

CITY OF HARTFORD  
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Commissioners Present: Frank Dockter; John Miller; Lindsay Morsaw; Nancy Spoula; Charles Weeden; Mayor Richard A. Hall  
Commissioners Absent: Jane Danger;  
Staff Present: Brown; Lucas Rodney-Isbrecht; Staunton;

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 6 – 0

**Guests:**

- Pete Sinclair, Hartford Lions Club, Concerts in the Park – The Mayor presented Proclamation 2024 – 002 & Key to the City for his dedicated service to the community and his leadership to organize Concerts in the Park.
- Stephanie Daniels, Hartford Public Library Director – Newsletter only sent in Summer due to cost, October 26, 2-4pm Halloween Event, Christmas in Hartford December 14 6pm Lighted Parade, Santa, and Christmas tree lighting, event sponsored by Hartford Chamber & Hartford Public Library, other events offered, cardio drumming on Monday & Wednesday, tai-chi class twice a month, coffee & canvas \$10 per/person, blood pressure cuffs to be lent out.
- Micky Bittner, Wightman’s – project updates, Drinking Water Asset Management, identifying lead/galvanized services to begin October; WWTP, coming to a close, waiting on equipment, drainage improvements on South Haver; PFAS, Township Waterline Extension, 100% Grant, coming to a close, restoration & bore/jack October to be completed; DWSRF water asset improvements, 4.7mill in principle loan forgiveness and 7 million loan at 1% interest to replace lead service lines, water main replacement, iron removal plant upgrades, and replacement of residential water meters. This project has an aggressive time line, plan design due by February, permitting submitted by May and close on bonds/loan September 2025, construction in 2026. Water project loan/grant dollars only cover paving over water lane replacement, Council could consider reconstruction of streets & repaving the other lane at the time of the project with a separate contract, this will save some money if done during construction. Council will need to make this decision by the November meeting to include the addition of full street reconstruction.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications:**

- Domestic Violence Support Group Information
- Notice Van Buren County Early Voting begins October 26 for the November 5, 2024 General Election
- Early Voting Canvas Notice at Hartford Township 8pm for the November 5, 2024 General Election
- Contact the Clerk’s office for an application to vote absentee
- Special Meeting September 24, 2024 5:30pm for City Manager Review – Closed Session
- Write-in Candidates Declaration of Intent due 4pm October 25, 2024 for a Council Seat in the November 5, 2024

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

A. **Hartford Public Library** – September 2024 minutes & Newsletter

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- B. **Planning Commission** – September 2024 Minutes, Joe Deckard resigned from the Planning Commission.
- C. **Van Buren Conservation District** – August & September Program Updates
- D. **Police & Ordinance** – Interim Chief Lucas, Report on File, working on recruitment of staff, training, public outreach, fleet status, and equipment status.
- E. **Fire Department** – Ron Sefcik, Fire Board Chair – Report on File, Pancake Breakfast 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October, Audit is complete & met all requirements, replacing a truck with millage monies, investigating selling ladder truck, seeking information on Interlocal agreement and the Fire Board will discuss at their November meeting.
- F. **Ambulance** – Report on File
- G. **Van Buren County** – Mike Chappell, Commissioner, not in attendance.
- H. **Public Works** – Dan Staunton - Report on File – Bachman Welding donated banner brackets for the decorative lamp posts to install the Hartford Public Schools Senior Athletic Banners, the City is appreciative of this donation. Renting a back-hoe, while the department’s is being repaired. Leaf machine has been rebuilt and is ready for the season.
- I. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Report on File –
- J. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – September 23, 2024 List of Bills \$582,643.17 + extend liability insurance to the end of October on the PFAS project in the amount of \$256.25.
- K. **City Manager** – Report on file – Drinking Water State Revolving Fund DWSRF Project; NEC CR 687, rezoning request for a Casey’s Building Project; 106 South Center Demolition, submitting reimbursement to Van Buren County; 5 West Main Street, Commissioner Miller has some concerns about a proposed 1<sup>st</sup> floor apartment as it is not allowed under current ordinance in the downtown area; WWTP Update, construction delayed due to waiting on supplies; Water Main Extension (PFAS) Hartford Township; Streetscape Downtown Improvement, closing out the project; Spark Grant/DNR Council Michigan Foundation, 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly report has been submitted, working with Southwest Planning Commission to submit Engineering Services RFP; Project Compass, moving forward; Police Department, two applicants for part time position; Zoning Administrator, still looking to fill the position; Commission Rules Amendment, recommend appointing committee to review; Ordinance Officer, will be posting the position.

**Approval of Commission Minutes:**

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Miller to approve the minutes of the August 26, 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 Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the September 23, 2024 list of bills in the amount of \$582,893.42.

Motion carried 6 – 0

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

Motion carried 6 – 0

**Goals/Objectives:** Discussion: City Manager will include updates in the Council packets.

**Old Business:** Discussion: Trick or Treating is October 31<sup>st</sup> 6pm-8pm

**New Business:**

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- Discuss & Consider – Engineering Services for the DWSRF Project  
Discussion: Needed to move forward with project and meet the deadlines.

**Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:**

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024 – 040 – DWSRF Project

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 040  
Approve Engineering Services for the SWSRF Project.

Motion carried 6 – 0

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Miller, to adjourn the meeting at  
6:42pm.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk