

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
JULY 24, 2023

Commissioners Present: Jane Danger; Frank Dockter; Ramon Beltran; John Miller; Helen Sullivan; Terry Tibbs; Mayor Richard A. Hall

Commissions Absent: None

Staff Present: Rodney-Isbrecht, Shultz;

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Dockter to approve the agenda as amended to talk about the language & music at the festival held over the weekend at 301 Bowie & discuss reinstating the ordinance officer.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Guests:

- Dennis from VBEMS, Director of Operations, VBEMS took over June 16, 2023 for Pride Care due to their staffing issues. VBEMS brought in 6 additional staff to cover the additional coverage areas. Currently staff is staying at the Fire Station. He is working to have reports at a future meeting.

Public Comment:

- Mark Little, 15 North Maple Street, several personal complaints regarding City administration.
- Tim Kling, 105 South Haver Street, Chairman of Planning & Zoning Commission Member questioned why the City Manager Vitale was removed.
- Bruce Plyer, 211 Church Street – Private Well Metering, Ordinance Complaints
- Michael Mink – 38 Marion Ave – Concerns about Commissioners actions in firing of City Manager Vitale.
- VBCD Callie Marshall, update on upcoming events, new recycle guide, and annual meeting information,

Communications:

- VBCD – June 2023 Program Updates
- Notice of Public Hearing – I & M August 16, 2023 10am
- Hartford Chamber Summer Newsletter Available
- HPS – 2023 July 10 Minutes
- HRC – 2023 June Minutes
- DDA Meeting July 26, 2023 has been Cancelled
- VB County, Market Van Buren seeking a letter of support of a Regional Housing Assessment Report Grant. Grant Application is due August 3, 2023

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

- A. Police & Ordinance** – Chief Prince – Report on file.
- B. Fire Department** – Chief Harting – Busy week at the Fair, annual ladder testing complete, September 12, 5 - 7 at the Fire Station for car seat safety check; Cooling Stations for those who need them are usually at Church's, City Hall & Library. Smoke Detectors are still available. Commissioner Sullivan submitted a Fire Board Representative Report
- C. Ambulance** – Pride Report on file – VBEMS took over providing service on June 16, 2023 from Pride Care, Mutual Aid Agreements are in place with Covert, South Haven & Medic 1
- D. Van Buren County** – Mike Chappell – Van Buren is seeking a Housing Grant Study which is very important when seeking grant dollars and partially funded by Van Buren County; Amended VBEMS

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JULY 24, 2023

Contract; USDA is interested in leasing the County building on CR 681 for a 10 Year Lease, Safe Harbor Advocacy center open; Re-appointments to various Boards.

- E. **Public Works** – Report on file, completing water/sewer tie-ins, finishing up on Clark & Linden Project. Council questioned when curbs will be painted in the City.
- F. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – No report filed.
- G. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – \$157,250.84
- H. **City Manager** – No report filed

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2023 special business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023 closed meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller supported by Commissioner Beltran, to approve the minutes of the, July 11, 2023 special business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to approve the minutes of the, July 11, 2023 special closed business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the minutes of the, July 13, 2023 special business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Sullivan, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to approve the minutes of the, July 19, 2023 special business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to accept the June 2023 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to approve the July 24, 2023 list of bills in the amount of \$157,250.84

Motion carried 7 – 0

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Goals/Objectives: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Commissioners had several complaints about the language in the music and noise of the event that was held at 301 Bowie over the weekend.
- Commission wants to reinstate the Ordinance Officer Position; the City Manager is the only one that can hire staff. The Clerk will discuss with the City Attorney. Council has concerns about the blight violations that are not getting handled.
- City Building Inspector Chuck Moore passed away last week. Council will need to appoint a Building Inspector within 30 days. Three names were submitted that were interested acting as Interim Building Inspector also interested in taking over full time if that is the direction that Council wants to go. Garret Reitenour was in attendance

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Tibbs to appoint Garret Reitenour as the Interim Building Inspector

Motion carried 7 – 0

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Proposed Amendment to Code of Ordinance 110.01 Regulating Garage, Yard, Basement & Private Sale Regulations
Discussion: Council would like to see the hours 8am – 7pm; two free weekends Memorial Day & Labor Day. Changes will be made and brought back to Council on August 8 agenda.
- Proposed Amendment to Code of Ordinance 110.03 Peddler & Solicitor Regulations Section 4.1
Discussion: Council had no changes and will be brought back to Council on the August 8 agenda.
- Discuss & Consider – Codification Ordinance
Discussion: Council had no changes and will be brought back to Council on the August 8 agenda.
- Discuss & Consider – Proposed Building Regulation Ordinance
Discussion: Council had no changes and will be brought back to Council on the August 8 agenda.

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm.

Motion carried 5 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk