

CITY OF HARTFORD  
WORKSHOP/REGULAR COMBINED MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 18, 2009

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

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Members absent:

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

Motion by Hall, supported by Rios, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Budget Hearing:**

Motion by Keyser, supported by Hall, to recess the commission meeting to hold a public hearing to discuss the 2009/2010 budget.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Discussion: trying to offer the same level of service with fewer employees and less state shared revenue. Millage rate will not change due to the declining property values; the City cannot continue to rely on the declining state shared revenue and needs to seek other resources to be self sufficient, the police budget alone is \$375,000.00, it takes taxes and state shared revenue combined to cover this line item; the current fund balance allows the City some flexibility to take advantage of grant funding that requires a match.

Motion by Rios, supported by Keyser, to close the public hearing.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Guests:**

- Mickey Bittner – Wightman & Associates – the final packet has been submitted on the West Main Street re-paving project, now waiting on project numbers from the federal government level. Should be able to make the July letting if the project numbers are assigned soon. The State has been inundated with applications for the federal stimulus dollars which has slowed getting projects assigned numbers and getting them bid out.
- John Egelhaaf – Southwest Michigan Planning Commission – gave update information on where the I – 94 Corridor Project is at. This is a unique opportunity that is being watched by the State, it's a great asset for the area for economic development.
- Kim Sinclair – Hartford Lions Club – Asking the City to be a sponsor of the Hartford Strawberry Run, this is the Lions Club main fund raising event.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications were:**

- a. A letter was received from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission inviting the communities to a public meeting regarding the 2008 end of cycle for the Palisades Plant in Covert, May 26, 2009 at 6:00pm, Lake Michigan College campus in South Haven.
- b. Comcast gave notice of channel line up changes effective May 27, 2009.
- c. The County Treasurer gave notice a piece of property on Marion Ave is available for back taxes at a cost of \$1,274.00. It was the council's recommendation to turn down the offer of the property.

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- d. The MDEQ has scheduled a meeting to discuss e-coli levels in Pine Creek for June 16, 2009, 7:00pm at the VBISD.
- e. The Van Buren County Drain Commissioner has scheduled a board of determination meeting at Hartford Township Hall for June 2, 2009, 10:30am, this will involve the East Side of the Health & Cemetery Drain that is with-in the City limits.

**Reports submitted:**

- *Police Dept Report* – included a report from the ordinance officer.
- *Department of Public Works* – two part time employees have had their hours cut after the executive order cut was received that municipalities would be receiving a reduction in state shared revenue.
- *Waste Water Treatment Plant* – flow from the high water table has started to level off.
- *Treasurers & Investment Report* –
- *List of Bills* - \$114,744.45
- *City Managers Report* –

**Approval of Commission Minutes:**

Motion by Hall, supported by Keyser, to approve the minutes of the **APRIL 27, 2009** regular meeting of the Hartford City Commission as presented and place them on file.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Goals/Objectives:**

- a. working on a line item assessment for amendments to the 2008/2009 Budget
- b. continuing to sustain current level of services through the end of the fiscal year with out any major expenses.

**Approval of Reports:**

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

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Latus, supported by Rios to approve payment of the list of bills in the amount of **\$114,744.45**

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Old Business:**

Motion by Hall, supported by Keyser, to table the changes to the inter-local recreation agreement.

Discussion: the inter-local board made some changes to the agreement, at the recommendation of the City's attorney it was advised not to accept the agreement with the current revisions.

Motion carried 7 – 0

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**New Business:**

Motion by Austin, supported by Rios, to approve payment of \$175.00 to Stoddard Post 93 for flags/grave markers for veteran's graves.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Dockter voting No)

Motion by Keyser, supported by Rios, to approve \$300.00 sponsorship of the Strawberry Run with the City's web site address to be printed on this years t-shirts.

Motion carried 7 – 0

**Resolutions:**

Motion by Hall, supported by Latus, to adopt resolution 2009 – 007 adopting the 2009/2010 fiscal year budget.

Motion carried 5 – 2 (Austin and Dockter voting no)

Motion by Keyser, supported by Rios, to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 P.M.

Motion carried 6 – 1 (Austin voting no)

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk