

CITY OF HARTFORD  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2009

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

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

Members absent:

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

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

Motion carried

**Public Hearing:**

Motion by Keyser, supported by Dockter to recess the commission meeting to hold a public hearing to discuss an application for a Community Development Block Grant for the Downtown infrastructure project to reconstruct the South parking lot.

Motion carried

The South parking lot is in serious need of repair; there is some drain work that will need to be done, as well as replacement of water services. One of the requirements of the grant is to include a green space, would like to add a bench and/or picnic table to the area. It was also recommended through the Blueprint project to enclose the business's trash receptacles for a much cleaner look, the plan also is to include sidewalk all along the back entrances to the business. Business owners and public would like to see improved lighting and security cameras, the department of public works will look into different types of bulbs or wattage for the lighting that is already there, AEP will be moving several of the poles to accommodate the construction. This project has been projected to cost \$329,000 of which \$40,000 has been secured through another source. If the project is approved it will begin this summer.

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

Motion carried

**Guests:**

- Mickey Bittner, Wightman & Associates – the City has been approved for \$180,000 in stimulus package funding for the resurfacing of West Main Street, this project was to be done in 2010 but has been accelerated to this year and should be on the July 10<sup>th</sup> MDOT letting, meaning the project will begin in late August or September. This will be an MDOT project and will be based on their schedule; the railroad has been notified of the potential work to be done and would like to coordinate any work planed. Commissioner Hall would like to see the main four repair work be done at the same time so that it does not look piece milled together; this is an unlikely option as it is two different projects and contactors.

**Public Comment:** None

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**Communications were:**

- ❖ Commissioner Keyser has a list of ordinance violations and was concerned about waiting until May for leaf pick-up.
- ❖ The Hartford Float Committee is seeking donations to build this year's Miss Hartford and Court Float.
- ❖ Chemical Bank Hartford Branch is hosting a business after hours on March 19 from 5 – 7pm at the Waterfront Restaurant in Coloma; they will have a presentation on Retail Fraud by the Van Buren County Sherriff's Dept.
- ❖ The next meeting of the I – 94 Corridor committee will be March 27, 9am at Hartford City Hall they will be finalizing the agreements & recommending formal adoption by the municipalities.
- ❖ Hartford Lion's Club has requested permission to use City facilities for the Annual Strawberry Run on June 13, the route markers would be out from June 10 – 14.
- ❖ The nuclear regulatory commission has made a safety inspection at the palisades nuclear plant in Covert, and will be following up with a second inspection.
- ❖ MDOT is requiring a crossing gate be installed at the North Center Street crossing, the City has already signed a contract with MDOT for \$175,000, the railroad is protesting the required work and have requested a hearing to oppose the work, MDOT has informed the City if there is another accident at the crossing the City will be liable and will have to pay for the entire project.
- ❖ There will be an election on May 5 for the County's proposal. Hartford Public Schools has changed the school election from May to November, leaving the county's proposal the only thing on the ballot. Due to the schools election change City residents will be getting new voter registration cards changing the school election polling location from Hartford Township Hall to Hartford City Hall.
- ❖ The Rec Council will be meeting Wednesday, May 18, 7:00pm at HPS Central Office. ½ of the Pokagon grant funds have been received; they will be discussing some revisions to the interlocal agreement.

**Goals/Objectives:**

Working on the 2009/2010 budget, some items that will affect this year's budget are increases to health care coverage, contract negotiations and the number of hardship exemptions that are applied for and granted.

**Reports submitted:**

- ***Police Dept Report*** – the East entrance sign that is maintained by the Chamber has been hit, the person responsible did come forward so the Chamber will be able to make a claim for the cost of replacing the sign. The Chief is seeking a grant to employ a full time officer. This program was opened for City's that have lost officers through attrition or laid off due to budget cuts. Commissioner Dockter would like to see the ordinance officer working more than one day a week.
- ***Department of Public Works*** – Commissioner Rios complimented the DPW on snow removal efforts. Superintendent Staunton informed the Council of the large amount of infiltration going into the WWTP as compared to what is being pumped. The lift stations are working overtime to keep up with demand.
- ***Waste Water Treatment Plant*** – there is a large amount of storm water being processed.

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- ***Treasurers & Investment Report*** – adjustments will have to be made to major & local street line items which are over budget due to construction projects and snow removal, overall general funds are looking good for the fourth quarter of the budget.
- ***List of Bills*** - \$133,158.93
- ***City Managers Report*** – Blue Print Project, the owner of 27 West Main has submitted a conceptual drawing for improvement to the building; Proposed South parking Lot Reconstruction; Proposed Projects for the Stimulus Package West Main Street repaving project; North Center Street Railroad Crossing update.

**Old Business:**

City wide garbage proposal, the council would like to seek bids to find out the potential cost to residential customers, based on the spec's provided by the City Manager.

**New Business:**

- ❖ Requests for donations by the Hartford Float committee.
- ❖ Request by the Chamber of Commerce to use City facilities for the Annual Strawberry Festival June 12 & 13.
- ❖ Proposed change to Ordinance 93.03 Motor Vehicle Accident & Fire Cost Recovery Amendment adding the word extinguishing to the ordinance.
- ❖ Resolution 2009 – 05 approving a community development grant application

Motion by Hall, supported by Rios, to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 P.M.  
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht  
City Clerk