



**CITY OF HART
407 S. STATE ST.
HART, MI 49420
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
July 26th 2022
MINUTES – Approved**

PRESENT: Mayor Vicki Platt, Councilors: Jim Evans, Dean Hodges, Amanda Klotz, and Kris Trygstad

ABSENT: Catalina Burillo, and Fred Rybarz

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager – Rob Splane, City Clerk – Karla Swihart, BioPure Superintendent – Paul Cutter, DPW Superintendent – Brad Whitney, Police Chief – Juan Salazar, Gail Zieger, Sharon Hallack, and George Sadler,

Mayor Platt called the meeting to order; following the roll call, the mayor led the Council in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- Amended agenda to remove and rescind, 5a) correspondence, Events, Presentations: i) Letter from Fred Rybarz – Council Resignation and ii) Mayoral Recognition: Fred Rybarz for outstanding service to the community. Fred has rescinded his resignation letter and will remain on the Hart City Council
 - Klotz motioned to approve the amended agenda and was supported by D. Hodges
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Gail Zieger – 27 South State Street Hart, while working next door at lakeside fitness looking out the windows where we are going to hang a flowerpot saying look how beautiful it would be against the trees and was told that the trees are going to be removed. I have a really hard time with that. The reason I am having such a hard time is when we moved here 7 years ago and we were attracted to downtown area because of the trees, People are drawn to the green, and you should really think about this before you take the trees down, the equiological end of this is the oxygen from the trees, they draw birds along with butterflies.
- Paul Cutter – 3209 N 140th Ave Hart, Let's take a moment of silence to remember Clancy Aerts.
- George Sadler – Po Box 611, 211 E Main, 216 E Main, requesting that the City Manager and Mayor do some investigating as I have been approached by the Sheriff's department (the Sheriff himself) that somebody made a complaint representing themselves as the City of Hart, he said it was done anonymously, but then he said it wasn't anonymously as he knows who it is but cannot reveal who it is, so somebody on this board has a heartache with me and if the City Mayor or City Manager don't know anything about it how can they represent themselves as an official of Hart and make a complaint. I had a liquor license inspection because of this complaint and at some point, somebody has to step up and say that they did this and inform the Sheriff that it didn't happen. So, I am asking for help from the City Mayor or Manager, if anyone has a heartache let me know that is all I am asking.

Second, Excellent job done on the parking lot over at the Ceres Solutions, the spot that was open was covered up and the weeds have all been cut down. I am hoping that something can be done with the City owned property behind my bar, there are animals with babies living out there and there are a lot of kids that play down there. A few years ago, former City Manager said the weeds would all get sprayed and would get cleaned up down there but so far there has been nothing done. So I'm hoping that we can get this taken care of soon.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS, PRESENTATIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from July 12th, 2022.
- Bills, Claims, Payroll
- Reports of Boards, Commissions, and Committees
- Department Reports – Police/BioPure/Public Works/Energy/C&E Dvlp
 - A. Klotz motioned to approve Consent Agenda and supported by D. Hodges
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

ACTION ITEMS:

- Resolution 2022-29 – Accept and Approve S&P Global proposal to provide credit assessment.
WHEREAS, the City of Hart has adopted a capital improvement plan to invest in Water and Wastewater infrastructure; and
WHEREAS, City Council has committed to apply for State of Michigan State Revolving Funds to finance to finance planned infrastructure investments; and
WHEREAS, the City is required to pursue a credit assessment prior to seeking public and/or private funding; and
WHEREAS, the City of Hart’s legal bonding council and financial advisor have engages S&P Global Ratings to provide said assessment; and
WHEREAS, 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 and approves engaging S&P Global Ratings to provide a confidential credit Assessment as required by the State and Federal Government for the sum of \$16,500 plus, all applicable value-added, sale, use and similar taxes
Authorizes the City Manager to sign and execute all related documents on behalf of the City of Hart
 - J. Evans motioned to approve Resolution 2022-29 Approve S&P Global proposal to provide credit assessment and supported by K. Trygstad
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2
- Resolution 2022-30 – Authorize Appointed City Official Pay Rate
WHEREAS, the City recognizes that highly trained, dedicated staff is necessary to conduct City operations with minimal staff; and
WHEREAS, per the City Charter, City Council sets appointed officials pay rates; and
WHEREAS, 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
Authorizes and approves the following appointed officials pay rates to be and effective as of July 1, 2022, with a one-time retroactive payment:
City Clerk/ Treasurer: \$59,899 (\$53,500 current)
City of Hart Police Chief: \$75,363 (\$67,288 Current)
City of Hart City Manager \$90,434 (\$87,800 Current)
 - A. Klotz motioned to approve Resolution 2022-30, Authorize appointed City official pay rate, and supported by K. Trygstad
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 2

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Brickley Delong to begin City of Hart pre-audit Monday
- To reduce waste, most municipalities in Michigan either have previously or are working to reduce the amount of paper used in City Hall. To provide the utmost level of transparency, if any citizen of Hart requires a print copy of council packet, one will be provided upon request.
- Competitive pricing is pending for City Planning Services, with a council decision likely to be made in August. Competitive pricing of this work was last sought in 2003.
- The City Manager attended the Michigan Municipal Executives summer workshop last week. Among several useful sessions and peer networking, highlights include:
A Municipal bonding workshop was filled with useful knowledge at a time where the City is actively seeking funding for clean drinking and wastewater infrastructure projects.
An introduction to a new State of Michigan program run by the Michigan Infrastructure Council. The Asset Management Champion Program seeks to establish a network of leaders that will help strengthen best practices in asset management. The City Manager has applied for and been accepted to the Asset Management Champion program. The benefit to the City of Hart is that as the City plans infrastructure projects, they can add these projects to a state list. As different entities such as neighboring communities,

along with county and state level entities plan for projects, they can combine projects resulting in a reduction in overall cost. The estimated savings on this collaboration can reach up to 30%.

- This past Friday, The Certified Public Manager class at Saginaw Valley state University focused on Human Resources. Lots of notes were taken that will help to streamline HR processes in Hart. The program will conclude this winter with a capstone project to be presented to City Council.
- New Utility bill format is ready and will be deployed this coming billing cycle. The new format includes a 13-month utility usage chart, a highlighted announcements area, and enhanced transparency in the bill details.
- Clancy Aerts raised in Hart, Michigan, and resident for almost 50 years passed away this past Friday. His service to the City of Hart and Oceana County consisted of many years on Hart City Council, two terms as Mayor, dedicated work on the Hart Area Fire Board and over 25 years on the Oceana County Fair Board with 17 of them as president. Visitation is Wednesday with funeral services following on Thursday morning. The City should consider some form of honoring Clancy's level of commitment to the City of Hart and surrounding communities.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL:

- Mayor Platt asked about the current RFPs that are on the City's website if have been any responses? City Manger said there have been some for the wayfinding signage, and one for the demolition of 227 E Main St. They are still open so still time left for bids to come in.
Mayor Platt also commented looks like the old funeral home that burnt is being cleaned up. Hopes that it is not going to be tore down.
- J. Evans suggested that the packets be available in Spanish and to make sure that is noted on the City's website. Also is it possible to change the starting time for the Council meetings? In talking with a few people 7:30 is late to start a meeting.
Regarding Clancy, maybe a plaque in honor of his services provided to the City of Hart all these years.
Also I wanted to state I voted in favor of the pay raises as I do not want to deny our fine civic employees a justified pay raise, I don't think it was enough, also feel there should be retention policy with a retention bonus.

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at upon a motion by A. Klotz and supported by K. Trygstad. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 9th, 2022, at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Karla Swihart

Karla Swihart, City Clerk