

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2021

Commissioners Present: Ramon Beltran; Ron Burleson; Frank Dockter; Richard A. Hall; John Miller; Helen Sullivan; Terry Tibbs

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Akinwale; Beltran; Rodney-Isbrecht, Shultz, Staunton

Mayor Richard A. Hall called the business meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the agenda as amended to include appointing a deputy building inspector & discussion on Council Rules and form a committee.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Dockter supported by Commissioner Beltran, to nominate and appoint Commissioner John Miller as Mayor Pro-Tem for 2022.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Guests: None

Public Comment:

- Jeremiah Smith, Coin Express 202 W Main St, asking Council to for a reduction in water rates & waiver of penalties in the amount of \$1,043.64 due to a water leak last summer and extension of 45 days as he works with his insurance company. The City Manager gave a 30-day extension in November/December which has passed. The Manager also gave a credit on the sewer portion of the bill & penalties for the leak. Commissioners gave a 45-day extension in paying the bill. If the bill is paid in full by March 15, 2022 the Council will waive ½ of the penalties incurred.

Communications:

1. McDowell Apartments sent notice of vacancy and asked to refer those in need of housing to apply.
2. HPS Mascot Change roadmap.
3. Commissioner Beltran – Participated in the Newly Elected Officials’ Class provided by MML, the class was very beneficial in explaining the role and responsibilities of the Council.
4. Council Rules are 25 years old and need to be reviewed. The Mayor appointed Commissioners Beltran, Sullivan & Miller to review the Council Rules and bring back a recommendation to the full board.

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

- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Chief Beltran, Kuzma began school today.
- B. **Fire Dept** – Chief Harting – applying for as many grants as possible; held department awards banquet. Medical personal responding to all medical call’s priority 1, 2 & 3 as a service to the community, concerns over Pride Cares coverage and response times.
- C. **Ambulance** – No Representative, no discussion.
- D. **Van Buren County** – Extended State of Emergency through June 30, 2022 at the request of the health department; possible lease of former health department building to the USDA & VBC Conservation District; VB Transit Agreement; New Position in the Treasurer’s Office & Juvenile Court; Opioid Settlement; Appointments to various boards; Dick Godfrey last meeting as Chair.
- E. **Public Works** – Superintendent Staunton, Commissioners commended DPW on installing Christmas lamp decorations.
- F. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – No Discussion

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- G. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – Most Investments have been transferred from Huntington to Sturgis Bank, one CD remains at Huntington until it matures.
- H. **City Manager – Proposal for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operational Assistance; 5 West Main Street**, repairs have begun, thanks to VBC Commissioner Chappell for his support; **Linden/Clark Street Project Update; Matt Kuzma Sponsorship Agreement; Indiana Michigan Power Easement Request**, Attorney Schuitmaker met with I&M regarding the easement at the Iron Plant and will provide a recommendation for the council;

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Sullivan, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2021 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner Sullivan, supported by Commissioner Miller, to accept the December 2021 departmental reports as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Goals/Objectives: None

Old Business:

- Discussion/Review – Police Academy Contract Signed by Kuzma & he has begun the 16-week program.
- Indiana Michigan Power Company Easement – City Attorney has met with I&M; the easement will come before the Council at a future meeting.
- Discussion Interlocal Agreement Fire Department Committee Update – The Committee (Sullivan, Hall & Miller) met and could agree to most of the proposed changes, 3 year review of agreement, create a vice chair position, board pay, change in joint meeting dates, change in operating funding formula, but the change in the operational funding formula could not be justified by the data of fire versus medical calls. The Mayor will send a letter to the Township with the recommendations to the proposed changes from the Council before an updated agreement can be voted on.
- Honor Credit Union – Update, no new information to report, the Mayor will contact the manager at Honor for an update.
- Ambulance Contract - concerns of service provided.

New Business:

- Hartford Chamber Strawberry Festival Sponsorship Request

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to partner with the Hartford Chamber to sponsor the Strawberry Festival in the amount of \$250.00.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Appointment – Steve Ackerman, 322 Bowie St to the Board of Review as an Alternate

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to appoint Steven Ackerman as an alternate to the Board of Review.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- 2022 Christmas Decorations – Naylor; Commissioners approve of decorating City Hall again, Commissioner Dockter requested new holiday banners for the light polls.

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- City Hall Fire Alarm – Johnson Controls Quote \$7,340.00 – The City Hall alarm system is 20 years old and parts are no longer available for repair. Commissioners requested additional quotes for replacement.
- MDOT – Invoice – Prospect Street Construction Project - \$18,572.00

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to approve payment in the amount of \$18,572.00 to the State of Michigan for the Prospect Street Construction Project.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discussion – WWTP Operation Proposal

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to accept IAI's proposal for Operations Assistance at the WWTP at a rate of \$100.00 per/hr.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Appointment – Deputy Building Inspector

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Miller, to appoint Brett A. Lehto as the City's Deputy Building Inspector.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Resolution 2022 – 001 Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines & Asset Test

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Miller, adopt Resolution 2022-001 setting the 2022 Poverty Exemption, Income Guidelines & Asset Test.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Resolution 2022 – 002 Accepting Letters of Protest

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Beltran, adopt Resolution 2022-002 Accepting Letters of Protest from City Resident Property Owners for the March 2022 Board of Review.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Resolution 2022 – 003 Provide for Alternate Starting Dates for March 2022 Board of Review

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Miller, adopt Resolution 2022-003 Providing for Alternate Starting Dates for the March 2022 Board of Review.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Burleson, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk

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