Minutes of the Hills City Council
& Hills EDA meeting
August 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

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

Council absent: Dennis Boese.

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

Guests: Allen Saakyan; Nicole Ronchetti, Star Herald Reporter; Wade Johnson.

Council approved of the following building permits:
-Faith DeBoer - commercial building @ 120 West First Street (along State Hwy 270) Replace roof on storage building with new asphalt shingles.

-Allen Saakyan @ 505 East Second Street, Parcel #15-1127-000 Replace up to seven windows in the home and garage same or similar in size.

Council approved of the July 14th minutes.

Council approved for payment of the list of bills, and lease payment to John Deere Financial.

MAINTENANCE REPORT:
Verhey suggested installing stop signs at the intersections of Second Street & Anna Avenue; and West 2nd Street & South Church Avenue. Also to replace small speed limit signs along Fourth Street near Jacobson Park with larger speed signs – Approved.

Verhey presented an estimate from Stacen Burgers, VanBurg Construction, to Turf the daycare playground. Verhey will lay rubber mulch under the playsets. No action taken at this time. Apply for a grant.

Council approved of an estimate from Stacen Burgers, VanBurg Construction, to paint parking spots in three areas along Main Avenue estimated at $812 – Approved.

Wade Johnson @ 117 South Water Avenue, Parcel #15-0052-000 requested a building permit to replace the roof on his home with new asphalt shingles; and replace the front window with a new window the same or similar in size – Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
- Received fire training reimbursement on 7/14/26;
- Received State Aid & Small City Assistance funding on 7/17/26.
- Approved to renew general fund CD's for 26 weeks, 52 weeks and two years.

Josh Rittenhouse, Manager of Town & Country Disposal in Rock Rapids, Iowa presented the Council with a five-year garbage/recycling contract renewal to begin in January 2027. Garbage rates increase 2.5% per year; and recycling rates will increase from $3.00 to $3.50 per month, per household. Council approved of the contract.

Allen Saakyan (1) Requested a guest Wi-Fi network at the City Office; and (2) Requested that the City purchase a media owl, which requires a computer, for the purpose of recording city council meetings. The Council was not interested and rejected both requests.

Council adopted Resolution #2026-08 approving of the Rock County project within municipal corporate limits.

American Tower submitted a lease extension to the City of Hills for a 30-year extension to secure the long-term site of the AT&T tower. The Council will request the City's attorney to review the lease extension in comparison to the current contract.

Council agreed to have a sign displayed on the daycare playground stating that it's open to the public from 6 PM until 10 PM Monday-Friday and on weekends.

Mayor Susie suggested: (1) that building permit requests should be staked-out, and council members and a contractor review the stack-out to confirm the set-back; and (2) that the city needs to send junk/abandon vehicle letters.

No further business, meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.