

CITY OF HARTFORD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2010

The Year in Review special meeting was called to order at 8:05 A.M. by Mayor Ted Johnson

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

Members absent: John Miller

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

Opening remarks by Akinwale who thanked the Staff and Commission for their commitment and hard work in this challenging economic time.

Departmental Reports:

Wastewater Treatment Plant – Tom Strand: there are some things that need to be upgraded, the plant is 30+ years old, a reliability study needs to be done to prioritize those repairs, and stay in compliance with the Department of Environmental Quality.

Fire Department – Chief Riley: Millage was renewed for two years which will go towards replacing the tanker truck. Overall calls are down. The old fire truck has been sold for \$7,000. The sign in front of the fire station is 25+ years old and will be replaced by a new digital one through a private donor. The Van Buren County Jail Crew is assisting in clearing the hydrants of snow.

Building Department – Report by Akinwale: limited new construction, majority of activity has been through maintenance or repair of property.

Code Enforcement Officer – Mike Hubbard: handled a total of 708 complaints for the year.

Assessor –Diana McGrew: the states inflation rate multiplier is a negative number this year affecting assessed and taxable value which in turn will have an impact on the municipality's budget.

Police Department – Chief Ramon Beltran: burglary crime is down 35%, very low. Have made advancements in relationships with the business owners and residents, fortunate to have an additional officer offering some flexibility with schedules; however this will change if there is a retirement within the department, it will cost approx \$80,000 to replace an officer. The reserve officers have logged 1654 hours and Officer Darling is to be commended for his commitment to the reserves.

Public Works Department – Dan Staunton: Commissioners commended the department on their great job of keeping the sidewalks and streets plowed. It is a struggle to keep up with the amount of snow that fell due to being short staffed.

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Clerk – RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht: Water Sewer billing process is working well, the water loss (pumped / billed) is under 7%, collections have been a little slow due to the economic difficulties. There will be two elections this year, an August 2010 State primary and the General election in November. Invited the Commission to come and visit or schedule time to be available to the public in the office.

Treasurer – Linda Gray: gave a power point presentation on Tax Revenue.

Planning Commission – Report by Yemi Akinwale: finalized the DAZY Hollow subdivision request, working on training and doing a joint master plan with Hartford Township.

Manager – Yemi Akinwale: Goals: continue to maintain the City's fiscal integrity, it is very difficult when the State Shared Revenue is eroding, in 2001 it was \$498,000 and is currently at \$274,000. We are one of the few communities that does not have a road millage to maintain our city streets but a one mill tax collection would not raise enough to address the need and would put an added tax burden on the residents at this time. We will continue to address blight through effective enforcement of our ordinances and complete the façade improvement project for the downtown.

Motion by Hall, supported by Dockter to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 A.M.
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht
City Clerk