



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
APRIL 27th 2021
MINUTES – AMENDED**

PRESENT: Mayor Vicki Platt, Councilors: Catalina Burillo, Jim Evans, Rob Splane, and Kris Trygstad.

VIA ZOOM: Dean Hodges

ABSENT: Fred Rybarz

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Lynne Ladner, City Clerk – Karla Swihart, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, DPW Superintendent – Brad Whitney, Police Chief Juan Salazar, Barbra Marczak, Adam Campbell, Matt Hulst, George Sadler and Jack Wittman

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

WORK SESSION: Capital Improvements Plan and Utility Rates

Barbra Marczak from Prein&Newhof presented a slide show showing the Implementation Timeline Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Hart over the next ten years.

Andy Campbell City's financial advisor spoke about options for funding the projects. Gave insight on grants pros and cons about them, and it's best to apply for both and see who offers the best options. Also spoke about Utility rate increase to help cover the cost of improvements that need to be done. Best to start now and gradually increase over the years instead of a significant increase all at once.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: C. Burillo motioned to approve the agenda with removal Resolution 2021-30 and was supported by R. Splane.

- Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Written open letter,

Mayor Vicki Platt and Hart City Council Members,

I am writing this letter to you after giving this plenty of thought and a few sleepless nights. Having been through a few City Managers in my tenure, I felt that some insight would be good before any decisions are made.

In the past, the City has employed the expertise of the Michigan Municipal League to facilitate the City Manager search. The City would spend some money, but a huge net is spread out, bringing in many candidates. From there, they (the MML) narrow down the potential list to a workable number, having kicked out those who didn't qualify or didn't have quality credentials. They also do the background check for the City- which every City Manager candidate should have- NO Exceptions!

If you have done this search in the proper way, I hope you will find a quality candidate who will serve the City of Hart well.

Over my time in council and as mayor, the average time that a City Manager stayed in this job was three years. After that, you will be looking for a new City Manager again.

One last piece of advice- use the MML's pool of retired City Managers. They will come in as an interim City Manager, ensuring that the City continues to operate smoothly and all paperwork and deadlines are met.

Again, I wish you well, and may you find that perfect qualified person to run The City of Hart

Sincerely, Ron Laporte

J. Wittman wanted to voice how important it is to bring in a City Manager who has experience running a City. Also, that department heads should be part of the process of hiring a new City Manager.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of Minutes from April 7th, 2021 Correction to Resolution 2021-24

- 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 with Correction to Resolution 2021-24 and supported by R. Splane.
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2021-24 Authorize DPW to install a 2-inch water service line to Historic District.
The Historic District has requested that the Public Works department install a 2-inch water service line on the Historic District's property to assist with their landscaping maintenance.
The Estimated cost for City crews to complete the project, including the asphalt patching, is \$7,843.57. This item is not in the FY 21 Budget. **NOT AUTHORIZED**
- Resolution 2021-32 Amend Professional Service Agreement for additional work for construction of a remaining portion of Dryden St. north of Hansen St. **NOT AUTHORIZED**
- Resolution 2021-33 Authorized Engineering service and application for CDBG funding for Water-Related Infrastructure Projects.
The Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced a Community development Block Grant (CDBG) opportunity specifically for Water-Related Infrastructure projects in low-income communities. Hart meets all the qualifications for the grant, and we recommend that the City apply. It is specifically designed for infrastructure projects such as those already assisting the City with other funding sources, including the EDA grant and the SRF/USDA programs.
We (Prein&Newhof) recommend that the force main project specifically be used for this grant. This could easily be pulled out and done as a standalone project. The project is estimated at approximately \$1,000,000. This grant has a 10% to 25% match requirement. More points are awarded in the scoring process for a higher match. There is a short deadline to apply for the grant. All documents must be submitted by May 31st, 2021. We propose to prepare the grant application at our normal hourly rates with a maximum no to exceed the cost of \$2500. If this is acceptable, please sign the attached amendment to the Professional Services Agreement for the SRF/USDA project we are already working on.
 - R. Splane motioned to approve Resolution 2021-33 and supported by C. Burillo.
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: L. Ladner, City Manager, gave notice that her last day with the City will be May 7th. I have been in the office on and off these last few weeks with scheduled time off as I am preparing to relocate. As of this time, I was given a list of 13 items to provide to the Council by the end of the day last Wednesday, which are stacked on my desk waiting for the Council to appoint an interim. Beyond that, I would like to thank everyone at the City of Hart, all residents, department heads, employees, members of the councils, present and past for allowing me to serve this amazing community as I will be taking many memories with me as I move forward. I wish the City of Hart and everyone here all the best.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- C. Burillo Congratulations, Lynne, on your new job; as you know, I just started on the City Council last spring, and you are the first City Manager I have worked with, and I have learned this process thru you. For that, I thank you for the excellent learning experience.
C. Burillo, I would like us to declare a state of emergency or what we have to do for us to be able to go back to having virtual meetings and be able to vote virtual. L. Ladner stated as we fall under the County guidelines but *Scott Dwyer from Mika Meyers said he would look into it.*

CLOSED SESSION:

- J. Evans motioned to add to the agenda another Closed Session and supported by C. Burillo.
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- J. Evans motioned to meet in a closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider a written privileged legal opinion from counsel concerning personnel policies and related agreements, which is exempt from disclosure under Section 13(1)(g) of Michigan's Freedom of Information Act and supported by C. Burillo

- Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- C. Burillo motioned to come out of closed and back into open session and supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

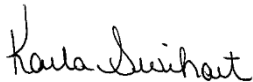
REGULAR SESSION:

- C. Burillo motioned to amend the agenda to remove item 10a from the agenda and supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- J. Evans motioned to add two Resolutions to the agenda, Resolution 2021-34 to form a subgroup to review the applications for City Manager and to conduct interviews, and Resolution 2021-35 to appoint a City Interim Manager and supported to C. Burillo.
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- C. Burillo motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-34 to form a subgroup to review applications for the City Manager position is Jim Evans, Mayor Vicki Platt, and Catalina Burillo and supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- *J. Evans* Motioned to adopt Resolution 2021-35 to appoint Interim City Manager and appoint Robert Splane to assume that position May 8th, 2021 at the same rate of pay current City Manager is getting paid with no benefits or vacation pay and also Mr. Splane has to provide a letter of resignation from Hart City Council effective May 8th, 2021 supported by K. Trygstad
Mr. Splane opted out of the vote.
 - Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Absent: 2 Mr. Splane opted out of the vote.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm upon a motion by C. Burillo and supported by J. Evans. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on May 11th, 2021, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Karla Swihart
City Clerk