



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, 7:30 pm
MINUTES - APPROVED**

PRESENT IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM: Mayor Ron LaPorte, Councilors: Vicki Platt, Rob Splane, Catalina Burillo, Joe Frontiera and Steve Hegedus

ABSENT: Jason LaFever

OTHERS PRESENT City Manager – Lynne Ladner, Deputy City Clerk - Cheri Eisenlohr, BioPure Superintendent Paul Cutter and DPW Superintendent Brad Whitney.

- Mayor LaPorte called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm; following the roll call; the mayor lead the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA:

- Mr. Hegedus made a motion to approve the agenda, supported by Mr. Frontiera, all ayes, the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

MINUTES:

- Mr. Hegedus made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting, supported by Mr. Frontiera, all ayes, the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- One of the seasonal campers at John Gurney Park addressed (via zoom) Council members regarding some issues at the park. He indicated that approximately 80 percent of seasonal campers have questions regarding this year's rates that some have and some have not paid. It was felt by the campers that the rates should be pro-rated due to the COVID-19 delay in opening. City Manager Ladner said there would be no proration of rates for this year, but there is a possibility of no deposit required for next year to compensate for the delay. Some other concerns were that their deposit checks were not being cashed in a timely manner. City Manager Ladner will discuss this with park manager Jen Freed. She also said that an RFP for new park managers is in the process of being written. Both the City Manager and the Mayor indicated that any questions or issues be directed in writing to the park.
- Mr. Sadler inquired about a change order for the Pocket Park in regard to the concrete slab removal. The estimated cost for the concrete removal is \$3,400. The City will pay this cost of removal.
- Chief Salazar reported that a \$1,000 MMRMA RAP Grant had been received for an in-car camera for the Police Department.
- Council was informed that the Michigan Land Bank Demolition Grant for 227 W. Main St. had been turned down due to lack of funding until 2022.
- BioPure Superintendent Paul Cutter said things are running well at the plant. He pointed out that there have been some high load issues with Michigan Freeze Pack and Seneca and that more details would be in the next report to Council.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- *Police Chief, Juan Salazar:*
 - A written report was provided.
- *Energy Dept. Superintendent, Mike Schiller:*
 - A written report was provided.
- *BioPure Superintendent, Paul Cutter:*
 - A written report was provided.
- *DPW Superintendent, Brad Whitney:*
 - A written report was provided.
- *HEART Director, Nichole Steel:*

- o A written report was provided.

BILLS, CLAIMS, & PAYROLL:

- o Bills: \$249,443.61 Payroll: \$58,882.33 Grand Total: \$308,325.94
- o Mr. Splane made a motion to approve, supported by Mr. Hegedus, the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Ladner addressed the following Action Items:

RESOLUTION 2020-51
Hart City Council
City of Hart, Michigan

Extend authorization for Temporary Social Zones

WHEREAS, In June the City adopted a policy permitting the creation of temporary Social Zones to assist businesses facing the challenges of the COVID pandemic with the authorization to expire on October 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission has extended their permissions for businesses that serve alcoholic beverages through November 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the need and desire for outdoor service areas/social zones has not changed :

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the extension of the Temporary Social Zones Policy and Social Zones Permit Application to for restaurants, microbreweries, coffee shops, bakeries, and taverns through November 30, 2020.

Moved by Mr. Splane, supported by Mr. Frontiera and thereafter adopted by the Hart City Council at a regular council meeting held on September 8, 2020.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 Absent: 1

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the document on file with the office of the City of Hart Clerk.

Cheri Eisenlohr, Dep. City Clerk

Mayor LaPorte felt that the October deadline was very generous and the City should stay with the current deadline. Discussion was held regarding potential issues with heat, snow removal and ability to keep customers safe, in the event the deadline is extended. Mr. Frontiera felt this could be a trial run to see how things go once it gets cold. Mr. Splane felt the deadline should be extended, thereby initiating the motion to accept Resolution 2020-51, supported by Mr. Frontiera. A vote of five ayes, one nay was recorded. Resolution passed.

City Manager Ladner presented the following resolution to designate the City's preference for Assessor Record for Oceana County.

RESOLUTION 2020-52
Hart City Council
City of Hart, Michigan

Designate the City's preferred method for Designating Assessor of Record for Oceana County

WHEREAS, the City and County are required to Designate an Assessor of Record according to state statute; and

WHEREAS, the Council previously approved an interlocal agreement with the County for the Assessor of Record as did the majority of local governments in Oceana County but a clear decision on how the Assessor was to be selected; and

WHEREAS, the County has asked for a formal determination by the Council for the preferred selection process 1) Accept the recommendation of the County Administrator and select Mr. Ed Vandervries or 2) Release a request for proposal to qualified individuals seeking proposals for someone to serve as the assessor of record :

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Designates the City's preferred method for Designating Assessor of Record as option 1) accepting the recommendation of the County Administrator..

Moved by Mr. Splane, supported by Mr. Frontiera and thereafter adopted by the Hart City Council at a regular council meeting held on September 8, 2020.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the document on file with the office of the City of Hart Clerk.



Cheri Eisenlohr, Dep. City Clerk

The above resolution was passed as written.

SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT:

- None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Discussion was held regarding the installation of a water service line at the JGP boat launch. Ms. Splane indicated this type of service was not covered in the current Parks and Rec plan, which should be updated.

It was noted that the Master Plan is due for update in 2021. Mr. Frontiera felt the City could try for a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to cover the cost (estimated at \$4680) of a wash station. Mayor LaPorte suggested putting in it the next Rec Plan.

- Council members were informed that the estimated cost to create a designated Handicap Accessible Vehicle with Trailer parking space next to the boat launch would be \$12,150. Mayor LaPorte recommended putting this in the next Rec Plan as well. The Rec Plan is a five year plan done with public input.
- The Federal government is working on a possible payroll tax opt-out to help during COVID-19. Discussion was held on whether to opt-out as a whole or by individual if this becomes a viable proposition. By opting out, no social security or medicare will be taken out of employees' paychecks, but will have to be paid back at a time in the future. It was felt that the City could become liable if an employee leaves employment. It was suggested that the choice be left up to the employee. City Manager Ladner and Mayor LaPorte recommended opting out. Mr. Frontiera was concerned with a safety aspect and was supported by Mr. Splane and Ms. Platt agreed to leave payroll as is.
- The City owns the lot at the corner of Wood and Water Streets, and the City Manager would like to see a small park setting put there with a bench, picnic table and trash receptacle. There is currently a small Park Historic District sign on the parcel. Mr. Splane would like to get the public's input on the plan and Mayor LaPorte said it is not really a Master Plan item and it is best to just keep it simple.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

- No report was given/provided.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- City Manager Ladner reported that we are on the downhill side of 2020.
- The auditors will be in at the end of the month.
- The plan is to start opening City Hall to the public for four hours a day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. starting next week.
- It is her hope that starting with the next council meeting, to utilize the council chambers again with some IT upgrades to allow better sound.
- She also informed council that her Human Resource training classes have started and that she would be leaving at 1:30 p.m. on Mondays until December.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- Ms. Platt informed members of the United Way Day of Caring coming up on October 3. She also inquired into the cleaning of the "swimming hole" and Mayor LaPorte said there was not much that could be done. City Manager Ladner will investigate this issue.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm upon a motion by Mr. Hegedus and supported by Mr. Frontiera. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on September 22, 2020, at 7:30 pm, in the Hart Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted

Cheri Eisenhardt

Deputy City Clerk