

CITY OF HARTFORD
PROPOSED BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 22, 2021

Commissioners Present: Ron Bureson; Frank Dockter; Dennis Goss; Richard A. Hall; John Miller; Helen Sullivan Terry Tibbs;

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Akinwale; Rodney-Isbrecht; Staunton

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the agenda as amended to include information from Commissioner Tibbs on Van Buren County Senior Services.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Guests:

- Robert Hallifax, Family Fun Times Amusements, is planning a spring festival on Puhrman's property, South Center St April 1 – 15, 2021.
- Howard Ballard, Great Lakes Grow, available to answer any questions the council may have regarding the proposed site plan. They will be using the existing building and possibly expanding the facility at a future time. Due to past history of contamination found on the property, they are seeking a brown field development grant to study and mediate the contamination. Additional environmental studies will be needed to expand development on the property.

Public Comment:

- Carlos, 78537 CR 376, Coloma MI – has a leasing agreement with the Race Track to host events on non-racing nights such as concerts, and rodeos. He was asked by the Clerk to submit the schedule to the Police Department.

Communications:

- Election May 4, 2021 – Hartford Public Schools has called a special election. Register to Vote, and Applications to request an Absent Voter Ballot are available in the Clerk's office or online at the State of Michigan's/Secretary of States website.
- Joint Meeting with Hartford Township & Fire Board March 24, 2021, 7pm @ the Fire Station
- Two Rivers Coalition provided upcoming events information.
- McDowell Apartments sent communication they are accepting applications for housing
- New Website – www.cityofhartfordmi.org
- Hartford City News, Spring & Summer Edition, note upcoming events

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

- A. **Police & Ordinance** – Mayor & Council want citations to be issued to those who are repeatedly on the ordinance report monthly. Also requesting a concentrated focus of enforcement on Marion Ave.
- B. **Fire Dept** – The chase has been delivered to Spenser's in South Haven. Construction is about two months behind due to the pandemic.
- C. **Ambulance** – Commissioner Sullivan was curious why they were building again in Cass County.
- D. **Van Buren County** – Veteran's millage monies to be spent on transportation as it was the most expressed need. 911 dispatch approved tower site leases. Red Box drop boxes continues to be successful. Court systems were recognized for their innovation efforts in delivering services during the pandemic. Accepted cares act monies. Approved land bank purchase of 5 W Main.

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- E. **Public Works** – Plenty of salt left over this season.
- F. **Wastewater Treatment Plant** – waiting on meeting with Wightman’s
- G. **Treasurers, Investment & List of Bills** – No discussion
- H. **City Manager** – 5 West Main Street Update; Recreational Marijuana Payment, Distributions to Local Units of Government; Great Lakes Cultivation Advisors, LLC; Prospect Street & Wendell Avenue Reconstruction Update; State Revolving Loan Funds application to begin SAW Grant recommended projects, there must be a plan to repay the loan which would require a rate increase. Of the \$4+million in recommended projects the SAW grant identified about \$2.5 million of those projects are of critical need for repair/replacement.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Goss, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 business meeting of the Hartford City Commission, as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0 (Tibbs out of the commission room)

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Commissioner Dockter, supported by Commissioner Miller, to accept the February 2021 departmental reports as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0 (Tibbs out of the commission room)

Goals/Objectives:

- Budget

Old Business:

Discussion: Hartford Fire Department Financials, Audit, and Fire Board Pay – the joint fire agreement does not address the budget increases and level of fund balance. The Fire Board fund balance is over \$200,000, close to a year in operating funds. The revised budget was given the night of the joint meeting in February, Council did not have time to discuss it, the board pay is set by both municipality’s and it was presumed by the fire board that the raise would be approved as it was included in the new revised budget. The budget has increased at an average of 10% over the last few years. Commissioners requested information on the increases to the Fire Budget over the past several years.

New Business:

- Commissioner Tibbs gave an update on Van Buren County Senior Services. They are working on a plan to re-open sites. They have taken possession of a new facility in South Haven along M-140, and will have a ground breaking ceremony on April 1, 2021.
- Capital Improvement Plan – Discussion during City Manager’s report.

Motion by Commissioner Burleson, supported by Commissioner Miller, to approve the site plan for Great Lakes Cultivation Advisors, 501 Hillsborough St, Parcel #80-52-816-045-00 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Resolutions, Ordinance, Proclamation’s: None

Motion by Burleson, supported by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:18pm.

Motion carried 7 – 0