

CITY OF HARTFORD  
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 23, 2025

Commissioners Present: Peter Aranda; Jane Danger; John Miller; Lindsay Morsaw; Nancy Spoula; Charles Weeden; Mayor Richard A. Hall

Commissions Absent:

Staff Present: Matthews; Ricks; Pulluam (formerly Brown); Rodney-Isbrecht; Shultz

Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Guests:**

- Stephanie Daniels, Hartford Public Library – 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Library, July 26, 2025 Noon – 2pm with many events to celebrate.
- Megan Knittel, Project Compass Update, report complete, grants available to help meet funding goals.
- Steven Ruby, Abonmarche Spark Grant Ely Park Project, provided concept drawing, getting ready to submit the plan & cost estimates to the grant administrators for review.

**Public Comment:**

- Alex Vonkoenig, Med Leaf, comments regarding the proposed increase to marijuana license renewal fees and reduce or give a variance on the fees to medical license fees.
- Joe Morsaw, Hartford Recreation Council, over 200 participants for baseball/softball and 60-80 participants for basketball, cheerleading & rocket football. Seeking financial support, funding, donations, purchasing advertising banners. The audit costs have been a sticking point in moving forward with an interlocal agreement.

**Communications:**

- Hartford Pharmacy, 30 West Main Street Grand Opening on June 30, 1pm.
- Mayor & Commissioner Seat Petitions are due July 22, 2025 at 4pm
- Thank you & Certificate received from the Hartford Strawberry Festival Committee
- Annual Water Quality Report 2024 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) available July 1
- Notice, Comcast has made a change to customers available channel lineup
- City Hall will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day
- Clerk Rodney-Isbrecht, report on the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Summer Conference

**Reports of Officers, Boards & Committees; Routine Monthly Reports from Departments:**

- A. Van Buren Conservation District – May 2025 Update
- B. **Police & Ordinance** – Brian Matthews, Chief, Camping Ordinance under review; working on blight enforcement; seeking grant funding for hiring an additional officer; revised the mission statement for the police department. Commissioner Weeden complemented the HPD on the officer's professionalism.
- C. **Fire Department** – No Representative, Reports submitted, Commissioner Weeden asked why the City was not charging for plowing and should be part of the discussion on the Interlocal Agreement, also water/sewer service is not charged to the fire department.
- D. **Ambulance** – Report on file, Mayor Hall complimented them on their services.
- E. **Van Buren County** – Commissioner Mike Chappell, approved parks bylaws & working on millage funding for municipalities for projects; funding/grants available for opioid related projects, applications

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due in July; canoe launch on CR 687 work to begin in the fall, waiting on EGLE permits; approved Van Buren County Youth Fair use of County property for parking overflow.

- F. **Public Works** – Ricky Ricks Supervisor, completing brush pick-up; cleaning up around the shop; mechanical issues with the backhoe; assisted the Chamber on the Strawberry Festival; working to get the new service truck in operation; working with the VBRC to supply hot asphalt, hired a new employee that is working out well so far.
- G. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** –Report on file.
- H. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – June 23, 2025 2024/2025 List of Bills \$280,729.33; 2025/2026 List of Bills \$57,034.45
- I. **City Manager** –Report on file – Audit, reviewed proposals but after consulting with the City Attorney, the lowest bidder did not meet all the requirements and one was lost in the mail, recommending rebidding instead of awarding the contract at tonight’s meeting; Spark Grant/DNR/Council Michigan Foundations; Master Plan; Department of Public Works; Police Negotiations; Cozy Tea; BS&A Software Conversion; 60<sup>th</sup> Street Sidewalk Extension; Certified Operators, Dan Staunton’s last day is July 3rd; Ordinance Codification; Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project Lead Service Line Replacement & Water System Improvements Update; Special Meeting needed to award DWSRF contracts set for July 14, 2025 Noon; Wightman Project Updates; Master Plan Summary of Visioning kick-off meeting.

**Approval of Commission Minutes:**

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025 special business meeting, Millage Truth in Taxation Public Hearing, of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 - 0

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025 special business meeting, 2025/2026 Budget Public Hearing, of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 - 0

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025 business meeting, of the Hartford City Commission, as amended to change Mayor Aranda to Commissioner Aranda and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025 special business meeting, Public Hearing – CDBG Grant Application, of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 - 0

**Approval of Reports:**

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the June 23, 2025 list of bills in the amount of \$280,729.33.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the June 23, 2025 2025/2026 list of bills in the amount of \$57,034.45.

Motion carried 7 – 0

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Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Miller, to accept the May 2025 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Goals/Objectives:**

- City Manager is updating them for the new fiscal year and will have them ready for the July meeting.

**Old Business:**

- Discuss & Consider – Hartford Fire Department Committee Appointment & Interlocal Agreement  
Discussion: Mayor Hall proposed appointing himself & Commissioner Miller, Commission agreed.

**New Business:**

- Discuss & Consider – 2024/2025 Audit Proposals  
Discussion: City Manager recommended Council reject all proposals & rebid.
- Discuss & Consider – HPD Union Contract  
Discussion: Changes to Union Security, Grievance & Arbitration, Combined sick time and vacation time to PTO time, Wages, Schedules, Holiday wording.
- Discuss & Consider – DPW & WWTP Employee Uniform Contract  
Discussion: WWTP will be required to launder their uniforms due to budget constraints at this time.
- Discuss & Consider – Public Safety Assessment Representative Engagement Contract  
Discussion: Cost to go through the special assessment process will be approximately \$12,000.  
Commissioner Weeden would rather support a millage or assessment for Department of Public Works, equipment. Council would like to explore a millage that would have language for public safety & equipment also the cost was not included in this year's budget.

**Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:**

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 043 Public Safety Assessment Representative Engagement Contract

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 043 Public Safety assessment Representative Engagement with Dickinson Wright PLLC in the amount of \$420.00 per/hr.

Motion carried 2 – 5 (Danger, Morsaw, Spoula, Weeden, Hall)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 044 DPW & WWTP Employee Uniform Contract

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 044 authorizing DPW & WWTP Employee Uniform Contract with Cintas not to exceed \$6,800 per/year.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 045 HPD 2025-2027 Union Contract

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 045 approving the 7/1/2025-6/30/2027 contract between the City of Hartford & International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Motion carried 7 – 0

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- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 046 2024/2024 Audit Engagement Award

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2025-046 approving a three-year audit engagement contract with Kruggel Lawton CPA in the amount of \$105,750.00

Motion carried 0 – 7 (Aranda, Danger, Miller, Morsaw, Spoula, Weeden, Hall)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 047 Issuance of Water Supply System Revenue Bonds

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 047 authorizing the issuance of water supply system revenue bonds.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 048 2025/2026 Fee Schedule

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 048 establishing the City of Hartford 2025/2026 fee schedule as amended to add to special events fees the wording “plus cost of City services”, and marihuana annual renewal \$2,500.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 049 2024/2025 Budget Adjustment no. Four.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 049 Fiscal year 2024/2025 budget adjustment no. four.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Miller)

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk