



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
January 11th 2022
MINUTES – Approved**

PRESENT: Mayor Vicki Platt, Councilors: Jim Evans, Amanda Klotz, Fred Rybarz and Kris Trygstad

ABSENT: Catalina Burillo, and Dean Hodges

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Rob Splane, HEART Director – Nichole Kleiner, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, Energy Superintendent – Mike Schiller, Police Chief – Juan Salazar, Sharon Hallack, Roy Strait, Leigh Furgason, Russ Robbins, Amy Trudell, Dick Huntington, and Chantay Riley.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: F. Rybarz motioned to approve the agenda and was supported by J. Evans

- Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Roy Strait New Era Police Department – Wanted to thank Chief Salazar for stepping up and getting officer Moore to help “Roy’s Kids” delivering Christmas gifts to family’s and they had about 185 kids that all got gifts, so I wanted to give a big thank you.
- Dick Huntington – Still concerned about the Creeks. I know we had Coldwell Banker list the property. Which by the way they did a very nice aerial video of the creeks, but the real reason for my concern is myself and one other party made an offer on a lot but never heard anything back and had to go to Coldwell ourselves to get our earnest money back and also I learned that the property has an offer made by a developer, which if that is the case I hope they follow the guidelines of HOA and as part of the HOA we will be willing to work with the developer to make sure whatever their planning coincides with the Master deed.
- Leigh Furgason, President of the Historic District – I have with me Russ Robbins who has been with the historic district for 34 years and has made the district what it is today and I wanted to publicly thank him. I would also like to thank the City for working with the District al these years.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- I) Baker Tilly Engagement Letter – SRF Bond, Standard communication required as part of the bonding process. Baker Tilly has worked with the City and for the past 2-3 years thru the sewer and water grant study that produced 10-year capital improvement program that has kept our sewer and water infrastructure sustainable, which that research precluded city necessity to do a bond issue which will be very beneficial because the City can use the bond fund to help match any Federal or State Grant money the City receives for this project. As we move forward in the next coming months will have more that is required with the bond process to present and keep Council aware of what is coming up and educate everyone as much as possible as we take these steps through the process.
- II) Hart Historic Preservation Group – Annual Report. Presented to the Council as the historic district has projects on and off through the year and sometimes those projects the district needs extra help from the City so wanted to share with the Council in case there was question or further discussion needed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from December 14th, 2021
- 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 supported by A. Klotz
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2022-01 Adopt Pay Rates for City Clerk/Treasurer, Deputy Clerk – A/P and Payroll, Deputy Clerk – Utility Billing and Community & Economic Development Director effective January 3, 2022

The City of Hart requires qualified and skilled employees to manage operations, and the Michigan Municipal League performs a yearly survey of municipal pay rates that is compiled and shared with its members. The most recent 2021 data was reviewed to ensure our City supports its staff appropriately. Realizing some disparities in current wage rates, an increase in pay is deemed necessary to ensure the city retains its quality staff and based on current years of service with the City, the most current information for compensation for like sized communities in our region, while taking into consideration the most recent performance review scores and the City Council desires to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interest and welfare.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Hart City Council adopts a pay rate for the City Clerk/Treasurer of \$53,500 annually, a pay rate of \$47,155 for the Deputy Clerk – A/P and Payroll, a pay rate of \$39,940 for the Deputy Clerk – Utility Biller, and \$55,640 for the Community and Economic Development Director effective January 3, 2022

- J. Evans motioned to approve Resolution 2022-01 and supported by K. Trygstad
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Special Event Permit – Hart Hills Bike Race
 - F. Rybarz motioned to approve special events permit and supported by A. Klotz
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- City Manager R. Splane gave a copy of the Manager's report to all Council members to review.
- Creeks Subdivision – Full asking price offer submitted to develop – offer indicates that site re-engineering will be necessary but will cover all associated costs.
- Rental Inspection Program and Code Enforcement Services – discussion regarding creating local jobs versus outsourcing to a 3rd party entity.
- Audit delayed due to illness and holiday's new council presentation date is January 25th, 2022.
- Supply chain issues continue to grow. Sourcing construction materials, stock items for infrastructure maintenance, electronics, and vehicles continues to present many challenges.
- Hart Rec visioning – new director / expanded services discussions are on-going
- Rob and Paul to attend a water rate study workshop hosted by the Michigan Rural Water Association on January 19 and 20. This workshop will help the City of Hart set its water rates using professional guidance and best practices. We anticipate using the same methodology to set future wastewater and electricity rates.
- Ongoing / Up- coming projects:
 - Budget work – department level first, then council and community engagement.
 - Bio-Pure force main replacement – bid letting in Spring 2022
 - Dam embankment reconstruction – bid letting in Spring 2022
 - Hanson and Wigton street construction – Summer 2022
 - Drinking Water Asset Management grant work – beginning Summer 2022
 - Park and Recreation Master Plan revision – Summer 2022
 - Hart Energy Full system study and Capital Improvement Plan – Fall/Winter 2022
 - Veteran's Memorial Park reconstruction – construction likely Fall 2022 / Spring 2023
 - Rail Trail expansion – bid letting Spring 2023

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:14pm upon a motion by J. Evans and supported by F. Rybarz. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 25th, 2022, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Karla Swihart

Karla Swihart, City Clerk