



CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL - COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
August 25th, 2026
MINUTES –Approved

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

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Nichole Kleiner, City Clerk – Karla Swihart, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, Hart Police Chief Juan Salazar, Parks n Rec Superintendent – Chris TerHaar, Jami Cutter, Chistine Juska, Clair Marshall Rolando Salgado, Emily Sigler, and Dick, Laurie Tubbs

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- C. Burillo motioned to agenda and was supported by B. Root
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Laurie Tubbs – wanted to let the City know just how hard Chris TerHaar and Beth Hill work at JGP and the park has never looked better. It is sad to see these positions are being eliminated.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

- None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from July 28th, 2026
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - B. Root motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, and was supported by K. Thomson
 - Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

ORDINANCES:

- None

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2026-40 **AMENDMENT** Authorize Execution of MDOT Contract for Safe Routes to School Project WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation (“MDOT”) has prepared Contract No. 26-5298 for the construction of a Safe Routes to School non-motorized pathway project within the City of Hart under the Transportation Alternatives Program; and WHEREAS, the project includes construction of a shared use path and associated pedestrian improvements along portions of Water Street, Johnson Street, Peach Avenue, Plum Street, Peach Avenue, Plum Street, and Main Street/Tyler Road, together with related improvements; and WHEREAS, the estimated construction cost of the project is \$1,196,258, with Federal Transportation Alternatives Program funding not to exceed \$888,861, representing approximately 74.30% of eligible project costs, leaving an estimated City local share of \$307,397, subjected to final project costs; and WHEREAS, the City is required to execute the MDOT contract, provide its local share of eligible costs, and assume responsibility for future maintenance and operation of the completed improvements as provided in the contract; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HART CITY COUNCIL hereby:

1. *Resolution 2026-40 is hereby amended to reflect an estimated project construction cost of \$1,196,258. Federal Transportation Alternatives Program funding not to exceed \$888,661, and an estimated City local share of \$307,397, subject to final project costs.*
2. *The City Council reaffirms its approval of MDOT Contract No. 26-5298 for the Safe Routes to School (Transportation Alternatives Program) Project.*
3. *The City of Hart agrees to provide the required local share of eligible project costs, together with any other project costs that are the responsibility of the City under the terms of the Contract.*
4. *The City acknowledges and accepts responsibility for the future operation and maintenance of the completed project improvements as required by the Contract.*
5. *The Mayor and City Clerk are authorized and directed to execute MDOT Contract No. 26-5298 and any other documents necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.*
6. *Except as expressly amended herein, all other provisions of Resolution 2026-40 remain in full force and effect.*
7. *The City Clerk is authorized to certify this Amended Resolution and transmit a certified copy to the Michigan Department of Transportation as required.*

- C. Burillo motioned to approve Amended Resolution 2026-40 and was supported by A. Mullen

· Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

- Resolution 2026-42 Approval of Property Assessment Administrative Agreement with Oceana County
WHEREAS, the City of Hart is required to provide for the administration of property assessments and designate a qualified Assessor of Record in accordance with Michigan Law; and
WHEREAS, the City has previously contracted with Oceana County for property assessment administration services and designation of the Assessor of Record; and
WHEREAS, Oceana County has presented an Agreement Renewal to provide property assessment administration services to the City for the period of September 1, 2026, through August 30, 2029; and
WHEREAS, under the proposed Agreement, the Oceana County Equalization Department will provide assessing services and Edward VanderVries, Oceana County Equalization Director, will serve as the City of Hart Assessor of Record; and
WHEREAS, the annual cost of the Agreement is \$44,000, payable in equal quarterly installments of \$11,000;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HART CITY COUNCIL hereby
Approves the Agreement Renewal between the City of Hart and the Oceana County Board of Commissioners for property assessment administration services for the term September 1, 2026, through August 30, 2029.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK/TREASURER are authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Hart

- J. Cunningham motioned to approve Resolution 2026-42 and was supported by K. Thomson

· Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT REQUESTS:

- None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Review of Draft Lease Agreement – The Starting Block
The Council would like a few changes to be made and be presented back to the September Council Meeting.
- Surveillance Cameras – Mullen wanted to address concerns regarding the Flock Cameras.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- **TACO BELL** – site plans are approved – permits issued, construction has begun

- **IT Support** – Had an onboarding meeting with Corporate Technologies – very pleased with their professionalism and level of support so far
- **Penny Shortage** – Due to the shortage of pennies, a penny rounding policy has been implemented for utility bills being paid in cash.
- **Trey Choice/FOIA Update** – City continues to receive and process FOIA requests submitted by Mr. Trey Choice, who appealed his first FOIA request at the last meeting. To date, the City has received a total of seven FOIA requests from Mr. Choice. Together with legal counsel on the lease renewal for the Starting Block and Trey Choice's FOIA processing, our legal fees are at \$13,000 (only through 07/31/2026). Given the nature of recent requests and communications, the City's insurer (MMRMA) has been notified as a precautionary measure.
- **Parks & Rec RFP's for New 5-yr Plan** – have been issued. Submission due is Sept 25th.
- **Brickley Delong Accounting** – is on site at City Hall this week reviewing our FY25-26 financials in preparation for this year's audit.
- **John Gurney Park** – FY25-26 ended with a near 70k loss, increasing the fund deficit to \$185k. 133k of the budget is wages which we can no longer sustain. As a result, the full-time Parks & Rec Superintendent position has been eliminated. A new position will be posted soon for the 2026-2027 season seeking a full-time "**seasonal**" Park Manager @ 40k/year (no benefits) working April-October. This will balance and leave additional revenue for part-time help as needed.

Events:

- Thursday's @ 6:30 – Music on the Commons Funky Brewster – 90s hits – classic rock
Great Job Lindsay Brown on executing another successful season amidst the construction.

Community Center Proposal:

- Image below is the proposed renovations to the Community Center as the new location for the City Council meetings. The room is bigger and safer with 4 exits/entrances, more room for public seating, better audio/visual capabilities and the design still provides the flexibility to use the room for meeting space when not used by Council or the Library.

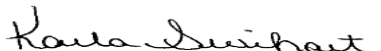
COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- C. Burillo – lets take a moment and remember Jay McGhan long time Hart Township Supervisor.
- A. Mullen mentioned that the next cemetery meeting will be held in October.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Klotz adjourned the meeting at 8:25pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting, September 8th, 2026, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karla Swihart, City Clerk