



City of Hartford  
County of Van Buren, State of Michigan  
**DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 10:00am  
PROPOSED MINUTES

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**Members Present:** Shayne Darling, Brian Garland, Mark Kellogg (arrived 10:15am), Rick Stevens,

**Members Absent:** Manuela Blaylock-Villota, Pete Sinclair, Gurnamaskar Singh, Sandra Tavarez

**Staff Present:** Nicol Brown, City Manager, Rebecca Senard, Deputy Clerk

**No Quorum Present – Workshop Discussion**

**Discussion:**

- Expanding the DDA Boundary. Looking to expand DDA area out to the highway on South Center Street.
- The flower planters have been purchased by the City. Stevens had some concerns on the flower quote and is going to look into other options and get bids on what it would cost to have the planters filled to bring to the next meeting.
- Looking to improve signage on businesses and the “Welcome to Hartford” signs at the City limits.
- How can we attract new businesses and encourage business growth.
- Budget legal or contractual fees - there will need to be funds in contractual services to possibly cover any needs for TIFF & Boundary Changes.
- MEDC, MSHDA, State & County Land Bank, and Market One are willing to come in and speak with the DDA on what services & funds are available to support new & existing business.
- Seek grants that are being offered to help grow downtown and help Hartford make improvements.
- Façade Improvements, leave or increase in the budgeted line item, this should be part of the new DDA plan. Seek funds for blight clean-up also.

Next Meeting: May 21, 2025

**Adjournment:** 10:47am

Respectively submitted by,

Shayne Darling, DDA Secretary

rks/rri