

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2022

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

Members Absent: John Miller;

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 Beltran, to approve the agenda as amended to include report & a millage request from Senior Services.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Guests:

- 2022 Hartford Royalty – Introduction of the 2022 Court and sponsorship request to build the 2022 Community Float and ad for Miss Blossomtime. This year will be a Circus theme.
- Van Buren Senior Services, presented information on how they served the senior community during the pandemic, opened a new building center which houses a central kitchen and pharmacy. Asked the Council to support a 1mill, eight-year millage to be put on the August ballot. The millage dollars would provide programs & services and not the building mortgage. Donations have paid for the new building and with the two rentals who are also utilizing the building the rent is sufficient to cover the utilities. Senior Services is confident that donations will cover the cost of the building without using tax payer dollars.

Public Comment:

- Mike Banic, City Housing Inspector gave a report on the inspector program and is working out as it has caught some dangerous situations such as electrical and mechanical issues that the homeowner must correct.

Communications:

1. VB Conservation District Program Updates
2. VB Sportsmen Club – Easter Egg Hunt – Ely Park on April 2nd with a rain date of April 9th at 1pm.
3. Hartford Chamber Annual Banquet March 31st 6pm @ VB Sportsman’s Club
4. March Board of Review Dates are March 8, 11:30am Organizational Meeting; March 16, 1pm-9pm & March 18, 9am-4pm for protests. Please call the assessor for an appointment.
5. VBC Road Commission sent notice of seasonal weight restrictions.

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

- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Chief Beltran, Sponsored Cadet is doing well.
- B. **Fire Dept** – Chief Harting – No Representative
- C. **Ambulance** – No Representative, Mayor Appointed a committee of Commissioner’s Beltran, Sullivan, and Tibbs to service on Ambulance review of Pride service & recommendation of renewal contract which expires August of 2023.
- D. **Van Buren County** – Commissioner Chappell, COVID Mini-Grants; Access & Visitation Grant; County Court Grant Contracts; Former Health Department Building; Appointments; ARPA Funds; VBC Veterans Services Director will be at Panel Room March 24 from 7am-9am
- E. **Public Works** – Superintendent Staunton, pot hole season, especially bad around the railroad tracks, looking for cold patch and to partner with the City of Watervliet to split a load. Commissioner Tibbs

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would like to know how snow removal on sidewalks, responsibility of the homeowner, how is it enforced.

- F. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Contractor is reviewing current process to make recommendations for improvement.
- G. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – No Discussion
- H. **City Manager** – Wastewater Treatment Plant; 5 West Main Street update; Rural Business Development Grant Application; Indiana Michigan Power Easement Request; Linden/Clark Street Project Update

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to approve the minutes of the January 2022 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner Burleson, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to accept the January 2022 departmental reports as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Goals/Objectives:

- Grant Application for the Downtown Area

Old Business:

- 202 West Main, Utility Billing Agreement Update, Customer has until March 15, 2022 to avoid shutoff.
- Proposed Interlocal Fire Agreement Changes – Discussion/Next Steps

Letter was received from the Township in response to the City's changes to the interlocal agreement, they agree to everything but the funding formula, they want their proposed funding formula of 55/45, the City wants to keep it the current funding formula of 60/40. Because the City & Township do not agree on the funding formula the next step would be to enact the arbitration procedure of the interlocal agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Burleson, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to authorize the City Attorney to initiate the arbitration procedure as set forth in the Interlocal Fire Department Agreement.

Motion carried 5 – 1 (Tibbs)

- Committee (Commissioners Beltran, Miller & Sullivan) Update – City Commission Rules of Order – Committee needs more time & would like to review other municipality rules of order.

New Business:

- Hartford Float Committee Sponsorship -

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to partner with the Hartford Float Committee to sponsor the Community Float in the amount of \$500.00.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- VBC Historical Society Sponsorship

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to partner with the Van Buren County Historical Society to sponsor the preservation of history records in the amount of \$250.00.

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

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Motion carried 6 – 0

- Lions Club Concerts in the Park Sponsorship

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to partner with the Hartford Lions Club to sponsor the 2022 Concerts in the Park Series in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- MDOT – Invoice – Prospect Street Construction Project - \$11,384.70

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to approve payment in the amount of \$11,384.70 to the State of Michigan for the Prospect Street Construction Project.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- Ordinance no. 321 – 2022 Require Numbering of Buildings – 1st Reading

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Resolution 2022 – 004 Rural Business Development Grant Application

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, adopt Resolution 2022-004 approving a rural Business Development Grant Application

Motion carried 6 – 0

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Burlison, to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk