

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2025

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

Commissions Absent:

Staff Present: Brown; Matthews; Ricks; Rodney-Isbrecht; Shultz

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the agenda as amended to include special meeting minutes.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Guests:

- Mayor presented Proclamation 2025-001 to Johnson and Morales for their heroic actions to prevent a fire in the City.

Public Comment:

- Ashley Voss – 60th Ave, concerns on the 60th Ave sidewalk project and interest in a community garden.

Communications:

- Van Buren Conservation District Tire/Electronic Recycling May 22, 2025 3pm-7pm at City Hall North Parking Lot
- May 26, 2025 – City Hall will be closed in observance of Memorial Day
- Notice to City of Hartford Property Owners – 2025 Mowing Season, make a plan to mow your property
- Mayor & City Commissioner Seat, petitions are available and due to Clerk by July 22, 2025 4pm.
- Please make a plan to mow your yard, to keep the City looking nice.
- I & M sent notice of Public Hearing, MPSC on June 5, 2025 9:30am
- Mayor attended the Blossomtime Mayor's Banquet on May 13. Also a speaker on Careers at the Middle School on May 14.

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

- Hartford Public Library** – Celebrating their 100th Anniversary Celebration August 16, 2025 Noon-3pm.
- Police & Ordinance** – Brian Matthews, Chief, Proposed Camping & Blight Ordinance, 38 calls for service, working on budget with the City Manager, new professional uniforms for the officers, working to hire another officer soon, cop's grants application to cover an officer's salary, addressing blight complaints, making sure vehicles are running and in service, currently there is not a mutual aid agreement with Van Buren County Sheriff's Department to serve the City.
- Fire Department** – Rob Harting, Chief, Reports submitted, Thanks to the City Council for supporting the fire department by passing the 2025/2026 budget. Pancake Breakfast was a success; smoke detectors are available please reach out to the fire department. Decon site for Palisades, required training through FEMA. Assistant Chief, Keven McGrew, asked Council to consider nominating two members from the Council to sit on a committee with township board and the Chief & Fire Chief to talk about future apparatus equipment purchases of the fire department. Committee to meet in July.
- Ambulance** – Report on file
- Van Buren County** – Commissioner Mike Chappell, not in attendance.

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- F. **Public Works** – Ricky Ricks Supervisor, working on brush & leaves picked up. Short staffed, but will get to it when they can. Iron Plant report on file.
- G. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** –Report on file.
- H. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – May 19, 2025 List of Bills \$309,276.19; noted the tasers & body camera lease was paid off a year early. Treasurer gave an update on the Treasurer’s Conference she recently attended.
- I. **City Manager** –Report on file – Spark Grant/DNR/Council Michigan Foundations; Budget; Master Plan; Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Update; Hartford Township Water Main Extension (PFAS); 60th Avenue Sidewalk Extension/Shared Streets and Spaces Project Update; Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project (Lead Service Line Replacement Improvements) Update; Working with McKenna to apply for a MSHDA homeowner rehab grant; Updated Fiscal Year Goals; DWSRF bid opening on June 24, 2025, a special meeting may be needed in July to award the project; Opportunity to move up the West Main Street project scheduled for 2028, by applying for a CDBG grant, which requires a public hearing. If awarded the grant it will save the City money and move the project to 2026. Council scheduled a special meeting to hold a public hearing on May 28, 2025 at 3:30pm; Guest speaker for Career Day at HPS Middle School, also invited Mary Nykamp from Wightman’s to talk about water & waste water treatment plant operations.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2025 business meeting, May 1, 2025 Special Meeting - Truth in Taxation, May 1, 2025 Special Meeting - Joint Fire Board/Township, May 8, Special Meeting - 2025 2025/2026 Budget, 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 Spoula, to approve the May 19, 2025 list of bills in the amount of \$309,276.19.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to accept the April 2025 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Goals/Objectives: None

Old Business:

- Discuss & Consider – Proposed 2025/2026 Budget – No Discussion
- Discuss & Consider – Public Safety Funding – Assessment or Millage – Police Department needs funding to operate at a certain standard. 2.5 mills would be needed to assist to fund one police officer.

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Miller, to move forward with a public safety special assessment.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Weeden)

New Business:

- Discuss & Consider – City Manager Compensation
Discussion: City Manager budgeted for 5% cost of living increase.

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Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Weeden, to increase the City Manager salary of \$90,000 by 5% (4,500.00) for fiscal year 2025/2026.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Danger)

- Discuss & Consider – Kubota Purchase - \$75,000
Discussion: DPW has equipment that is aging, breaking down & needs to be replaced. Funds that have not been used by police department due to short staffing will be used to purchase.
- Discuss & Consider – IRP Well Infrastructure
Discussion: Wells 4 & 5 need be rebuilt, there are on the capital improvement plan are at the end of their useful life, not to exceed \$40,000.00 each.
- Discuss & Consider – Special Meeting & Appointment for Master Plan Update
Discussion: June 9, 2025 6pm, asking for Council member to sit on the steering committee, Charlie Weeden volunteered.

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 035 Truth in Taxation Millage Rate

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 035 establishing property tax millage for the fiscal year 2025 - 2026.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 034 2024/2025 Budget Adjustments - 3rd Quarter

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Mayor Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 034 adopting fiscal year 2024/2025 budget adjustment no. three.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 036 - 2025/2026 Budget

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 036 adopting fiscal year 2025/2026 budget.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 037 - Amend Water Rates.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025-037 amending water rates.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Danger)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 038 - Amend Sewer Rates

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 038 amending sewer rates.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Danger)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 039 Kubota Purchase

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Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 039 to purchase of a Kubota tractor in the amount not to exceed \$75,000.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 040 IRP Well Infrastructure.

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Miller, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 040 Iron Removal Plant infrastructure well overhaul not to exceed \$40,000 for each well.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Mayor Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 7:14pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk