

CITY OF HARTFORD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Mayor Ted Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present: Austin; Dockter; Keyser; Latus; Rios; and Johnson.

Members absent: Hall

Staff present: Akinwale, Gray; Rodney-Isbrecht

Motion by Keyser, supported by Latus, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Guests:

- Mickey Bittner, Wightman & Associates – the Van Buren County rural task force met and the City's West Main Street resurfacing project has been accelerated to be completed in 2009. Another community was not able to use their allocated monies which reprioritized the projects and funds available. The State has 50 billion worth of projects of which the federal stimulus package allocates 1 billion, meaning a lot of projects will not be funded, these federal stimulus dollars are coming through as transportation funds which means road projects, it does not allow for the replacement or repair of any water, sewer, storm sewer or drains, it does not do any good to spend the dollars to repair a road if you cannot take care of the issues underneath. Requests have been submitted to the railroad to look at the crossing on Bernard, Prospect, North Center and West Main Streets for repair.
- Joe Parman, Van Buren County Drain Commissioner – the City has been built around the health and cemetery drain which was designed and built in the early 1900's, this drain required an emergency repair late last year, it is still causing some problems due to the amount of rain and snow run off we have had this year. This drain system needs to be upgraded but the Commissioner cannot do anything unless there is a petition request for repair from a municipality or five property owners with-in the drain district. A more extensive study needs to be done before a cost estimate for repair or replacement can be given. If the cost of repair was to exceed \$300,000 it would require a bond of which taxpayers in the district would pay back over a longer period of time. First step would be to submit a petition, a study would be done and a board of determination would make a decision on whether the repairs would be necessary, this board is made up of supervisors from other areas. This process can take a year before any work could actually be done, if the drain needs to be enlarged this will also require approval from the DEQ.
- Steve Graffenius, Republic Services, Reliable Disposal – available for any questions concerning a City wide contracted residential refuse pick-up, they currently have contracts with Stevensville, Edwardsburg, Buchanan and the City of Bangor. One advantage to beginning this service is the City already has a billing system in place and another is you now have one truck picking up every household verses passing several houses to pick up one customer. Advantage to the contractor is he now only has to send one bill. Negatives mentioned, customer's right to choose, City now assumes some liability but these are things that can be addressed in an ordinance, the requirement of a performance bond, and billing already in place. Commissioner Dockter has spoken with some of the other communities who have contracted services; they do not have any big issues and were happy with the service.

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- Best Way Representative – opposed to municipality franchising. Commissioner Austin is in favor of passing an ordinance that gives residents a choice, gives customers a break on cost of service, and would like to offer ala cart services for the elderly and snowbirds. Commissioner Dockter is in favor of fewer trucks on the City’s roads, a cleaner town and maybe a reduction in rates, also wants to see better enforcement of the ordinances.

Public Comment: None

Communications were:

- a. March 10 at 7:00pm has been set for a joint meeting of the City, Hartford Township and Hartford Fire Board to adopt the Fire Departments Budget. The Meeting will take place at the Fire Station.
- b. Consumers Energy has requested a hearing to revise their rates affecting all customers. The hearing will be February 27, 2009, 9:00am at the MPSC in Lansing.
- c. An appointment has been set with the City Manager tomorrow concerning a possible lease agreement for antenna placement on the water tower.
- d. Thursday, February 26, 2:00pm at City Hall has been set for the next I-94 Corridor meeting.
- e. A draft proposal for contracted residential refuse pick-up was given to the Commissioners for there suggestions and comments.

Approval of Commission Minutes:

Motion by Dockter, supported by Austin, to approve the minutes of the **JANUARY 26, 2009** combined workshop/regular meeting of the Hartford City Commission as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Rios, supported by Keyser, to approve the minutes of the **FEBRUARY 18, 2009** workshop meeting of the Hartford City Commission as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Goals/Objectives: None

Approval of Reports:

Motion by Latus, supported by Rios, to approve the **JANUARY** departmental reports as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Austin, supported by Rios to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of **\$133,776.68**

Motion carried 6 – 0

Old Business: None

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New Business:

Motion by Dockter, supported by Rios to approve the implementation of a credit card system as a form of payment for services provided by the City of Hartford.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Rios, supported by Austin, to approve the payoff of Water Supply Bonds Series A & B to Rural Development in the amount of (A) \$106,022.07 & (B) \$37,338.07.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Resolutions:

Motion by Latus, supported by Rios, to adopt resolution 2009 – 003 accepting Engle Way, Hartford Boulevard, Vanderlyn Drive and West Shepard Streets.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Dockter, supported by Keyser, to adopt resolution 2009 – 004 setting the poverty guidelines for 2009.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Motion by Latus, supported by Keyser, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Motion carried 6 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk