



CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY UPDATE May 12, 2023

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATES

HPD: There have been no applicants for either open position this week.

WWTP: We had one interview this week for the WWTP. We are going to move to the next step in the interview process with this candidate.

GENERAL UPDATES

BUDGET & FEE SCHEDULE: As a reminder, the budget is in its draft form as proposed. If you want to recommend changes, please let me know so that we can include those for the upcoming Public Hearing and resolution consideration to approve the budget at the May 22 meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, I am more than happy to sit down and go over the budget together.

SOUTH PARKING LOT: Paving was delayed today due to rain. They expect to be back next week. The project is on schedule.

CITY HALL ROOF The roofers have made good progress this week. I believe it is currently sealing. Once this process is finished, they will return to finish the metal work which is expected to take 2-3 days. Finally, the product manufacturer will inspect the roof for quality control and provide final approval.

BRUSH PILE: When I reached out to EGLE to ask about possible ramifications if the City opted to burn the pile, Rex Lane, Division Supervisor in Kalamazoo with the Air Quality Division at EGLE shared that the concern about burning the pile stems from the new Standard's definitions of wood. With the updated regulations, wood has been defined into 4 classes: Source Separated Materials, Recycled Materials, Class 1 Composting Materials and Rubbish. The reason they have asked the City to wait to burn the pile is because there is concern that the pile fits into the definition of rubbish. Air Quality standards do not allow for the burning of rubbish and per Mr. Lane the City could, if the City's decides to burn the pile, be subject to a fine of \$10,000/per day that the pile burns. Per Part 115 Section 324.11505(9), *"Rubbish" means nonputrescible solid waste, excluding ashes, consisting of both combustible and noncombustible waste, including paper, cardboard, metal containers, yard waste, wood, glass, bedding, crockery, demolished building materials, or litter of any kind that may be a detriment to the environment, natural resources, or the public health, safety, or welfare*

Vince Smith with Smith Tree Service provided an estimate to support the cost of a controlled burn. Mr. Smith would bring in an excavator and a dozer to spread out the piles into smaller piles. From there, the HFD would come in to conduct a controlled burn. Mr. Smith estimates it would take 10 days to burn. Mr. Smith noted that there was at least one couch and additional blight in the pile. You can note

trash bags in the photos provided last week. This cost is roughly \$25k less than the lowest quote for having everything hauled off and starting fresh.

Per Chief Harting, Hartford Fire would be willing to conduct a controlled burn, but they cannot burn rubbish so the City would need to remove all of the actual rubbish from the pile before they could participate.

SPARK GRANT COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION The Clerk suggested that I host a community input session with those members of the community with a history of involvement and investment in Ely Park prior to the next Council meeting. As such, we have invited members of the Strawberry Festival, Lions Club, Hartford Public Library, Veteran's Group, DDA, UMC Church, Hartford Schools and Hartford Learn and Grow.

The meeting will be at 6:00pm this coming Tuesday in Council Chambers.

Members of the Council have asked to join, so the Clerk is posting it as a Special Meeting and will attend to take minutes should others want to join as well.

1 & 5 W MAIN The Landbank meeting is actually May 24th. If anyone would like to go, the meeting is scheduled for 10 AM in the Van Buren County Administration Conference Room, 219 E. Paw Paw St. Third Floor, Paw Paw, MI 49079.

Mike Chappell stopped by when I was not available and mentioned to Roxann that the Landbank has been getting a lot of complaints about the building which may be why they want to sell the building.

BULLET PROOF VEST GRANT The Patrick Leahy Bullet Proof Vest Grant has been submitted.

AMBULANCE SERVICES The municipalities interested in working with VBEMS met with County Administrator John Faul today. Admin. Faul stated that Pride did not re-sign their contract with the County for the VBC Ambulance millage this year. He arranged for Pride to get paid for the 1st Quarter as they did provide the service, but wanted to make sure that all of the municipalities were ok with extending payment for the 2nd Quarter. City of Hartford expressed concerns that our contract expires at the end of May and there are no contractual provisions to extend for anything other than (2) 5-year periods. Admin. Faul states that Pride will have to provide the service until VBEMS contracts with us July 1 otherwise the County will carve out our portion of the millage and not pay them that amount. VBEMS feels this is a good move and will back up the City should Pride decide not to cover us due to contract termination. Admin. Faul will be sending Pride a letter letting them know these conditions. As soon as he does that I will follow up with Pride. Please note, regardless of what Pride decides, VBEMS and Covert will cover the City through mutual aid.

NEWSLETTER We are going to prepare a summer newsletter. We expect to send it out with tax statements. If you have anything you want to see included or recommendations please let me know before the end of the month.