

CITY OF HARTFORD
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
PROPOSED JUNE 22, 2026

Commissioners Present: Peter Aranda (6:14pm); John Miller; Lindsay Morsaw; Nancy Spoula; Tom VanLierop; Charles Weeden; Mayor Jane M. Danger
Commissions Absent: None
Staff Present: Clark; Poole; Pulluam; Ricks; Rodney-Isbrecht

Mayor Jane M. Danger called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Motion carried 6 – 0

Guests: None

Public Comment:

- Pastor Randy Andrews, Hartford Church of God, recited a Bible verse and prayed over the meeting.
- Rodney Austin, South Center Street – expressed concerns regarding the condition of Reynolds Street.

Communications:

- U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance: Business and nonprofit disaster loans are available for those affected by last year's tornados.
- City Commission Seats Nomination Petitions must be submitted by July 21, 2026 at 4pm. Write-in Candidates Declaration of Intent forms are due by October 23, 2026 at 4pm.
- Clerk Rodney-Isbrecht an update on the 2026 MAMC Annual Summer Conference
- The 2025 Consumer Confidence Report, Monitoring Requirements Violation Notice, and Water/Sewer Rate notice are being mailed to residents and property owners.
- Van Buren Conservation District Recycling Event will be held on July 8 at the Hartford Public Library from 1:00pm-5:00pm.

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

- Van Buren Conservation District – submitted June program update, including the Electronics Recycling Collection at the Hartford Public Library July 8, 2026 1:00pm – 5:00pm and its Annual Meeting invitation on July 17, 2026.
- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Shawn Poole, Sergeant
Report on file. Discussed: Strawberry Run and Festival went well. Grass violation notices were issued and follow-up inspections completed. Radio replacement options are being researched. Although police vehicles are aging, replacing the radios may take priority over vehicle replacement.
- B. **Fire Department** – Robbie Harting, Chief
Report on file. A FEMA grant application was submitted to replace radios. An additional grant application is being prepared to replace equipment. The mini pumper is now in service.
- C. **Ambulance** – Report on file
- D. **Van Buren County** – no representative present.
- E. **Public Works** –Rickey Ricks, Superintendent,
Report on file. Discussed: Miss Digs utility marking, street sweeping completed, coordinating and assisting contractors, West Main Street construction will begin in July following the Fourth of July holiday. Marion Ave construction update.
- F. **Iron Removal Plant** – Quentin Clark, Operator

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Report on file. Discussed: the plant is operating very well.

G. Wastewater Treatment Plant – Quinten Clark, Operator

Report on file. Discussed: increased water infiltration due to the wet spring; Monitoring elevated manganese levels and investigating the source.

H. Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills – List of Bills totaling \$983,682.55, investment report on file

I. City Manager –Nicol Pulluam

Discussed: Staff benefit enrollment complete; EGLE and Staff conducted an on-site inspection of the WWTP; met with MML and staff for a WWTP safety review; Met with Market One regarding the Homeowner Rehabilitation application; staff met with attorneys to discuss the interlocal fire agreement and ordinance enforcement; Met with AFLAC representatives; Street improvement update; Consumers Energy will return for restoration work; Ely Park Project updates; expressed appreciation to DPW, HPD, Hartford Reserve Officers, Tribal Police & the VBC Sheriff's Department for their assistance during the Strawberry Festival; L & A will begin the annual audit; finalizing the 2025/2026 budget;

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Morsaw to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026 special truth in taxation meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026 special 2026/2027 budget meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Motion by Commissioner VanLierop, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026 regular meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 7– 0

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2026 special ethics meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 6– 1 (Weeden)

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner VanLierop, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the May/June 2026 list of bills in the amount of \$983,682.55

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to accept the May/June 2026 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Goals/Objectives: None Discussed

Old Business: None Discussed

New Business:

- Discuss & Consider – 2026 Christmas Decorations for City Hall
Discussion: Discounts are available for early contracting. The City Manager recommended decorating City Hall at a cost of \$3,500.00 which has been budgeted.

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- Discuss & Consider – WWTP Monitoring & Alarm System Upgrade
Discussion: The current phone line based monitoring system is outdated and only reports power failures. Upgrading the system will improve monitoring capabilities and reduce long term costs. Several lift stations already use this system. Staff recommended accepting the proposal from Gasvoda and Associates for \$23,790.00
- Discuss & Consider – DWSRF Contract D Change Order 1 at the Iron Removal Plant (IRP)
Discussion: The change order is required to comply with EGLE Water Distribution permit requirements. Project contingency funds are sufficient to cover the \$70,333.00 cost and the State has approved the change order.
- Discuss & Consider – Legal Service Agreement for Interlocal Fire Agreement & Code Enforcement
Discussion: Bloom Sluggett currently represents the City on wastewater treatment plant matters. The City Manager recommended extending legal services to include the Interlocal Fire Agreement and code enforcement matters.
- Discuss & Consider – WWTP Operator Service Agreement
Discussion: the Wastewater Operator position was posted but no applications were received. The City Manager recommended contracting with Certified Operator Services. Quentin Clark is not yet licensed but is expected to take the certification exam in the fall. Certified Operator Services will provide a licensed operator until Mr. Clark becomes certified.
- Discuss & Consider – Financial Services Agreement with Joseph Mangan.
Discussion: Recommended extending the accounting services agreement with Joseph until a full time Treasurer is hired.
- Discuss & Consider – DWSRF Contract A & B Contract Modification 2
Discussion: Contract A to include a net increase of \$78,700.00 for additional 2-inch water service work. Contract B includes a net increase of \$28,230.00 to replace service pipe material on the private side to HDPE, install larger meter pit covers, and use tapping saddles instead of cutting wyes for existing sanitary sewer main.
- Discuss & Consider – Spark Grant Ely Park Improvements Project Scope Change no.1
Discussion: Proposed repairs to the pumphouse roof will be offset by stump grinding previously completed by the City. The modification also removes the contract requirement for an 11-month follow-up walkthrough, which was outside the project scope. Net increase: \$18.30.
- Discuss & Consider – 2025/2026 Budget Adjustments
Discussion: Budget adjustment details were included in the resolution, no additional discussion.
- Discuss & Consider – Jones and Henry Engineering Task Agreement
Discussion: Task 2 addresses operational and infrastructure challenges at the WWTP for \$34,500.00. Task 3 covers development and management of mercury sampling for \$13,500.00.

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation's:

- Second Reading – Ordinance No. 346-2026 Amending City Organizations Downtown Development Authority

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Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Weeden, to adopt Ordinance 346 – 2026 Amending, the City Organizations Downtown Development Authority.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 028 Christmas Decorations for City Hall

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 028 approving the proposal from Christmas Décor by Naylor Landscape Management in the amount of \$3,500.00

Motion carried 5 – 2 (Morsaw, Weeden)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 029 DWSRF Contract D Change Order 1

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 029 authorizing change order 1 for Contract D of the DWSRF project in the amount of \$70,333.00

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 030 WWTP Operator Service Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 030 approving the extension and amendment with Certified Operator Services LLC for a Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator in the amount of \$285,000.00 per/year with a 6% increase on the second year, expiring June 30, 2028 if contract conditions are met.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 031 WWTP Monitoring System Upgrade

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 031 the proposal from Gasvoda & Associates Inc, for purchase & installation of the Omnisite a WWTP monitoring & alarm system in the amount of \$23,790.00.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 032 Legal Services Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 032 authorizing a legal services agreement with Bloom Sluggett for interlocal fire agreement & code enforcement matters at a cost of current billing rates for service.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 033 Accounting Services Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 033 approving a one-year accounting services agreement with Joseph Mangan expiring June 30, 2027 at \$125.00 per/hour.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 034 WWTP Engineering Task 2 & 3 Agreement

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Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner VanLierop, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 034 approving the agreement with Jones & Henry Engineers to complete WWTP Tasks 2 & 3 in the amount of \$48,000.00

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 035 Spark Grant Ely Park Project Contract Modification

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 035 approving Spark Grant Ely Park Project contract modification removing contract language requiring an 11 – month follow-up inspection reducing the contract in the amount of \$500.00 and authorizing additional work to the pumphouse increasing the contract amount by \$518.30 resulting in an overall increase to the total project of \$18.30.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 036 2025/2026 Budget Amendments
Discussion: The difference between the revenue and expenditure short fall will be covered with general fund reserves.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Morsaw, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 036 approving budget adjustments no. 1 for the 2025/2026 budget, exhibit A in the amount of \$4,466,351.00 in revenues, and \$4,536,839.00 in expenditures resulting in a projected deficit of \$70,488.00 to be covered from general fund reserves.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 037 DWSRF Contract Modification Contract A & B

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 037 authorizing change order 2 for Contract A, Compton, Inc. in the amount of \$78,700 and Contract B, Kalin Construction in the amount of \$28,230.00 of the DWSRF project.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Morsaw, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk