

**CITY COUNCIL
121 N CHURCH STREET, HUDSON, MI
REGULAR MEETING
June 15, 2021**

747301:

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Carmel Camp at 7:01 pm.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Carmel Camp, Lee Ann Minton, Rick Moreno, Carl Sword, Pam Ely, Darlene VandeZande and Lee Daugherty

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Barb Ireland – Hudson Post Gazette, DPW Superintendent Jay Best, Candi Best, WWTP Superintendent Ted Hutchison, Mike McClellan Jr., John Holland – Michigan Rural Water Association, Joann Simmons – Hudson District Carnegie Library, Deputy Treasurer Linda J Cross, Receptionist Kris Eschedor, Acting City Treasurer Brandon Hudson, Interim City Manager Charles Weir, and City Clerk Jeaniene McClellan

ORDERS OF THE DAY:**Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2021:**

Council Member Lee Ann Minton – on page 2167 - Baker Tilley Municipal Advisors it's one of the corrections and it said I was asking for information on the four year project. It was the forty year project.

747302:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Lee Daugherty to **approve the minutes of May 28, 2021 with corrections and place on file.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote.

Approval of Minutes of June 2, 2021:

Council Member Lee Ann Minton – I have one correction it's on page 2172 it's where its discussing the council discussed having Jones and Henry Engineers coming, basically it was Councilmen Minton that did that discussion and I am the one that absolutely positively wanted to know the cost of doing a monthly billing. And there was discussion on it but I am the one that initiated that needs to be recorded please

747303:

Motion by Lee Daugherty, seconded by Lee Ann Minton to **approve the minutes of June 2, 2021 with corrections and place on file.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments received

NEW BUSINESS:**Authorize: N Church Street Closure:**

Joann Simmons has asked to have N Church Street blocked off between West Main and Railroad Streets for vendors and crafters on July 17th from 8 am to 8 pm.

747304:

Motion by Lee Ann Minton, seconded by Pam Ely **to authorize the closure of N Church Street between West Main and Railroad Streets on July 17th from 8 am to 8 pm.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

Approve: Set the new Water and Sewer Rates:

The utility fund has been in the deficit for several years and currently almost \$400,000.00 in the red. With the rate study being done and presented to council, it is absolutely necessary to raise the water and sewer rates to get the utility fund back in the black, and to have the funds available maintain safe water and sewer services to the residents of Hudson.

At the June 2, 2021 meeting Council did not set the new water and sewer rates and requested further information regarding the water rate study done in 2019 by Jones & Henry. Council requested Jones & Henry to present their study to Council at this meeting. Due to the cost associated with a presentation (\$2,500.00 - \$3,000.00). It was decided to provide Council with summary documents in the 2019 Water Study for review and consideration. This was only for the water rates not water and sewer.

The billing for the water and sewer is recommended to be billed monthly instead of quarterly. This will allow a more steady stream of revenue coming in for the services. It will require a little more work for DPW and office staff, but they understand and are on board with the change. We do have 12 months of data available to possibly do estimations monthly for billing and actual read once quarterly.

We will have to have our water and sewer ordinance updated reflecting the changes (billing). Council can change the rates by resolution.

Interim City Manager Charles Weir – wants the public to know it is something that should have been addressed over a period of years not because on the current financial issues we are having here at the City Hall

747305:

Motion by Darlene VandeZande, seconded by Pam Ely **to change the billing to monthly and authorize George Truchan to re-write the ordinance.** CARRIED 5-2 by roll call vote
Camp, Ely, Moreno, Sword, VandeZande – yes Minton, Daugherty – no)

747306:

Motion by Darlene VandeZande, seconded by Carl Sword **to change water and sewer rate accordingly to presentation by John Holland on June 2nd.** CARRIED 5-2 by roll call vote
Camp, Ely, Moreno, Sword, VandeZande – yes Minton, Daugherty – no)

Discussion: Health Care Benefits:

Due to the City financial situation and the rising cost of health care, Council requested a review of our plan and a way to reduce cost. Interim City Manager, Charles Weir had a meeting with Ted Souphis of IBEX our insurance carrier, to discuss options that would reduce our premiums and still provide a good plan for our employees. As you know the City of Hudson has provided good medical insurance at minimal cost to the employees due to the historically lower wages and salaries paid to the employees.

The Council was provided with three proposed plans. Our current plan is the Community Blue PPO 250. The three plans give a summary of the benefit with deductibles, co-pays, and prescriptions. The boxes on the bottom of the page give the monthly cost of each plan with our current employees. The very bottom dollar amount number is the monthly savings we can expect with each plan.

All of this information was shared with the employees as well. Ted Souphis advised that IBEX does not usually allow changes midway through the calendar year, but are making a exception for us. Any changes will need to be done before June 17, 2021, otherwise no changes can be made until renewal in December.

The Simply Blue PPO 250 option would double the employee coinsurance Maximum and Copay for generic prescriptions. This option would save the City over \$36,000.00 in insurance premiums and still provide good coverage.

747307:

Motion by Lee Ann Minton, seconded by Darlene VandeZande **to approve changing employee health care from Community Blue PPO 250 to Simply Blue PPO 250 effective July 1, 2021.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

Executive Session: OMA Section 8 (c) DPW Union Negotiations:

Per Section 8 (c) of the OMA, Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing and continuing contract negotiations regarding the Department of Public Works and Hudson Police Department union contracts expiring on June 30, 2021.

747308:

Motion by Darlene VandeZande, seconded by Carl Sword to **enter into Closed Session pursuant to OMA Section 8 (c) for strategy and negotiations regarding the Department of Public Works & Hudson Police Department Union Contracts**, CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote.

**Entered executive session at 7:27 p.m.

**Returned to open session at 7:44 p.m.

747309:

Motion by Darlene VandeZande, seconded by Pam Ely to **direct the Interim City Manager to continue with contracts with the best interest of the City**, CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote.

UNFISHISHED BUSINESS:

Bills:

Bills to Council
June 15, 2021

Bills to be Approved

Fleis & Vandenbrink	\$1,969.89	PAST DUE - January - March Railroad Bridge Services
Jones & Henry Engineers	\$6,818.87	PAST DUE - Maple Grove Ave Reconstruction phase 2 due March
Lenawee County Treasurer	\$1,638.51	PAST DUE - Michigan Tax Tribunal - 226 W Main & 212 W Main
Lowes	\$1,977.94	2nd station Ambulance
Total	\$12,405.21	

Bills to be Confirmed

Douglass Safety Systems	\$33,325.12	compressor for the Fire Depart
Brinner Oil	\$2,126.58	Fuel May 20th and May 27th
Patriots Fire Service	\$1,017.00	Batteries for Fire Depart Truck
Bill Deo	\$1,780.00	4th payment on the Maple Grove Cemetery

Addison Lumber	\$1,028.00	Steel Doors at the 2nd Ambulance Station
Elhorn Engineering Company	\$2,698.00	PAST DUE - Chemicals for WTP
Etna	\$3,000.00	PAST DUE - Sensus Annual Support
Total	\$41,974.70	
Grand Total	\$54,379.91	

Bills paid by Cashers checks since April 5th

All Spray	\$1,865.00	DPW Presuure washer and maint
Bill Deo	\$3,560.00	2nd & 3rd Payment
Blue Cross	\$32,213.94	May
Blue Cross	\$27,613.50	June
Bob Godfrey	\$1,525.53	March rent and utilities
Briner Oil	\$1,919.33	Paid on April 19 - Bounced Checks
Briner Oil	\$2,464.11	
Briner Oil	\$1,531.85	
Buehrer Power Equipment	\$1,752.29	DPW lawn mower - bounced check
Certa Site	\$1,008.54	Past Due
Consumers	\$9,848.33	Paid on April 30th - Past Due
Consumers	\$2,704.60	Paid on April 19 - Bounced Checks
Consumers	\$3,830.84	
Consumers	\$13,961.82	
D & P	\$1,936.92	Telephone service
Etna	\$5,355.00	Paid on May 5 - Past Due
First Bankcard	\$1,647.76	Paid on April 19 - Bounced Checks
Hillsdale County Inspection	\$1,480.00	February and March Inspections
Lease Consultants	\$1,066.66	1st and 2nd payment of lease for WTP water pressure
Lenawee Intermediate School District	\$3,333.92	End of Tax Settlement - past due

Lincoln Life Insurance	\$1,189.71	June
Lincoln Life National	\$1,450.08	May
MDI	\$2,562.25	Grinder pump for WWTP
Michigan Agi Business Solutions	\$1,000.00	Over 200 Days past due - remove sludge - WWTP
Michigan Gas	\$2,038.27	Paid on April 30th - Past Due
Michigan Gas	\$2,185.71	
Michigan Gas	\$1,379.03	
Modern Waste	\$9,274.50	Paid on April 19 - Bounced Checks
Modern Waste	\$10,847.75	April
Modern Waste Systems	\$9,536.75	May
Newell Electric	\$3,023.08	2nd Station Ambulance
Patroits Fire Service	\$1,866.47	service on the tanker and engine 1
Renius & Renius	\$4,537.50	March - April - May
Rising Excavating	\$3,000.00	Paid on May 5 - Past Due - Office Sewer
SLC Meter LLC	\$1,904.68	
State of Michigan	\$2,160.00	
State of Michigan	\$14,426.07	taxes Feb - March - April
Steve Hartsel	\$1,140.00	April and May benefits
Superior Ind Sales	\$11,329.00	Paid on May 5 - Past Due
T-Line Sales	\$1,000.00	service on fire truck dated 8-14-2020
Tri State Concrete LLC	\$2,750.00	Paid on May 5 - Past Due - office sewer
USA Blue Book	\$1,469.04	Chemicals for WWTP - March and April

TOTAL \$210,689.83

747310:

Motion by Lee Ann Minton, seconded by Darlene VandeZande **to pay the bills.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

Account Balances:

747311:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Rick Moreno **to accept the account balances and place on file.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

Old National Accounts

As of June 11, 2021

ALS Membership	\$8,871.65
DDA	\$3,180.86

2179

DRUG Enforcement	\$1,223.37
HPD Abandoned Prop	\$203.42
Payroll Account	\$29,323.07
Pooled Account	(\$97,748.31)
Sweep Account	\$92,655.59
CD - 36 Months	\$5,295.05
CD - Public Funds	\$2,262.45

County National Bank

Income Tax	\$80,519.52
Incoming ACH Payments	\$385.45

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Council Member Lee Ann Minton – I have a long one and I would like to be reported in the minutes please. And it will probably sound like sour grapes and you are going to wonder what I am doing with apples and lemons and oranges and whatever. But I have been here for two months and I appreciate the fact that Mr. Sessions came in at Mr. Hartsel’s request and tried to find what was happening, where it was happening, why it was happening and then I was listening to some of his reports and I appreciate that he has given them and at least three times he has indicated that we have no idea what we are doing and we really need to change and change it. And Lee and I have been here for forty-five years and it has worked out quite well during those forty-five years. Unfortunately there was a terrible accident in December and I don’t know what occurred. But something bad did occur. And we are not alone, the City of Charlotte, just had to raise their property taxes 3 mills. Otherwise their Police Department, their Fire Department and their City Office is about to fall apart. So we are not alone. Not everyone had an accident that cause this but I am not happy with fingers being pointed and things being said, and someone was this and someone was that. And all I want to go back to is the year 2007, the M & S Manufacturing closed the bottom just about dropped out of this community. Then there was 2008 and a recession and the bottom dropped out of this community again. And at that given time, if I looked down the road there is Morenci Michigan and Hudson Michigan we are basically in the same boat. We really are and now I look down the road at Morenci Michigan and I see no grocery store, no medical clinic, no ice cream parlor, no dentist, no bowling alley, no doctor with regular hours, no theater, no newspaper and a town that smells like an alfalfa mill. And I am not disparaging the Morenci City Government at all. But City governments are what makes Cites and this government has not been just a pot of beans. It has done something. And I

really want us to sit and think and consider what are you doing, why are you doing it, what is the cause, what is the end result. Now in Morenci, they had a fraud, it wasn't money, it was a fraud dealing with a sewer system. The State did come in. The State did take over. The State told them what they would do and God bless that City Council in Morenci, they stood behind their administrator. And it is going to cost Morenci a lot of money. And in any rate if you think I am comparing apples oranges lemons and whatever so be it. That is where I stand.

ADJOURNMENT:

747312:

Motion by Lee Ann Minton, seconded by Rick Moreno to **adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm**

APPROVED: _____
Carmel Camp, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jeaniene McClellan, City Clerk

REVIEWED BY: _____

_____, City Attorney

Dated: _____