



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
February 14th, 2023
MINUTES – Approved**

PRESENT: Councilors: Mayor Vicki Platt Justin Adams, Jim Evans, Dean Hodges, and Kris Trygstad

ABSENT: Catalina Burillo and Amanda Klotz

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Rob Splane, City Clerk – Karla Swihart, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, DPW Superintendent – Brad Whitney, Economic Development Director Nichole Kleiner, George Sadler, and Roy Strait

Mayor Platt called the meeting to order; following the roll call, then led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- J. Evans motioned to approve the agenda and was supported by J. Adams
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Roy Strait 6678 Montague Mi would like to thank the City of Hart police chief and Detective, Sargent Skipski for helping with delivery of toys to Roy's kids for Christmas.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- Council retreat printed summary – Patrice Martin, Innovative Community Solutions

It was truly a pleasure to work with you, your staff and the City Council during the January 28th Council Retreat. During our time together, we explored ways in which the council might work more closely together, the framework of the City's Master Plan and its impending update and the value of and challenges faced by the City's municipal departments.

Attached to this document are the following:

- A) Council Working Agreements
- B) Asset Mapping and Future Visioning Results

The Working Agreements are intended for use by the council to clarify expectations and to guide their interactions. The Asset Mapping document is intended to help focus resources towards a desired future state, as defined by the council. This document may also be helpful in defining the expectations of the City's Master Plan update.

The session was arranged so that individuals participated as part of the whole group, while also conducting small group reflection and dialogue. We began the retreat with a paired activity in which members interviewed one another with the following questions:

- *What attracted you to join the City of Hart?*
- *What keeps you engaged?*

Next, each partner was to share a story of when they felt the most proud of, or most connected to the work of the City. These results are considered to be "Points of Pride", and the results follow:

- *When the athletic field was named after his father.*
- *The gratification of being a contributing member of the community.*
- *The "small town" feel of the City; how neighbors consistently help neighbors.*
- *When she was able to purchase her own home in the City of Hart.*
- *How easy it is to become a part of the community.*

Next, the group members introduced themselves and shared what they hoped to get from the session.

Members shared the following “wants”

- *Bigger vision of the city/clear direction and future orientation*
- *Cohesive council*
- *Culture of inclusion – all voices matter*
- *Clarity about the future of the City*
- *Getting to know everyone*
- *Functioning at the highest levels of performance*

The afternoon session in which council members were able to interact with each of the City’s department heads generated a sense of good will and a better understanding of the work and challenges of these departments. Department heads encouraged council members to continue to reach out and learn more about the departments, particularly the BioPure facilities.

Overall, participants reported a sense of accomplishment from the retreat, and having many of their initial “wants” met.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from January 24th, 2023.
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - J. Evans motioned to approve Consent Agenda and supported by D. Hodges
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2023 – 07 Adopt City of Hart Investment Policy
 WHEREAS, the City of Hart works continuously to balance the financial needs of the City to create future economic stability; and
 WHEREAS, the City of Hart historically has invested cash reserves allocated for future capital uses in Certificates of Deposit; and
 WHEREAS, recent history has produced typical Certificate of Deposit rates of return at or about .05%, rate s of return; and
 WHEREAS, a more progressive and diversified investment strategy can help to mitigate losses due to inflationary trends; and
 WHEREAS, in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interests and welfare, the City Council hereby declares:
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL
Adopts the City of Hart Investment Policy pursuant to State of Michigan Public Act 20, Investment of Surplus Funds of Political Subdivisions.
Furthermore, City Council hereby directs the City Treasurer in cooperation with the City Manager, and under the supervision of City Financial Advisors, Accountants, and Auditors to create policy in which to invest a portion of surplus funds into eligible securities.
 - J. Adams motioned to approve Resolution 2023-07 and supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- Resolution 2023 – 08 Authorize placement of Main Street Market structures.
 WHEREAS, the City of Hart Master Plan Chapter 5 identifies top goals as redeveloping vacant or underused sites to retain existing and recruit new businesses, and;
 WHEREAS, the City was awarded a USDA grant to demolish the blighted structure at 227 East Main Street and construct a “pop-up-shop” market with 6 small business shed structures, new parking and gathering space, and;
 WHEREAS, the Heart Economic and Redevelopment Team has reviewed the existing plan and recommends amending the grant to move the Main Street Market to Parking lot #1 adjacent to the public bathrooms, and;

WHEREAS, the USDA has indicated that with approval this change to the grant can be made per council direction, and;

WHEREAS, in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interests and welfare, the City Council hereby declares:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL

Approves the request from Hart Economic and Redevelopment Team place the pop-up shop structures to the western portion on existing parking lot #1 and install necessary infrastructure to safely secure the sheds to the surface and provide electricity.

- J. Evans motioned to approve Resolution 2023-08 and supported by D. Hodges
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

- Resolution 2023 – 09 Accept Proposal for Biosolids Removal and Award Work

WHEREAS, the City of Hart operates and maintains a municipal wastewater treatment plant that generates approximately 4,000,000 gallons of biosolids annually that are removed and injected into farm fields in accordance with MDEQ- approved agronomic practices; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2021, City Council sought proposals from qualified biosolids removal contractors that operate in the State of Michigan to remove, haul, and apply biosolids; and

WHEREAS, the City received only one proposal as the other two biosolids hauling agencies in Michigan do not have the resources to commit to the City of Hart; and

WHEREAS, the proposal received in 2021 included a price of \$459 per dry ton of biosolids; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 and 2022., the awarded contractor was not able to perform biosolid hauling per contractual terms due to commitments with other communities leaving Hart BioPure with compromised plant functionality and the City with excessive odor issues; and

WHEREAS local contractor has indicated that they are capable of performing this work and can do so at the previously quoted pricing while adhering to the scheduling needs of Hart BioPure; and

WHEREAS, in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interests and welfare, the City Council hereby declares;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL

Awards Biosolid hauling work to C&D Fuehring Farms in the amount of \$459 per dry ton of biosolids removed, hauled, and applied.

Authorizes and directs the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Hart

- J. Adams motioned to approve Resolution 2023-09 and supported by K. Trygstad
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

UPDATES:

- Wayfinding Signage project is in progress with the signs ordered pending approval of final proofs. Signage should be installed prior to Memorial Day.
- Hart Energy System Study has been reviewed by the Power Board in draft form. A final version of the study will be prepared and presented to council in March.
- Coordinating with the National Asparagus Festival this year to launch some new entertainment activities as we celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the festival.
- The developer of the Creeks Subdivision would like to amend the site plan to allow for more single-family homes. The City planning consultant will work with the Creeks homeowners association to determine what is acceptable, potentially looking to City council to adopt an amendment as necessary.
- Griswold force main construction project is nearing completion with some final tie points and connection pending.

Legacy Topics:

- Working to have communities review intergovernmental operational agreement for property code enforcement department – Adoption of that agreement is pending – Financial negotiation is in progress.
- Grant Funded 227 East Main property demolition completed. Site reconstruction to take place in the spring.

- The Charter review committee has finished its assessment for phase one City Charter amendments which include changing all pronouns to show gender equity and modifying the language which dictates the date and time of City Council meetings. The proposed changes are being reviewed by our City Attorney and we anticipate initiating that process soon.

Upcoming Topics:

- Adoption of 2022-2026 Park and Rec Master Plan

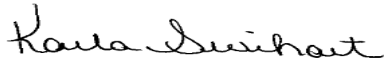
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- A big Thank you to Paul & Jami Cutter, Nichole and George for putting on a wonderful golf outing (frozen tinman)
- DPW new sign looks great.
- Kudos to Rob for changing the music on Saturday in honor of Burt Bacharach who passed away On Feb 8th.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at upon a motion by J. Adams and supported by J. Evans. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 28th, 2023, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Karla Swihart, City Clerk