

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**HILLS CITY COUNCIL/HILLS EDA**  
**Tuesday, January 13, 2026 @ 6:00 PM**

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

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

Council absent: None

Employee present: Connie Wiertzema, City Clerk-Treasurer; and Dustin Verhey, Public Works Supervisor.

Guests: Andrew Blank, representing the Hills American Legion; Mavis Fodness, Star Herald Reporter; Jared Rozeboom, Hills Fire Chief; Members representing the Hills Chamber of Commerce: Kris Gagnon; Dennis Hartman, Jason & Jessica Martens; Kelly DeBoer, and Allen Saakyan.

Andrew Blank, representing the Hills American Legion, informed the Council that the Legion is interested in taking on the minor repairs and cleaning of the Hills American Legion building. In place of a salary, donations will be paid in quarterly installments in the amount of \$1,200 to the Hills American Legion.

Approved the minutes of December 9, 2025.

Approved payment of the list of bills, and also for the annual sponsorship to Christensen Broadcasting.

Dustin Verhey presented a drawing of the proposed concrete plans for the softball field.

Jared Rozeboom, Fire Chief, informed the Council to schedule the annual meeting with Martin Township to discuss the 2027 fire department budget; and renewal of fire contracts for the City of Steen and Clinton Township. Rozeboom informed the Council that the new rescue van was received and is working well.

Council agreed to reschedule the regular March 10<sup>th</sup> city council meeting to begin at 5:30, due to Martin Township's annual meeting at 8:00 PM.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

-Approved to deposit funds received from Amos & Heather Kittelson into the EDA savings account for the purchase of Lots 3 & 4 in Park View First Addition.

-Renew general fund CD for 52 weeks.

-Regarding the renewal of an EDA CD, inquire about shorter term CD's in order to renew a portion of the CD for a short term and the remaining amount for 52 weeks.

-Invest funds from the city's general checking account into a 52 week CD.

-Adopted a resolution to accept a donation from Betty Ackerman in memory of Jerry Ackerman, to be donated to the Hills Fire Department. Funds will be deposited into the fire equipment savings account to be used toward fire and rescue equipment.

-Adopted a resolution to accept a donation from Allen Saakyan for the purpose of tree removal assistance.

-Contact City Council the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup> regarding a CD renewal on 02/12/26.

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- The second payment of state aid/small city assistance/MV credit agriculture was received.
  - The second payment of county tax settlement & special assessments was received.
  - Received reimbursement from the State MN/DNR for turn-out gear and hoses for the fire department. Half of those funds were reimbursed to Martin Township.
  - Received reimbursement for the new mobile radio in the rescue van. Half of those funds were reimbursed to Martin Township.
  - Received reimbursement from the State of MN for maintaining State Aid Streets.
  - Special Assessments submitted: 11 delinquent utility accounts; and one lawn care.
- Approved of the Treasurer's Report.

Kris Gagnon, President of the Hills Chamber of Commerce informed the City Council that the Chamber's purpose is to bring more businesses to Hills. Gagnon and various members of the Chamber commented that the reason they are requesting documents from the City is to better understand how the City operates, such as the zoning ordinance; by-laws; and policies. A copy of the City's zoning ordinance will be provided to the Hills Chamber, but they are not allowed to post city ordinances on the Chamber's website.

The Council reviewed the City's Fee Schedule and Legion Rental Policy for year 2026. Currently the City requires a \$300 deposit for renting the Legion building. Refund of the deposit will be based on the condition in which the building is left; and the refund may take up to one week to allow for maintenance to review the building.  
Approved of the Fee Schedule and Legion policy for 2026.

Appointments for 2026:

Mayor Pro-Tem	Joseph Streeter
Official Newspaper	Rock County Star Herald
Official Bank	Security Savings Bank
City Sign	Logan Susie
Website	Lexi Moore
Local Television Channel	Scott Harnack
Weed Inspector	Dustin Verhey
City Attorney	Mathew Gross, Quarnstrom & Doering, PA
City Auditors	Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co., PLLP
EDA President	Vickie Busswitz
EDA Vice President	Dusty Seachris
EDA Secretary-Treasurer	Connie Wiertzema
Zoning Administrators	Dusty Seachris & Dennis Boese

Approved of the appointments for year 2026, and to update the City's website.

The Clerk informed the Council that an insurance adjuster from the League of MN Cities will be reviewing City buildings and structures on January 14th. The LMC Insurance completes such reviews approximately every five years.

Busswitz suggested that city council members bring ideas for city goals to the next meeting for discussion.

Adjourned the regular city council meeting at 8:19 PM.