



**CITY OF HART  
407 S. STATE ST.  
HART, MI 49420  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
April 26<sup>th</sup> , 2022  
MINUTES – Approved**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Vicki Platt, Councilors: Catalina Burillo, Jim Evans, Dean Hodges, Amanda Klotz, and Kris Trygstad

**ABSENT:** Fred Rybarz

**OTHERS PRESENT:** City Manager – Rob Splane, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, DPW Superintendent – Brad Whitney, Police Chief – Juan Salazar, Dick Huntington, and Laura St. Louis

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 C. Burillo
  - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Laura St. Louis works with Disability Network West Michigan located down by the Hart fair grounds. As a lot of people don't know we are there so I am making my rounds as we offer lots of services. I am leaving some information with services that we offer.
- Mr. Huntington wanted to know where the development is at with the Creeks. Just would like some commutation. CM Splane spoke on behalf of the City and right now paperwork is being reviewed by the City's legal team and once ok will begin next steps on moving forward.

**CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:**

- NONE.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approval of minutes from April 26th, 2022.
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
  - C. Burillo motioned to approve Consent Agenda and supported by J. Evans
    - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Ordinance No: 22-03 Amend Automatic Expiration of Marihuana Establishment Ordinance – First Reading  
At a regular meeting of the Hart City Council held at City Hall on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022, at 7:30pm.  
Present: Burillo, Evans, Hodges, Klotz, Trygstad, and Mayor Platt  
Absent: None

The following ordinance was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_:

THE CITY OF HART, OCEANA, STATE OF MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

**CITY OF HART CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 818, PART 8, ZONING ORIDANCE, A TEXT AMENDMENT TO  
EXTEND THE DATE OF AUTOMATIC EXPIRATION OF ORDINANCE**

Section 1 Text Amendment: 818.08 **Automatic Expiration of Ordinance.** Unless confirmed extended, or revised, on October 19, 2024, the provisions contained in Sections 818.01 through 818.07 shall expire and be of no further force and effect within the City, as if they had never been adopted. No action shall be required for this expiration to be effective.

Section 2 Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its publication or ten (10) days after publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation in the City of Hart

AYES: \_\_\_\_, NAYS: \_\_\_\_, ABSENT: \_\_\_\_.

First reading: April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Second reading: May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Ordinance becomes effective May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- Land Swap proposal: Attached in packet is a drafted letter

Honorable Mayor Platt and Councilmembers,

Hart has owned the John Gurney Park Campground since 1912 when the land was donated to the city. In the 1920's it was established as the first auto tourist camps in the state sitting adjacent to the popular West Michigan Pike. The park is a popular destination for campers that want a spot with easy access to services and area recreational opportunities, without the noise and heavy activity associated with some of Oceana County's other campgrounds. Currently at 91 camping sites, the campground brings visitors to our city that frequent our local businesses to support their stays in Hart.

Recently Oceana County and The Sherrif's Department has identified significant problems with the aging nature of our current county jail. By the direction of the county commissioners, Sherrif Mast has begun discussions on potential locations and designs of what could be a future jail site. The idea of a land swap with the city was brought up in discussion. Council should carefully consider the potential risks and benefits to Hart residents and business owners. The details of the potential land swap have yet to be discussed pending council input on the concept.

High level points include the city surrendering a 14-acre parcel South of Seneca Foods off Oceana Drive (adjacent to the city water tower). The county would offer all or a portion of its 22-acre parcel off Oceana drive next to the District #10 Health Department and the Norman Kuhne Recreation Park soccer fields. This proposal may or may not include a 10,000 +/- sq. ft. pole building that currently exists to the north of the soccer fields.

There are a number of potential benefits to the city that include continuing to promote cooperation with our county, retaining the jail in city limits keeps the jail on city utilities, and the development of an underutilized city owned property. There also may be the opportunity to move the baseball diamonds at John Gurney Park next to the soccer fields off Oceana Drive. This would consolidate league sports to a single location potentially helping parents with multiple children playing sports and could potentially be used to grow Hart Rec and/or other area recreation authorities. Moving the ball fields from the campground could allow for the expansion of camping site offerings. This could easily double the size of John Gurney Park which currently operates at close to 100% capacity, bringing more visitors to Hart and Hart businesses.

I'm happy to discuss this concept with council prior to responding to the county further.

Respectfully,

~Rob Splane  
City Manager

- Special Event Permit – National Asparagus Festival
  - A. Klotz motioned to approve and supported by F. Rybarz
    - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- City Manager R. Splane gave copy of manager's report to City Council
- Budget work is in progress, City Council will be given a full review on the proposed 2023 City budget with ample opportunity for discussion on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A Public hearing on the budget will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with budget adoption by the Council on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- City Utility Workers Union Contract Negotiations began on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Police union contract negotiations will be begin on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Wigton Street construction in full swing, water service lines are being installed daily.
- Saturday, Hart High School Prom brought no issues= Great group of kids.
- Also Saturday, Earth Day celebration at Fairgrounds was a large success over 150 attendees, thanks to Paul Cutter for putting together an amazing model of our BioPure process.
- Officer Anderson left the Hart Police Department after 17yrs (15 full time), Officer Moore, a part-time officer was offered the open position and has accepted.
- On April 19<sup>th</sup> City of Hart's BioPure employees while inspecting the lift stations noticed ground water where there shouldn't be ground water they took amidite action, they notified Paul and found there was a defective air relief valve which resulted in a significant amount of untreated raw sewage in a wooded area adjacent to Russell creek. Paul and his team where able to quickly fix the issue. Notified EGLE, State of Michigan, District Health Department and published in local paper, Paul has been working with a representative from EGLE. This is one of the forced mains that is getting reconstructed this fall as it was identified as an aging piece of equipment. J. Evans recommened that these individuals be recognized for a job well done.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:**

- Many thanks to City Manager Splane for helping with a great presentation on Saturday's earth day
- C. Burillo as a City Council member, Last Monday April 18<sup>th</sup> I was approached by one of the City's business owner the gentleman was concerned with the weekend the Hart Hills Bike race and how his business, Stella's nor La Probadita where not notified of this event so they could prepare. He also voiced his concern with Nichole's status with her position going down to part time with the City.  
City Manager Splane responded, Events that happen are advertised in a newsletter that is sent out monthly to all businesses, also posted on takemetohart.org website, The City's Facebook page as well as in the local newspaper. There was also a special event permit approved at the last City Council meeting.  
Nichole going down to part time was a call on her stating that she can do her job at a part time bases and has proved to be just as efficient part time as she was full time.
- F. Rybarz asked if any City employees had an issue with the proposed land swap to the County. None do
- Mayor Platt wished Officer Anderson the best and thankful for his time at the City.

**ADJOURN:**

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:21pm upon a motion by C. Burillo and supported by J. Evans. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

*Karla Swihart*

Karla Swihart, City Clerk