

**CITY COUNCIL
121 N CHURCH STREET, HUDSON, MI
REGULAR MEETING
December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

748270:

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Daniel Schudel, Brandi Clark, Sherry Kirkland, Natalie Loop, Greg Hillegas and Carl Sword

ABSENT: Lisa Enerson

ALSO PRESENT: DPW Superintendent Jay Best, Candi Best, Police Chief Ron Keck, WWTP Superintendent Joshua Mattek, Barb Ireland – Hudson Post Gazette, Sara Schudel, Steve Rogers, Devin & Sierra Sandal, City Manager Charles Weir and City Clerk Jeaniene McClellan

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Excuse Absent Members:

748271:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Natalie Loop to excuse Lisa Enerson from the meeting. CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

Approval of minutes dated December 3, 2024:

748272:

Motion by Natalie Loop, seconded by Carl Sword to approve minutes of December 3, 2024 and place on file. CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comments were heard.

NEW BUSINESS:**Approve: Poverty Exemption:**

PA 191 allows local units to grant a 75% partial poverty exemption, in addition to the previously allowed 100%, 50%, and 25%, without prior approval by the State Tax Commission. But the City Council must adopt the attached resolution for this exemption.

748273:

Motion by Natalie Loop seconded by Brandi Clark to **approve the resolution adopting the 2025 Annual Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions.** CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

Approve: Merchant, Solicitor License Fee:

The Council requested that the city should look at the fees charged for Merchant, Solicitor license fees charged by the city. The current fees are \$5.00 for the application and \$15.00 for the License. The license is good for 12 months from issuance.

The application process started with City Hall staff and then Mr Weir turns it over to HPD to follow up investigation of the individual(s) and business. Once this investigation is completed the application is turned back over to City Hall where the applicant is contacted and advised if the license is issued or denied. The completed application is kept on file at City Hall until the expiration of the license. The applicant is also given a copy.

Mr Weir has spoken with Chief Keck about the average time spent on an investigation for an itinerant license application, and he also factored the City Hall staff time to calculate an estimated cost. The estimated average cost totaled \$25.02.

Mr Weir has also requested information from other communities in Lenawee County what their fees are. He received two responses. One was \$50.00 and the other was \$100.00 annually.

748274:

Motion by Natalie Loop seconded by Greg Hillegas to **approve to change the merchant fee from \$20.00 to \$50.00 annually and then revisit this next year.** CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

Approve: Sewer Rates Outside of the City:

The City Council requested a review of the 200% rate charge for sewer customers outside of the city limits. There are currently 109 services outside of the city. This is Leffingwell Estates, and the services that are on the west side of Meridian Road.

Background History: The agreement for sewer services for Leffingwell was signed June 1979 and originally was going to charge \$46.10 per quarter per trailer for the service. On April 6, 1982, at a Council meeting, Mr Ron Leffingwell requested that the per trailer fee be eliminated and he had no objection to paying double rate for sewer services. The Council approved the change. Ordinance No. 382.08 effective May 31, 2008, is the first time 200% is specifically spelled out in an ordinance.

Regarding the 16 other services outside the city limits, Mr Weir did not see any agreements regarding charges for sewer services, but his assumption is that the Council at the time would have used the same billing schedule. He was advised by a representative from Michigan Rural Water, and he stated that legally all charges would have to be uniform with all customers outside of the city limits.

Jeaniene and Mr Weir looked at the outside the city limits usage for the FY 2023 and estimated what the reduction in revenue would have been if the customers were charged the same rate as in the city. The reduction in revenue would have been \$13,713.50.

Note: City residents pay the City Income Tax which subsidizes the sewer system, and those outside of the city do not.

The Readiness to Serve charge and the Sewer Bond charge are the same inside or outside the city limits.

This was a discussion only, will need more information and possible options to bring back to council for approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Bills:

Bills to Council
December 17, 2024

Bills to be Approve

	\$0.00	
Total	\$0.00	

Bills to be Confirmed

Stevens Disposal	\$11,108.24	Refuse for the City – December 2024
Consumers Energy	\$8,068.14	Electricity for the City – December 2024
Total	\$19,176.38	

748275:

Motion by Natalie Loop, seconded by Brandi Clark **to approve to pay the bills.** CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

Account Balances and Check Register:**Account Balances:**

General Fund	\$1,086,218.43
Cemetery Trust Fund	\$ 0.00
Major Street Fund	\$287,945.75
Local Street Fund	\$ 96,884.38
Fire Department Fund	\$ 92,745.31
Recreation Fund	\$ 688.21
Cemetery Foundation	\$ 7,736.11
Ambulance	\$ 40,769.35
Community Center	\$ 37,485.39
Income Tax Fund	\$ 74,406.98
Downtown Development	\$ 42,170.76
Thompson Museum Fund	\$ 0.00
Library Fund	\$ 0.00
Thompson Library Fund	\$ 0.00
Museum Fund	\$ 11,333.34
Industrial Park Fund	\$ 13,332.31
2021 Capital Improvement Bond Fund	\$ 93,106.56
Water and Sewer Fund	\$206,356.84
Motor Veh and Equip Fund	\$146,004.61
Property Tax Collection	\$ 60,511.27
Payroll Fund	\$ 35,389.21
Sidewalk Fund	\$ 17,298.41

748276:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Natalie Loop **to accept the account balances and check register and place on file.** CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

Department Head Reports:**748277:**

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Sherry Kirkland **to accept the department head reports and place on file.** CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

MINUTES FROM OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**Planning Commission Minutes Dated November 25, 2024:****748278:**

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Natalie Loop **to accept the Planning Commission minutes dated November 25, 2024 and place on file.** CARRIED 6-0 by roll call

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The city has been named in the remaining slip and fall lawsuit. Mr Weir will be meeting the legal team of Gordon Rees Scully, Mansukhani of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He will be representing the city through the process on Monday the 16th. This is covered by the city liability insurance carrier Nickle & Saph.
- We will be starting on the mid-year budget amendments and will likely have them to Council in January 2025 for review and approval.
- The Department Heads and Mr Weir have been working on the Capital Improvement Plan for the FY 2025-206 budget and five years out. He anticipates getting the draft CIP to the Planning Commission in February and then to the Council in March.
- The new 6" water service line will be put in starting Wednesday December 18th. This will solve the fire suppression deficiency at Alpine Manufacturing and loop the water system to services in that area.
- In February 2025, under the new ESTA law (Earned Sick Time Act) employers will be required to provide sick time hours to all employees at a 30 to 1 ratio. For every 30 hours worked the employee will accrue 1 hour of sick time. Mr Weir has been consulting with the City Labor Attorney for guidance. The City will have to develop a policy for this. It is unknown at this point how it will affect the current budget and subsequent budgets.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Lighting of the Christmas Trees went very well
- Have Mr Weir get a value on the vacant properties (Tiffin and Railroad)
- Would like to find a graduate from U/M to come and do a mural
- Would like to see having the Christmas Star up in the Tree at the corner of Main and Munson
- Hudson Festival will be June 28 and 29 next year at the Hudson Area School grounds

ADJOURNMENT:

748279:

Motion by Brandi Clark, seconded by Natalie Loop to **adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm**

APPROVED: _____

Daniel Schudel, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Jeaniene McClellan, City Clerk