

MINUTES OF THE
HILLS CITY COUNCIL/HILLS EDA
Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @ 6:00 PM

Mayor Jim Susie opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Council present: Jim Susie, Joe Streeter, Dusty Seachris, Vickie Busswitz and Dennis Boese.

Council absent: None.

Employee present: Connie Wiertzema, City Clerk-Treasurer.

Guests: Allen Saakyan, Liaison for the Hills Chamber of Commerce, took it upon himself to video the city meeting. Jason Martens; Dennis Hartman, Vice President of Hills Chamber & owner of Green Rail Café; Jared Rozeboom, Hills Fire Chief; and Nicole Ronchetti, Star Herald Reporter. Kris Gagnon, President of Hills Chamber, attended but sat in the hallway during the legion office rental discussion.

Approved the minutes of February 10th.

Building permit approved for Parker Schumacher @ 124 South Water Avenue, Parcel #15-0059-000: New wood framed garage 26'x30'x10' high and 14'8" to peak; and cement board siding. The existing storage shed will be removed.

Approved payment of the list of bills.

Treasurer's Report:

- No CD's due at this time. The next general CD matures on May 21st; and EDA CD matures April 24th;
- Received the 2025 Alliance cable TV franchise fee.

Council took action to withhold the entire deposit from the February 22nd Legion rental due to excess cleaning and stains in the carpet and walls.

Discuss plans for using donations and grant funds to complete the City's daycare playground with a cement pad, structure for shade and sandbox.

The Clerk-Treasurer informed the Council that Kassi VantHof will be closing her daycare unit #2 as of September 4, 2026.

Adopted a resolution to appoint Jessica Boelman, Coleen Martens, and Lois DeHaan as election judges for the 2026 primary and general elections.

Jared Rozeboom, Hills Fire Chief, submitted a quote to purchase two SCBA cylinders from Dingesfire Company – Approved.

Approved for Stacen & Donna Burgers @ 128 South Central Avenue, Parcel #15-0166-000 to remove their cement driveway and install crushed concrete. At a later date they will submit a building permit application for pouring a new cement driveway.

A quote was received for extra crushed concrete for the entire alley near the water tower. The quote was not approved at this time.

The City's Board of Appeal & Equalization meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 6:30 PM.

Council discussed office rent at the Legion building. Currently the Post Office pays \$825 per month and Kris Gagnon pays \$500 per month. Council agreed to increase Gagnon's rent to \$825; and leave the Post Office rent the same.

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Allen Saakyan was elected by the Hills Chamber of Commerce as their liaison person. Allen thanked the City for updating the city's website, but would like to modernize the site. Saakyan offered his IT skills to the City pro bono. Also, the Chamber has a main street beautification plan to include planter boxes, benches and trees along Main Avenue and along State Highway 270. In summary, Saakyan again offered his IT services. Also regarding vacant buildings on Main Avenue, the Chamber would like to collaborate and make Main Avenue beautiful and get someone else in the vacant buildings. The Council took no action at this time. The City Council is the spokesperson for the community and need to search out what the citizens want.

Dennis Hartman, owner of the Green Rail Café & Vice President of Hills Chamber of Commerce. Hartman requested that the City put on the general election ballot an inquiry asking city residents whether they would be in favor of a Sunday Liquor License, both on & off sale. Council adopted a resolution to place the question of on & off sale Sunday Liquor License on the general election ballot.

Dennis Hartman also informed the Council that he is looking into on-site consumption of cannabis on the premises of the café.

Busswitz informed the Council that the Luverne Optimist Club Committee has met and the pull-tab funds will be coming back to the City of Hills to be used for a new swing set at Jacobson Park.

Seachris informed the Council that Chris Webb from SWRD will help with the Rez Park grant for electric boxes, cement pads, parking lot, replace a culvert, and possibly a shower house.

Howard Vis presented information to the Council regarding the America 250th presentation planned for July 11th at Jacobson Park which will consist of a speaker, installation of the Statue of Liberty, and an ice cream truck.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.