

**CITY COMMON COUNCIL  
OF HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA  
JULY 5, 2022  
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 July 5, 2022.

**ROLL CALL:** Members of the council present were Ron Dudelston, Ron Parrott, Michael Wolfe and Tony Scaggs and Dustin George. Also in attendance were Mayor Dan Eckstein, Savannah Ocasio on behalf of Attorney Murphy and Clerk-Treasurer, Dana Whatley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mr. George made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Mr. Parrott made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2022 as submitted. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A.) CITY ACCEPTING HAYS AVE & FREEDOM COURT AS CITY STREETS:** It was decided to table this topic until the August meeting since Attorney Murphy was not in attendance this evening. Mr. George made a motion to table until the August meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.
- B.) ELECTRONIC SIGN QUOTES FOR CITY HALL:** The Council discussed an entirely new sign vs. a retrofit. They asked if we could obtain quotes for the entirely new sign. Mr. George made a motion to table this topic. Mr. Parrott seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.
- C.) WATER PROJECT UPDATE:** Mayor Eckstein stated that we've had a little set back but currently don't have enough to give an update. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this topic until the August meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A.) MR. VALENTI – CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACTION COALITION:** Mr. Phillip Valenti addressed Council and explained that there is a newly formed Criminal Justice Action Coalition. He wanted to invite the Mayor, Council and the community to join forces with this newly formed coalition. No action was taken.
- B.) A. GEORGE – CREATION OF NEW POSITION IN THE PARKS DEPARTMENT:** Ms. George asked permission of the City Council to create a "Closing Manager" position. The Parks board would like to pay this position \$14.00 per hour.

This position will be held by Kathy Brown. Ms. George asked if permitted she would like the new pay scale to be retroactive to 7/1/22. Mr. Parrott made a motion to approve this new position. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**C.) T. WILLIAMSON – REQUEST TO SPEND OVER \$5,000 FOR SEWER CAMERA TRACTOR REPAIR:** Mr. Dudelston made a motion to approve the expenditure. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**D.) T. WILLIAMSON – REQUEST TO SPEND OVER \$5,000 AEP SINGLE PHASE ISSUE AT OLD LIFT STATION:** Mr. Williamson explained that they had an AEP single phase issue at the old plant lift station. This issue damaged the lift station pump. Mr. Williamson explained that the repair of the pump will be \$7,000 to \$10,000. He explained that the cost to replace this pump would be approximately \$24,000. Mr. George made a motion to approve the repair expenditure over \$5,000. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**E.) R. DUDELSTON – STOP SIGN AT CORNER OF LAKEVIEW AND CLUBVIEW IN CREEKSIDE ADDITION:** There was some discussion about this request. Mr. Dudelston made a motion to table this topic until the August meeting. Mr. Scaggs seconded the motion. The vote to table was 5-0

**MAYOR’S REPORT:** Mayor Eckstein reminded everyone that the 4-H Fair parade is on Monday, 7/11/22 with lineup being at 5pm and parade starting at 6pm. He invited all departments to participate.

Mayor Eckstein stated that the flags are currently at half-mast because of the Highland Park incident. It is mandated to remain there until 7/9/22 at sunset.

**CLERK-TREASURER’S REPORT:** NONE

**COUNCIL INPUT:**

**A.) MR. WOLFE – SPEED LIMIT SIGN:** Mr. Wolfe brought up discussion about the electronic speed limit sign that was decided to be put up in the 500 block of W. Kickapoo St. After driving down in that area, he noticed there is no regular speed limit sign to attach the electronic sign to. He asked what it would take to place a speed limit sign there. Mr. Jeff Thomas stated that it will take an ordinance to put up a speed limit sign. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to give Attorney Murphy direction to draft an ordinance. Mr. George seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**B.) FIREWORKS** – Several Councilmen voiced their kudos to the Fire Department for the great fireworks show they put on at the culmination of Saturday in the Park.

**C.) MR. PARROTT – ANIMAL SHELTER REPORT:** Mr. Parrott provided the Council with an updated report through June 30, 2022 from the Animal Shelter.

**D.) MR. DUDELSTON – 700 W. KICKAPOO ST.:** Mr. Dudelston explained that after an agreement between the Property Standards Board and the homeowner fell through, the board had an emergency meeting regarding this property and voted 5-0 to do an emergency demolition of this house. They are waiting on AEP to remove power from the house and then the house will come down.

**E.) MR. GEORGE – 5 BDC HOMES:** Mr. George stated that the Blackford Development Corporation has acquired 5 properties that have asbestos in the siding. The BDC will demolish these properties.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**A.) ANNE OWENS:** Ms. Owens stated that there is a concert scheduled for this upcoming Saturday, at Weiler Plaza. Blue32 is the band playing.

She also said that the Bulldogs will be at Weiler Plaza on 7/23/22. She asked for permission to close Jefferson St. from Main St. to Franklin St. from noon until the end of the concert. Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the road closure. Mr. Dudelston seconded the motion. The vote to approve was 5-0.

**B.) MR. WOLFE – VACATE ALLEY:** Mr. Wolfe brought up a discussion about vacating an alley between Althouse Auto Body & the other properties. He asked the department superintendents if there are any utilities running through that alley. It was determined that there are no utilities there. It was decided to table this topic until the August meeting.

**C.) A CONSTITUENT (DECLINED TO GIVE HER NAME) – CURB REPAIR:** She came to ask Council who she needed to ask about getting the curb in front of her property repaired. She lives on Greenwood Drive. There was discussion and it was determined that the curb cap cannot be repaired unless the street is torn up to do it. If they try to fix it in a more temporary fashion it will not stay intact. She stated that she was very appreciative of the Mayor and all he does for Hartford City.

**D.) CHIEF CODY CROUSE – REBUTTLE TO EARLIER COMMENTS MADE BY MR. VALENTI:** Chief Crouse wanted to make the point clear that the investigation that Mr. Valenti spoke about earlier was requested by the HCPD and said investigation is nearing an end. He explained that perception isn't fact and just because someone can say it doesn't make it true. He offered to meet personally with Mr. Valenti to address his concerns and if Mr. Valenti wasn't comfortable meeting with him that he could meet with anyone in the department that he wanted.

**E.) MS. PAM WEISEMAN – SATURDAY IN THE PARK:** Ms. Weiseman stated how much she enjoyed Saturday in the Park. She was very excited to see how many talented crafters our community has that participated in the craft show.

With there being no further business, Mr. Dudelston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

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