

**CITY COUNCIL
121 N CHURCH STREET, HUDSON, MI
REGULAR MEETING
May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

748360:

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Daniel Schudel at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Brandi Clark, Greg Hillegas, Daniel Schudel, Lisa Enerson and Carl Sword

ABSENT: Natalie Loop

ALSO PRESENT: Sara Schudel, Aubree Schudel, Barb Ireland – Hudson Post Gazette, John Johnson – Nickel & Saph Inc, Bruce VanWieren, Sherry Kirkland, City Receptionist Samantha Gerig, City Treasurer Megan Coates, Neil Coates, DPW Superintendent Jay Best, City Manager Charles Weir and City Clerk Jeaniene McClellan

ORDERS OF THE DAY:**Excuse Absent Members:****748361:**

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Brandi Clark **to approve to excuse Natalie Loop from the meeting.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Setting the Agenda:**748362:**

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Greg Hillegas **to Move Item B under New Business to the next meeting also add 400 Railroad St Purchase Agreement under New Business Item I.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Approval of minutes dated April 15, 2025:**748363:**

Motion by Greg Hillegas, seconded by Brandi Clark **to approve minutes of April 15, 2025 and place on file.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comments were heard.

PRESENTATION:**Nickel & Saph Inc – John Johnson:**

John Johnson from Nickel & Saph is our Liability Insurance representative. He came to help the Council understand why the insurance has increase 21% over last year's premium.

NEW BUSINESS:**Accept: Resignation from Sherry Kirkland:**

On April 14, 2025 Sherry Kirkland sent a letter to the council and City Manager that she no longer is living inside the city limits on April 30, 2025.

Council has until May 30, 2025 to appoint a council person to fill Mrs. Kirkland's seat until December 1, 2025. At the November election we will have a partial seat opening for 1 year and 2 full term seats on the ballot.

748364:

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Carl Sword to **accept the resignation of Sherry Kirkland from Council effective April 30, 2025.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Approve: Form for Memorial Benches with Plaques:

We have had a few requests asking to have memorial plaques put onto benches along the trail and/or parks. At the bridge on Jackson Street there was a plaque already placed on a bench years ago.

The family brought the plaque, and the city crew attached it to the bench. A longtime resident of Hudson asked if he could buy a bench and plaque in honor of his mother. After investigating where the city purchased the other benches, we have created a form for Council consideration and approval. The bench, plaque and install costs currently are \$1080.00. We suggest a \$1,200.00 fee for the bench set and installation. The remaining \$120.00 will go into the civic promotion fund.

748365:

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Brandi Clark to **approve the memorial bench order form and set the fee at \$1,200.00.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Approve: Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board:

Bruce VanWieren has expressed to fill another seat on the Recreation Advisory Board.

He meets the requirements to be appointed to the Recreation Advisory Board.

748366:

Motion by Greg Hillegas, seconded by Lisa Enerson to **appoint Bruce VanWieren to the Recreation Advisory Board for 3-year term expiring in July 2028.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Approve: 1st Reading – Ordinance 405-25 Allowing Chickens in the City:

At the Planning Commission on April 28th, the commissioners passed the ordinance on allowing chickens in the city. Member Rob Hall made the motion and member Jack Donaldson second to

pass the ordinance onto the Council for the 1st reading of the new ordinance. The motion passed unanimously by the Planning Commission members.

This amendment would amend the Chapter 4 – Animals in the Code of Ordinances. This new addition would allow up to 4 chickens in the backyard with rules and regulations along with obtaining a permit from the City Office.

If the Council approves this first reading, the second reading and public hearing will take place on May 20, 2025, at the Council meeting.

748367:

Motion by Brandi Clark, seconded by Natalie Loop to **approve the first reading with removing slaughtering in the city limits and adding the cost and waive the actual reading of Ordinance No. 405-25, adding the allowing of chickens in the city, to the City of Hudson’s Code of Ordinances.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Approve: 1st Reading – Ordinance 406-25 Amending the City Charter:

We are asking to amend the City Charter to match the State of Michigan’s new laws on election. This amendment would involve the sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the City Charter.

All the changes will be moving the organizational meeting to the first meeting in December. Along with changes the recommendation on obtaining valid signatures on petitions from 50-100 to 6-20. We also noticed in section 3-7 the time of 5:00 pm for the deadline on the petitions are outdated the state’s law states 4:00 pm. Also in section 6-1 the regular meetings for council will state 7:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month.

748368:

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Brandi Clark to **approve the first reading and waive the actual reading of Ordinance No. 406-25, amending the City Charter.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Approve: Record of Agent & Health Insurance Group Plan Year Certification:

In the interest of reducing the health insurance cost for the Full-Time Employees while maintain the same services, the current monthly medical insurance premium cost with BC/BS and the quoted cost from BCN was attached for Council’s review. By going to the BCN through Gurdjian Insurance, the city will save \$4,586.78 a month. As part of the transition, the city will have to formally send correspondence to BC/BS requesting Londa Pickles of Gurdjian Insurance as the Agent of Record.

Further:

Historically the City Group Health Plan year starts December 1, annually. Due to this timeline the city must build the following annual FY budget without having accurate numbers for the projected health care cost.

If the city changes the renewal date to July 1st, the city will be able to get actual numbers during the budget process.

Under 45 CFR 155.20 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Group Plan Year change must be certified by the Group (City of Hudson) representative.

The Customer Plan year certification letter was attached for review.

748369:

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Carl Sword to **approve Agent Londa Pickles of Gurdjian Insurance, as Agent of Record. Approve the health care plan renewal date of July 1, annually and authorize the City Manager to sign the Customer Plan Year Certification document.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Discussion: Budget FY 2025-2026 & Set Public Hearing:

The City needs to set a Public Hearing date for the adoption of the FY 2025/26 City Budget and the Truth In Taxation setting of the City Millage rate.

We recommend setting the Public Hearing for Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

748370:

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Carl Sword to **Set the Public Hearing for adoption of the FY 2025-2026 City Budget and the Truth In Taxation setting of the City Millage rate for Tuesday, May 20, 2025.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

Approve: 400 Railroad Street Purchase Agreement:

Marry Properties LLC was the winning bidder on the 400 Railroad Street property. A purchase agreement was drafted by the city and given to Marry Properties LLC. Their legal counsel reviewed the agreement and added some language to the agreement about environmental testing on the site at their expense.

The City attorney has reviewed the changes in the agreement and has no issues with it if acceptable to the City. The changes in the agreement are common according to the city attorney.

748371:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Lisa Enerson to **approve the purchase agreement for the 400 Railroad Street property, with marry Properties LLC and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bills:

Bills to Council
April 1, 2025

Bills to be Approve

Total	\$0.00	

Bills to be Confirmed

Total	\$0.00	

No bills to be approved for this meeting**Account Balances and Check Register:****Account Balances:**

General Fund	\$974,914.23
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 0.00
Major Street Fund	\$338,478.15
Local Street Fund	\$ 23,828.75
Fire Department Fund	\$111,375.24
Recreation Fund	\$ 698.26
Cemetery Foundation	\$ 36,744.95
Ambulance	\$ 95,377.83
Community Center	\$ 35,157.11
Income Tax Fund	\$292,857.90
Downtown Development	\$ 19,151.29
Thompson Museum Fund	\$ 0.00
Library Fund	\$ 0.00
Thompson Library Fund	\$ 0.00
Museum Fund	\$ 11,117.35
Industrial Park Fund	\$ 13,366.70
2021 Capital Improvement Bond Fund	\$ 23,805.61
Water and Sewer Fund	\$219,402.02
Motor Veh and Equip Fund	\$154,869.26
Property Tax Collection	\$ 1,331.27
Payroll Fund	\$ 152.94
Sidewalk Fund	\$ 17,551.92

748372:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Brandi Clark **to accept the account balances and check register and place on file.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

MINUTES FROM OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**Planning Commission Minutes dated April 28, 2025:****748373:**

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Carl Sword **to accept the Planning Commission minutes dated April 28, 2025 and place on file.** CARRIED 5-0 by roll call

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Comments were heard.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- On Wednesday April 30th Jay and Mr Weir met with representatives of D & P Cable about the Fiber project for the City of Hudson. The first phase of the project is expected to begin July to October this year. They will begin on the east side of the city working to the west. The project is expected to be completed in 2028. We will have D & P attend a Council meeting soon to inform the Council and the citizens about the project and services.
- The Master Plan update is moving along. Mr Weir will be meeting with Lisa DuRussell this month, going over some details in the draft document and getting updated photos. We expect to have the draft ready for review June-July.
- The MDOT Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF Category B Program) grant application cycle is now open. This program was designed as a stop gap measure to provide additional road funding to Michigan's smallest communities, particularly those with limited ability to fund road improvement projects. The maximum grant amount is 50% of the eligible costs up to \$250,000. The remainder of the cost will be provided by the local agency. Jay and Mr Weir are working on gathering the required information for the grant application. This is a competitive grant, and awards are based on scoring criteria.
- Mr Weir received the purchase agreement from the bidders on the Railroad Street property that had some changes at the request of their attorney. They are adding some verbiage about site inspection environmental testing being done before the closing of the sale. They also are requesting a shared cost for the title work. He has sent it to the City Attorney for review. He doesn't see any issues and believes we will get the agreement signed soon.
- Mr Weir has reached out to the Reading Emergency Unit to schedule a meeting to come to an agreement on the fee schedule the city currently has in place for responding to their primary service area for ALS calls.

ADJOURNMENT:

748374:

Motion by Lisa Enerson, seconded by Brandi Clark to **adjourn the meeting at 8:23 pm**

APPROVED:_____

Daniel Schudel, Mayor

ATTEST:_____

Jeaniene McClellan, City Clerk