City of Hamilton, IL
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 03, 2026 at 7:00pm

1. **Call to Order** - *Roll Call* - Hamilton City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at the Hamilton City Hall on Monday August 3, 2026. Mayor Casey called the meeting to order. Aldermen present: Andrew Asbury, Tommy Buckert, Brandon Wilson, Debbie Summers, Steve Schlatter and Bev Boone. Aldermen excused: none. Also present: Tom Hartzell, City Attorney; Ryan Brotherton, Public Works Director; Officer Abbott; Animal Control Officer Pierce; and Logan Schrapf, City Clerk.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - Mayor Casey led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Minutes from Monday, July 20, 2026** - Wilson made a motion to approve the *Minutes from July 20, 2026*. Asbury seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye". The motion carried.

4. **Mayor's Comments** - Mayor Casey and the Council wished Alderman Tommy Buckert a "Happy Birthday."

The pre-filing motion for the 2027 election has been posted as a notice. There are 3 Alderman positions and Clerk are on the ballot.

Mayor Casey gave a Proclamation recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Camp Eastman. Schlatter made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Buckert seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye". The motion carried.

5. **Visitors** - Brooklyn Adams was present from Fortress Bank in regards to the CDAR Program.

6. **Finance and Appropriations** - *Selected Check Registers* – Summers made a motion to approve *Selected Check Registers*. Schlatter seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye." The motion carried.

Summer read the Committee Report from July 27. Mr. McCrery from Fortress bank gave a presentation on a high interest CDAR program. The committee recommended putting the TIF and Water/Sewer Depreciation Fund into the high interest account. Asbury met with Holly Tillman at the courthouse about levy's available to municipalities. It was suggested to have Tom Hartzell draw up the proper papers and language to have a referendum on the ballot of the next election to increase corporate tax and then decrease the tort amount keeping the taxpayers from having any substantial increase in their property taxes. An addendum to the AirBnB Ordinance was discussed to add a city tax similar to surrounding communities like Nauvoo and Quincy.

Summers made a motion to utilize the CDAR program for the TIF and Water/Sewer Depreciation Fund with Fortress Bank after Michelle meets with them to discuss the details. Asbury seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye." The motion carried.

Asbury presented on a tax levy to increase the corporate rate from .3080 to .4375. It would not take effect until 2027. It would add approximately $43,000 to the general fund. Schlatter said a public meeting would be needed to inform the public. Asbury also suggested using social media and news networks. Summers said it had only been raised once or twice in the last 20 years. Schlatter said it would be better to do it gradually and Asbury noted it would be a 10-year process to do it gradually. Wilson raised the question of what has been done to avoid raising the levy. Mayor Casey noted that police overtime has been reduced by adding part-time officers, public works has changed suppliers to get more cost-efficient equipment and materials. Summers praised Brotherton for decreasing the public works budget. Mayor Casey reiterated that the intent is to raise the corporate levy and to decrease the tort levy to minimize or negate any increase to tax payers. Hartzell added that with inflation

municipalities are hit harder than the residents. Wilson said the Council needs to make sure they are as transparent as possible and fully detail and present the information for everyone to understand it. Summers made a motion to draft language to draft a raise of the corporate levy tax from .3080 to .4375. Asbury seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye." The motion carried.

7. **Health and Safety** - There was 1 dog incident. The dog did not have a rabies shot. Taken to the vet to quarantine. It also bit Animal Control Officer Pierce. Officer Abbot will schedule a court date.
There was a quote for $950 from Plowman Lawncare to spray weedkiller on Broadway prior to Honeyfest. No one objected to the service. The hot water donated to the animal shelter has failed. The council is looking for a low-cost replacement. One cat is ready to rehome.

8. **Buildings and Grounds, Permits and Zoning** - No permits to be approved.

9. **Public Works** - Chip and seal started 8/03. It was delayed because they ran out of rock. The rock takes a 10 hour round trip. Hopefully 8/05 they will start again. Brotherton set a Public Works meeting for 8/12 at 5:30pm.

10. **Economic Development / Tourism** - Hamilton Summerfest is 8/15 from 4pm-9pm. Suzy Alverez reached out about selling Margaritas and the committee approved. Hamilton Honeyfest is 9/19 from 11am-4pm. Twenty-one vendors have signed up. The deadline for Pageant registration is 5pm on 9/11. After that, the cost will go from $20 to $40. Bee-Ball details are being finalized. Deadline for Bee-Ball registration is 5pm on 9/11 at City Hal. Titan Sports Boosters will have a dunk-tank. There will be face painting.

Wheels and Deals is 9/19 from 11am-4pm. There will be a food truck and a handicapped porta potty. There will be a Bags tournament in front of Hartwell's on Broadway. Car Cruise Awards will be at 2pm. Hamilton City-Wide Yard Sales will be August 6-8. 8/8 is Story Time at the Library Threshers is 8/7-8/9. August 10-12 is community revival at 630 pm at Bethel. Monday Mike Shay is speaking. Tuesday is Jerome Lee. Wednesday is Mike Floyd. 8/21 is Dog Day at the Pool.

Buckert went out to meet someone for electronic cleanup. Oct 16 is the likely date. Should be able to do it for free because it's Hancock County but will have to transport material to Macomb. 7-12. Buckert praised Wilson for everything he has done planning these events.

11. **Adjournment** - Buckert made a motion to adjourn. Wilson seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye." The
motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.

Approved by the Hamilton City Council on August 17, 2026

_____ Logan Schrapf, City Clerk

Approved:

_____ Bocephus Casey, Mayor