

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2024

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

Commissions Absent:

Staff Present: Brown; Ivy; Prince; Ricks; Rodney-Isbrecht; Shultz;

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Council did not make a motion to approve the agenda.

Guests:

- Pete Kalb – Mayor Hall presented a key to the City and acknowledged his 21 years of service and retirement from Department of Public Works.
- Van Buren County Sheriff Dan Abbott, provided information on the Sheriff Department providing police coverage to the City.

Public Comment:

- Ron Ward, 123 Bennett Ave – Expressed Concerns of an On-going Noise Complaint
- Terry Tibbs, 128 Paras Hill Dr – Van Buren Senior Services update, handicap ramp program, lunches served at 501 West Main on Tuesday & Wednesday. Lest we forget re-enactments will be June 22, 2024 at Tiscornia Park, 9am Normandy re-enactment & 1pm Saipan Beach Landing re-enactment.
- John Spoula, 112 Bennett Ave – Expressed Support of the Hartford Police Department
- Mike Menck, 38 Marion Ave – Expressed Support of the Police Department
- Jim Morris, Surf Internet – Working with City Staff to bring fiber internet into the community this summer

Communications:

- Van Buren Conservation 2024 Recycling Events.
- Notice of Hearing Indiana Michigan Power at MPSC on May 8, 2024.
- Leaf & Brush Pick-up the last two weeks of April through May 3, 2024
- Large Garbage/Junk Pick – Up will be Wednesday April 24, 2024 6am.
- Annual Notice to Cut Weeds, please make provisions to mow your grass every week.
- Petitions available for City Council Seats and are due July 23, 2024 to be on the November 5, 2024 Election

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

- February 2024 Hartford Council Recreation Minutes
 - March 2024 Hartford Council Recreation Minutes
 - Van Buren Conservation District March 2024 Program Update.
 - Hartford Public Library April 2024 & Fiscal Year Audit
- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Chief Prince & Lt. Ivy – Report on file. Federal mandate to encrypt radios by the end of the year, cost estimated at \$1,200 per/radio to encrypt. Recruit to start the academy on April 29, tuition is covered by State grant through MCOLES; Hired a part-time officer, Trent DeGroff; Lt. Ivy donated his time & collected donations to get the Humvee out-fitted; Working on four grants for equipment; Working on updating gun inventory. Spring Break event went well, making plans to hold next year. Chief Prince expressed support of the Department.

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- B. **Fire Department** – Ron Sefcik, Fire Board Chair, calling a special joint meeting for May 14, 2024 at 7pm to approve the fire department 2024/2025 budget; Made some updates to the budget, made separate accounts for millage & donations; AED's are outdated & need to be updated; looking into replacing grass rig; Millage Request; Fire Chief Robbie Harting – Report on File; Pancake Breakfast May 11, 7am; Smoke Detectors available.
- C. **Ambulance** – Report on File,
- D. **Van Buren County** – Mike Chappel, Commissioner Van Buren County; Hired new public defender; Van Buren County millage renewals on august ballot; therapy garden to continue for a year; replaced computer equipment; Spring Veteran's Social
- E. **Public Works** –Report on File – Water -line replacement; started interviewing for both DPW & WWTP; brush pick-up has started.
- F. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** –Report on File –
- G. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** –List of Bills \$788,979.58
- H. **City Manager** –Report on file – 106 South Center Demolition; Former Police Officer Collection Update; Hispanic Heritage City Sponsorships; Expectations Workshops, SWOT Analysis, Colors Training and Strategic Planning; Brush Disposal; Hiring at the DPW and WWTP; Home Based Business Ordinance; Fire Department 2024/2025 Budget; March 25, 2024 Citizens' Complaint against HPD Staff; Budget, Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2024 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 Morsaw, to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2024 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the April 22, 2024 list of bills in the amount of \$788,979.58.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to accept the March 2024 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Goals/Objectives:

- City of Hartford/Beltran lawsuit – No comment's on pending litigation.

Old Business:

- Discuss & Consider – Sponsorships

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to continue to support the organizations as the City has done in the past as follows: \$1,000 Lions Club, Concerts in the Park; \$500.00 Hispanic Heritage Organization and \$500 Hartford Chamber of Commerce, Strawberry Festival as recommended.

Motion carried 7 – 0

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- Discuss & Consider –City Manager Review –
Discussion: Council set a special meeting for June 25, 2024 5:30pm

New Business:

- Discuss & Consider – Van Buren County Resource Recovery & Recycling Program

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Danager, to approve contribution of \$500 to the 2024 Van Buren County Resource Recovery Recycling Program. .

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Weeden)

- Discuss & Consider – Water/Sewer Rates
Discussion: Proposed rates recommended for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year.
- Discuss & Consider – 2024/2025 Fiscal Year Preliminary Budget
Discussion: Proposing using \$250,000 in saving to balance the budget. Council expressed their concerns about continuing to use savings to balance the budget.
- Discuss & Consider – Set Millage Rate, Truth in Taxation Hearing & 2024/2025 Budget Hearing Dates
Discussion: Council Set a Special Meeting for April 29, 2024 at 3:30pm.
- Discuss & Consider – Source Water Protection Plan Update Proposal from Peerless Midwest Inc.
Discussion: Needed to meet State Requirements

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to accept the Source Water Protection Plan Update Proposal from Peerless Midwest Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$21, 250.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Discuss & Consider – Proclamation 2024-001 Van Buren County Road Commission – Interim Manager Rader

Motion by Commissioner Dockter supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Proclamation 2024 – 001 Thanking Van Buren County Road Commission in assisting the City by allowing Linnea Rader to be the City's Part-Time Interim City Manager.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024-008 Appoint Planning Commission Members

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw supported by Commissioner Miller to adopt Resolution 2024 – 008 appointing Planning Commission Members, Peter Aranda & Joe Deckard.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024-009 2023/2024 Budget Adjustments no. Three

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 009 amending the 2023/2024 Budget amendment no. three.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024-010 Fire Millage Renewal Ballot Language

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Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 010 authorizing Fire Millage Renewal Ballot Language to fund the purchase of Fire apparatus & equipment by the Hartford Fire Department for the August 2024 Ballot.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Proposed Ordinance 341-2023 Marijuana Business – 2nd Reading
Discussion: None

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to adopt Ordinance no 341-2023 Marijuana Business to Title XI of the Hartford City Code

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Proposed Ordinance 342-2023 Marijuana Business Zoning – 2nd Reading
Discussion: None

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to adopt Ordinance no 342-2023 amending the zoning code to regulate marijuana business.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Proposed Ordinance 343-2024 Zoning Amendment – 2nd Reading
Discussion: None

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to adopt Ordinance no 334-2024 to amend zoning to provide standards & procedures for the review of special use applications & variance requests.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Docker, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Miller)

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk