

Hills City Council Meeting
April 8, 2024 / 7:00 PM / Hills Community Center

The regular Hills City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Kemp at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 8, 2024 at the Hills Community Center.

Present: Council Members: Hudachek, Knebel, Rummelhart, Sommers, and Volk.

Absent: None. Also present: Kemp, Mayor; Sedlacek, City Admin; and Pantel, Public Works/Fire Chief.

Consent Agenda: Knebel motioned to approve consents agendas (March 25th, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Scheduled List of Claims, Receipts from March 22, 2024-April 4, 2024, Treasurers Report and Budget Report) and Sommers seconded. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Public Comment: J. Bailey expressed support from the community to move forward with trying to come up with a plan for the Hills Elementary and Hills community. J. Cambridge spoke on not wanting to move fast on the decisions made on the Hills Elementary School and it's future and possibility of switching school districts and would like the council to take their time. N. Hebel spoke on moving to Hills so her kids go to ICCSD and wants the Hills community to stay in the district. She stated that West High is the #1 school in the state compared to Lone Tree, #139 in the State of Iowa. She wants her grandkids to go to the #1 school in the state. N. Acheson wants the council to think about the kids when making decisions on the future of Hills and Hills Elementary. She asked council to not make a fast decision. Get all the info needed to make any decisions. She also asked if we should be looking at Mid Prairie schools as well if we are looking into Lone Tree and Highland. B. Anderson said she agreed with other when it came to the Hills Elementary. She also told council she would like to see a Tornado Shelter in Hills for residents and goes through town and on the interstate. R. Stutsman would like to see what the ICCSD intentions are for the Hills Community and the Hills Elementary School. M. Stutsman said there are no imminent decisions needed to be made right now until legislation passes a bill to help with rural schools leaving the district. A. Slaughter made a comment on some schools having one primary school and then kids can decide from there what school district they could go to. Wanted to see if Hills could look into that as an option. M. Moorehead mentioned that a daycare would be nice to have in Hills. She is frustrated along with other residents that this was such a fast decision made by the ICCSD. She mentioned how her family enjoys that the school is so convenient for them and the park as well. B. Dutka thanked council for exploring options on what to do for the Hills Elementary and Hills community. P. Gilmore mentioned to council to maybe look into a possible homeschooling center.

Business: Jody Bailey spoke on behalf of Hills Coalition 2.0. They are a group of residents to help come up with a plan for the Hills Elementary and future of Hills. Jody told council to reach out if they need help. They are here to assist if needed. Examples: fundraising, town hall meetings, surveys, etc.

Council discussed about Hills Elementary. The council wants to start talking to with the ICCSD school board and see what they are thinking about the school. They would like to find possible ways to see what the community wants. City of Hills will start collecting community feedback and take their time in the decision making.

Sommers motioned to set a Budget Public Hearing for April 22nd, 2024 at 7PM and Volk seconded. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Sommers motioned to approve Resolution 2024-06 Authorizing the Hills Butterfly Garden Reimbursement Program and Adopting Policy for Program Administration and Rummelhart seconded. Roll call vote was takes. Ayes: Hudachek, Volk, Rummelhart, Knebel, Sommers. Motion carried.

Knebel motioned to set Public Hearing for FY24 Budget Amendment for May 13th, 2024 at 7PM and Sommers seconded. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Sommers motioned to go with Precision Gutter Bid for the City Building and Fire Station and Knebel seconded. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Reports: Attorney: No report.

Mayor: No report.

Maintenance: LL Pelling is going to be starting chip and seal work at the end of April.

Fire Department: No report.

City Administrator: Johnson County Refuse will be at the April 22nd meeting to talk about the possibility of changing the trash and recycling day in Hills.

Water: No report.

Sewer: No report.

Council Comments: Reminded the public of spring clean up day for April 20th.

Continued Business: Sommers motioned to go into closed session per Iowa Code Section 21.5 (1)(j) to discuss the purchase or sale of real estate and Rummelhart seconded. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Sommers motioned to go out of closed session and back into regular meeting and Hudachek seconded. Ayes: 5. Motion carried

Rummelhart motioned to adjourn the meeting and Volk seconded. Ayes: 5. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 8:23 PM

Tim Kemp, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Adriane Sedlacek, City Administrator