



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
FEBRUARY 10th, 2026
MINUTES – APPROVED**

PRESENT: Mayor Amanda Klotz, Councilors Jim Cunningham, Dean Hodges, Andrew Mullen, Betty Root, and Karen Thomson

ABSENT: Catalina Burillo

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Nichole Kleiner, City Clerk/Treasurer – Karla Swihart, Hart Police Officer – Jack Hoekstra, Sharon Hallack, Christine Juska, and Truman Masters

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- B. Root motioned to approve the Agenda and was supported by K. Thomson
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Truman Masters – new owner of Paul’s Auto & Tire located on Oceana Drive. I wanted to take a minute and introduce myself and let you all know we are here for your auto needs. Eventually, we would like to expand into more mechanical needs as well.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- O’ Nealya Gronstal, Executive Director of the Lakeshore Food Club
Lakeshore Food Club, a nonprofit membership-based grocery model, was founded in 2017 to provide dignified access to fresh, healthy food. Serving local households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines and ALICE families.
Lakeshore Food Club is now placed directly inside schools where students can shop for their households in a safe, stigma-free environment. G2S reports 40% increase in attendance on “Food Club Days”. Currently operating at Gateway to Success Academy (G2S) and Mason County Central.
The Lakeshore Regional Food Hub is located in Hart, Michigan, a 6,600-square-foot warehouse acquired in 2025, which serves Mason, Oceana, Lake, Newaygo, and Muskegon counties.
Food Hub Operations rescues from retailers, farms, and distributors. USDA commodity food distribution (as a contracted Feeding America RDO), Michigan Agricultural Surplus Systems (MASS) produce purchasing.
Lakeshore Food Club is also excited to offer a full-service located in West Shore Community College’s Community Center in late Fall of 2026, offering fresh produce, frozen, and fresh proteins as well as dairy, grains, and culturally relevant foods.
Lakeshore Food Club thanks you for your leadership and partnership, Together we are building a stronger, more food secure lakeshore region.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from January 27th, 2026
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - J. Cunningham motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, and was supported by K. Thomson
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

ACTION ITEMS:

- Hart Hill Bike Race Special Event Permit Application – APPROVED
- Authorize Proposed Budget Amendments –

- A. Mullen motioned to approve Resolution 2026-04 and was supported by K. Thomson
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Council Retreat – This year, the retreat will be held at City Hall in the Community Center on March 7th. We have partnered with Double Haul Solutions as our facilitator so we can get ready for a day of fun. Doors will open at 8:30 am, and the retreat will start at 9 am.
- Direct Congressional Spending Request Update – City Manager had a call with Representative Vanderwall regarding State Street turn back from MDOT, in need of infrastructure work, as well as a resurface. The City is in need of \$2.5 million to move forward with that project. Rep. Vanderwall is going to pursue the State on the City's behalf.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

Status of ongoing projects:

- Hart Plaza Streetscape Project – pre-construction meeting yesterday with Wadel Stabilization, anticipated start date April 9th – weather permitting.
- Safe Routes to School Trail – presented the school board with an easement request last night and was met with a very strong opinions against the project resulting in a unanimous vote to NOT allow the contractor permission on school property to finish by blending the grade into their property with topsoil, seed, and to replace any affected landscaping and driveway cuts when the project is finished.
- Water Tower ATT antenna project – unable to obtain signatures from GHSP on the Easement Agreement, council authorized.
- Ceres Solution Request for Proposals is due Feb 27th. The mayor, MEDC rep, and I met with two interested developers in the last week of January. Met with EGLE rep to understand the environmental expectations of the site, along with funding opportunities.
- Farabee Mechanical work at the diesel plant on emission controls is on schedule.
- Treasurer, Karla, and I met with Rod Taylor, whom we hired using Treasury grant funds to assist us in cleaning up the City's charter of accounts and to establish a more comprehensive budget.

What's New:

- A possible data incident was discovered today. IT providers are still working to find the source and extent of the threat. Passwords for all users have been reset.
- BS&A Software, which is what the City utilizes for payroll, accounts payable, timesheets, general ledger/budgeting, asset management, cash receipting, and utility billing, is requiring users to switch to the cloud. I signed up with an extended timeline to help spread the cost over three fiscal years.
 FY25-26 \$5,000 FY 26-27 \$34,000 FY27-28 \$25,580 = \$64,580
- Huge thanks to Lindsay Brown for coordinating a successful Winterfest and Winter Golf Outing.
- Follow-up to Andrew's request to assist the cemetery – DPW has an F250 Ford 4WD reg cab, long box that could be donated.

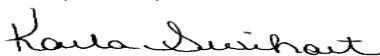
COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- A. Mullen – HEART board meets tomorrow, Wednesday, Feb 11th at 2 pm. Following the HEART meeting will be the Heritage preservation group meeting.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Klotz adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on February 24th, 2026, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



Karla Swihart, City Clerk