

CITY OF HARTFORD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 12, 2013

The Year in Review special meeting was called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Mayor Ted Johnson

Members present: Ron Burleson, Frank Dockter, Dennis Goss, Bud Latus, John Miller and Ted Johnson.

Members absent: Rick Hall

Staff present: Akinwale, Beltran, Gray, Rodney-Isbrecht, and Staunton

Welcome and opening remarks by Mayor Johnson and Manager Akinwale, purpose of the year in review meeting is to reflect, assess and develop goals for the coming year, and to also establish relationships with residents, council and staff.

Departmental Reports:

**Wastewater Treatment Plant** – Tom Strand: would like the Council to tour the plant after the meeting to see where some of the needs for repair/replacement that are recommended in the study. The WWTP was built in 1977 and has 300,000 thousand continues hours of operation, the plant runs 24/7 and is in need of repair.

**Planning Commission** – Report by Yemi Akinwale: Plan review complete for 108 East Main Street to expand but they have as yet to take a building permit; recommended changes to the Joint Master Plan, waiting for final draft for approval.

**Building Department** – Report by Akinwale: 29 permits were issued, majority of which were for rehab, demolition and signs, nothing being built new.

**Police Department** – Chief Ramon Beltran: Short Staffed for part of the year but all shifts were covered. Focus on working the with the Sheriff's Narcotics Unit and State Police Drug unit to battle illegal drug manufacturing and sale in the City. The Tribal Police have been a help with back up and lowered our number of assists to the Sherriff's & State Police back up assists outside of the City. Officer Strong will be retiring in the spring.

**Code Enforcement Officer** – Jim Coleman: focus has been on compliance rather than issuing tickets, it is a large expense to the City to go to court.

**Public Works Department** – Dan Staunton: 69 Million gallon of water pumped; service pickup was replaced; South Center Street Construction Project; Fluoridation & Chlorination Equipment was replaced; also added green sand & anthracite to filters at the Iron Removal Plant; Leaf pickup went well this year as the weather cooperated, however it is a very expensive piece of equipment to maintain and needs to be rebuilt every two years.

**Clerk** – RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht: 2012 was consumed with elections and compliance; there have been many post-election surveys to complete, as well as FOIA requests for meeting the needs of the Spanish Speaking community as required by Federal Law. Attending the Michigan Municipal Clerks Association for the 3rd year of Clerks Certification in March. Continuing ways to make our jobs more efficient, scanners were purchased for the

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Utility Billing and Tax programs. Also investigating efficient ways to disperse UB and Taxes, the post office has become more stringent in mailing requirements.

**Fire Department** – No report given by the Fire Department.

**Assessor** –Diana McGrew: Overall property values are low, and arm’s length sales have not been good. Personal Property will be done away with in 2014 with the exception on utilities and those businesses reporting over a certain threshold, personal property represents 8.4% of the City’s taxable value; our community has a high number of poverty exemptions also resulting in loss of revenue to the City; WODA has filed with the Tax Tribune for exemption on taxes, this will have a devastating effect on the City and other taxing unites. The City is working with the county for a professional appraiser and tax attorney.

**Treasurer** – Linda Gray: Provided a power point on the Governmental Budgeting Process, Operating & Capital Improvement Budgets.

**Manager** – Yemi Akinwale:

**Goals Completed** –

- Wastewater Treatment & Iron Removal Plants Assessments
- Identify potential funding sources to undertake pending projects for 2013
- Completed Ely Park Improvement
- Completed South Center Street reconstruction
- Replaced Department of Public Works Utility Truck
- Replaced Police Department Squad Car

**Goals for 2013 -**

- Compliance requirements to qualify for the State’s EVIP
- Maintain the City’s Fiscal Integrity
- Implement Collaborative & Cooperative Service
- Complete necessary requirements for funding to begin the WWTP project
- Seeking available funding for improve the condition of the Downtown
- Assess general condition of the City Hall and implement necessary repairs

Commissioner Goss invited the Commission and Staff to attend the 2013 Miss Hartford Contest on Sunday January 13, 2013.

Commissioner Miller complemented the Staff on their hard work.

Commissioner Burleson had concerns about the light on top of the water tower fails when the power is out, needs a back-up plan for power outages.

Motion by Dockter, supported by Burleson to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 A.M.  
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,  
RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk