

CITY OF HARTFORD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2009

The Year in Review special meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Mayor Pro-Tem Rick Hall

Members present: Austin, Dockter, Hall, Latus, Keyser, Rios, and Johnson.

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

Opening remarks by Akinwale who thanked the Staff and Commission for their commitment and hard work and welcomed new Commissioners Rodney Austin and Frank Dockter.

Departmental Reports:

Public Works Department – Dan Staunton: Currently have a 4 ½ % water loss (pumped vs billed). The back flow preventor has been installed at Maple Hill Mobil Home Park as recommended by DEQ. Hauled approximately 81 loads of brush and will continue picking up leaves and brush in the spring. The leaf machine was rebuilt this year; this usually has to be done every two years. AEP will be planting 65 trees to replace some of those that were cut down, they wanted to get them planted this fall but the weather did not cooperate. Back-up well 3 is exceeding the arsenic contaminant levels and the recommendation from DEQ is to drill a new well. A large sink hole was repaired on Hart Street. A new generator was installed at the lift station on CR 372; there was some discussion on fencing the generator in. Mayor Johnson complimented the DPW on their hard work keeping the streets plowed out with the amount of snow we have had in a short period of time.

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Tom Strand: the DPW assisted in rebuilding the bio disc and lift station, and changed the valves in the sludge tank. In the near future the City will need to make updates to ferric chloride tank; it needs to be larger and permanently installed. Will also need to replace the ph meter and replace back-up sludge pump.

Fire Department – Chief Riley: still trying to sell the aerial truck but there are currently a lot of newer trucks on the market that are selling for less money, the department will continue to pursue avenues to sell the truck but do not want to give it away because it is still a good truck. Have applied for a homeland security grant to purchase a generator to run the station in the event of a power outage, right now the doors have to be pushed open by hand if they loose power. This was the last year to collect the fire millage and the board is recommending renewing the millage to raise funds to replace the tanker truck, current estimates are around \$300,000 but could increase because every year the government standards become stricter, the longer the community waits to purchase the tanker the cost will continue to increase. The tanker truck is 20+ years old and the rescue truck is 10+ years, the trucks need to be on a better replacement rotation to plan for future needs. The safety jamboree was a huge success and the department will continue to provide this educational program to the community. The Lions Club, Fire Department and American Red Cross packaged 202 baskets this year it went very well and good that the organizations could work together.

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Building Department – Report by Akinwale: very minimal construction this year. Commissioner Hall is not pleased with how the projects are not followed up on or enforced; projects have been started but not completed and would like to see some kind of ordinance to enforce the completion of the projects started. The City Manager will do some research and bring back a proposal to the commission.

Code Enforcement Officer – Reported by Akinwale: Officer Hubbard handled 330 complaints for the year, overall citations are down due to changing the civil infraction to a misdemeanor. Officer Hubbard has also filled in covering shifts and is always available to assist the on duty officer when he is working. Officer Hubbard was off of work for several months due to a back injury and surgery; we are glad he is better and back to work.

Assessor –Diana McGrew: Assessment notices will be going out the 1st week of February, March board of review dates have been set for March 16, 9:00am – 5:00pm and March 17, 2:00pm – 9:00pm. She is not receiving the building permits and occupancy permits in a timely manner which affects taxable revenue.

Police Department – Chief Ramon Beltran: overall statistics were at the same level or down for the year. Would like to continue to encourage citizens to report what they see right away. It is important for the community to report incidents when they see something unusual or out of the ordinary. Looking for someone willing to take charge of the neighbor hood watch program and there is a crossing guard position open. Thermoimaging equipment was awarded through a grant from homeland security, an officer has been trained and they are using the equipment. Officer Walls assisted in getting a grant through Wal-mart which will eventually go for cameras in the police cars. The Shop with a cop program has gone very well and would encourage supporting this program. The reserve officers did a nice job helping with Halloween, concerts in the park and presence at the football games.

Clerk – RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht: trash survey results have been tabulated and there is enough interested citizens to set a hearing date to move forward with information gathering. This was a very busy year for elections, Hartford Public Schools has changed the terms for School Board Members and moved the school election to even year November, which means city registered voters will be voting at City Hall, the County Clerk will be printing new voter registration cards to be mailed to Residents in the next few months. Continuing to prepare for the 2010 Census, it is important this information is correct as this will have an impact on our funding for the next 10 years. The new server has been installed and is working well, the old server is being used to run the government access channel 21, which has been moved from the school to City Hall. The rental inspections are continuing as changes in occupants are found, two of the major landlord's rental units have been inspected. Encouraged the Commissioners to submit articles for the newsletters that are published quarterly.

Treasurer – Linda Gray: gave an educational presentation on the budget, governmental funds, where revenues come from and how the weather can effect the major & local streets budget. Our Federal & State grants have seen an increase in the last few years and is the City's third largest source of income.

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Planning Commission – Report by Yemi Akinwale: A few members attended the training on the new legislation from the State for the consolidation of the former Planning laws into one now called the Zoning Enabling Act. The Commission has reviewed and recommended the Dazey Hollow Subdivision; DEQ has approved the sewer & water lines however with the economic downturn this project has been put on hold. A few of the members have been active on the Blueprints for Michigan Downtowns project and their input will be very valuable.

Manager – Yemi Akinwale: There are close to \$2 million in overall infrastructure improvements that are on the table, upgrading the water lines on South Street to South Center and on Oak Street from South Center to Wendell, the South Center Street Parking Lot, new back –up well and reconstruction of South Center Street to I-94, while the City may receive grant monies for these projects they still require matching funds. Our financial audit showed the City in good financial shape we will need to continue to monitor our expenditures during this current national economic slow down. Blueprints for Michigan Downtowns will begin February 3rd with a public meeting from 7:00pm – 8:30pm the Councils participation is very important.

Discussed combining the Workshop and Regular Council meeting due to the special meeting, there was no objection from the Council to cancel the workshop meeting on January 19 and combine it with the regular meeting on January 26.

The Rec Council Representatives will meet on January 14, 7:00pm at City Hall to discuss the Interlocal Agreement.

Commissioner Keyser would like flyers for the Blueprints for Michigan's Downtown Town meeting to distribute at Harding's Market.

Commissioner Latus remarked he was proud to be on a board that is moving forward and looking to the future.

Mayor Johnson expressed his thanks to the Council and Staff.

Motion by Keyser, supported by Latus to adjourn the meeting at 12:08 P.M.
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht
City Clerk