

CITY OF HARTFORD  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2012

The workshop meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Mayor Ted Johnson

Members present: Rodney Austin, Frank Dockter, Dennis Goss, Rick Hall, Leo Latus, John Miller, and Ted Johnson.

Members absent: None

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

Motion by Miller, supported by Dockter, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Hall, supported by Miller, to recess the workshop meeting of the Hartford City Commission to hold a public hearing on truth in taxation.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Truth in Taxation Hearing: over the last four years the City has not seen an increase in property values therefore the City has only been slightly effected by the Headlee Roll back, however this year due to AMHawk's request to extend their renaissance zone being revoked by the State it has created a false increase in our property tax base which means due to the headlee roll back the City will lose dollars not only to the City Operating Millage but the Fire Department and Senior Services Millage as well. The electors voted the City's operating mills at 15.0000 which has rolled back to 12.5463 due to headlee, once the millage is lost you cannot get it back, this means if the City accepts the hadlee rollback it will be a \$7,125.00 loss of income. The Manager recommends the City not accept the rollback.

Motion by Latus, supported by Miller, to close the public hearing and resume the Hartford City Commission workshop.

Motion carried 7 – 0

Motion by Miller, supported by Dockter, to recess the workshop meeting of the Hartford City Commission to hold a public hearing on the 2012/2013 budget as presented.

Motion carried 7 – 0

2012/2013 proposed budget hearing: includes revenue of \$1,068,429 and expenditures of \$1,143,207, the difference will be made up from the projected fund balance of \$865,950. Variables on revenue: this is the last year for the Cops Grant, the Department of Justice has re-opened the grant application but we do not know if it will be awarded again and the Casino revenue sharing line item is a best guess estimate and will be applied to the capital improvement fund. Expenditures include replacing the police department's squad car, the DPW utility truck and copy machine in City Hall.

Motion by Miller, supported by Hall, to close the public hearing and resume the Hartford City Commission workshop.

Motion carried 7 – 0

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**Guests:**

- Miss Hartford, Gabby Garza, Mr. Hartford, Ethan Koshar & Miss Teen Hartford, Kaylyn Woodard, the Mayor presented them with keys to the City, the Court also asked for sponsorship in building the Community float.
- Kim Sinclair, Lion's Club – asked for sponsorship of the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Strawberry Run and invited the Commission to participate in the Run on Saturday, June 9, also updated the council on the Lion's Club projects. Dedication of the Pavilion in Ely Park will be at 6:45pm on Thursday, June 7 prior to the Concert in the Park.
- Chris Cowgill, Wightman Jones – updated the Council on the Ely Park Construction project. Pay estimate no. one (1) will be on the next business meetings agenda for approval the contractor should be completely done by the end of next week.

**Public Comment:**

- Mary Novak, Bernard Street – Concerns regarding foot traffic along the railroad tracks, Chief Beltran has informed Ms. Novak that the railroad is Federal jurisdiction and local officials have no authority to enforce the law on the railroad tracks and encouraged Ms. Novak to call the police department at the time she sees/hears a problem.
- Bill McLaughlin, East Main Street, requesting facts on the petitions filed to recall Commissioner Miller and why was the recall directed to just one Commissioner.
- Jeff Fuller, Mary Street, will continue recall efforts for those Commissioners who voted to send the Charter Change that was voted in November 2011 to court for a declaratory judgment.

**Communications were:**

- Memorial Day Parade, organized by Hartford American Legion to begin at 10:00am on May 28, service in Ely Park immediately following.
- AEP has two public hearings scheduled in Lansing at the MPSC on June 5 and June 6
- City of Coloma has invited the City Commissioners to a free education session by MML on parliamentary procedure at the North Berrien Center June 14 from 6:00 – 9:00pm.
- City Hall will be closed Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day; the regular business meeting of the Commission has been moved to Tuesday, May 29 at 7:30pm.
- Nominating petitions are due for those wishing to run for the open City Council Seats by August 7, 4:00pm.
- Invitation to Senior Services, Annual Meeting at the Lawrence Conference Center on June 20, at 5:00pm, for the review of the annual report, year-end financial statement, review the 2012/2013 budget and hold the election of officers and board members.

**Goals/Objectives –**

- Review of 2011/2012 budget and financial activities, budget amendment recommendations to close out the fiscal year.

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**Reports submitted:**

- ***Police Dept & Ordinance Report*** – Check into borrowing the speed trailer from the Sherriff’s Department for Bernard Street.
- ***Department of Public Works*** –
- ***Waste Water Treatment Plant*** –
- ***Treasurers & Investment & List of Bills Report*** –
- ***City Managers Report*** – DPW/AFSCME Union Negotiations; USDA Rural Development Police Vehicle Purchase Grant; Ely Park Development; Pokagon Hartford Local Revenue Sharing Board

**Old Business:**

- City Managers Review & Mayor’s recommendation of 3% increase each year over the next three years.

**New Business:**

- Assessor’s contract, three year contract with a slight increase per parcel.
- Proposed DPW/AFSCME Union Contract – four year contract; wage increase of 1% in year three and four; \$50.00 incidental bonus increase each year; and change in Compensation for on Call Duty.

Motion by Miller, supported by Hall, to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 P.M.  
Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk