

CITY OF HARTFORD
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2010

The workshop meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Ted Johnson

Members present: Rodney Austin, Frank Dockter, Rick Hall, Leo Latus, John Miller, John Pleyer, and Ted Johnson.

Members absent: None

Staff present: Akinwale, Rodney-Isbrecht, Beltran, and Staunton

Motion by Miller, supported by Hall, to approve the agenda as amended to include Resolution 2010 – 007 authorizing the City Manager and Building Inspector to contract for material & labor to secure the structure at 29 West Main Street.

Motion carried

Guests:

- Mickey Bittner, Wightman & Associates – South/Oak Street water improvement project, Brenner Excavating will begin on South at Mary Street, may be a delay because Consumers wants to replace gas lines along the project, they were notified in January but have not sent notification as to when they will begin; South Center Parking Lot project has some restoration work to be done and the sidewalk to complete between the theater and restaurant.
- Ron Sefcik, Hartford Township Supervisor and Hartford Chamber President – requested a donation to the Chambers 2010 Strawberry Festival to be held June 11 & 12. The tentative schedule is on the web site at www.hartfordmichigan.com, also seeking a donation for the purchase of flags and holders to mark veteran's graves.
- Harold Schuitmaker, City of Hartford Attorney - reported on the City's options to address the damaged building at 29 West Main Street, it has been six months since the accident, the construction board of appeals has met and the owners were given 30 days (April 3) to address the safety concerns, as of this date the owners have done nothing to secure the building. A resolution has been brought before the council authorizing the City Manager and Building Inspector to address the security of the building or have it torn down and the costs incurred to be placed as a lien against any insurance settlements; also before the council is petitions to delete Ordinance no. 174, because ordinance no. 174 was modified by a resolution in December it is not clear as to which the circulators of the petition was directing their intent the entire ordinance or the amendment. One option is to go to court and have a judge clarify the issue or to re-pass a resolution or ordinance address weed control. Attorney Schuitmaker will draft a new ordinance for the Council to consider.

Motion by Miller, supported by Hall, to adopt Resolution no. 2010 – 007 authorizing the City manager and City Building Inspector to contract for material and labor to secure a structure and abutting public street deemed to be dangerous and to open the bid process for the structure's demolition at 29 West Main Street.

Motion carried

CITY OF HARTFORD
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 19, 2010

Public Comment:

Jeff Fuller, Mary Street – his intent of the petitions was to have ordinance no. 174 and amendment deleted.

Kathleen Jenks, North Center Street – she is concerned about the penalty for repeat offenders that were addressed in the amended resolution of ordinance no. 174.

Communications were:

- a. Van Buren County is putting together a recreation plan and would invite public input. Next session will be May 3, 2010 6:30pm at the VBISD Conference Center.
- b. Census surveys should have been received and returned, if you have not returned your survey there is still time to submit the necessary information by calling 866-872-6868. It is important that everyone be counted as this determines future funding.
- c. The railroad will be replacing the crossing on Red Arrow Hwy in Lawrence; work will begin May 10 and will take about a week which may cause some traffic concerns,
- d. Notice of hearing for AEP's request for cost recovery on May 13, 2010 9:00am at the MPSC in Lansing.

Goals/Objectives

- a. 2010 – 2011 Budget summary
- b. 2009 – 2010 Budget amendments

Reports submitted:

- *Police Dept & Ordinance Report* – .
- *Department of Public Works* –
- *Waste Water Treatment Plant* –
- *Treasurers & Investment Report* –
- *List of Bills* - \$116,235.34
- *City Managers Report* – South/Oak Street water improvement project; USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Application for Vehicles; Proposed Joint Master Plan with Hartford Township; On-Line bill payment or by phone; USDA predevelopment Planning Grant Application; 29 West Main Street update

Old Business: None

New Business:

- ✓ 115 Mary Street, the City partnered with SMCAA which was seeking grants to repair/rehab the property and then sell it to an income eligible buyer; in June of 2008 the Council passed a resolution to temporally suspend taxes on the property for 18 months while it was being rehabbed, as of today SMCAA has not been able to secure funding or has not found it feasible to invest in the property and be able to resell it in today's market. A private investor has expressed interest in the property. After discussion the Council wants to put the property up for bid.
- ✓ 2010/2011 budget proposed summary

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APRIL 19, 2010

- ✓ 2009/2010 Budget amendments: Reduce Election by \$5,000; Reduce Planning & Zoning by \$10,000; Reduce Assessor by \$1,500; Reduce Central Supply by \$3,000; Reduce Board of Review by \$1,000; Reduce Audit Fees by \$500; Reduce City Hall by \$3,000; Reduce Cultural Contracts by \$5,000; Reduce Sidewalk \$5,000; Reduce Police Dept \$3,000; Reduce Public Works by \$10,000; Total Reductions by \$47,000; Transfer to West Main Street Resurfacing \$24,929; Transfer to Local Street Fund \$12,000; Transfer to Building Fund \$5,071; Increase Legal Services by \$5,000; Total Transfer and Increases \$47,000

- ✓ Discussion, proposed medical marijuana ordinance – will bring back to the next meeting as first reading.

Motion by Hall, supported by Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 P.M.
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk