



City of Hartford
County of Van Buren, State of Michigan
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, April 21, 2026 10:00am
PROPOSED MINUTES

Members Present: Manuela Blaylock-Villota (10:04), Shayne Darling, Brian Garland, Mark Kellogg, Pete Sinclair, Rick Stevens,
Members Absent: Sandra Banda-Tavarez, Gurnamaskar Singh,
Staff Present: Nicol Pulluam, Manager; RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, Clerk

President Brian Garland, called the DDA meeting to order at 10:00am.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion by Darling, supported by Stevens, to approve the agenda.
Motion Carries 5 – 0

Guests:

1. Frank Dockter introduced Eric, a painter who had prepared proposed building murals for 5 West Main Street and 118 West Main Street. The Board requested a written proposal, including project costs as well as a letter from the building owner granting permission to paint the murals. The City Manager also recommended establishing a process for individuals or groups requesting financial assistance or expenditures for civic projects.
2. Jeremiah Smith, owner of Allegiant Laundry, located at 202 West Main Street, requested financial assistance to expand the commercial laundry business. The Board asked Mr. Smith to submit his request in writing. The DDA will be work to develop a loan or grant program process that may assist with similar requests in the future.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion by Darling, supported by Blaylock-Villota, to accept the March 17, 2026 minutes.
Motion carried 6 – 0

Acceptance of the Finance Report:

Motion by Kellogg, supported by Sinclair, to accept the March 2026 financial report.
Motion carried 6 – 0

Goals/Objectives: None Discussed

Old Business: Blight Discussion - the Police Department is currently responsible for blight enforcement.

New Business:

- Discuss & Consider – 2026/2027 Budget
Discussion: The City Manager reviewed the proposed budget. This budget includes potential new TIF area capture. Line items discussed included Contractual Services, Wayfinding, Civic Partnerships and Façade improvements.

Motion by Kellogg, supported by Sinclair, to approve the 2026/2027 DDA Budget.

Motion carried 6 – 0

- Board Member - Blaylock-Villota left the meeting at 10:31am
- Discuss & Consider – Strawberry Run Sponsorship
Discussion: The Athletics Department of Hartford Public Schools is bringing back the Strawberry Run and requested sponsorship support.

Motion by Kellogg, supported by Garland, to support the Strawberry Run in the amount of \$500.00.

Motion carried 5 – 0

- Discuss & Consider – Strawberry Festival Sponsorship
Discussion: The Strawberry Festival will be held at the Hartford Public Library due to the construction in Ely Park.

Motion by Kellogg, supported by Sinclair, to support the Strawberry Festival in the amount of \$500.00.

Motion carried 5 – 0

Adjournment

Motion by Kellogg, to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am

Motion carried

Next Meeting is May 19, 2026 at 10am

Respectively submitted by,

Shayne Darling, DDA Secretary