

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
JULY 22, 2024

Commissioners Present: Jane Danger; Frank Dockter (5:53pm); John Miller; Nancy Spoula; Charles Weeden; Mayor Richard A. Hall
Commissions Absent: Lindsay Morsaw (Excused)
Staff Present: Brown; Prince; Rodney-Isbrecht; Shultz; Staunton;

Mayor Hall called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Motion carried 5 – 0

Guests: None

Public Comment:

- John Spoula, 112 Bennett, Comments to Commissioners

Communications:

- Hartford Area Chamber Summer Newsletter
- Indiana Michigan Power Company Notice of Hearing MPSC
- Special Meeting Notice from Hartford Fire Board July 24, 2024 7pm at Hartford Township Hall
- Marathon Pipeline sent Pipeline Safety Information
- Absent voter ballots are available for registered voters who wish to vote absentee in the August 6, 2024 Primary Election.
- Clerk's Office will be open August 3, 2024, 8:30am-4:30pm for Voter Registration & Absent Voting

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

- A. **Hartford Public Library** – July 2024 – The Mayor had a question regarding the financials and requested follow-up.
- B. **Police & Ordinance** – Chief Prince, Understaffed, Officer still out on Medical Leave. Cadet has about nine weeks left of training, graduation is August 9, 2024 and then must go through field training; All officers will need to go through additional MCOLES required training; dealing with vehicle repairs; Encrypted Radios Requirement Update, waiting on information from the Federal, State & County Officials.
- C. **Fire Department** – Ron Sefcik, Fire Board Chair, update on department statistics for the year, equipment upgrades, software & computer upgrades; Fire Chief Robbie Harting – Report on File,
- D. **Ambulance** – No Report on File
- E. **Van Buren County** – No Representative
- F. **Public Works** –Report on File – Discussion on recent vandalism of the bathrooms in Ely Park. Lead/Copper Samples yearly requirement, a new employee has left after a month of employment, training new employees takes staff time; WWTP Lift Station tie over this week; South Haver Street solving standing water issue; PFAS Hartford Township waiting on materials. E
- G. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** –Report on File –
- H. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – July 22, 2024 List of Bills \$329,461.94
- I. **City Manager** –Report on file – 106 South Center Demolition; 5 W Main Street; Hiring at the DPW; WWTP Construction Update; Streetscape Downtown Improvement Update; Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) scored 90 priority points; Spark Grant/DNR/Council Michigan Foundation

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Awarded \$869,900; PFAS Project Update; Officer Vande Voren submitted his resignation from the Police Department effective August 5, 2024

Discuss & Consider: Mayor gave an overview of the City Manager's Review & goals. Mayor submitted a synopsis of the review to Commissioners. The City Manager submitted a list of goals.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Danger, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2024 Regular meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2024 Special meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2024 Special Closed Session meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the July 22, 2024 list of bills in the amount of \$329,461.94

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Danger, to accept the June 2024 reports of Officers, Boards & Committees and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Goals/Objectives:

1. Rite Aid Redevelopment
2. Water/Sewer Study
3. Commissioner Weekly Reports
4. Zoning
5. Infrastructure
6. Department Restructuring Iron Plan (IRP), DPW, Code Enforcement Officer, WWTP, Police Department
7. Employee Handbook
8. Treasurer & Utility Software

Old Business:

- Discuss & Consider – Cellular Tower Lease at 17 West Main St
Discussion: AT&T declined the Council's counter proposal. The City Manager has brought the original proposal back before Council. Council has declined the offer that was presented.

New Business:

- Discuss & Consider – Spark Grant.
Discussion: The City was awarded \$869,900 for additional parking, sidewalks, lightning, pavilion and bathroom upgrades. Recommended Council authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement.

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- Discuss & Consider – Letter of Support for USDA Grant
Discussion: The County is seeking a housing grant and asking for a letter of support.
- Discuss & Consider – Approval of DPW Vehicle Purchase
Discussion: Correction the vehicle purchase is for the service truck cab for \$45,743. The service body will be purchased at a later date.
- Discuss & Consider – East End of Reynolds Street City’s Right – of – Way Vacate Request
Discussion: City Manager is recommending not vacating the Right-of-Way. One of the property owners making the request would not be able to access or be granted the right-of-way if it were vacated.
- Discuss & Consider – Approval of Christmas Decorations for City Hall & Ely Park
Discussion: Hartford Lions Club is no longer going to coordinate donations to decorate Ely Park for Christmas. City Manager is recommending Naylor decorate City Hall & Ely Park.
- Discuss & Consider – Water/Sewer Connection for Hartford Township Emergency Services Building & Township Hall
Discussion: Hartford Township has requested the City waive the connection fees for the Emergency Services Building. The Contractor working on the building destroyed the sewer drain field at the Township Hall which has now been connected to the City’s sewer system. The City Managers recommendation is the City & Township split the fees of the water/sewer connection fees of \$19,350 for the Emergency Services Building. The Township will pay for the sewer connection fee for the Township Hall of \$13,050.

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation’s:

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024 – 023A – Approve Cellular Site Lease at 17 West Main Street

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Weeden, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 023A Cellular Site Lease at 17 West Main Street
Motion failed 0 – 6 (Danger, Dockter, Miller, Spoula, Weeden and Mayor Hall)
- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024-028 – Enter into A Subrecipient Grant Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 028 Enter into a Subrecipient Grant Agreement in the amount of \$869,000.00.
Motion carried 6 – 0
- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024-029 – Letter of Support for USDA Grant

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 029 Letter of Support for USDA Grant.
Motion carried 6 – 0
- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024-030 to Approve the Purchase of a Department of Public Works Vehicle

Motion by Commissioner, supported by Commissioner, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 030 to approve the Purchase of a Department of Public Works Vehicle in the amount of \$45,373.00.
Motion carried 6 – 0

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- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024-031 To Not Vacate the City’s Right – Of – Way at the East End of Reynolds Street

Motion by Commissioner Miller, supported by Commissioner Danger, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 031 to not vacate the City’s Right – of – Way at the East End of Reynolds Street

Motion failed 1 – 5 (Danger, Dockter, Spoula, Weeden, and Mayor Hall)

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024 – 032 Approve Decorating City Hall & Ely Park for Christmas

Motion by Commissioner Spoula, supported by Commissioner Dockter, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 032 Christmas Decorating City Hall for \$3,448.44 & Ely Park for \$2,697.44.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Resolution 2024 – 033 Setting Water/Sewer Connection Fees for Hartford Township EMS & Township Hall

Motion by Commissioner Danger, supported by Commissioner Miller, to adopt Resolution 2024 – 033 Setting Water/Sewer Connection Fees for Hartford Township EMS & Township Hall

Motion carried 5 – 1 (Danger)

City Manager requested a Special Meeting July 29, 2024 at 5:30pm closed session to consider a legal opinion, City Attorney would be present.

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Spoula, to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm.

Motion carried 4 – 2 (Danger, Weeden)

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk