

CITY OF HARTFORD  
PROPOSED SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 11, 2023

Commissioners Present: Ramon Beltran; Jane Danger; Frank Dockter; John Miller; Helen Sullivan; Terry Tibbs; Mayor Richard A. Hall  
Commissions Absent: None

Staff Present: Rodney-Isbrecht; Shultz; Vitale;

Mayor Richard A. Hall called the business meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Sullivan, supported by Commissioner Danger, to change amend the agenda to make a motion to terminate Ms. Vitale due to her unsatisfactory performance pursuant section 4 of her contract and to pay her severance pay as provided for in her contract section 4 and that this be brought to an immediate vote.

Motion carried 5 – 2 (Dockter, Hall)

Motion by Commissioner Sullivan, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to terminate Ms. Vitale due to unsatisfactory performance pursuant to section 4 of her contract and to pay her severance pay as provided for in her contract section 4 and that this be voted on immediately.

Motion carried 5 – 2 (Dockter, Hall)

**Guests:** None

**Public Comment:**

**Communications:**

- Notice of Hearing Consumers Energy July 12
- Area Agency on Aging free event Fuel to Learn August 30
- AllPaid.com credit card payment services program used by the City sent notice in changes to service fee charges regardless of
- Hartford Area Chamber of Commerce sent invitation of 2024 Strawberry Festival Committee Meeting July 26 at 6pm.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to recess the Commission Meeting at 7:42pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Ms. Vitale left the meeting and premises.

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to resume open session at 7:50pm

Motion carried 7 – 0

- VB Conservation District Annual Meeting at Fly Wheelers Museum on July 26 RSVP due July 19
- Summer Tax bills have been mailed which included a copy of the Ordinance regarding Mowing
- Commissioner Danger attended an event provided by Market Van Buren accepting an award on behalf of the City and provided a summary of what makes a good community, investing in your people, vibrant updated spaces and keep the community walkable and accessible by non-motorized means.

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PROPOSED SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 11, 2023

- Commissioner Beltran asked for a special meeting to discuss the City Manager position - Thursday July 13, 2023 at 5:30pm

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

- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Commissioner Dockter would like to have a Police vehicle parked on Main Street that shows police presence. Reserve Officers will be participating in training soon.
- B. **Fire Department** – Assistant Chief Kevin McGrew, available for questions on the Audit
- C. **Ambulance** – City Council asked for monthly reports when they are settled into the community.
- D. **Van Buren County** –
- E. **Public Works** –
- F. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** –
- G. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** –List of Bills in the amount of \$79,086.10
- H. **City Manager** – Not Discussed

**Approval of Commission Minutes:** None

**Approval of Reports:**

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the July 11, 2023 list of bills in the amount of \$79,086.10

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Goals/Objectives:** Set Goals & Special Meeting Date - Not Discussed

**Old Business:**

- Closed Session – Pursuant to MCL 15.268(d) and (h) to discuss the Potential Purchase of Real Property & to Discuss a Confidential Attorney – Client Memo

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Danger, to suspend the special business meeting to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing potential purchase of real property & discuss a confidential attorney client memo @ 8:03pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Miller, to return to open session and resume the regular meeting @ 8:23pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

- Discussion – Ambulance Service/VBEMS Agreement – Van Buren County amended their agreement with VBEMS to include the City and other municipalities that wished to participate.
- Discuss & Consider – Brush Pile, Pick-up & Permits -

Discussion: Options to pick up or dispose of brush beginning August 1, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Tibbs, to allow DPW staff to pick up brush monthly, residents will pile brush in the ROW beginning the Saturday before the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, brush must be located in the property's ROW in neat piles containing no limbs larger than 4' long & 6" in diameter, no grass, trash, rubbish or large items will be picked up and leaves will be picked up only during designated time in the fall and early spring.

Motion carried 7 - 0

CITY OF HARTFORD  
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JULY 11, 2023

- Discuss & Consider – Economic Incentives for Development Update –

Discussion: The City Attorney provided guidance to use sparingly and on a case by case base's. The area of South Center Street extension to I-94 has a separate formula based on the type of business to be built as the City took loans to provide the infrastructure improvements.

- Discuss & Consider – Event Application & Rules

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Beltran, to approve the Ely Park rules and application as presented.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Danger)

Discussion: Change the word fee to Deposit under electric.

- Hartford Fire Department Audit Update - No Discussion

**New Business:**

- Discuss & Consider – Liquor License 40/42 West Main Street – property has been sold and transferring liquor license to new owner. The City can offer the State of Michigan input regarding the transfer.
- Discuss & Consider - Voluntary Well Metering

Discussion: A possible option for those who are being charged for sewer only. This would be an option for those who are not within the City's mandatory connection area. The question was raised about Township flat fee customers would they also be allowed to participate in a voluntary well metering program? The information will be sent to the City Attorney for his guidance.

- Discuss & Consider – Lawn Meter Program

Discussion: The Clerk will review & check with the City Attorney for enforceability and bring back to Council at a future meeting.

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

- Proposed Amendment to Code of Ordinance 110.01 Regulating Garage, Yard, Basement & Private Sale Regulations -

Discussion: extend the times for sales, the number days and the number of sales allowed per/year.

- Discuss Amendment to Ordinance 110.03 Peddler & Solicitor Regulations Section 4.1

Discussion: Include the requirement the peddler must have identification/badge who they are representing.

- Discuss Codification Ordinance

Discussion: Goal to bring ordinances current with updates & codification.

**Adjournment:**

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JULY 11, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk