



City Manager's Monthly Update August 26, 2024

106 South Center Demolition:

I emailed Russ regarding any questions he may have before signing the contract. Russ has six jobs ahead of our project. He believes the structure will be demolished before next year. We will have a start date before the contract is signed.

5 W. Main Street:

The Office of Community Service will request a proposal for a contractor to complete structural repair, foundation tuck, and windows, speaking with a potential buyer. Secondly, they will advertise another request for a proposal for a developer. They want to see 2 apartments and a commercial on the first floor (mixed-use development).

The Police Department:

I'm doing my research regarding police mileage. The mileage will help pay for upgrading equipment, purchasing new police equipment and cars, and payroll. It will also help us keep the police department.

I will keep you updated as I receive information. Police staff will start creating a budget for the equipment. I will work with the assessor to determine the mileage.

We will advertise for two part-time police officer positions, starting pay at \$30 per hour. I'm working with the interim chief Lucas and Officer Poole regarding police wages in the area.

Hiring at DPW:

A new employee, Michael Good, started working at the WWTP this week. Danny, Rickey, and I interviewed candidates for the DPW laborers' position. We have chosen two candidates who are undergoing physical and background checks.

WWTP Update:

Construction at the plant started this week. The mixer for the equalization tank by the Headworks building is still on backorder. We believe it will be another few months before it arrives at the WWTP.

Streetscape Downtown Improvement:

The horticultural firm delivered the flower pots that will be placed throughout downtown in spring 2025. The contractor started potting soil in the green spaces and planting the annuals, which will begin next week.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

This information is important for you to consider because the process will move forward if we receive an offer letter from EGLE. We would go through a process similar to the WWTP Bond project.

This project aims to replace all the lead service lines within the City's system and the selected water main. The project plan was submitted in June 2023. The city scored 80 out of 100 points and fell just outside the fundable range of 85.

The city reapplied in May 2024, and EGLE completed the priority scoring for fiscal year 2025 Drink Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects. The City of Hartford project scored 90 priority points; the city increased our points by ten from last year. We are hopeful we will receive a draft funding offer in mid-September.

If we are given an offer letter from EGLE, the city needs to be prepared for a fast-track process. The offer letter will consist of either all grants or all loans, partial grants, and partial loans, or a mixture of both grants and loans. If we are only offered loans to cover the project, the city must decide if we will proceed.

Wightman believes the process will go as follows: September 2024 offer letter from EGLE, City response back to EGLE in September, design work to start ASAP, preliminary plans in mid-January, construction permits in mid-March, and bid for the project in May 2025.

We applied for \$11,760,500. Suppose offered a loan from EGLE regarding the water and sewer study, and staff would start working with Baker Tilly.

The city would decide whether we should apply for a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) similar to a bridge loan. The BAN would allow Wightman to start the project's engineering designs before receiving the grant/loan.

Spark Grant/DNR/Council Michigan Foundations:

We are meeting with CMF to tour the Ely Park on August 22, 2024. I plan to contact the Southwest MI Planning Commission to assist with administering the grant's beginning phase, such as completing the request for proposal process for an engineering company. The city is waiting for the executed grant agreement back from CMF.

Renaissance Cultivators:

501 Hillsborough Street renewed Class B license.

Zip Cannabis:

801 Prospect Street issued a consumption permit and received a state license.

Med + Leaf:

301 W. Main Street Medical Provisioning/retail has applied for a renewal permit.

Water & Sewer Rates:

The new rates took effect on July 1, 2024, and the July billing was mailed on August 20th.

Project Compass:

This week's virtual meeting was the second for the Hartford Project Compass task force. The following items were discussed.

1. Discussion of the scope of connectivity considerations
2. State of Connectivity and Broadband Funding Programs
3. Connectivity concerns and impacts of delayed access, existing challenges, and goals
4. What's coming - feasibility studies, connectivity strategies, etc
5. Discuss surveys and listening tour event

The first Project Compass task force meeting was on July 18th. Here is the summary from the kick-off meeting.

Hartford Task Force Kick-Off Meeting Summary**ACTION ITEMS**

- The next meeting is on Thursday, August 15, at noon.
 - You can join the meeting on that day and time using this link:
<https://umich.zoom.us/j/92437852827>.
- Invite others to join the task force (or try out the next meeting for size). Tech savvy is not required!

KEY POINTS**Access and Availability**

- There are areas in the city with no Internet access.
- The Internet in many areas is either inaccessible or the options are few and very slow.
- The library provides hotspot access but isn't a permanent solution.

Cybersecurity and Online Safety

- Community fears about scamming; not sure about the outcome of clicking on links.
- Devices are available in the schools which families sometimes use. They have filters, but scams and phishing are always risky.
- Education and resources to prevent scams and phishing are important.

Role of Libraries

- How do libraries play a part in addressing community concerns?

Zoning Administrator:

I still need to receive the second proposal for the zoning administrator. I aim to have Attorney Curcio draft a contract to start the negotiation and bring it before the commission.

Building Permits for July 2024:

- 60401 County Road 687 New Pole Barn
- 137 Hillsborough Street Interior Remodel of building
- 61434 63rd Street Residential Alteration
- 316 E. Main Street Accessory Structure Addition
- 426 E. Main Street Addition – Detached Garage
- 105 Bennett Avenue Building without a permit
- 509 E. Main Street Mechanical residential, final inspection
- 215 N. Edwin Street Mechanical residential, Gas/oil equipment, heat pumps, final inspection
- 215 Wendell Avenue Mechanical Residential, Final Inspection

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicol Brown

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City Manager