

CITY OF HARTFORD  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 2009

The combined workshop meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Ted Johnson

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

Members absent: Keyser

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

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

Motion carried

**Guests:**

- Mickey Bittner, Wightman & Associates – Absent
- Van Buren County Drain Commissioner was invited to attend this council meeting but was unable to attend, there has been a flooding problem in the trailer park, a portion of the drain was repaired in December, this past week the trailer park experienced some additional flooding, after receiving several complaints the City Manager contacted the Drain Commissioner, he explained the drain is too small to handle the run off, he told the residents they would have to submit a petition in order to get it fixed, but he has not notified them of the cost of the project. Hopefully the drain commissioner will be at next week's regular meeting to answer questions and explain the problem.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications were:**

- ❖ A letter from the Pokagon Band requesting notification if there are any service board positions open, they may have members who are interested in serving.
- ❖ AEP has submitted an application to the MPSC for cost recovery the hearing will be February 27 at 10:00am.
- ❖ Comcast has sent notification of changes to their channel line-up.
- ❖ The Mayor & Commissioner Latus received the Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Award on behalf of the City for the I-94 Corridor project in conjunction with the City of Watervliet and Townships of Hartford and Watervliet.

**Goals/Objectives:**

- ❖ Working with the Treasurer to assess debts. The interest rates have fallen so the interest we are receiving on CD's is not enough to cover the interest rates on the City's debt, checking to see if it would be an advantage to pay down some debt at this time.
- ❖ One of the items mentioned in the Blueprints preliminary report was to address the condition of the building at the I-94 exit, a letter has been sent to the owner to attend to the property.
- ❖ The State may receive stimulus package funds; the City has submitted 8 projects and are waiting to hear what may get funded. The road work will be contracted through MDOT. A meeting was held at the Van Buren County Road Commission today where some projects were prioritized, West Main Street re-construction was on the project list for

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- ❖ 2010 this will be pushed up to 2009 and South Center Street reconstruction scheduled for 2013 will be moved up to 2011.
- ❖ The different color lighting along West Main Street was another item that came out of Blueprints meeting but at this time it is not a high priority to get replaced. The original yellow lighting is being replaced with white bulbs as they burn out. This would be a costly to replace all at one time. There may be some funds available if there were some alternatives to going green. The DPW will do some investigating to see if there are some alternatives.
- ❖ Requests from residents for the City to take credit cards as a form of payment for services; some options have been explored and have found an option that would not be as costly to the City, the customer would pay for the service.
- ❖ The fire department is requesting a joint meeting to set their operating budget.

**Reports submitted:**

- ***Police Dept Report*** – blight at AKA has been addressed.
- ***Department of Public Works*** – Commissioner Austin would like to see the Bobcat repaired and not purchase the new one, he would prefer to invest in a street sweeper. The new one the City is leasing is bigger and able to move the snow off the sidewalks; the older bobcat cannot do the job efficiently.
- ***Waste Water Treatment Plant*** – the well has been repaired.
- ***Treasurers & Investment Report*** –
- ***List of Bills*** - \$133,776.68
- ***City Managers Report*** – Blue Print Project; Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Award; South parking Lot Reconstruction; Proposed Projects for the Stimulus Package.

**Old Business:**

Discussion on city wide trash service: estimates were requested from potential contractors, but they will not give out that information unless they have a spec to work with because there are so many variables. The Commissioners have requested a spec be drawn up and sent out for bid prior to holding a public hearing so the residents will have some idea of the cost involved in the services. The garbage would be billed along with the water/sewer billing, but unclear how it would be collected for non-payment.

**New Business:**

- ❖ Resolution #2009 – 003 Accepting Engle Way, Hartford Boulevard, Vanderlyn Drive and West Shepard Streets. The asbuilts have been accepted and the requested fencing around the retention ponds has been installed.
- ❖ Resolution #2009 – 004 setting the 2009 poverty guidelines.
- ❖ Discussion concerning a local business's request to purchase the City's property on Marion Ave, the use of the property by the business does not meet the zoning requirements. The request was brought before the Planning & Zoning board, they recommended that it continue to be zoned for residential use or sold to a business that would create jobs for the area. Currently the DPW is using the buildings on the property for storage.

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Motion by Rios, supported by Austin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 P.M.  
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht  
City Clerk