

CITY OF HARTFORD  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
PROPOSED MARCH 23, 2026

Commissioners Present: Peter Aranda; John Miller; Nancy Spoula; Tom VanLierop; Charles Weeden;  
Mayor Jane M. Danger  
Commissions Absent: Lindsay Morsaw;  
Staff Present: Clark; Matthews; Matthias; Pulluiam; Ricks; Rodney-Isbrecht

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to approve the agenda as presented

Motion carried 6 – 0

**Guests:**

- Terry Tibbs – Van Buren County Senior Services – AEDs have been installed in all facilities, provide wheel chair ramp construction, trips, tax preparation help at the South Haven office, also provides rides to medical appointments.
- 2026 Miss & Mr Hartford & Court – offering advertising opportunities for the construction of the 2026 Community Float and provided a picture for display in City Hall.
- Mickey Bittner – Wightman – Updated Council on Construction Projects, Commissioner Weeden expressed concerns about the style of curb & gutters to be installed on several of the projects and if eliminated they could save money. Bitter reminded Council that installing the current style of curb & gutter, when possible, was a standard set in 2001.

**Public Comment:**

- Christina Castanadea, John Spoula, Bennett St, Patty Galati, Paras Hill Dr, Salad Abdul, expressed concerns about Commissioner Weeden’s online comments and asking for accountability.
- Alicia Aguillion, South Maple St, concerns on parking in the Street.
- Judy Philips, Hartford Strawberry Festival, requesting partnership to support the Strawberry Festival. The festival will have many new events including a beer & wine tent, and bakeoff, the festival will be held at the library due to construction at Ely Park.

**Communications:**

- Special Meeting, March 24, 2026 5:30pm - City Manager Review
- City Hall will close on Friday, April 3, 2026, in observance of Good Friday
- Hydrant Flushing April 6 – 17, 2026
- Brush & Leaves, April 20 – 30, 2026
- Large Junk pickup will be April 22, 2026 – one day event
- Public Hearing, DDA Plan & TIF Boundary, April 27, 2026 5:30pm

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

- Van Buren Conservation District – Representative present, March 2026 Program Information, Tree Sale, Recycling Event at the Library & Upcoming Educational Events
- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Brian Matthews, Chief, report on file, working on budget, blight enforcement; summer construction traffic detours and strawberry festival coverage.
- B. **Fire Department** –, Robbie Harting, Chief, report on file, waiting on mini-pumper, free smoke detectors available, reflective address signs; Pancake Breakfast on May 9, joint meeting set for April 29, 2026, department budget; requesting millage renewal for the August ballot.

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BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
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C. **Ambulance** – no report on file

D. **Van Buren County** – Mike Chappell, representative present, approved: County Treasurer to borrow up to 8 million for the revolving loan fund, attendance for out of state conference, new busses for public transit,

E. **Public Works** – Rickey Ricks, report on file, cold patching when possible; equipment repairs and maintenance. Commissioner Weeden would like information on the cost to outsource leaf and brush pick-up.

F. **Iron Removal Plant** – Quinten Clark, report on file, annual reports, preparing consumer confidence report, made a mistake on February flows should be 4,316 million gallons for the month or 154,000 gallons per/day.

G. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Quinton Clark, report on file, AmHawk submitting required documentation; routine testing; sanitary overflow caused by defective relay switch allowing the gate to stay open; waiting on pick-up for chemical disposal.

H. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – List of Bills total \$517,097.00, Investment Report, on file; Commission requested a little more detail on the bill payments to describe what they are for,

I. **City Manager** –report on file – New Employee, Kristen Matthias, proposed continuing to close on Wednesdays through, April for additional training; WWTP Plant Operator Posting; MSHDA, homeowner rehabilitation grant, accepted to apply for the grant; Market One; Human Resource Training; beginning budget work, recommending the Mayor appoint a Budget Committee; WWTP Engineer; Spark Grant, Ely Park Improvements; Master Plan Update; Treasurer’s Department Update; Set Special Meetings to Continue Commission Retreat/Workshop; Updated City Manager Goals; Beginning Safety Training for DPW & WWTP.

**Approval of Commission Minutes:**

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 special business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 6– 0

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 6– 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2026 special business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 6– 0

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner VanLierop, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 special business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, and place them on file.

Motion carried 6– 0

**Approval of Reports:**

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner VanLierop, to approve the, 2026 list of bills to be paid in the amount of \$517,097.00

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Miller, to accept the February 2026 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

**Goals/Objectives:** None Discussed

**Old Business:** None Discussed

CITY OF HARTFORD  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
PROPOSED MARCH 23, 2026

**New Business:**

- Discuss & Consider – Building Official Appointment  
Discussion: Recommendation to appoint William Snider as the City’s Building Official.
- Discuss & Consider – Accounting Service Agreement  
Discussion: Recommendation to continue with Joseph Mangan for treasurer and accounting services agreement through June 30, 2026.
- Discuss & Consider – MEDC Water Related Infrastructure (WRI) Grant  
Discussion: Recommendation to approve the MEDC WRI Grant contingent upon the approval from MEDC.
- Discuss & Consider – West Main Construction Project Award  
Discussion: Recommendation by Wightman’s to award the West Main Construction Project to Harris ConAg, LLC in the amount of \$2,220,456.75.
- Discuss & Consider – WWTP Engineering Agreement  
Discussion: Recommendation to approve the Jones & Henry Engineers in the amount of \$10,000.
- Discuss & Consider – Public Hearing & Special Meeting Dates  
Discussion: Special Meetings April 30, 2026 4pm, approve millage rates; May 7, 2026 at 4pm; Public Hearing Truth in Taxation May 18, 5:30pm; Public Hearing 2026/2027 Budget, 5:45pm; Joint Meeting of the Fire Board, Hartford Township April 29, 2026 7pm at the Fire Station.
- Discuss & Consider – Budget Committee Appointment  
Discussion: The Mayor, Commissioner Spoula & VanLierop expressed interest in being on this committee.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Weeden, to appoint the Mayor, Commissioners Spoula and VanLierop to the Budget Committee.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Letter of Support  
Discussion: Recommended submitting a Letter of Support to apply for a MSHDA Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Miller, to submit a letter of support to apply for a MSHDA Homeowner Rehabilitation Grant.

Motion carried 6 – 0

**Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation’s:**

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 009 Building Official Appointment.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 009 appointing William Snider as the City’s Building Official and authorizes the City Manager to execute the necessary contract.

Motion carried 6 – 0

CITY OF HARTFORD  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
PROPOSED MARCH 23, 2026

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 010 Accounting Service Agreement

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Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Aranda, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 010 approving the accounting services agreement with Joseph Mangan to provide accounting and treasury support services in the amount not to exceed \$17, 500 for 140 hours and authorizes the City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 011 Accept MEDC Water Related Infrastructure Grant.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2025 – 011 accepting the water-related infrastructure grant award and agreement in the amount of \$2,520, 760 for the West Main Street Project contingent on MEDC approval and authorized the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the grant agreement.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 012 Award WRI Construction Project

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Miller, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 012 approving the award of the construction contract to Harris ConAg, LLC as recommended by Wightman’s in the amount of \$2,220,256.75 for the West Main Street Improvements Project contingent upon approval by the MEDC.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2026 – 013 WWTP Engineering Services Agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2026 – 013 approves the agreement with Jones & Henry Engineers, LTD not to exceed \$10,000 and authorizes the City Manager to execute the agreement and all related documents.

Motion carried 5 – 1 (Weeden)

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Commissioner Aranda, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm.

Motion carried 5 – 1 (Miller)

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk