



CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
September 8th, 2026
MINUTES –Approved

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

ABSENT: Dean Hodges, and Andrew Mullen

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Nichole Kleiner, City Clerk – Karla Swihart, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, Hart Police Officer – Andrew Moore, Chistine Juska, Troy Maloney, Rolando Salgado, and Emily Sigler

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- C. Burillo motioned to agenda and was supported by K. Thomson
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from August 25th, 2026
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - C. Burillo moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and was supported by B. Root
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

ORDINANCES:

- None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2026-43 Approve Participation and Articles of Incorporation for the West Mich Fire Authority
WHEREAS, the City of Hart currently provides fire protection services in cooperation with neighboring municipalities; and
WHEREAS, the City of Hart, Township of Golden, Township of Pentwater, Village of Pentwater, and Township of Weare have been considering the formation of a joint fire authority to provide fire protection services to their respective communities; and
WHEREAS, proposed Articles of Incorporation have been prepared establishing the West Mich Fire Authority pursuant to the Emergency Services to Municipalities Act, 1988 PA 57, as amended; and
WHEREAS, the proposed Articles identify the City of Hart as an Incorporating Municipality of the West Mich Fire Authority and establish the Authority's governance, powers, financing, operations, and responsibilities; and
WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the proposed Articles of Incorporation and desires to participate in the West Mich Fire Authority pursuant to the terms contained therein.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HART CITY COUNCIL hereby:
 1. Approves the City of Hart's participation as an Incorporating Municipality in the West Mich Fire Authority.

2. Approves and adopts the Articles of Incorporation of the West Mich Fire Authority, substantially in the form presented to City Council.
3. Authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk/Treasurer to execute and endorse the Articles of Incorporation on behalf of the City of Hart and to execute such additional documents and take such administrative actions as may be necessary to effectuate the City's participation and formation of the Authority.
4. Provides that this approval is subject to adoption of the Articles of Incorporation by the other Incorporating Municipalities and completion of the publication, certification, and filing requirements necessary for establishment of the Authority.
 - B. Root moved to approve Resolution 2026-43 and was supported by J. Cunningham
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT REQUESTS:

- Artwalk Oct 3rd, requesting use of Commons, Parking Lot 1&2, cones, no road closures 11am-2pm – **Approved**
- Washington Street Block Party Oct 2nd 4-7pm, road closure of E Washington between Hart/Union St for a potluck, kid's games and live music – **Approved**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Starting Block Lease agreement update – Updated Council's request from the last meeting. This is still a discussion as the Starting Block has not reviewed the proposed lease agreement.
- Seeking bids for Hart Energy Roof Replacement.
- RFP's Open for Plum Street Realignment Project (due 10/01/2026)
- RFP's Open for New 5-yr Parks & Rec Plan (due 09/25/2026)
- Job Posting for Shared Services "Utility Technician" Posted Internally – will open to the public on 09/23/2026
- Hart Historic District update.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- **FY 25-26 Audit** will take place next week 09/14-09/18
- **Staff Meetings** – Met/Meeting with all staff to hear feedback on how things are going in each department and in each role, reviewing job descriptions and evaluating salaries based on performance, years of service, and alignment of others in similar-sized communities. Goal setting with each department for the next 1-5yrs. Plans to begin budget & Capital planning for FY 27-28 will begin early December. The City of Hart has an amazing team!!!
- **Employee Handbook** – HR Manager Laci is working on employee handbook updates, with a first draft anticipated by Late October.
- **New Website Update** – got a "first look" at how the new website is coming together – we are SO excited about the progress, consolidating all programs into one system, and the opportunities the new platform offers!! Launch date goal: end of November 2026
- **Vets Park Bricks** - Hats off to the Veterans for the beautiful job replacing the engraved pavers.

Events:

- September 28th, 2026, 5-7pm Future of the Hart Historic District public meeting and open house – hear about what took place over the last 6 months at the district and what the future plans are – goal is to engage new volunteers, board members, officers, and reimagine the district.
- October 3, 2026, 11a-2pm Artwalk & Community Mural Painting Event – Downtown Hart

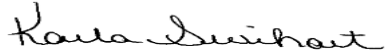
COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- J. Cunningham – Extend my appreciation to the Veterans and City of Hart for the improvement of Vet's Park bricks. My sisters purchased a brick in my name for Xmas and over time you could barely read it, now you can see all the names.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Klotz adjourned the meeting at 7:52pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting, September 22nd, 2026, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karla Swihart".

Karla Swihart, City Clerk