



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
JULY 14, 2020, 7:30 pm.
MINUTES - APPROVED**

PRESENT: Mayor Ron LaPorte (in person), Councilors: Vicki Platt (Zoom), Jason La Fever (Zoom) Rob Splane (Zoom), Catalina Burillo (Zoom), and Steve Hegedus (in person)

ABSENT: Joe Frontiera

OTHERS PRESENT City Manager – Lynne Ladner, and Deputy City Clerk - Cheri Eisenlohr.

- Mayor LaPorte called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, following the roll call, the mayor lead the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA:

- Mr. Hegedus made a motion to approve the agenda, supported by Ms. Platt, all ayes, the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

MINUTES:

- Mr. Splane made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020, meeting, supported by Mr. Hegedus, all ayes, the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS, CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS:

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- *Police Chief, Juan Salazar:*
 - A written report was provided.
- *Energy Dept. Superintendent, Mike Schiller:*
 - A written report was provided.
- *BioPure Superintendent, Paul Cutter:* Attended via Zoom
 - No report was provided.
- *DPW Superintendent, Brad Whitney:*
 - A written report was provided.
- *HEART Director, Nichole Steel:*
 - A written report was provided.

BILLS, CLAIMS, & PAYROLL:

- Bills: \$636,210.17 Payroll: \$61,761.00 Grand Total: \$697,971.17
- Mr. Splane made a motion to approve, supported by Mr. Hegedus, the motion carried.
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
 - The mayor pointed out the need to shop local in regards to auto parts/supplies as the local business pays taxes, and the other vendor does not.

ACTION ITEMS:

Ms. Ladner addressed the following Action Items:

Memo

Re: Resolutions 2020-41 and 2020-42

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The two action items on the agenda both involve assessing services for the City of Hart. For the past two years since the retirement of Jim Pease, the City has contracted for assessing services through the County. This contract has provided the City with great service, more consistent interactions between the City and the County's Equalization services while financially benefiting the City with reduced human capital costs.

Resolution 2020-41 is an update and revision of the current annual term contract moving to a three-year term with an annual option to terminate, which will provide assessing services for the City for September 2020 – August 2023 at an annual rate of

\$33,300, \$34,000 and \$34,700. It is my recommendation that the Council Approve Resolution 202-41 Authorizing updated and revised contracts for continued Assessing Services.

Resolution 2020-42 is an agreement with Oceana County for the designation of the County Assessor of Record as required under the P.A. 660 General Property Tax Act before December 31, 2020. This is the first step in the designation process with at least eight other jurisdictions required to approve the agreement before the process for selecting the Assessor of Record will take place. It is my recommendation that the Council Approved Resolution 2020-42 Approve Interlocal Agreement for County Designated Assessor of Record.

Lynne

**RESOLUTION 2020-41
City Council
City of Hart, Michigan**

Authorize updated and revised contract for continued Assessing Services

WHEREAS, , the City of Hart is responsible for the evaluation and assessment of property parcels for the valuation and determination of the equalized valuation; and

WHEREAS, the City has contracted with Oceana County since 2018 for Assessing Services which has been a positive and effective assessing solution for the City; and

WHEREAS this agreement which has a three year term with annual option to terminate for both parties will provide for budgeting certainty for the near term;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Approves of the updated and revised agreement between the City of Hart and the Oceana County Board of Commissioners to provide property assessment and administration services commencing on September 1,2020 to August 30, 2023; and

The annual fees for such services will be for year 1 9/2020 – 8/2021 \$33,300, for year 2 9/2021-8/2022 \$34,000 and year 3 9/2022 – 8/2023 \$34,700; and

Authorizes the mayor to sign the agreement.

Moved by Ms. Platt, supported by Ms. Burillo, and thereafter adopted by the Hart City Council at a regularly scheduled council meeting held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 Absent 1

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the document on file with the office of the



Cheri Eisenlohr, Deputy City Clerk

**RESOLUTION 2020-42
City Council
City of Hart, Michigan**

Approve Interlocal Agreement for County Designated Assessor of Record

WHEREAS, , the part of PA 660 of 2018 that amended the General Property Tax Act requiring the appointment of a qualified individual to serve as a designated assessor of record requires that the appointment must be completed no later than December 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the City has contracted with Oceana County since 2018 for Assessing Services and been very satisfied with the services that we receive; and

WHEREAS if this Interlocal Agreement is approved by the majority of jurisdictions in Oceana County the jurisdictions will be required to choose an Assessor of Record either by bidding process or recommendation from the County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Approves the Interlocal Agreement for County Designated Assessor of Record and agrees to work with the County to choose an Assessor of Record as required by Public Act 660 of 2018.

Moved by Mr. Hegedus, supported by Mr. Splane, and thereafter adopted by the Hart City Council at a regularly scheduled council meeting held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 Absent 1

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of the document on file with the office of the



Cheri Eisenlohr, Deputy City Clerk

SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS:

- None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program

MEMO

Re: First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As part of the CARES Act passed by the federal government and the more recent passage of the State’s allocation of the federal monies including allocation of \$100 Million for First Responder Hazard Pay the City has been asked to consider authorizing the payment of Hazard Pay to the First Responders on the City’s payroll.

The First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program provides for the potential reimbursement of up to \$1,000 in Hazard Pay to First Responders who have performed hazardous duty or work involving physical hardship related to COVID-19. This program is limited to members of the Hart Police Department for reimbursement from the federal funding and is based upon a first come first serve application process. Payments are limited \$1,000 per employee with a maximum payment to any one entity (Hart Police Department, Oceana County Sheriff Department, Mason-Oceana 911 Dispatch, etc. would each be an entity) of \$5 Million.

Our First Responders, along with all City Workers – Energy, Public Works, BioPure, and Administration all are very deserving of recognition for the work that they have continued to do throughout the COVID pandemic. If I believed

that the City could financially afford to recognize the employees for that work, I would have brought this to the Council for approval weeks ago. Unfortunately, I have not been able to identify the financial resources within the City to responsibly approach the Council for consideration of payment of Hazard Pay for City Employees.

The City does have the opportunity to apply to the First Responder Hazard Pay Premium Program; this program would provide reimbursement to the City for up to \$1,000 per employee BUT, it is not a guarantee that the City would be reimbursed and if it were the reimbursement would only be for funds paid to Police Department employees.

If the City were to apply to the First Responder Hazard Pay Premium Program, the City would be required to make the Hazard Payments by September 30, 2020, or the date of our application, whichever is first. The applications are processed on a first-come-first-serve basis until such time as the funds run out. There is no guarantee that the City would receive a grant for reimbursement of the payments, and payments will not be made until November 2020 with the deadline for applying set on September 30, 2020.

An application to the program will cost the City up to \$6,000 without a guarantee of reimbursement. It would only reimburse payments to members of the Police Department (five officers and one part-time officer qualify). As applying to this program provides reimbursement for recognition of the work of a single department, the reimbursement is not guaranteed to the City, and as this potentially has a significant financial impact on the City, I would like the Council to provide me with their guidance regarding Hazard Pay for City employees.

Lynne

- The Council felt that this was a good program, but due to budget cuts for this fiscal year and no guarantee of reimbursement, the City will not be applying for the benefit.

- Noxious Weeds in Downtown Area

MEMO

Re: Noxious weeds in Downtown

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the downtown area, there is an overgrown area located in the alley East of State St. in the first block south of the lake. In previous years the City has cut down the overgrowth and attempted to remove the unwanted plant life to no success.

Having received complaints about the overgrowth this year, the Public Works department began researching how best to eradicate the unwanted plant life in this area only to discover that it is a plant known as Japanese knotweed. These plants are designated as an invasive noxious weed and are actually prohibited in the State of Michigan. DPW, in discussions with the County Conservation office, has been advised not to trim or otherwise attempt to remove or reduce the plants as this will spread the infestation and actually spur more vigorous growth in the current location. The location has been sent to the Invasive Species Team at the Muskegon Conservation District as they are tasked with treating plant sites in Oceana County.

It should be noted that though the use of some herbicides as the City has done in the past will provide temporary respite from the obvious growth of the plant they are a root centric plant and can have as much as 80% of their growth underground which is not affected by the application of herbicides above ground.

Lynne

- Mr. Sadler voiced his concerns that raccoons, skunks, and individuals using drugs were congregating in this area.
 - The City will contact animal control for options with the wildlife problem. Otherwise, the City will follow protocols set forth by the Conservation District/County.
- Design of Hart Lake Water Trail Sign base
 - It was decided to go with a covered base option.
 - The board asked for better mileage clarification on the map of the lake trails.
 - The signage will be placed at the Dam, Veteran's Park, John Gurney Park, and the Hart Commons.
 - The sign will be altered to indicate that the S. Pentwater River Point is a future development.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

- No report was given/provided.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

- The auditors are arriving tomorrow.
- MPPA & HEART meetings took place on July 13th.

- Music on the Commons will be Thursday, July 16. The concert is featuring ClusterPluck. Food donations are being accepted for the food pantry. Donors will receive a poster of ClusterPluck.
- The office staff is back in the office full-time.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- Additional appointment by Mayor to Board of Zoning Appeals – the mayor appointed one additional person to the board: Jim Cunningham
 - All members were in approval of his choice.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm upon a motion by Mr. Hegedus and supported by Ms. Platt. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 28, 2020, at 7:30 pm, in the Hart Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted



Deputy City Clerk