

CITY OF HARTFORD
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
PROPOSED MAY 18, 2026

Commissioners Present: Peter Aranda; John Miller; Lindsay Morsaw; Nancy Spoula; Tom VanLierop;
Charles Weeden; Mayor Jane M. Danger
Commissions Absent: None
Staff Present: Clark; Matthews; Pulluam; Ricks; Rodney-Isbrecht

Mayor Jane M. Danger called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried 7 – 0

Guests:

- Diane Rigozi, Van Buren Senior Services, provided program and services update. Compliments to Terry Tibbs, VBSS Board Member. An AED unit has been installed at the Hartford Site at 501 West Main Street.

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Weeden, to suspend the rules to have the guests speak later on the agenda.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Public Comment:

- Mike Menck, Marion Ave Resident, complaint about the condition of the neighbor's property
- Tim Kling, East Street Resident, complimented the Department of Public Works but they need more resources to do their job.
- Jeff Fuller, Mary Street Resident, comments on the Master Plan

Communications:

- Notice - Working America, AFL-CIO will be Canvassing May – September 2026
- City Hall Closed May 25, 2026 in observance of Memorial Day
- Memorial Day Parade May 25, 2026 at 10am, Service will be held at the Fire Station
- Notice of Class Action Law Suit Monsanto Company for those affected by the use of Roundup
- Notice to Mow – Please Make a Plan to Mow your property
- City Hall Closed – June 19, 2026 in Observation of Juneteenth
- Strawberry Festival – June 12-14, 2026 – New location will be held at the public library
- Special Council Meeting May 19, 2026 6pm – Public Hearing
- City Commission Seats Nomination Petitions – Submit by July 21, 2026 at 4pm.

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

- Planning Commission – Chairman Tim Kling, the City's Master Plan has been approved next goal to update zoning ordinances. A public hearing will be held on June 8 at 6pm to consider an amendment to site plans.
- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Brian Matthews, Chief,
Report on file. Discussed blight enforcement; Strawberry Festival coverage and festival parking; calls have increased. Chamber of Commerce has provided parking signage and sent letters to the property owners surrounding the library.
- B. **Fire Department** – No representative present.

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Report on file.

- C. **Ambulance** – no report on file
- D. **Van Buren County** – no representative present.
- E. **Public Works** –Rickey Ricks, Superintendent,
Report on file. Discussed brush & leaves pick-up; training two new employees and marking miss dig requests. Park bathrooms have been opened for the contractors to use.
- F. **Iron Removal Plant** – Quentin Clark, Operator
Report on file. Discussed: 2026 CCR report will be distributed soon. Elevated manganese, changed testing procedures which has brought the numbers down, the media study has been put on hold and will re-evaluate in five years.
- G. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Quinten Clark, Operator
Report on file. Discussed extra ground and storm water infiltration.
- H. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – List of Bills total \$151,592.29, Investment Report on file
- I. **City Manager** –Nicol Pulluam
Discussed: Budget, HR software, Roads, reimbursements, Market 1 quarterly stakeholders update and construction project updates.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 special meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2026 special meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2026 special meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2026 special meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner VanLierop, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the April/May 2026 list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$151,592.29

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner VanLierop, to accept the April/May 2026 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Goals/Objectives: None Discussed

Old Business:

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- Discuss & Consider – 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget
Discussion: the Budget Committee of Commissioners VanLierop, Spoula and Mayor J. Danger spent about 9-10 hours going over the budget. Priorities were road improvement. Recommending the 2026/2027 budget be approved.

New Business:

- Discuss & Consider – Mechanical Inspector Contract Amendment
Discussion: Recommending approval of the amendment to bring the mechanical inspector pay scale in line with the other building officials at the 80/20 formula of fees invoiced.
- Discuss & Consider – Drinking Water Operator Agreement
Discussion: Recommending approval for a two-year agreement at \$145,000 for the first year and the 2nd year will have a 6% increase. Commissioner Miller requested contracts be included in Council's packets for review.
- Discuss & Consider – North Center Street Manhole Repair
Discussion: The City Manager declared an emergency repair, recommending approval.
- Discuss & Consider – Local Road repair
Discussion: Current process is complaint based. Commissioner Miller would like a process to evaluate the roads to prioritize the road repairs.
- Discuss & Consider – City Manager Employment Agreement Amendment
Discussion: Recommending approval of proposed amendments, performance base salary increase above cost of living, change sick & vacation time to PTO, secretarial support, six months' severance pay, and review of contract on even years,
- Discuss & Consider – Appoint Interlocal Fire Agreement Committee
Discussion: Commissioner Miller, Vanlierop and Spoula volunteered.

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 020 Mechanical inspector Renewal & Amendment of Service Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 020 approving the Mechanical Inspector Service Agreement Amendment & Renewal.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 021 Water Operator Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Miller, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 021 approving the Drinking Water Operator and IRP operations Agreement with Certified Operator Services LLC in the amount of \$145,000.00 for the first year and a 6% increase the second year, as amended.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 022 Establishing Property Tax Millage for the Fiscal Year 2026.

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Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 022 establishing property tax millage for the fiscal year 2026.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 023 Repair Manhole on North Center Street

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 023 approving the repair of the manhole on North Center Street by Four Season Excavating LLC in the amount of \$6,700.00.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 024 Repair Local Streets

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 024 approving the repair of local & major streets by Van Buren County Road Commission or their designee.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 025 Approving Amendment to City Manager Employment Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 025 approving amendments to the City Manager Nicol Pulluam's contract and a 2% payment on the base salary for the 2026 review performance bonus.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Weeden)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 026 Adopting the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 026 adopting the 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- First Reading – Ordinance No. 346-2026 Amending City Organizations Downtown Development Authority

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk