

**CITY OF HARTFORD  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
PROPOSED DECEMBER 15, 2025**

Commissioners Present: Peter Aranda; Lindsy Morsaw; Nancy Spoula; Charles Weeden (5:35); Mayor Jane M. Danger

Commissions Absent: John Miller;

Staff Present: Clark; Mangan, Matthews; Pulluiam; Rodney-Isbrecht

Mayor Jane M. Danger called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Motion carried 4 – 0

**Guests:**

- Stephanie Danials, Hartford Public Library – informed the Commission that the Library has changed the scope of its original grant request. Instead of a community garden, the Library is now requesting support for the construction of a pavilion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications:**

- 2026 City Commission Meetings will begin at 6pm
- December 24-26 – City Hall Closed in Observance of Christmas
- December 31-January 2, 2026 – City Hall Closed in Observance of New Year

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

- Van Buren Conservation District – November 2025 Program Information
- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Brian Matthews, Chief, report on file; reported that the department is working on training, policies, and an audit. The department was not awarded the COPS grant. The Chief is seeking alternative funding sources for vehicle replacement, required equipment and training.
- B. **Fire Department** –no representative, report on file.
- C. **Ambulance** – report on file
- D. **Van Buren County** – no representative present.
- E. **Public Works** –report on file, working on salt truck repair, marking MissDig requests, winter maintenance, and training new employees.
- F. **Iron Removal Plant** – Quinten Clark, report on file;
- G. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Quinton Clark, report on file; the lab is improving operations, including cleaning and disposing of un-used chemicals. Compliance issues are being addressed. An inspection conducted at the dentist office regarding mercury disposal. Mike Good passed his WWTP exam; Staff training classes are being recommended.
- H. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – List of Bills totals \$749,102.22 and includes total invoices & payroll for the previous weeks. Council approves of the new bill format.
- I. **City Manager** –report on file – Audit; Spark Grant, contracts must be signed by the end of December; Master Plan Update; Surf Internet Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, last week; Treasurer’s Department MIClass Accounts, transferred 1.8 million into the account; Meeting with all department staff; Requesting a special meeting on a Saturday in January for Council Retreat workshop; IPP Attorney; Two Positions open, DPW & Elections/Utility Billing Clerk; DDA Plan, DDA board wants to expand their boundary’s that includes a lot of residential area a Citizens committee will need to be appointed, at least 9 members 90 day’s before the public hearing; Draft Master Plan update in February Draft of the

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Zoning Ordinance in April 2026; Construction Project updates; City Manager Goals will be updated next year.

**Approval of Commission Minutes:**

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as amended to include the name of the Senate Candidate who spoke under public comment, and place them on file.

Motion carried 5 – 0

**Approval of Reports:**

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to approve the December, 2025 list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$749,102.22.

Motion carried 5 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to accept the November 2025 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 5 – 0

**Goals/Objectives:** None Discussed

**Old Business:**

- Discuss & Consider – Filling Commission Seat Vacancy

Discussion: Five letters of interest were received; Mayor Danger requested a special meeting to hold interviews. The four Candidates, Gage Gardner, Marilyn Mead, Tom VanLierop and Matthew Walls, four questions posed by Council.

Motion by Commissioner Weeden, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to appoint Tom Vanlierop to fill the open Commission seat.

Motion carried 5 – 0

**New Business:**

- Discuss & Consider – Setting Special Meeting – Workshop Retreat & 2024/2025 Audit Presentation  
Discussion: Council set Saturday January 24, 2026 at the Vanderlyn Community Center for the Workshop Retreat and January 26, 2026 regular business meeting for the audit presentation.
- Discuss & Consider – Industrial Pre-Treatment Plan Legal Service Agreement  
Discussion: Specialized legal guidance is needed to ensure compliance with the City's permit.
- Discuss & Consider – Hartford Public Library Community Garden Grant Application Letter of Support  
Discussion: The Library has revised the grant application to construct a pavilion with electrical service. The resolution of support can be re-written to support the updated project.
- Discuss & Consider – Iron Removal Plant Media Pilot Study -  
Discussion: Adam from Peerless-Midwest was present to answer Council questions. A pilot study was recommended prior to making a major process investment. The study was not included in the current budget and will be contingent on available funding or included in the next fiscal year budget.

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

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 076 Industrial Pre-Treatment Plan Legal Services Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 076 authorizing the retention of Attorney Davis at a rate of \$155 per/hour for industrial pre-treatment plan legal services.

Motion carried 5 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 077 Iron Removal Plant Media Pilot Study

Motion by Commissioner Weeden, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 077 authorizing Peerless Midwest to conduct the iron removal plant media pilot study in the amount of \$12,500, contingent on available funding.

Motion carried 5 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 078 Hartford Public Library Community Garden Grant

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 078 to adopt Resolution 2025 – 078 supporting the Hartford Public Library's grant application for the development of a pavilion.

Motion carried 5 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 079 Appoint Members of the Planning Commission

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Weeden, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 079 appointing Dan Danger and Joseph Lehnert to the City Planning Commission.

Motion carried 5 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 080 Appoint Downtown Development Authority Members

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 080 appointing Manuela Blaylock-Villota and Pete Sinclair to the City Downtown Development Authority.

Motion carried 5 – 0

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Weeden, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03pm.

Motion carried 5 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk