



CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 28th, 2026
MINUTES – Approved

PRESENT: Mayor Amanda Klotz, Councilors Catalina Burillo, Jim Cunningham, Dean Hodges Andrew Mullen, and Betty Root

ABSENT: Karen Thomson

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Nichole Kleiner, City Clerk/Treasurer – Karla Swihart, Energy Superintendent – Mike Schiller, Hart Police Chief – Juan Salazar, and Christine Juska

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- C. Burillo motioned to Amend agenda to remove action item C (Resolution 2026-17) and action item D (Resolution 2026-21) and was supported by J. Cunningham
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from April 14th, 2026
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - A. Mullen motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, and was supported by B. Root
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2026-19 Authorize Agreement with Utility Financial Solutions for Electric Cost of Service and Pole Attachment Study
WHEREAS, the City of Hart operates a municipal electric utility and must periodically review its rates to ensure financial stability and equitable cost allocation; and
WHEREAS, Utility Financial Solutions LLC has submitted a proposal dated March 10, 2026, to complete an electric cost of service study, financial projection, rate design, and pole attachment study; and
WHEREAS, the Power Board has reviewed the proposal and recommends proceeding:
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HART CITY COUNCIL hereby:
Authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Utility Financial Solutions LLC for these services.
 - A. Mullen motioned to approve Resolution 2026-19 and was supported by B. Root
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
- Resolution 2026-20 Establish Right-of-Way Permit Process & Administrative Authority
WHEREAS, Section 14.6 of the City Charter affirms the City’s right to use, control, and regulate the use of its streets, alleys, bridges, and public places; and
WHEREAS, Section 14.5 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council to grant revocable permits for utility use of public right-of-way on such terms and conditions as it determines; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to implement a consistent and efficient process for reviewing and managing work within the public right-of-way to protect public infrastructure and ensure compliance with applicable standards; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HART CITY COUNCIL, hereby

Establishes a requirement that any person or entity seeking to perform work within the public Right-of-way shall first obtain a right-of-way permit from the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City Manager, or their designee, is authorized to review, approve, approve with conditions, or deny right-of-way permit applications consistent with the City Charter, applicable ordinances, and adopted standards:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such permits shall be revocable and subject to terms and conditions as determined necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and shall not be construed as a franchise or amendment to a franchise.

- C. Burillo motioned to approve Resolution 2026-20 and was supported by A. Mullen
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

- Resolution 2026-22 Bids for Plum Street Realignment Project

WHEREAS, the City of Hart solicited bids for the 2026 South Plum Street Road Realignment Project, which includes relocation of approximately 800 feet of roadway within the public right-of-way to align with future Safe Routes to School (SRTS) trail corrido: and

WHEREAS, one (1) bid was received for the project in the amount of \$47,994.0, with additional \$2,156 for seed and mulch; and

WHEREAS, a prior estimate for similar work provided by Wadel Stabilization in November 2025 totaled \$27,325; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School project has been delayed until Spring of 2027, reducing the immediate need for the roadway realignment; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends rejecting the bid and rebidding the project in late fall with a Spring 2027 construction state to better align with the SRTS project and current market conditions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HART CITY COUNCIL, hereby

Rejects the bid received for the 2026 South Plum Street Road Realignment Project and directs staff to rebid the project at a later date consistent with a Spring 2027 construction timeline.

- A. Mullen motioned to approve Resolution 2026-22 and was supported by B. Root
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- City Website Update

The City received a letter from our current Website provider announcing his retirement at the end of 2026 with no one to takeover the business. With that being said the City is seeking a new Website designer/provider. Have so far met with two. More to come.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Status of ongoing projects:

- Hart Plaza Streetscape Project

WORK COMPLETED LAST WEEK:

Water main connected to the existing system on Main St., east of State St.

Water service installations completed on Main St. east of State St.

Storm sewer installed on State St. east of the road centerline.

ANTICIPATED WORK THIS WEEK

Removal of sidewalk and curb on Main Street, east of State St.

Site grading in preparation for curb concrete pour

Installation of electrical conduit

Installation of irrigation lines

Curb installation is currently scheduled for May 4th

- Water Tower ATT antenna project – ATT&T has provided the City with a consultant to help us get easements signed.
- Starting Block Ongoing discussion on what continued operations look like
- Utility and Police Union negotiations are ongoing

What's New:

- Brad Whitney has taken the lead in getting estimates to log the Lever Rd property which could provide the City with a source of revenue

Events

- Hart Lake Cleanup Day is Saturday at 9am at Hart Commons May 2nd.
- Hart Hill Bike Race May 9th
- Thrift and Gift Crawl May 15-16 throughout Hart and Pentwater

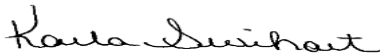
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- None

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Klotz adjourned the meeting at 8:02pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on May 14th, 2026, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karla Swihart, City Clerk