

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2025

Commissioners Present: Peter Aranda (5:50); Jane Danger; John Miller; Lindsay Morsaw; Nancy Spoula;
Mayor Richard A. Hall
Commissions Absent: Charles Weeden;
Staff Present: Brown; Ricks; Rodney-Isbrecht;

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the agenda as amended to include Senior Services & Eric Blocker.

Motion carried 5 – 0

Guests:

- Mickey Bittner, Wightmans – Current City Project Updates
- Terry Tibbs, Board Representative & Diane Rigozzi, Director, Van Buren Senior Services – Gave update on services provided.
- Eric Blocker – currently a Life Scout in Troop 197, Lawrence and working on his Eagle Project, presented a concept for a permanent flag retirement burning ceremony fire bowl installed in Ely Park, he will return in a few months with the project design.

Public Comment:

- Nick G, 125 Paras Hill Dr – complaint about the condition of a neighbor’s property.

Communications:

- There are open seats on the Planning Commission & the Board of Review, anyone interested please submit a letter of interest to the Clerk.
- City Hall will be closed February 17, 2025 in observance of Presidents Day
- Hartford Chamber Annual Meeting & Banquet is February 10, 2025, tickets are on sale at City Hall
- McDowell II Apartments sent notice of housing availability
- 2025 March Board of Review dates: March 4 – Organizational Meeting, March 11, 9am-4pm & March 14, 1pm-9pm for appeal hearings.

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

- A. Committee Update – Commission Rules Review: Commissioners Aranda & Spoula met at the library but did not see any need to amend the current rules. The City Manager would like to sit down with the Committee to go over some recommended changes.
- B. Committee Update – City Manager Review Forms: Commissioners Weeden, Morsaw & Danger met in December and will bring the final revised forms to the February meeting. March 25, 2025 is the City Managers Review, forms need to be turned into the Clerk by March 14, 2025.
- C. Planning Commission – 2024 December 9 Meeting Minutes
- D. **Van Buren Conservation District** – December 2024 Program Update, information went out in winter tax bills. They have a community survey on their website & Facebook page.
- E. **Police & Ordinance** – Interim Chief Lucas, not in attendance, Report on File, included Evidence Audit Recommendations.
- F. **Fire Department** –Robbie Harting, Fire Chief – Report on File, received a \$10,000 DNR Grant, budget meetings, smoke alarms & CO2 alarms available for installation.

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- G. **Ambulance** – 2024 December
- H. **Van Buren County** – Commissioner Mike Chappell, not in attendance
- I. **Public Works** – Ricky Ricks Supervisor – Bobcat repairs, Christmas decorations put away; cleared drains.
- J. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** –Report on File –
- K. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – January 27, 2025 List of Bills \$489,527.79
- L. **City Manager** –Report on file –Updated City Manager Goals. Project Compass Meeting-Learn how to Prevent Online Scams, February 4, 5pm-7pm at Hartford Public Library; requesting a special meeting in February to consider a Police Chief contract, requesting a meeting change for the April Council meeting due to Managers schedule conflict; 60th Ave Sidewalk Extension/Shared Streets Program; DWSRF Project; Spark Grant/DNR/Council Michigan Foundation; Planning Commission Meeting; 9 South Center Street; Rite Aid Building; Downtown Planning Meeting; 2025 Local Grad Crossing Surface Program Award Notice in the amount of \$173,808; Building Official, Safebuilt was given a 90-day notice to end their contract as of March 23, 2025; Police Department; Fire Inter-local Agreement; MSHDA’s Housing Readiness Incentive in the amount of \$50,000; Water Main Extension (PFAS) Hartford Township Update; SRF Wastewater Project Update; Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Update; DWSRF Update.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the January 27, 2025 list of bills in the amount of \$489,527.79.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Miller, to accept the December 2024 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Goals/Objectives:

- Commissioner Miller requested an update on the AT & T water tower lease.

Old Business: None Discussed

New Business:

- **Discuss & Consider – Amending April Council Meeting Date**
Discussion: The City Manager has a conflict with Council’s April 28 business meeting. Council moved their regular meeting from April 28 to April 30, 2025 at 5:30pm. Council set a Special Meeting for February 6 at 3:30pm to consider a Police Chief contract.
- **Discuss & Consider – MSHDA Housing Readiness Incentive Program Grant**
Discussion: None
- **Discuss & Consider – City of Hartford Employee Handbook Amendment to “Social Media”**
Discussion: None

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- Discuss & Consider – Employee Flexible Benefit Plan Agreement
Discussion: None

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 001

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 001 accepting MSHDA Housing Readiness Grant in the amount of \$50,000
Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 002 Amending Employee Handbook Section “Social Media”

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 002 amending employee handbook section “social media”
Motion carried 5 – 1 (Danger)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 003 Appoint DDA Board Members.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 003 appointing DDA Board Members.
Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 004 Appointing Planning Commission Members

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula to include Dan Danger for a one-year term and adopt the amended Resolution 2025 – 004 appointing planning commission members.
Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 005 Appoint board of Review Members

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda to adopt Resolution 2025 – 0005 appointing board of review members.
Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 006 Flexible Benefit Plan

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 006 offering an employee flexible benefit plan managed by Kushner & Company in the amount of \$1,150 per/year.
Motion carried 6 – 0

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk

County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, 19 West Main St, Hartford, MI 49057