

CITY OF HARTFORD  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 17, 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 discussion on the 2010/2011 audit proposal under new business.

Motion carried

**Guests:**

- Mickey Bittner, Wightman & Associates – South/Oak Street water improvement project, Consumers Energy is nearing completion on the replacement of gas lines. Brenner Excavating began work last week but progress has been slowed due to rain, Brenner has 55 working days from the time they begin to complete the project. Recommending change order no. one for pulverizing and paving of the entire street designated in the original study, in the amount of \$47,277.00, the change order is in line with the scope of the project and grant guidelines. This is the last project on the five year water reliability study; Meeting with Reith Riley May 18 at 10:00am to go over the final punch list on the West Main Street construction project.
- Douglas J. Harrington – Running for 80<sup>th</sup> District State Representative, currently Lawrence Township Supervisor.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications were:**

- a. On May 1 the State Law on smoking in public restaurants, bars and other facilities went into effect. This has caused some local business patrons/employee's to move out onto the Main Street sidewalk to smoke which is in conflict with the City's loitering ordinance. The City will be sending all business owners along Main Street a memo encouraging their patrons/employee's to use the South City Parking lot for smoking.
- b. AT&T has recently purchased Centennial Wireless which has an antenna on the water tower. The rent beginning in June will now be coming from AT&T, they would also like to upgrade/modify/add to the equipment. The City will be negotiating a new rental agreement for the new and/or additional equipment.
- c. Van Buren County has notified the City that the real property at 21 Prospect Street and 205 Bernard Street will be on the tax sale roll. There was no interest from the Council for the City to acquire the properties prior to the County opening up the auction to the public.
- d. Van Buren County has established a land bank and is seeking people to serve on the board; those interested should contact the City Manager or the Van Buren County Treasurer for an application.
- e. A hearing has been set for May 24, 2010 @ 7:30pm during the regular Council meeting to hear comments on the City's 2010/2011 proposed budget.

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**Goals/Objectives**

- Predevelopment planning grant application to assess the water and sewer plants.
- Gathering & submitting paper work to the State for the grants awarded to Seven & 27 West Main Street. Construction is continuing and looking forward to both of the new businesses grand opening.

**Reports submitted:**

- *Police Dept & Ordinance Report* – .
- *Department of Public Works* –
- *Waste Water Treatment Plant* –
- *Treasurers & Investment Report* – None on file
- *List of Bills* - \$133,586.23
- *City Managers Report* – 29 West Main Street, Theater Building update; Community Facilities Grant, Police Vehicles; Predevelopment Planning Grant to provide a general assessment of the sewer and water plants, to make necessary short and long term plans for those two plants; South/Oak Street water improvement project.

**Old Business:**

- Second reading of the proposed Medical marijuana ordinance.
- 115 Mary Street – one bid was received for \$20.00, with no objection from the Council the City Manager will negotiate with the bidder for an agreeable price to cover costs incurred by the City.
- Hartford Lions Club Strawberry Run Sponsorship – The City Manager recommends the \$300 sponsorship which will advertise the City's web site on the t-shirts.

**New Business:**

- First Reading of the proposed grass, noxious weed & harmful vegetation ordinance.
  - ✓ Jeff Fuller, Mary Street requesting the ordinance goes to a vote of the people.
  - ✓ Harry Fuller, Mary Street requesting the ordinance has a clause that it cannot be amended.
  - ✓ Kathleen Jenks, North Center Street, against the ordinance in its entirety and it should go to a vote of the people.
  - ✓ Jerry Houchin, Bernard Street, in favor of the ordinance, promotes pride in your property and City.
- Change order no. 001 on the South/Oak Street Water Improvement project in the amount of \$47,277.00
- Audit proposal from Gerbel & Company will be the same as last year in the amount of \$18,200.00
- Farmer's Market Committee has met and would like to begin Sunday, June 13 and continue thru September 28 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm

Motion by Miller, supported by Pleyer, to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 P.M.

Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted, RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk