

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA
DECEMBER 6, 2021
MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME: Mayor Eckstein called to order a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Hartford City at 6:00pm December 6, 2021. Mayor Eckstein welcomed Mr. Ron Parrott as the District 3 Councilman.

ROLL CALL: Members of the council present were Dustin George, Ron Dudelston, Ron Parrott and Michael Wolfe. Tony Scags was absent. Also in attendance were Mayor Dan Eckstein, Attorney, Brandon Murphy and Clerk-Treasurer, Dana Whatley.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to suspend the regular meeting. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to suspend was 4-0-1

A.) 2ND PUBLIC HEARING OCRA WATER PROJECT GRANT: Mr. Mike Kleinpeter with Kleinpeter Consulting addressed Council and explained the purpose of this hearing is to discuss the City's grant application to OCRA. The City is seeking a grant of \$700,000 with a local match of \$1,257,000 in ARPA funds and \$2,000,000 in sewer funds totaling \$3,957,000. Mr. Kleinpeter explained that OCRA did a site visit on 10/29/21 to discuss the grant application. He explained that OCRA money is competitive. There is a minimum score of 450. The City will be well above that minimum score. If for some reason the City is unsuccessful during this round of funding we can re-apply the next round. The awards for this round will be announced on February 10, 2022.

Mr. Eric Woodmansee with AME Consulting explained that the water project was determined to be the number 1 priority based on the state of the filters and aeration system in the current water treatment plant. He explained that in 1997 the current filters were replaced and painted. During that time they determined that the filters were deteriorating quite rapidly. In the past 12 years 2 of the 4 filters have become non-functional. We are currently meeting the entire city's need on the 2 remaining filters. We currently have gravity filters and the plan is to change these to a high pressure filter. This plan will increase the generator size and put in new aerators. This new technology should save the City \$10,000 per month. Mr. Woodmansee explained that they are planning water tower improvements as well. He stated that maintenance to the towers is performed every 5 years. Currently the tanks need to be repainted and in some cases sandblasted and repainted. Repairs need to be made to critical items such as ladders and man-ways that go around. He also stated that the overflow valves need to be repaired.

Mr. Woodmansee stated that the third portion of this water project is water main replacements in 3 different high problem areas that have been determined by Mr. Bill Bacon, Water Superintendent and AME Consulting.

After some discussion between Council and the Mayor the public was asked if anyone would like to speak. There was no public comment. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to close this public hearing. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to close public hearing was 4-0-1.

B.) ORDINANCE 2021-17 NO SKATEBOARDING AT WEILER PLAZA: Mr. Wolfe made a motion to open this public hearing. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to open public hearing was 4-0-1.

Attorney Murphy explained that he drafted an amendment to this ordinance to read “extreme sports equipment” This verbiage expands the list of items that cannot be used at Weiler Plaza.

There was no public comment. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to close the public hearing was 4-0-1.

Mr. George made a motion to re-open the regular Common Council meeting. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to re-open the regular Council meeting was 4-0-1.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. George stated that we need to add the following items under old business to the agenda:

- F.) Second reading of proposed stop signs at Monroe St. & Van Cleve St. also at Monroe St. & North St.
- G.) Second reading of proposed stop sign at Kickapoo St. & “B” St.
- H.) Second reading of proposed stop sign at Cherry St. & Carroll St.

Mr. George made a motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to amend was 4-0-1.

Mr. George made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2021: Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) WWTP – AEP COST SHARING PROPOSAL: Mr. Travis Williamson addressed Council and explained that while AEP was doing upgrade work at their substation; they discovered a very old sanitary sewer when they hit it while constructing building a new control building. After inspection they discovered a 70 year old 30 inch sanitary sewer that runs through the middle of the property. AEP asked the City to relocate that sanitary

sewer around the perimeter of the property. At the Mayor's direction, Mr. Williamson submitted a letter to AEP proposing a 50/50 cost sharing agreement. The City is still waiting to hear AEP's response to this proposal. Mr. Williamson said that the total cost is \$431,000. If accepted, the City's share will be \$215,000. Mr. Williamson said that due to the supply shortage they went ahead and purchased the pipe needed to do the work. This early purchase did end up saving the City \$70,000 in cost increases.

Mr. Williamson just wanted to make Council aware of this situation. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this topic until the January 4, 2022 meeting. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

B.) ANIMAL SHELTER CONTRACT: Mayor Eckstein explained about the new draft of this contract. Mr. George asked if anyone from the Animal Shelter was present at tonight's meeting? No one was present. Attorney Murphy said the major difference is that this is a contract between the City of Hartford City and the Animal Shelter exclusively. This contract asks for more financial reporting on a quarterly basis. It was noted that last year the City paid the Animal Shelter \$38,200 as an annual fee. It was paid out in two payments, one in January and the other in June. There was much discussion about accountability, terms and the amount they wish to fund.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to offer a 3 month contract and pay the Animal Shelter \$9,550 for the first quarter and then re-evaluate the contract, at that time. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve this 3 month contract was 4-0-1.

C.) 2ND READING OF ORDINANCE 2021-17 – NO SKATEBOARDING AT WEILER PLAZA: Mr. George made a motion to approve Ordinance 2021-17 as amended. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

D.) OCRA GRANT – WATER PROJECT: Mr. Mike Kleinpeter explained about the Master Utility Planning Grant study. He stated that OCRA requires that the planning be approved before going on to the construction phase. OCRA asked for a couple of modifications which AME Consulting has completed. Mr. Kleinpeter said there will be a 2nd public hearing on December 13, 2021. Attorney Murphy stated that Council will need to approve the appropriation of the ARP money.

1.) RESOLUTION 2021-42 LOCAL RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PLAN:

Mr. George made a motion to approve resolution 2021-42. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1

2.) RESOLUTION 2021-43 AUTHORIZING APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT:

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve resolution 2021-43. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

E.) SEWER TAP FEE DISCUSSION: Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this topic until the February 7, 2022 meeting. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

F.) PROPOSED STOP SIGNS AT MONROE ST. & VAN CLEVE ST. AND MONROE ST. & NORTH ST.: Attorney Murphy apologized and stated he will have to prepare the ordinance paperwork for these proposed stop signs. He asked Council to table these proposed stop signs until the next Council meeting. Mr. George made a motion to table until the 1/4/22 meeting. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

G.) PROPOSED STOP SIGN AT KICKAPOO ST. & “B” ST.: Mr. George made a motion to table this topic until the 1/4/22 meeting. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

H.) PROPOSED STOP SIGN AT CHERRY ST. & CARROLL ST.: Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this topic until the 1/4/22 meeting. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to table was 4-0-1.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) BARBARA COWGILL – ANIMAL SHELTER: Ms. Cowgill came to Council to address some issues that she has encountered with the Animal Shelter. Ms. Cowgill and her family recently had their family cat get out of the house and they couldn't find it. She stated that she called the Animal Shelter, put posts on social media and to the Pet Finder site looking for their cat. She posted pictures online, etc. She made calls to the Animal Shelter and left messages with no response to her calls. After some research she realized that the Animal Shelter did indeed have her cat and they had adopted it out to another family. She pleaded on Facebook for the new adoptive family to surrender her cat back. The family did surrender the cat back to the shelter. Barbara still found it to be difficult to retrieve her animal from the shelter. Finally she was able to obtain her pet. She stated that she was required to pay \$70 in cash (ONLY) and she was not given a receipt for her payment. She did request written policies and procedures/bylaws but her requests were ignored.

Ms. Cowgill stated that after her posts on social media, people started coming out of the woodwork sharing their bad experiences with the Animal Shelter. She compiled these stories into a packet and presented it to the Council. A couple of people from the public in attendance at this meeting shared their stories which were very similar to Ms. Cowgill's experience.

The Council thanked Ms. Cowgill for taking time to come and address this issue with the Council.

B.) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – 2022 FUNDING DISCUSSION: Mayor Eckstein brought this topic up to Council for discussion. There was no action taken.

C.) HCPD – CHIEF CODY CROUSE

- 1.) PERMISSION TO SPEND OVER \$5,000:** Chief Crouse explained that he would like to purchase 2 police cars that will replace 2 of their older vehicles from 2009. He explained he plans to use LOIT Fund for financings and the term will be 2 years.

Mr. Dudelston made a motion to give permission to spend over \$5,000 for 2 police cars. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

- 2.) SERIES TRANSFERS:** Chief Crouse requested the following transfers:

- a.) Transfer \$14,000 from line item 103 (Shift Sgt.) to line item 220 (gasoline). Mr. George made a motion to approve this transfer. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.
- b.) Transfer \$300 from line item 103 (Shift Sgt.) to line item 322 (postage). Mr. George made a motion to approve this transfer. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.
- c.) Transfer \$2,050 from line item 103 (Shift Sgt.) to line item 440. Mr. George made a motion to approve this transfer. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

- 3.) ENCUMBRANCES:** Chief Crouse asked to encumber \$1,733.98 from line item 399 (K-9) Fund. They have ordered dog kennels but they have not shipped yet. Mr. George made a motion to approve this encumbrance. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

D.) HCFD – SERIES TRANSFERS: Chief Nick Parrott requested to make the following series transfer.

Line item – 210 (office supplies)	\$3,000
220 (gas & oil)	1,700
393 (physicals)	2,257
452 (lease purch)	6,180
361 (building)	10,072
362 (equip repair)	3,500
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	\$ 26,709

Transferring to
Line item 125 (extra help) - \$26,709

Mr. George made a motion to approve this transfer. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 3-0-2. Mr. Ron Parrott abstained from this vote.

MAYOR'S REPORT: NONE

CLERK-TREASURER REPORT: NONE

COUNCIL INPUT:

Mr. George explained that he and Mr. Wolfe have been working on a clock project as a gift to the Historical Society for all the work that they do. He stated that they have been quietly raising donations to fund this clock. Mr. George explained some of the specifics of this clock and the company where we will purchase it from. He explained that the Historical Society will budget for the maintenance that will be due in a few years. Mr. George asked the Council if they would be willing to donate \$2,000 to this project. After some discussion, Mr. Dudelston made a motion to donate \$2,000. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 4-0-1.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Nick Bonvillian with Hartford City Meat & Deli introduced himself and talked a little about his new business. Council thanked him for coming to speak tonight.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business, Mr. Dudelston made a motion for adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

FOLDER 2/REC 150926-002