

CITY OF HARTFORD  
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 24, 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 Aranda, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Guests:**

- Phil Lucas Retirement – Mayor Hall presented a Key to the City and thanked Phil for his 30 years of service to the City at the Hartford Police Department.
- Mr. & Miss Hartford 2025 & Court – Presented the official portrait of the 2025 Royalty to the City for display. Also made a request for donation to build the 2025 community float for the parade season. For many years the Hartford Community float has won many awards.
- Jacob Diljak, Van Buren Conservation District – May 22, 2025 Tire & Electronic collection in the City's North Parking Lot 3pm-7pm, update on Recycling Programs, Tree Sale & Service Area Survey open until May 31, 2025.
- Andy Campbell, Bendzinski & Co – presentation on Water, Sewer & Street Funds Financial Update, giving Council several options to pay for current upcoming projects. In the near future Council will need to make some decisions and take action on rates to pay for the capital improvement project bonds & future maintenance projects to the systems to stay in compliance with the State and Federal requirements.

**Public Comment:**

- Mark Little, North Maple Street resident – Seeking information.
- Margo & Darwin Mason, 60th Ave – Concerns about Sidewalk project & parking along 60<sup>th</sup> Ave at Catholic Church.

**Communications:**

- Ely Park Reservation Request – Van Buren Sportsmen's Club Annual Easter Egg Hunt – April 12, 2025.
- Ely Park Reservation Request – Hartford Chamber of Commerce Strawberry Festival June 13-14, 2025.
- EGLE – Violation Notice to AEP – After the fact application Notice 80-69 – kV Transmission Line Project – South Haven – Hartford.
- HFB – Notice of Special Meeting – May 1, 2025 @ 7pm – 2025/2026 Fire Department Operating Budget.
- City Council Special Meeting March 25, 2025 at 5:30pm – for City Manager Review – Closed Session.
- Senior Veteran Expo, May 5, 2025 9am – Noon.
- Hartford Chamber After Hours April 10, 6pm at VB Sportsman's Club, Speaker will be Nicol Brown, City Manager.

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

- A. Hartford Public Library – March 2025 meeting information
- B. Planning Commission – 2024 December 9 Meeting Minutes

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- C. **Van Buren Conservation District** – February 2025, informational update.
- D. **Police & Ordinance** – Brian Matthews, Chief, working to fill full and part time positions. Working with the VBC Prosecuting Attorney to discard evidence.
- E. **Fire Department** – Ron Sefcik, HFB Chair, Rob Harting, Chief, not in attendance, Reports submitted
- F. **Ambulance** – Report not submitted
- G. **Van Buren County** – Commissioner Mike Chappell, received a grant for at risk youth; animal control building did not pass state inspection requiring flooring replacement; kayak launch received property from Meachem's, beginning construction mid-summer and ribbon cutting next year; approved two capital improvement projects, siding/windows on admin building & carpet in south haven building.
- H. **Public Works** – Ricky Ricks Supervisor, cold patching; repairs to equipment; read & replaced water meters; leaf & brush pick-up to begin as soon as they can schedule it.
- I. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** –Report on file.
- J. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – March 24, 2025 List of Bills \$511,486.23 –
- K. **City Manager** –Report on file – Spark Grant/DNR/ Council Michigan Foundation; Chambers concern about electrical repairs in the Park for Strawberry Festival; Audit; Project Compass Task Force; WWTP Update; 2025/2026 Budget; Rose Street Advisors Employee Navigator; CAPCON Conference; Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Update; Hartford Township Water Main Extension (PFAS); 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sidewalk Extension/Shared Streets and Spaces Project Update; Drinking Water Sewer Revolving Fund Project, Lead Service Line Replacement & Water System Improvements Update; Chief Matthews recommended promoting Officer Poole to Sergeant.

**Approval of Commission Minutes:**

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Approval of Reports:**

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the March 24, 2025 list of bills in the amount of \$511,486.23.

Motion carried 7 – 0

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

Motion carried 7– 0

**Goals/Objectives:**

- There have been zoning inquiries on the old Rite-Aid building to be used as a grocery store.

**Old Business:** None Discussed

**New Business:**

- Discuss & Consider – Appointment of Mechanical & Electrical Inspectors  
Discussion: Commissioner Miller wants to make sure there is a process where the inspectors are doing those final inspections, liability coverage and they provide some office hours.
- Discuss & Consider – Award Contract for Master Plan  
Discussion: about a 13-month project to complete.
- Discuss & Consider – Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Facilitated by VBC

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Discussion: Former City Manager Akinwale started the project and the City is designated RRC engaged, participating would provide a dedicated person to help communities complete the necessary steps to complete the process to be RRC certified.

- Discuss & Consider – PFAS Change Order #4

Discussion: project is complete, the railroad delayed the project and in order to close out the project

- Discuss & Consider – Letter of Support for Senator Peters' Congressional Directed Spending Application

Discussion: The City has been invited to apply. No match required but very competitive.

- Discuss & Consider – Special Meeting & Public Hearing Dates

Discussion: Set Public Hearing required to vacate right of way at end of Reynolds April 14, 2025 4:00pm; Set Special Meeting for Zoning Board of Appeals April 14, 2025 3:30pm; Set Special Meeting for Truth in Taxation May 1, 2025 6:30pm; Set Special Meeting for Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation May 19, 2025 5pm & Public Hearing on Budget May 19, 2025 5:15pm.

- Discuss & Consider – Letter of Support VBCD

Discussion: Council had no objection to sending a letter of support for this project.

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

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 018 Appointing DDA Member Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 018 appointing Manuela S. Blaylock to the Downtown Development Authority for a one-year term.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 019 Appointing Deputy Building, Mechanical & Electrical Inspectors

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 019 appointing Deputy Building Inspector Scott Saunders, Walt Devisser Jr as Mechanical Inspector and David Gongwer as Electrical Inspector.

Motion carried 7 - 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 020 PFAS Water Main Extension Project Amendment #4

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 020 approving PFAS Water Main Extension Project Amendment #4.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 021 Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Facilitated by Van Buren County.

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Miller, to adopt Resolution 2025-021 approving Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Facilitated by Van Buren County.

Motion carried 7 – 0

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- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 022 Letter of Support for Senator Peters’ Congressionally Directed Spending Application

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 022 approving a letter of support for Senator Peters Congressionally Directed Spending Application.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 023 2024/2025 Professional Service Contract with Mckenna for Master Plan.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 023 approving professional service contract with Mckenna for the completion of the City’s Master Plan.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2025 – 024 authorizing reimbursement of expenses from Michigan Transportation Fund bond proceeds.

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Miller, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 024 authorizing reimbursement of expenses from Michigan Transportation Fund bond proceeds.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm.

Motion carried 4 – 2 (Miller, Weeden)

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk