



CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 22nd, 2025
MINUTES – APPROVED

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Rob Splane, Clerk/Treasurer – Karla Swihart, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, DPW Superintendent – Brad Whitney, Hart Police Chief – Juan Salazar, JGP Manager – Chris Ter Haar, Mitch Foster, Gayle Harris, Cristina Juska, Rolando Salgado, Rolando, Emily Sigler and Mike Stevens

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- B. Root motioned to approve the Agenda and was supported by K. Thomson
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Chris Ter Haar – Thank you to City of Hart Council and Staff, The last couple of weeks I’ve had personal things happening and I just wanted to let the Council know how much the staff has stepped up and helped out and for that I am thankful.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- Mitch Foster from Double Haul Solutions,
- Selecting the next City Manager is a pivotal opportunity for the City of Hart. It is a chance to shape the City’s future leadership, strengthen civic engagement, and continue building on Hart’s rich tradition of adaptability, growth, and community pride. This next leader must understand how to navigate the complexities of small-town governance with a big-picture mindset, grounded in transparency, collaboration, and a deep appreciation for what makes Hart unique.

At Double Haul Solutions (DHS), we specialize in municipal executive search and leadership development with a community-created, tailored approach that honors each client’s identity, priorities, and long-term vision. Our team is committed to finding the right candidate while guiding a process that reflects the values and aspirations of Hart’s elected officials, staff, and community.

Our process begins by listening. Through council interviews, staff engagement, and stakeholder input, we will build a candidate profile rooted in Hart’s needs and goals. With this foundation, we will conduct a targeted, well-rounded search that leverages our statewide network, proven vetting methods, and an unwavering focus on public service excellence. From kickoff to onboarding, DHS will provide responsive support, clear communication, and the diligence required to ensure a successful hire.

We appreciate the opportunity to support the City of Hart in this important work. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or to further discuss our proposal. We look forward to partnering with you in selecting a City Manager who will lead with integrity, strategic vision, and a genuine connections to the Hart community.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from July 8th, 2025
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - J. Cunningham motioned to approve Consent Agenda and supported by B. Root
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2025- 24 DPW Service Truck Purchase

WHEREAS, the DPW and Water Department have in their current fiscal year budget, the purchase of a new service pickup truck, and
WHEREAS, the DPW superintendent has performed due diligence in obtaining quotes for the replacement vehicle both locally and on the state purchasing consortium known as MiDeal; and
WHEREAS, the DPW and Water Department require dependable and functional equipment to ensure the proper delivery of services to residents and customers, 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

*Accepts the submitted pricing of available inventory; and
Authorizes the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado from Berger Chevrolet in Gr.
At a total cost of \$36,993.00 with delivery fee of \$2.45 a mile.
Directs City staff to sign the purchase agreement and accept delivery of the vehicle.*

- J. Cunningham motioned to approve Resolution 2025-24 and supported by A. Mullen
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Hart Commons Public Wireless Internet, The City received a letter from Spectrum regarding a complaint that the City's internet service was recently used to improperly copy, share or stream copyrighted content such as music, movies, or software using peer-to-peer or "torrenting" software.
The City reached out to our IT company and asked what we can do regarding this issue and was given two solutions
 1. Remove the system and cancel the service
 2. Invest in cybersecurity protection by adding a small firewall and protection software like what is installed in City Hall.The Council chose to invest in cybersecurity protection.
- Safe Routes to School Project, started back in 2018 when the City was approached to apply for a grant to extend the Hart-Montague bike trail. Fast forward to 2025 still moving towards extending the trail to 72nd Ave.
- Special Events Permit – Hispanic Heritage Celebration 2025 – Approved
- Special Events Permit – Hart Girls Basketball Donation Drive – Approved
- Special Events Permit – Oceana County Fair Food Truck – Denied

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Updates:

- John Gurney Park revenues from campsite rent are currently up over 30% when compared to this time last year, signaling that we will meet or exceed our deficit elimination plan as filed with the Michigan Treasury.
- City of Hart was named a 2025 Community Excellence Award Finalist.
The League recognizes innovative solutions through the peer-nominated Community Excellence Award, a spirited competition we affectionately call "The Race for the Cup."
Submissions are accepted based on the community wealth building principles. Preliminary voting will be done by a small voting board. The top four projects selected will go on to compete at Convention, where they will present their projects on the main stage and market their projects at designated CEA finalist booths. Convention attendees will vote for their favorite project, with the project winning the most votes awarded the official Community Excellence Award during the closing general session.
This should be treated as a unique economic development opportunity with support from the City as well as the community.
- Thursdays on main continues through August with concerts at Hart Commons beginning at 6pm
- Friday night concerts at the Hart Historic District begin this Friday at 6pm and continue through August 8th.

Legacy Topics:

- Safe Routes to School trail project – some easement work is still left to be completed by construction in 2026 is hopeful.

Upcoming Topics:

- Redevelopment Ready Community re-certification in 2025
Adopt Zoning Board of Appeals By-Laws (Pending Legal work)
Adopt two new ordinances (July 22,2025)
- Council review of rental inspection policies, procedures, and implementation.

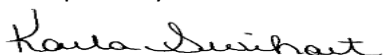
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- C. Burillo – Cemetery Board Meeting update: The Hart Township millage is expired and up for renewal so will be on the ballot for the next election. Also, they are in need of part-time help so they will be putting an add out for that.
Consumers Energy asked about running power lines in the right-of-way behind the Cemetery but according to GIS it was unsure who owns that property.
Also was approached by a concerned seasonal at JGP regarding the local restaurants downtown. Seasonal campers would go downtown to eat and support the businesses versus campers that just come for a night or two.
- A. Mullen – Update on HEART. Lots of things are moving forward. Reviewing bylaws also reviewing Economic Development plan study which expired in 2024.
- J. Cunningham – Express thanks to Mayor Klotz for getting a letter out to Hilltop Drive residents regarding Pointe Park concerns.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Klotz adjourned the meeting at 9:06pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 12th, 2025, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Karla Swihart, City Clerk