City of Hamilton, IL
Regular City Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 17, 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 17, 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 Landrum; 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, August 3, 2026** - Buckert made a motion to approve the *Minutes from August 03, 2026*. Summers seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye". The motion carried.

4. **Mayor's Comments** - *Ordinance 10, Hamilton Downtown TIF District: FY 2027. Residential Exterior Improvement Program* was discussed. Ordinance 10 sets up a grant program through TIF. On average we are paying 3k a project. This is residential only and the fund can be changed yearly. The City of Hamilton will reimburse qualified homeowners 75% of total approved and verified project costs, not to exceed $5,000. Qualified landlords will receive 50% of the total approved and verified projects costs not to exceed $5000. Types of improvements include window repair/replacement, demolition of garages and sheds, dead tree removal, water/sewer line repair/replacement, etc.

There was an extensive discussion about items being placed on the agenda without prior discussion in committee meetings that was leading to mistakes. The Council determined that someone from the TIF office should come in to help the council and city better understand the purpose, scope, and benefits of TIF projects. It was also determined that the Finance Committee would begin introducing TIF Ordinances in committee before bringing them to the City Council Meetings. Schlatter made a motion to approve Ordinance 10. Asbury seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye." Wilson and Summers voted "nay." The motion carried.

Ordinance 11, designating The Economic Development Group, Ltd. As the City's Independent Registered Municipal Advisor (IRMA). This Ordinance established The Economic Development Group, Ltd. As an advisor to begin working on and receiving bonds for such things as school parking lots and the water tower. Mayor Casey said that this locks down the surplus we have been paying back with bonds and will also circumvent raising taxes on citizens. The school will have to agree and the surplus is for the TIF fund. The Water Department is also looking at if they can use TIF funds for repairs as a proactive measure to cost increases. It was also noted that $300,000 goes back into the TIF fund every year unclaimed. The city can also opt out of any bids brought forth by the Advisor. Schlatter made a motion to approve Ordinance 11. Wilson seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter and Boone all voting "aye." The motion carried.

Jessica Spurgeon TIF application. There wasn't enough paper work from TIF Office. – Mayor Casey tabled it.

August 25th is first day to pass out Petitions for the 2027 Election. November 16 is first day to hand them in. Last day is 23rd of November.

5. **Visitors** - None.

6. **Finance** - Summer's made a motion to approve the *Treasurer's Report*. It was not made by the Treasurer. It's just bank balances and a general update. Buckert seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter and Boone all voting "aye." The motion carried.

Finance Updates – There will be a Finance Meeting the 20th at 5pm.

Corporate Tax Levy - There was an extensive discussion about The Corporate Tax Levy. 5% can be added without having a hearing. You can reallocate into the corporate fund and not raise at all. The reason to ask tax payers to adjust corporate rate is to have flexibility to still have the funding to pay everybody without constantly raising the tax burden. A lot of money is in tort we can't use unless we are sued but we have insurance. Money taken out of working cash still needs paid back. If we raised taxes 4.9% it would go into a restricted fund. The council does not want to raise property taxes. The finance Committee wants to lower the tort and increase the levy with the goal of a net zero change to the taxpayers. The council determined they will need to spend more time discussing this issue in committee meetings. Summers made a motion to raise the corporate rate for general corporate purposes no more than .4375 no more than provided for in the statues of Illinois. Schlatter seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone voting "aye." Wilson voted "nay." The motion carried.

7. **Health and Safety** - Still have 1 cat to adopt. Meeting Thursday at 6pm. A dog bite last Thursday, bit 2 people. Animal Control Officer Pierce has taken care of it and communication with steps to take. Dog is in quarantine. Mike had a drone in his equipment expense. It's what he was going to be what he spent on his budget but Asbury hasn't had any communication or paper work from Chief Boley.

8. **Buildings and Grounds, Permits and Zoning** - 1 permit for Tom Dale for a cement pad 24x10 and 6 inches thick. Asbury made a motion to approve the permit. Schlatter seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone all voting "aye." The motion carried.

9. **Public Works** - Minutes from August 12th. Mailers sent to residents for GLO program. Public Work's Director's hard drive recovery was completed. Motor Fuel Tax was completed August 10 with 64 blocks chip and sealed. Discussed the TIF agreement for the school. There was some damage to N 2nd St. to a powerline. Got a quote for $69,560. A track excavator ruined some concrete. A counteroffer of $60,000 was accepted, 9k under estimate with no expense to the city. Getting asphalt on North 2nd St. The city enters a bid every year for rock salt. We usually go with it because it's the cheapest. Over 200 entities entered did not receive a bid. Hamilton did not receive a bid. We were asked to enter into an emergency bidding rate and we would have to commit to that price so they are currently shopping around. $143 a ton for salt delivered. There's a list of trees to be removed for safety concerns. Cross walk lines need repainted. Miller's usually does that. 196 each crosswalk. 7 total to be painted out of utility tax. Some trimming necessary at Greenwood Cemetery. There has been some concern about geode mining between 8th and 9th St. south of Hickory and the city will look into it.

10. **Economic Development / Tourism** - Summerfest went well. Thanks to Tommy Bo Debbie for cleaning up afterwards. 21 is dog day at pool. August 20 weekend is story time at the library from 10-11

11. **Adjournment** - Buckert made a motion to adjourn. Boone seconded the motion. Roll was called with Asbury, Buckert, Wilson, Summers, Schlatter, and Boone all voting "aye." The motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:40

Approved by the Hamilton City Council on September 8, 2026

_____ Logan Schrapf, City Clerk

Approved:

_____ Bocephus Casey, Mayor