar year.

Roll call:

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

Council Member Zeiser	Aye
Council Member Sharp	Aye
Council Member Briner	Aye
Council Member Pratt	Aye

Motion passed 9-0

F. 2022 Council Goals- Mayor Stockford

Mayor Stockford led discussion on the upcoming year goals. Ideas that were presented include: streets, new PA system/microphones for council chambers and the Mitchel Research Center.

Council will review more ideas and set the goals in January.

No action taken.

G. Industrial Park Sale: Stoll Property Agreement

City Manager Mackie reported that the purchase agreement was received in the afternoon prior to the meeting. The sale is for 30 acres of land in the industrial park with a price of \$150,000.00. The purchase agreement is contingent on zoning amendments and the developer’s subdivision plans for single family homes that will need to be approved through the planning commission.

Further Council discussion ensued.

Motion by Council Member Socha, seconded by Council Member Stuchell to approve the sale of Industrial Park purchase agreement with Steve Stoll upon legal review of city attorney.

Roll call:

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

Motion passed 9-0

Miscellaneous Reports

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

City Manager Mackie reviewed all pending lawsuits.

- Hillsdale Justice Project- Tax Exemption (tax tribunal case)
- Lance & Amy Manifold- Code Enforcement - Fence
- Anthony Hart- (ongoing for 5-6 years) with Police/Sheriff Departments and other agencies
- Excel Deal 21- 8 S. Manning St flooding issue
- Ultimate Holdings- Building- Use and Occupancy permit
- Lance Lashaway- FOIA Request

General Public Comment

Jack McLain, commented on the insurance agreement and stated the active shooter section was denied. McLain asked City Manager Mackie if the gentlemen from Hoop Lawn and Snow, Al Pitts was the one purchasing the Industrial Park land as he was interested in land at that location previously in his discussion with him. Stated he thought there was conflict of interest with one serving on the TIFA board and also a downtown business owner. McLain stated he went to TIFA information meeting and had questions on the standards of information meetings.

Penny Swan, commented on the lawsuit from Excel Deal 21.

Mike Prince, thanked Council for all the hard work done over the year and how much he appreciates all of Council. Thanked City staff as well for all their hard work.

Dennis Wainscott, thanked Council for good decisions made over the hard year. He wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

City Manager's Report

Manager Mackie thanked Council and staff for a job well done with accomplishing City goals with a trying year.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council Comments

Mayor Stockford thanked Council and appreciates their service.

Council Member Stuchell addressed the TIFA information meeting questions for Jack McLain. He mentioned the Dawn Theater is about complete and stated it is a beautiful building and a TIFA win.

Council Member Sharp stated he wants to have the sound system fixed this year so residents can hear not only in chambers but online. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council Member Vear thanked the residents of the City for supporting the special assessment districts for the most part as well as supporting the road funding millage that allows the public services committee to address the streets and work through the difficulties and implement new ideas.

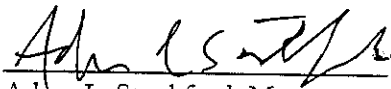
Mayor Stockford shared the New Year's Eve event downtown at the Elks December 31, 2021 from 3:00-7:00 p.m.


Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Vear seconded by Council Member Pratt moved to adjourn the meeting.

By a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.


Adam L. Stockford, Mayor


Katy Price, City Clerk