



CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
January 23rd, 2024
MINUTES –Approved

PRESENT: Councilors Justin Adams, Catalina Burillo, Jim Evans, Amanda Klotz, and Kris Trygstad

ABSENT: Mayor Vicki Platt and Dean Hodges

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Rob Splane, City Clerk – Karla Swihart, Energy Superintendent – Mike Schiller, Gayle Forner, Sharon Hallack, Mike Powers, Bill Volpp and Nick Wadel

Mayor Pro-Tem, Klotz called the meeting to order; following the roll call, then led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- J. Adams motioned to approve the agenda and was supported by K. Trygstad
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- Patrick Bowland – Michigan Public Power Agency /Hart Energy Presentation

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from January 9th, 2024.
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - J. Adams motioned to approve Consent Agenda and supported by K. Trygstad
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2024-03 Accept Utility Financial Services Financial Study and Adopt Proposed Rate Track
 WHEREAS, the City of Hart operates a municipal electric utility; and
 WHEREAS, the utility is funded solely through user rates and should self-fund operations, maintenance, equipment replacement, and debt service; and
 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City to provide continual maintenance of City infrastructure while monitoring and responding to fiscal health concerns; and
 WHEREAS, in 2023, Hart Energy contracted with an expert utility financial consultant to review the 2023 system study, capital improvement plan, to produce a 5-year financial forecast and rate track; and
 WHEREAS, in order to secure the benefits of efficient self-government and to promote and protect our common interests and welfare, the City Council hereby declares:
 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL

Accepts the Financial Study as presented by Utility Financial Services.

Adopts the recommended rate track of 3.5% annual electric rate increase beginning July 1, 2024. To be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary per the financial projections as presented in the 2023 UFS study.

- J. Adams motioned to approve Resolution 2024-03 and supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Mayoral Board and Commission Appointments
Discussion was tabled due to Mayor being out will be added for next City Council Meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Updates:

- The State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) will be visiting the BioPure facility Wednesday, January 25th to discuss plant operations and review some historical data. City Staff continues to work closely with regulatory officials to ensure proper compliance with local, state, and federal laws.
- City of Hart will have three representatives attending the Annual Michigan Water Environment Association Wastewater Administrators Conference seeking to learn about upcoming regulatory changes, new concepts that can improve operations, and development of a succession plan for BioPure staff.
- Council Retreat went very well with good public input highlighting community support for Hart Lake, Community Culture, Rail Trail, Parks, the County Fair, Asparagus Festival, and more. The public helped to identify things that they would be thankful for in the future including preserving Hart Lake, daycare opportunities, affordable housing, thriving downtown, Pentwater-Hart trail, a more diverse economy, new job opportunities, upper education, diversity, Pirate Pride, and more. Reflecting on the public input, City Council identified 6 focus directions which include:
 - Affordable Housing – Maybe including the Ceres Solutions Co-Op site.
 - Public Beach – Restore or create a public beach on or around Hart Lake.
 - Diversify the Economy – Engage local industries to identify what businesses could be recruited to help support or increase existing operations.
 - Higher Education – Community College or Skilled Trades Training.
 - Youth Activities – Expand opportunities, possibly with new Parks & Rec Dept.
 - Better Communication/Better engagement – Explore methods by which the City can better connect with its residents.

Legacy Topics:

- The City Attorney is working on City Charter amendment verbiage to be approved by Council, the attorney general, and the governor. The amendments will be processed for ballot approval at the next general election.
- Safe Routes to School trail project – pending state approval projected start date June 2024.

Upcoming Topics:

- Adoption of 5-year Park and Rec Master Plan
- Veteran's Memorial Park project bid advertisement.
- Council review of rental inspection policies, procedures, and implementation.

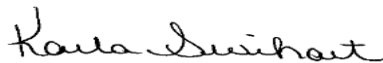
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- None

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned upon a motion by C. Burillo and supported by J. Adams. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 13th, 2024, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Karla Swihart, City Clerk