



CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
January 12th, 7:30 pm
MINUTES – DRAFT

PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Mayor Vicki Platt, Councilors: Rob Splane Jim Evans, Braxton Platt, Fred Rybarz, Dean Hodges, and Catalina Burillo.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT City Manager – Lynne Ladner, Deputy City Clerk – Cheri Eisenlohr, Brooke Bectel.

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

APPOINTMENT: City Clerk/Treasurer – Karla Swihart

- Ayes 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Brooke asked to speak on the first reading of Ordinance 2021 01. Brooke apologized she was unable to make the Planning Commission meeting held on January 7th. Still, she wanted to bring up a couple of points about they want to add living space to the 1st floor now that they no longer do screen printing out of there anymore also seen that the building has always been commercial. Maybe that is why the Planning Commission wanted to keep the building as a commercial, which made her think back when they owned the building across the street; that building was always commercial but was switched to residential before they bought it. Also, everything to the west of their building is all residential. We will discuss more when the Action item comes up.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- Raymond talked about the Hart Hills bike race, and they are still moving forward with the race. Face masks are mandatory at the start of the race and put back on once you have finished the race.

VACANCY APPOINTMENT: Board of Review – Property Taxes, There is a vacancy due to the passing of elected board member Bill Wells for a term to expire November 2022. An applicant Steven Rossiter who lives at 25 S Orchard Street. Mr. R. Splane motioned to approve applicant Steven Rossiter as Board of Review appointment, supported by Mr. J. Evans, all ayes, the motion carried.

- Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Approval of Minutes from December 12th, 2020.
- C. Bills, Claims, Payroll
 - a. 12/22/2020 \$339,983.05, 01/12/2021 \$811,268.50 Grand Total: \$1,151,251.55
- D. Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees.
- E. Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp.
- F. Special Event Permit – Hart Hills Gravel Bike Race 2021
- Mr. Evans motioned to approve, supported by Mr. Splane, the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Ladner addressed the following Action Items:

- Resolution 2021-01 Set Pay Rates for City Clerk/Treasurer, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer – A/P and Payroll and Community and Economic Development Director.
 - Mr. B. Platt moved to approve, supported by Mr. Evans
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- Ordinance 2021-01 To Amend the zoning map to rezone 311 E. Main St, Hart Mi (020-209-008-00) from B-1 Central Business District to A – Residential – **First Reading no Action to be taken.**

On Jan 7th, 2021, The Planning Commission considered at their regular meeting the application for rezoning of parcel number 020-209-008-00, commonly known as 311 E Main St. The application was submitted to the PC by property owners.

After discussions and clarifications, as well as reviewing the application submitted and subsequent letter submitted by the property owner as they were not able to attend the meeting, the board considered a motion to recommend denial of the rezoning application to the City Council.

The Council has two options at this point.

1. The Council can accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission, and if not interested in continuing to consider the request, they may deny the request. This could be done by a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and decline to consider the first reading of Ord. 2021-01
2. The Council can receive the recommendation of the Planning Commission, but if the Council wants time to further consider the application themselves. This could be done by a motion along the lines of moving to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and acknowledge the first reading of Ord. 2021-01.

Ultimately, the Council has the final decision on requests of this type, but as an advisory body to the Council, the Planning Commission is tasked with the heavy lifting on items such as these, and they have considered the facts, the owner's statement, and made a recommendation to the Council.

- J. Evans motioned to table the Ordinance 2021-01 to the 1st Council meeting on Feb 9th and allow for the property owner to attend the next Planning Commission meeting and make their case in person as well as any member of the City Council to sit in on the meeting as well to get any questions answered, supported by C. Burillo.

▪ Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- 2021 has started as a sequel to 2020 as we are still working remotely. We are still wearing a mask.
- Working on a policy to bring in front of Council in Feb regarding Covid vaccinations as the federal support for extended coronavirus sick leave expired Dec 31th 2020, we have several individuals who are on the fence about getting the vaccine. Employees who receive the vaccine and contracted the virus would be entitled to paid time off and not have to use ETO. Employees who do not receive the vaccine and contract the virus would **NOT** be entitled to PTO and would have to use ETO.
- Nicole and I had a meeting last week with PSE (power supply engineering); they are contracted thru a grant by MMEA to do a feasibility study for broadband internet for specific municipal electric utilities. They will be giving their presentation in front of the Council in Feb to see if this would be something the City would like to consider and how to rollout.
- Safe routes to the school is in their final stages. The final public hearing will be in front of the Council at the next meeting.
- End of the year reporting is completed.
- We should be hearing back on the water assets management grant and meeting with Barbara from Prein & Newhof about EDA grant to improve our wastewater facility.
- I will be out of the office from Jan 30th thru Feb 5th.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- Mayoral board and Committee appointments: Fred Rybarz Jr – Lake Board, Cemetery Board & Parks & Recreation, Catalina Burillo – Parks & Recreation, Historic District & Power Board (Council Alternate), Dean Hodges – Power Board, Zoning Board of Appeals & Lake Board, Jim Evans – Library, Board of Review, Property Taxes (Mayoral Designee) & Cemetery Board, Braxton Platt – HEART, Personnel & Finance, Rob Splane – HEART, Planning Commission, Personal & Finance.
- The Mayor is interested in doing a work session with this group to get a better understanding of how to operate as a council as well as the ability to communicate on our strengths and weaknesses. Maybe quarterly.
- Do you feel that Lynne needs to read the memos? Or if they are put up on a screen for everyone to view.

- Paul Cutter wanted to make sure we pay tribute to Wm. Wells and all the good things he has done for the City of Hart. Mayor V. Platt suggested we all take a moment to honor and acknowledge Mr. Wells as a Thank-you for service rendered to the City.

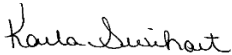
Closed Session:

- B. Platt motioned we adjourn and move into a Closed session as permitted under section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act, to consult with our attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in Wittman V. City of Hart et al. I to include City Manager L. Ladner, City Clerk K. Swihart, and Lawyer A. VanderLaan and Supported by R. Splane the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0
- C. Burillo motioned we return to open session and supported by J. Evans

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm upon a motion by B. Platt and supported by J. Evans. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on January 26, 2021, at 7:30 pm, and will be held virtually.

Respectfully Submitted



Karla Swihart City Clerk